

MINUTES
For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding
the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
Activity Center, San Marcos, Texas
January 13-14, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 13, 2011

1. Administrative Matters (Mims)

The Chair, Con Mims, called the meeting to order. Secretary Steve Raabe called roll of the Steering Committee. A quorum was present for all purposes.

Sam Helmle introduced Kim Stoker who is replacing Scott Smith's as CPS's representative on the Steering Committee. He also reported that Curt Brockmann will serve as an alternate.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Discussion and possible decision regarding officers for 2011.

Weir Labatt made a motion to keep the current slate of officers for 2011: Con Mims, Chair, Myron Hess, Vice Chair, and Steve Raabe, Secretary. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

3. Discussion and possible interim decision on biological goals and Bottom-Up Package.

The following presentations were given related to the biological goals for the HCP and the Bottom-Up package:

- Thom Hardy gave an overview of his report and the flow numbers and regimes being considered by the EARIP. The report is on the EARIP website.
- Robert Mace summarized the Science Subcommittee's comments regarding the Hardy Report.
- Sam Vaughn and Larry Land provided an overview of its final report that will be submitted to the EARIP in March 2011.
- Ed Oborny, Paul Fromer, and Thom Hardy facilitated a discussion of the long-term and short-term biological goals.

No decision was reached regarding the biological goals or the Bottom-Up package. Robert Gulley discussed the importance of reaching an interim decision on the Bottom-Up package at the next meeting. To facilitate discussions at the next meeting, it was agreed that Robert Gulley would ask (1) Paul Fromer to report on RECON's probabilistic analysis work; (2) Karl Dreher to report on a qualitative analyze of the conservatism of HDR's modeling assumption that 592,000 acre-feet will be pumped each year; and (3) Thom Hardy and Ed Oborny to report on the biological effects of the Bottom Up package.

4. Report of the VISPO Work Group.

Rick Illgner reported that the Work Group will meet on January 21, 2011, to discuss the responses received to the request to the irrigated agriculture community for an expression of interest in the VISPO Program. Burnell Keller from Medina County gave a presentation on his concerns regarding the effects of VISPO on agribusiness in the region.

5. Report from RECON on the status of development of the HCP and draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Paul Fromer reported on the status of the draft HCP and draft EIS. He said that RECON will submit a draft copy of the documents at the end of January.

6. Report on the Gill Parasite Study.

Matt Johnson from FWS gave a presentation on the BIO-WEST/FWs study regarding the effectiveness of host snail removal in the Comal River on the densities of the gill parasite.

7. Report of the San Marcos Recreation Work Group.

Tom Taggart reported on the Work Group's efforts on San Marcos River recreation. The Work Group will make recommendations on a recreation plan after the City of San Marcos City Council has had an opportunity to consider the issue.

Con Mims recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m. on January 14, 2011.

January 14, 2011

1. Administrative Matters (Mims).

The Chair, Con Mims reconvened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Secretary Steve Raabe called roll of the Steering Committee. A quorum was present for all purposes.

Paul Fromer said that the Steering Committee had approved the Covered Species Work Group's recommendation to include four species as Covered Species including the Comal diving beetle. He said that FWS had not made a positive 90-day finding on the diving beetle and, thus, it is unlikely to be listed in the near term. Paul Fromer recommended moving forward only with the other three species. There were no objections to proceeding in this manner.

2. Report of the Conservation Work Group.

Calvin Finch reported that the Work Group had put together a draft grant proposal for support from the Bureau of reclamation for the Conservation Program and was meeting with the Edwards Aquifer Authority to determine if it would be agree to be a regional sponsor. He also discussed the Work Group's plan for a structure for the program set out in Attachment 4. There were no objections to using that structure for the program.

3. Report of the Funding Work Group.

Weir Labatt reported the Work Group will meet January 17, 2011, and to develop recommendations for the Steering Committee on funding options. Carl Adkins made a motion to charge the Funding Work Group with considering a sales tax option and an option to raise funds through a sharing of costs between pumpers and non-pumpers and to make recommendations to the Steering Committee at the next meeting. Jerry James seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed. Weir Labatt made a motion to allow Robert Gulley to use project management funds to retain Vinson & Elkins to research issues regarding a sales tax option. Myron Hess seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

There being no further business Con Mims adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.