



Edwards Aquifer Authority

900 E. Quincy
San Antonio, TX 78215
EdwardsAquifer.org

Meeting Minutes

EAHCP Science Committee

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

9:00 AM

The Meadows Center

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: Jacquelyn Duke, Tom Arsuffi, Charles Kreitler, Conrad Lamon, Chad Norris, Butch Weckerly, Jack Sharp, and Nate Bendik. Janis Bush was unable to attend.

2. Public Comment

Dianne Wassenich invited committee members to join her and other EAHCP stakeholders at the Gruene Grove on Tuesday, October 4, 1:00 - 3:00 PM to celebrate Robert Gulley and Jim Bower's new books.

3. Program Announcements

Science Committee members recommended that Robert Mace, Texas State University representative on the Implementing Committee, meet with the new President of Texas State University to inform him of the EAHCP Program and Incidental Take Permit commitments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of previous Committee meeting minutes.

- April 27, 2022

A motion was made by Jack Sharp and was seconded by Chad Norris to approve the April 27th Meeting Minutes. There were no objections.

5. Reports

5.1 Receive report from Chad Furl, EAHCP Chief Science Officer, on the proposed schedule and planned activities regarding springflow projections for the Permit Renewal effort.

Chad Furl, EAHCP Chief Science Officer, presented the proposed schedule and

planned activities regarding springflow projections for renewal of the Incidental Take Permit. Future springflow projections are being generated in support of the application for the next iteration of the EAHCP Incidental Take Permit. The Permit Renewal process is being led by the consultant group ICF. Adrienne Wootten, Research Scientist at South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, will present at the next Science Committee meeting regarding future climate downscaling efforts across the Edwards Aquifer region. These downscaling efforts will be used to develop future springflow projections that are being generated in support of the application for the next iteration of the EAHCP Incidental Take Permit.

5.2 Receive report from Kristy Kollaus Smith, EAHCP Environmental Scientist, on 2023 submerged aquatic vegetation Applied Research activities.

*Kristy Kollaus Smith, EAHCP Environmental Scientist, presented the 2023 submerged aquatic vegetation Applied Research. The study will analyze standing crop biomass and productivity of *Vallisneria sp.* in Landa Lake per the recommendation of the Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group to assess vegetative die off in Landa Lake during low-flow conditions. *Vallisneria* was chosen due to its abundance in Landa Lake and will provide a benchmark for average to low-flow conditions. Science Committee members will be provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed study, the request for proposals period will be this November through December, and the study is anticipated to begin next February through December 2023.*

6. Individual Consideration

6.1 Receive report from Melani Howard, City of San Marcos Habitat Conservation Plan Manager, and consider recommendation to approve routine adaptive management to add additional native aquatic plants to the list of submerged aquatic vegetation restoration plants.

*Melani Howard, City of San Marcos Habitat Conservation Plan Manager, requested that the Science Committee approve a recommendation to the Implementing Committee to consider the addition of *Heteranthera dubia* and *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* as acceptable species for submerged aquatic vegetation restoration for fountain darter habitat in the San Marcos River.*

*At the April Science Committee meeting, members were reluctant to approve *Heteranthera dubia* and had expressed concern for the potential invasiveness of *Heteranthera dubia*. To address their concerns, Melani presented an overview of the historical spatial distribution of the species in the San Marcos River which showed it has not significantly displaced the distribution of other native aquatic plants, including the endangered *Zizania texana*, also known as Texas wild-rice. Initial plantings of both species will occur in the IH-35 long-term biological monitoring reach so that the distribution of both species will be mapped in Spring and Fall as part of the Biological Monitoring program.*

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Duke and was seconded by Chad Norris to approve the new species for aquatic vegetation restoration. There were no objections.

7. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Science Committee will be on November 9, 2022 at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

8. Questions from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjourn

There being no business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 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).