
Biological Goals Subcommittee

Meeting #3

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2023

1. Confirm attendance

Mark Enders, Charlie Kreitler, Rachel Sanborn, Kimberly Meitzen, Jacquelyn Duke and Kevin Mayes attended the meeting in-person.

2. Meeting logistics

Mark Enders, Biological Goals Subcommittee Chair, noted that meeting materials are available online and acknowledged EAA I.T. support should anyone need technical assistance.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from February 2 and February 16, 2023.

A motion was made by Rachel Sanborn and seconded by Charlie Kreitler, to approve the meeting minutes from the February 2 and February 16, 2023 Biological Goals Subcommittee meetings. There were no objections.

4. Overview of Meeting #2 discussion.

Olivia Ybarra provided a review of the second meeting's discussion including an introduction to the Biological Objectives Subcommittee, continued discussion on biological goals per the HCP Handbook and additional examples from other HCPs.

5. Continued discussion on suggested biological goals.

The Biological Goals Subcommittee was provided draft goals that were submitted to EAHCP staff. The Subcommittee reviewed and revised the draft goal submissions. Key terms were defined to reduce ambiguity. The Subcommittee agreed to define "Conserve" as a means to protect, restore, and enhance the Covered Species and their habitats. Additional key terms were described and intended to be included in the Biological Goals Subcommittee Report. The following are the biological goals the Biological Goal Subcommittee generated as a product of their discussion.

Goal 1: Conserve the quantity and quality of springflow and ecosystem characteristics within the Plan Area to provide for the resiliency of the Covered Species.

Goal 2: Promote environmental outreach, support land and water conservation, and mitigate anthropogenic and environmental disturbances within the Plan Area for the benefit of the Covered Species.

Goal 3: Conserve habitats and diverse native aquatic vegetation assemblages to support resilient fountain darter populations in the Comal and San Marcos spring and river systems.

Goal 4: Conserve and manage a resilient Texas wild-rice population in the San Marcos spring and river system.

Goal 5: Conserve habitats to support resilient Texas blind salamander, Comal Springs dryopid beetle, Peck's cave amphipod, Edwards Aquifer diving beetle, and Texas troglotic water slater populations in the Plan Area.

Goal 6: Conserve habitats to support resilient Comal Springs riffle beetle populations in the Plan Area.

6. Next steps of the Biological Goals Subcommittee.

Olivia Ybarra described the next steps of the Subcommittee. A draft report will be prepared by EAHCP staff and submitted to the Subcommittee on March 6 for review and comment. The fourth and final meeting will include the consideration to approve the Biological Subcommittee Report.

7. Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

8. Future meetings

Meeting #4 will be held on March 16, 2023, from 2:00PM - 4:00PM at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

9. Adjourn