

November 9, 2012

**EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PROGRAM
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

SCIENCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT WORK GROUP REPORT

Discussion

At its October 18, 2012 meeting, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Program Adaptive Management Stakeholder Committee (Stakeholder Committee) appointed a Work Group to review its nominees for EAHCP Science Committee membership. Members of the Work Group are Colette Barron Bradsby, Jim Bower, Myron Hess, Steve Raabe, Patrick Shriver, and Todd Votteler.

The charge to the Work Group was to review all nominations and attempt in good faith to reach consensus on the recommendation of a single nominee with expertise in experimental design and analysis and/or the application of mathematical and statistical analysis to biological data for membership on the EAHCP Science Committee (Science Committee) and to provide a report to the Program Manager by noon on November 9, 2012 for dissemination to the Stakeholder Committee. The Work Group was also to consider the input of a subset of members of the Science Committee, consisting of Robert Mace, Charles Kreidler, Tom Arsuffi, and Glenn Longley, on how well the experience, training, and attributes of the individual nominees matched up with the desired role as described in the request for nominations.

Stakeholders nominated four candidates, and the names and qualifications of the nominees were provided to all EAHCP Program Stakeholders (Stakeholders) by electronic mail on November 1, 2012. EAHCP Program Management staff polled the Science Committee member previewers individually and provided input to the Work Group in the form of a ranking by each individual previewer of the top two qualified nominees. This ranking was provided by electronic mail to all Stakeholders on November 7, 2012.

The Work Group convened a meeting at 9 a.m. on November 8, 2012 in New Braunfels. The time and place of the meeting were publicly noticed in accordance with the Program Operation Rules for the EAHCP Program Adaptive Management Stakeholder Committee Members and Participants, which govern Stakeholder Committee activities in conjunction with the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA). Present were Colette Barron Bradsby, Jim Bower, Myron Hess, Patrick Shriver, Todd Votteler, Program Manager Robert Gulley, Assistant Program Manager Nathan Pence, Program HCP Coordinator Jenna Cantwell, Steve Bereyso, and Glenn Longley. Steve Raabe was unable to attend.

After determining that a quorum of at least 75% of membership was present, the Work Group elected Colette Barron Bradsby as Chair. The members discussed the merits of the four highly qualified nominees and reviewed the input from Science Committee member previewers. The Work Group also discussed the known and anticipated tasks that would come before the Science Committee, including design of the applied research facility, experimental design, and the use of statistics to evaluate monitoring and study results.

The Work Group concluded that the Science Committee, and in turn, all EAHCP Stakeholders, would greatly benefit from the appointment of two members with the desired expertise. The Work Group agreed that the different but complementary strengths of Dr. Janis

Bush, in statistics and environmental engineering, and Dr. Floyd Weckerly, in applied research and experimental design, would serve the Science Committee well.

It was acknowledged that in order to accomplish the appointment of two Science Committee members, the EAHCP Implementing Committee (Implementing Committee) would necessarily need to expand the membership of the Science Committee to eleven members. Pursuant to FMA Section 7.9.1, the expansion to an eleven member Science Committee would provide the Stakeholder Committee with the authority to appoint two members and the Implementing Committee to appoint one member. It was also acknowledged that the Stakeholder and Implementing Committees had previously discussed a preference for holding at least one Science Committee member slot open for the future appointment of an individual with expertise in ecological modeling.

Recommendations

The Work Group by consensus approved the following recommendations:

1. The Stakeholder Committee should recommend to the Implementing Committee that it expand the membership of the Science Committee to eleven members;
2. Contingent upon the Implementing Committee expanding the membership of the Science Committee to eleven members, the Stakeholder Committee should appoint Dr. Janis Bush and Dr. Floyd Weckerly to the Science Committee; and
3. The Stakeholder Committee should recommend to the Implementing Committee that it continue to support holding one Science Committee member slot open for the appointment of an individual with expertise in ecological modeling and that such appointment should occur before the end of the second quarter of the year 2013.

Submitted by:



Colette Barron Bradsby
Chair, Science Committee Appointment Work Group