Meeting Notes
Event: EA RIP Meeting
Location: Aquarena Center, San Marcos, Texas
Date: February 16, 2007
Time: 9am-4:30 pm
Note taker: Jodi Minion

Joy Nicholopoulos: *Welcome and Introduction*.

Participant Introductions: Written responses turned in; will be compiled and provided to group if desired.

Break

Tarla Rai Peterson- *Texas A&M University role*: coordinate/facilitate collaborative process, liaison with technical experts, local stakeholders, agencies, etc.
Texas A&M University has put up a preliminary web site.
URL: http://irnr.tamu.edu/earip

Anna Munoz: *Overview of Past Recovery Implementation Programs*
Questions & discussion:

- Senate Bill 1477: aquifer withdrawal limits changes: how do they do that? response- statute gives cap
- How are permits issued? Permits issued based on historic use (549,000 acre feet)- question is, how do you manage aquifer and water users needs with this number?
- What kind of timelines are we looking at?
- Is RIP process appropriate for managing this issue?
- Are there examples of previous RIPs? Information from some on web site.
- What is your experience with working with an externally imposed deadline? More specific: this room faces a deadline to keep or extend 450,000 flow deadlines- what is a reasonable deadline? How long does it take to do incremental tasks?
- What should this group be working on and what is within their decision space/ decision making ability of this group?
- What legal standing does this have?
- Could the RIP propose something for legislation?
- Would federal laws and caps supersede decisions made by RIP?
- What is our objective? If we know that, then we can help answer some of these other questions.
- We have one session before deadline and people will be impacted by these changes and no one will have opportunity to affect this.
- RIPs have worked for endangered species: Is there any precedence of RIPs working for management of aquifers?
- What about time limits and primary concern with water quantity, rather than quality?

- RIP process is voluntary, however, is there a situation where a RIP might be mandated?
- Would we link the RIP to a biological opinion or HCP?
- Is one of these (biological opinion or HCP) the ultimate goal?
- What level of protection do we have for work we put in from outsiders who come in at the end of the process?
- How do we minimize the likelihood that someone will sue us in the end?
- Can website include some language about the looming deadline?
- Are the slides on the web site?
- The way I understand this is that the RIP is not an end, but rather a means to an end. Is that correct?
- Can we develop a goal so we know what we are trying to achieve? We need a statement of goals before RIP can work.
- Everybody's on alert because legislature is in session- Is RIP appropriate for next 100 days?
- Would it be possible for us to agree on something we can recommend to the legislature?
- We've seen the consequences when regional water plan did not get submitted on time. How can we avoid this?
- It would be helpful that there be some kind of consensus and understanding that we make progress towards a RIP regardless that we cannot get done by May.

Lunch

Steve Daniels and Gregg Walker: *Collaborative Learning I*.
Activity: *Collaborative Potential*

Break

Joy Nicholopoulos : Is a RIP is the way to go for beginning to manage some of these issues?

- Majority response is affirmative.
- Minority response is negative because the time is not right.

Steve Daniels and Gregg Walker: *Collaborative Learning II*
Activity : *Commitment to Collaborate*

Joy Nicholopoulos and Anna Munoz: *Fundamentals for Creating a Recovery Implementation Program*.

Announcements for training and next regular meeting
Watch website and email for additional information

Meeting close 4:30 p.m.