



Meeting Minutes

EAHCP Science Committee

Thursday, April 29, 2021

9:00 AM

Web Conference

A meeting of the Science Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan will be held on the date, time, and location stated above.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chad Furl, EAHCP Chief Science Officer, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Present: Tom Arsuffi, Janis Bush, Jacquelyn Duke, Charles Kreidler, Conrad Lamon, Doyle Mosier, Chad Norris, Jackie Poole, Butch Weckerly, and Jack Sharp. Glenn Longley was unable to attend.

2. Public Comment

There were no citizens who requested to address the Science Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of previous Committee meeting minutes.

- September 10, 2020

Attachments: [Science Committee Minutes 09.10.2020 draft v1](#)

A motion was made by Jack Sharp, seconded by Charles Kreidler, to approve the meeting minutes from September 10, 2020.

4. Program Announcements

- ##### 4.1
- Hydrologic update
 - Texas wild-rice research permit update
 - Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group update

Chad Furl, EAHCP Chief Science Officer, recognized Jackie Poole and Doyle Mosier's retirement from the EAHCP Science Committee.

Chad Furl presented the hydrologic trends of the San Marcos River, Comal River, J-17, and J-27 wells. Currently, both spring systems are experiencing decreasing springflow with approximately 200 cfs and 100 cfs flowing in the Comal and San Marcos River, respectively. The San Marcos River is currently in Condition M of the Incidental Take Permit and Critical Period Stage 2.

Chad Furl also provided an update on the process to acquire a Texas wild-rice research permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the removal of a small stand of Texas wild-rice near the USGS #08170500 gage calibration transect.

Jamie Childers, EAHCP Director, provided an update to the Science Committee on the current status of the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group.

5. Reports

5.1 Receive report from Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer, on the 2021 Edwards Aquifer Authority Work Plan progress and the proposed 2022 Edwards Aquifer Authority Work Plan.

Chad Furl provided an update on the 2021 Edwards Aquifer Authority Work Plan progress and the proposed 2022 Edwards Aquifer Authority Work Plan.

5.2 Receive report from Philip Quast, City of New Braunfels Watershed Coordinator, on the 2021 City of New Braunfels Work Plan progress and proposed 2022 City of New Braunfels Work Plan.

Mark Enders, City of New Braunfels Watershed Program Manager, provided an update on the 2021 City of New Braunfels Work Plan progress and the proposed 2022 City of New Braunfels Work Plan. Chad Norris commented on the vast improvement of riparian areas that have undergone habitat restoration. Mark Enders noted that both native and non-native riparian vegetation were not significantly affected by the winter storm. Amelia Hunter, USFWS, commented on the removal of non-native vegetation near Comal Springs riffle beetle habitat. Mark Enders noted that environmentally safe herbicide is applied by a licensed applicator for removal of non-native plants.

5.3 Receive report from Melani Howard, City of San Marcos Habitat Plan Conservation Manager, on the 2021 City of San Marcos Work Plan progress and the proposed 2022 City of San Marcos Work Plan.

Melani Howard, City of San Marcos Habitat Conservation Plan Manager, provided an update on the 2021 City of San Marcos Work Plan progress and the proposed 2022 City of San Marcos Work Plan. Tom Arsuffi commented on the idea of natural equilibrium and the consequence of consistently removing non-native aquatic vegetation on endangered species. Members discussed how algae blooms are becoming more frequent across the state. Charlie Kreidler recommended a further discussion on algae blooms and the effectiveness of removal.

5.4 Receive report from Christa Edwards, Texas State University graduate student, on her thesis research on fountain darter habitat associations in the San Marcos and Comal River.

Christa Edwards, Texas State University graduate student, provided an update on her thesis research on fountain darter habitat associations in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers. Tom Arsuffi asked Ms. Edwards her opinion on aquatic vegetation maintenance. Ms. Edwards suggested increasing the diversity of aquatic vegetation in

fountain darter habitats. Conrad Lamon recommended a closer look at other environmental factors to better understand habitat associations.

6. Individual Consideration

6.1 Consider election of Science Committee officers for the period of 2021-2022.

A motion was made by Jack Sharp, seconded by Chad Norris, to maintain the officer positions (Jacquelyn Duke as Chair and Chad Norris as Vice Chair of the Science Committee). Mrs. Duke and Mr. Norris will serve two-year terms as Chair and Vice Chair for 2021-2022.

7. Future Meetings

8. Questions from the Public

None.

9. Adjourn

There being no business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM

Kristina Tolman
Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator

This meeting of the Science Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan complies with Section 7.9.3 of the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA), an interlocal agreement made pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 791 by and among the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), the City of New Braunfels (New Braunfels), the City of San Marcos (San Marcos), the City of San Antonio acting by and through its San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Texas State University, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA).