



Meeting Minutes

EAHCP Science Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

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 9:00 AM. Committee Members Present: Tom Arsuffi, Janis Bush, Jacquelyn Duke, Charles Kreitler, Conrad Lamon, Chad Norris, Butch Weckerly, and Jack Sharp.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Program Announcements

3.1

- Hydrologic update
- EAHCP Permit Renewal update

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1

Approval of previous Committee meeting minutes.

- September 15, 2021

A motion was made by Tom Arsuffi, seconded by Janis Bush, to approve the meeting minutes from September 15, 2021.

5. Reports

5.1

Receive report from Hakan Basagaoglu, EAA Senior Modeler, on the published report: "Explainable AI reveals new hydroclimatic insights for ecosystem-centric groundwater management."

Hakan Basagaoglu presented an overview of the preliminary results of the ecosystem-centric groundwater modeling that uses artificial intelligence modeling to predict future J17 index well levels. Members discussed the difficulty in predicting

future precipitation conditions and projecting to groundwater levels.

5.2 Receive report from Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer, on the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group proceedings related to EAHCP low-flow environmental monitoring programs.

Chad Furl presented an overview of the current low-flow environmental monitoring program. This presentation is in response to low-flow monitoring questions that were prioritized by the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group. Their concerns centered around monitoring and identification of springs that will continue to flow during low-flow conditions and whether changes in water quality from low-flow impact aquatic vegetation. Currently, the low-flow monitoring program includes surveys of Comal Spring Run discharge, Landa Lake flow partitioning, and habitat evaluations.

Members discussed that there is a need to know if the springs that continue to flow during low-flow are occupied by the endangered species, however, they agreed the current equipment and methodology is generally sufficient. Members supported the recommendation to improve the low-flow monitoring by collecting the Comal Spring Run and Landa Lake flow measurements at the same time, twice a month during critical periods and to consider ways to improve flow monitoring in the San Marcos Springs system.

5.3 Receive report from Chad Furl, Chief Science Officer, on the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group proceedings related to the performance of EAHCP water quality modeling during 2014 low flow periods.

Chad Furl has received the engineering reports related to the hydraulic infrastructure of Landa Lake and will discuss the related items with the Science Committee in April.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Science Committee will be on April 27, 2022.

7. Questions from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjourn

There being no business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 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).