

**MINUTES**  
**For the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Regarding**  
**the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program**  
**San Antonio Water System, San Antonio, Texas**  
**April 9, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm**

1. Administrative Matters

Secretary, Steve Raabe, called the roll of Steering Committee. A quorum was present for all purposes.

Chair Con Mims asked if there were any objections to the proposed agenda. There were no objections; thus, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Kirk Patterson made a motion that the Minutes for the March 2009 meeting attached to the Agenda as Attachment 1 be approved. Con Mims seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

Robert Gulley reported that Rick Illgner, Kirk Patterson, Calvin Finch and Steve Raabe plan to accompany him to the meeting with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on April 14, 2009 the process for obtaining Corps funding for the implementation phase. He also reported that Thom Hardy (Science Subcommittee) would be circulating the initial influence diagrams and requested participants to submit any comments to Susan Aragon-Long by May 15, 2009.

2. SAWS Proposed Water Management Program

Calvin Finch presentation SAWS Proposed Water Management Plan to the EARIP.

3. Discussion of the Implementing Agreement in S.B. 3 and appointment of work group to draft such an agreement (Gulley).

Robert Gulley reminded the EARIP that Subsection 126A(c) requires the EAA to enter into an agreement with USFWS and the other stakeholders to develop a program document by December 31, 2009. He requested that a work group be appointed to prepare a draft agreement to the Steering Committee to consider. There were no objections to establishing an Implementation Work Group. The following persons volunteered to serve on the Implementation Work Group: Darcy Frownfelter, Kirk Patterson, Luella Roberts, Will Amy, Collette Barron, Matt Nelson, Diane Wassenich, Steve Bereyso, Tom Taggart, John Donahue, Jerry James, and Cary Betz. Gulley will contact the Texas Department of Agriculture to see if it would also like to be a member.

Diane Wassenich made a motion to appoint the volunteers to serve on the work group. Kirk Patterson seconded the motion. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

4. Discussion regarding the need for the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee and possible appointment of a workgroup to develop a recommendation regarding the charge and composition of the subcommittee.

Robert Gulley discussed the need to begin developing options for restoration projects for the Comal Rivers and to coordinate or integrate with similar on-going work on the San Marcos River. He proposed the appointment of an Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee to make recommendations regarding the restoration options. Because the decision to appoint a subcommittee is a Tier 1 issue he suggested the appointment of a work group to develop a charge and recommended composition of the subcommittee and to ask the work group to have its recommendations ready for the May meeting, if possible.

There were no objections to creation of the workgroup. The Chair and Program Manager recommended that the following individuals serve on the Work Group: Nathan Pence, Ken Diehl, Melani Howard, Cindy Loeffler, Todd Votteler, Carol Patterson, and Mara Alexander. Diane Wassenich made a motion to appoint the recommended persons to the work group. The motion was seconded by Todd Votteler. There were no objections; thus, the motion passed.

5. Report on the development of the RFP and review process for recommending recipients of the RFP (Gonzales).

Mike Gonzales reported on the work of the RFP Work Group. He said that the Work Group had received seven responses to the RFQ by April 3, 2009: PBS&J, Horizon, Loomis, SWCA, Recon, Bio-West, and Smith, Robertson. He said that one additional response from ACI will be submitted by April 10, 2009. He said the work group would recommend at the May meeting which respondents should be asked to submit proposals.

6. Report on the San Marcos River Restoration Project and update on contingency measures (Mara Alexander).

Mara Alexander reported on the work of FWS's San Marcos Restoration team.

7. Report on the Recovery Process (Amy).

Will Amy gave a report on the first meeting of FWS's Recovery Team on March 25, 2009. The meetings are not "open" to the public due to the aggressive schedule for completing the work; however, the comprehensive meeting minutes will be online soon. The next meeting is June 25-26, 2009.

8. Report of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee (Raabe).

Steve Raabe gave a report on the March 23, 2009 meeting of the Recharge Facility Subcommittee. He said that the next meeting will be on April 27 at SARA to discuss charges 1 and 2. The May meeting will be held on June 1, 2009 because of Memorial Day.

10. Report of the Expert Science Subcommittee (Argon-Long).

Susan Aragon Long said that SEI's final peer review report is posted on the website. She said that the agenda outline for next Monday has also been posted online. The meeting will start at 7:30a.m.

9. Report of the Funding Work Group (James).

Jerry James said that Congressmen Doggett and Gonzalez had sent letters of support for the EARIP's Section 6 grant application. He said that our requested \$1.692 appropriation request to the Texas Legislature was in the Senate budget bill but had not been put in the Texas House Bill. He said that the Work Group would be working to ensure that the full appropriation is included when the bills go to conference.

10. Presentation regarding FWS's No Surprises policy and mitigation and minimization requirements.

Luela Roberts gave presentations on FWS's "No Surprises" rule and the ESA requirement that "take" in a HCP must be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable.

11. Report of the Facilitation Work Group.

Velma Danielson gave a report on the initial meeting of the Facilitation Work Group on March 25 and April 8. She said that the Work Group's will meet again on April 22 and May 1. The Work Group plans to make recommendations at the May 14 EARIP meeting on a proposed scope of work and possible facilitators to receive a RFQ. Robert Gulley asked whether there were objections to the Work Group proceeding in this manner. There were no objections.

12. Report of the Public Outreach Subcommittee.

Dianne Wassenich gave a report on the plans of the River Institute and San Marcos River Foundation to prepare a public service announcement regarding the need to conserve water in the on-going drought. She said the Subcommittee decided not to issue a press release last month or this month. It will issue a press release if we are successful in obtaining a Section 6 Grant.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee and EARIP will be at the Dunbar Recreation Center, San Marcos, Texas, on May 14, 2009.

There being no further business; Calvin Finch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Todd Votteler. There being no objection the meeting was adjourned at 2:45.