



Edwards Aquifer Authority

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

Meeting Minutes

EAHCP Science Committee

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

9:00 AM

Meadows Center Conference Room

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

Committee Chair, Dr. Jacquelyn Duke, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. All Committee members were present either in-person or online.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comment requests to address the Science Committee.

3. Program Announcements

- *Hydrologic Update*

Flows are still below average conditions; approximately 85 cfs in San Marcos and 132 cfs in New Braunfels.

- *SMARC Mortality Event*

A mortality event occurred at the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center on January 23, 2023, due to elevated dissolved gas pressure. Detection and alarm systems will be installed to prevent a similar event from occurring again.

- *Work Plan Timeline*

Committee members will review and comment on the 2024 Work Plans, April 17-21. Assuming no changes, the Implementing Committee will consider approval of the 2024 Work Plans at their May meeting.

- *Incidental Take Permit Renewal Memos*

ITP Permit Renewal contractor, ICF, has produced draft memos for the Covered Species and Covered Activities, the next two memos will focus on Existing Conditions and Temperature and Rainfall Scenarios.

- *Spring Communities Update*

Mark Enders provided updates for the City of San Marcos including the anticipated completion of the Sessom Creek Phase 1 Restoration by May. Olivia Ybarra provided updates for the City of New Braunfels including the completion of the Landa Park Aquatic Center biofiltration construction.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of previous Committee meeting minutes.

- November 9, 2022

A motion was made by Conrad Lamon, and was seconded by Jack Sharp, to approve the meeting minutes from the November 9, 2022 Science Committee meeting. There was no opposition, the minutes were approved.

5. Reports

5.1 **Receive report from Hakan Basagaoglu, Senior Modeler at EAA, to the Science Committee on the results of the future climate downscaling effort that will be used in hydrologic predictions for the renewal of the EAHCP Incidental Take Permit.**

Hakan Basagaoglu, Senior Modeler at EAA, presented a summary of future climate downscaling efforts across the Edwards Aquifer region. These downscaling efforts will be used to develop future springflow projections in support of the application for the next iteration of the EAHCP Incidental Take Permit. The presentation and committee discussion can be viewed within the meeting recording.

5.2 **Receive report from Olivia Ybarra, HCP Coordinator, to the Science Committee on the Biological Goals Subcommittee report.**

Olivia Ybarra, HCP Coordinator, presented an overview of the Biological Goals Subcommittee process, the final report is available on the PREAHCP website. The Subcommittee met four times between February and March of 2023 and identified a new set of Biological Goals for the Covered Species. The Biological Goals will be considered by the Biological Objectives Subcommittee to help identify measurable and achievable objectives for the Covered Species for the next EAHCP Incidental Take Permit.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 6 at 9:00 AM in the Meadows Center Conference Room.

7. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

8. Adjourn

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 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).