



## Meeting Minutes

### EAHCP Science Committee

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Wednesday, September 15, 2021

9:00 AM

Web Conference

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**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, 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, Jack Sharp, and Butch Weckerly. 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.

- April 29, 2021

**A motion was made by Jack Sharp, seconded by Charles Kreidler, to approve the meeting minutes from April 29, 2021.**

#### 4. Program Announcements

##### 4.1

- Hydrologic update
- Texas wild-rice research permit update
- Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group update
- CSRB abundance and distribution survey
- Refugia program update
- New HCP/ITP permit application
- Springs Communities update

*As part of the new HCP and ITP process, USFWS will have a NEPA review process to determine if an environmental assessment is needed and whether to approve or deny the permit. The NEPA process is separate from the HCP process; the HCP is a document that the permittees develop and NEPA is a document that USFWS develops.*

## 5. Reports

### 5.1 **Receive report from Mike Langston, Deputy Director of the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC), USGS, to the Science Committee on the role and function of South Central CASC.**

*Mike Langston presented an overview of the CASC which is based in Oklahoma City and comprised of universities, government, and tribes. CASC will provide technical assistance for modeling climate change effects on springflow.*

### 5.2 **Receive report from Hakan Basagaoglu, EAA Senior Modeler, on the CASC funded project: Assessing future climate impacts on endangered and threatened groundwater-dependent species in the Edwards Aquifer region using a novel hybrid artificial intelligence framework.**

*Hakan Basagaoglu presented an overview of the climate change modeling contract with CASC that will occur from September 2021 until September 2023. Global climate models will be downscaled to a regional scale, specifically the Edwards Aquifer region, to predict future trends for groundwater levels and springflows. Artificial intelligence modeling will be used and differs from physics-based modeling in that the models are trained using observed data to learn the non-linear relationships between precipitation/temperature and springflow/groundwater levels. Members commented that while evapotranspiration is an important variable for climate change modeling, increased pumping with the predicted population growth should also be considered. One member noted that the decade time scale may be too large to capture the low flow conditions, Mr. Basagaoglu responded that the timescale can be adjusted.*

## 6. Future Meetings

*The next meeting will be the annual joint meeting of all EAHCP Committees on December 16, 2021.*

## 7. Public Comment

*There were no comments from the public.*

## 8. Adjourn

*There being no business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.*

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).