



## **EAHCP Science Committee**

11/7/2018 Meeting Minutes

Available at [eahcp.org](http://eahcp.org)

### **1. Call to order – 9:00am**

*Committee members include: Tom Arsuffi, Jacquelyn Duke, Conrad Lamon, Glenn Longley, Doyle Mosier, Chad Norris, Jackie Poole, Charles Kreidler, Janis Bush and Floyd Weckerly. Jacquelyn Duke was unable to attend this meeting.*

### **2. Public comment.**

*No public comments.*

### **3. Approval of the minutes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> Science Committee meeting (Attachment 1).**

*Dr. Arsuffi motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Dr. Weckerly seconded the motion, no opposition.*

### **4. Receive report from the Program Manager.**

- EAHCP Program Manager introduction  
*New Program Manager, Scott Storment, was introduced to the Committee*
- Science Committee membership  
*Dr. Jack Sharp will join the Science Committee in 2019*
- Hydrologic update
- Biological Monitoring fall survey
- Refugia update
- Research Work Group update
- Comal Springs riffle beetle Work Group update

### **5. Presentation by Dr. Thom Hardy, on behalf of Irvine and Conner Law Firm representing Preserve Lake Dunlap Association, on floating vegetation mats within the Comal River system.**

*Dr. Thom Hardy presented an overview of the floating vegetation mats issue within Lake Dunlap. Dr. Hardy and lawyers from Irvine and Conner Law Firm identified Landa Lake and the Comal River system, which eventually flows into the Guadalupe River, as a potential source of floating vegetation mats in Lake Dunlap. The committee discussed the need for more quantifiable evidence that the Comal River and Landa Lake were the source of the floating vegetation mats and stated that removal and routine maintenance of the floating vegetation mats in Lake Dunlap are under the purview of Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, and not the EAHCP. If the group would like to*

*request that CONB EAHCP funds be dedicated to removal of the floating vegetation in Landa Lake and Comal River, instead of dislodgement, then Dr. Hardy and the lawyers may submit a formal adaptive management proposal and scientific evaluation report to be reviewed and approved by all the EAHCP Committees.*

**6. Presentation of the National Academy of Sciences' Report 3 Review of the EAHCP (Attachment 2).**

*Dr. Furl presented an overview of the NAS Report 3 findings and recommendations. Members discussed issues related to the fountain darter, San Marcos salamander, and the Comal Springs riffle beetle (CSRB). The CSRB Work Group will meet in the 2019 to review and discuss potential refinements to the sampling methodology.*

**7. Presentation on MODFLOW drought of record simulations.**

*Jim Winterle presented an overview of the most recent MODFLOW model results. Previous model results predicted a minimum springflow of 29.1 cfs at Comal Springs. Recent model simulations used the current VISPO permitted values of 40,928 ac-ft yr-1, instead of the original 40,000 ac-ft yr-1, which increased the minimum springflow at Comal Springs to 29.6 cfs. Proposed alternatives to address the shortfall of 0.4 cfs will be identified in 2019.*

**8. Presentation of the timeline and process to facilitate Strategic Adaptive Management Phase 2 Work Plan.**

*EAHCP Program Manager, Scott Storment, presented an overview of the Phase 2 Work Plan process and timeline. The draft Phase 2 Work Plan will be available for all the committees to review from January 24<sup>th</sup> – February 15<sup>th</sup>. The final Phase 2 Work Plan will be submitted to the Implementing Committee to review and approve at their meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

**9. Discussion and possible action to nominate and elect a new Science Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019.**

*Chad Norris, who served as the Vice-Chair for 2018, will now be the Chair of the Science Committee for 2019. Dr. Bush nominated Jacquelyn Duke as the Vice-Chair and Chad Norris seconded. Jacquelyn Duke was unable to attend the meeting, but her acceptance will be affirmed at the next Science Committee meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**10. Consider future meetings, dates, locations, and agendas.**

- Annual Joint Committee Meeting, Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the Edwards Aquifer Authority (Recharge Room)