



NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

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APRIL 27, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

As requested by the EAHCP Implementing Committee, the 2016 EAHCP Biological Monitoring Program Work Group (BioWG) and the 2016 EAHCP Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program Work Group (WQWG) have been formed to produce final reports for review by the Implementing Committee providing their assessment of recommendations made for each of the EAHCP Monitoring Programs. The Work Groups are comprised of representatives from throughout the Edwards Aquifer Region.

The third meeting for the Biological Monitoring Work Group is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at 12 p.m. at the Dunbar Recreation Center, 801 W. Martin Luther King Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666. Please RSVP to dlarge@edwardsaquifer.org. Lunch will be provided.

At this meeting, the following business may be considered and recommended for Work Group action:

1. Call to Order.
Steve Raabe called the meeting to order at 12:45.
2. Public Comment.
No questions or comments.
3. Recap of Work Group Meeting #2.
Tyson Broad stated for the record that "stewarding dollars" is not the charge of the Work Group. Nathan Pence confirmed that this is correct, and that this operational guideline applies more to the Water Quality Work Group, but it was a guideline identified and discussed at the joint work group kick-off meeting that has been considered during the process. No further comments.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation of Scope of Work for the EAHCP Biological Monitoring Program.
Nathan Pence provided an overview of program purpose. Flow partitioning within Landa Lake by EAA was discussed as a possibility to drop from program in Meeting 2. As an update since Meeting 2, EAA has agreed to conduct and manage flow partitioning within Landa Lake. This is reflected in the Scope of Work overview slide seen today. Mark Enders asked how WQ phosphorus sampling efforts differ from BioM. Nathan Pence clarified that EAHCP is recommending maintaining WQ component in BioM in lieu of doing surface grabs in water quality program. Coming out of the WQWG this morning, EAHCP has been tasked with doing more research, working with Texas State professors, who have been researching this issue. Soluble reactive phosphorus is only being tested through the BioM program. Anticipate that the WQ work group will identify a lowered detection limit. The BioM should be aware that this is an ongoing discussion and may affect recommendations of the BioMWG as well. Doyle Mosier stated that an important consideration will be to explore and address the logistics of conducting the sampling. Jacquelyn Duke asked if there are any rapid bioassessment methods that would affect riparian shading. It is a valuable opportunity for EAHCP to take some of the riparian related monitoring parameters and ensure that these promote the health of the species. This would link back as available habitat near water's

*edge. Tyson Broad stated that Hardy's model looked at riparian habitat and shading, that could provide options. Nathan Pence stated that we can add, at certain key locations where we know restoration is going on, additional focused measurement efforts. Ed Oborny does not agree with the idea that adding light measurements would add much value to long-term analysis, unless it is done with thermistors and light measurements. Does the group feel we should add that as a recommendation that there could be some before and after light penetration measurements taken? Bob Hall provided a summary of proposed changes to monitoring using rapid bioassessment (RBA) and comparison of options for macroinvertebrate RBA methods. RBA option one is recommended by EAHCP staff as the most economical, able to provide the most valuable information, and is tailored for monitoring the health of the system. Doyle Mosier supported staff recommendation for Option 1. Option 2 would be much more challenging to ensure that the number of samples would be statistically valid. Option 1 is more pragmatic for long-term monitoring, as Option 1 provides both useful information and stewards dollars. Tyson Broad asked if there is any benefit to increasing frequency (sampling more than biannually). Ed Oborny stated that other sampling is being conducted biannually. It is ideal to consistently sample. Originally sampled four times a year, but found that only spring emergence and fall is when most changes occur and provides useful data. Taking grab samples immediately after a flood is not recommended because species will be disturbed, so your measurements will be skewed. Waiting one to three weeks after the critical period is the current practice because this allows time for the species to resettle. Remove flow partitioning in Landa Lake as it is done through EAA and use Option 1 for rapid bioassessment. Jacquelyn Duke requested that a riparian linkage is included as assessments are made of other variables. Asked if Jacquelyn Duke is in favor of contractors taking light measurement before, during and after restoration of an area? Jacquelyn Duke confirmed, yes. Other water quality variables may change – such as runoff and turbidity. Measure what has changed with riparian restoration, and planning to measure before or after to report on that. Jacquelyn Duke makes the motion to **include EAHCP recommendation to remove flow partitioning, take RBA Option 1, add RBA sampling events to critical period monitoring (low and high flow, and require monitoring of before riparian conditions and after riparian conditions as part of the Riparian Work Plans (light penetration and potentially other measures, depending on the project footprint and design).** Doyle Mosier seconds the motion. No objections or concerns.*

5. Presentation and discussion of the Draft Report.
Work Group members to review the draft report and provide comments by Wednesday, May 4, 2016. A new draft will be provided to the work group by May 13 for their review in advance of the meeting.
6. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.
The Work Group's next meeting will be held May 20th at the San Marcos Activity Center (Multipurpose Room), 501 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, TX 78666.
7. Questions and comments from the public.
No questions or comments.
8. Adjourn.
1:00 p.m. Steve Raabe concluded the meeting.