



**CITIZENS' ADVISORY PANEL
January 17, 2012
Meeting Summary**

Attendance:

Reynolds Cate	Kay Kutchins
Sonia Imperial	Ron Link
Susan Albert	Alan Dutton
Jesse Pacheco	Lupe Torres
Todd Schroeder	Deborah Gilbertson
Roxanne Faz	Adam Greenup
Marc Stroope	Bianca Maldonado
Brice Moczgembia	Olga G. Kauffman
Lisa Tatum	
Irma De Leon	

Gil Vargas

Excused:

Michael Ferguson

Absent:

Gilbert Gallego	Adrian Reyes
Theo Guidry	Frank Almaraz

Board Members:

SAWS Staff:

Kelley Neumann	Calvin Finch
Charles Ahrens	Steven Siebert
Leslie Ehlinger	

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Judge Cate at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Judge Cate asked if there were any questions, changes or motions to the October minutes. Judge Cate requested approval of the minutes. Mr. Schroeder motioned for approval. Ms. Kutchins seconded the motion. The minutes were approved for the November 2011 meeting.

Policy and Planning Report (Dr. Calvin Finch):

Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)

New Braunfels, San Marcos, Texas State University and SAWS Boards passed the EARIP; it went to the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) and there was an unexpected hold up due to New Braunfels and San Marcos and their interpretations of the agreement to include a rebate for the fee to fund the Habitat Conservation Plan. SAWS interpreted it differently. The Funding Management Agreement stated there could not be a rebate. A rebate is a conservation mechanism that the EAA uses pertaining to the permitting of water.

A compromise was reached and the EAA will lease some of San Marcos water and the EAA will help New Braunfels with a habitat improvement project.

The agreements allowed us to go forward and the EAA got a unanimous vote to pass onto the HCP to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife.

The next step is for SAWS CEO Robert Puente to brief City Council. The approximate cost to the pumpers to cover the aquifer management fee of the HCP in 2012 is \$37 per acre-foot and will increase to \$50 per acre-foot 2013.

Begin the processes of discussing the sales tax initiative during the next legislative session.

Comments & Responses

None

2011 End of Year Report (Charles Ahrens):

Mr. Ahrens – End of Year Report: Water Resources

- SAWS will ensure sustainable, affordable water services that fulfill the needs of our ratepayers and customers by:
 - Continuing to be national leaders in conservation, recycling, water use management, and water quality through progressive and innovative tools, programs, and education
 - Filling the Permitted Supply Gap with the most readily available, economically feasible, and best cost / benefit value permitted supplies
 - Actively pursuing regulatory changes that will facilitate the acquisition of permitted supplies
 - Developing relationships with our neighbors that can result in partnerships of mutual benefit and risk
 - Ensuring that our community and region understand the valuable impact of success in conservation, success in diversification, and the need to obtain additional permitted supplies
- Progress in 2011
 - Success of Edwards Aquifer Management
 - Actively maintain over 30,000 acre-feet of leases
 - Success of Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) storage
 - 87,884 acre-feet as of December 31, 2011
 - Success of Regional Carrizo Project
 - Partnership with Schertz Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC) approved
 - Option to purchase surplus water from SSLGC included in agreement
 - Revised design projects initiated
 - Well drilling contract awarded
 - Land / easement acquisition started

- Progress in 2011
 - Brackish Groundwater Desalination
 - Program Manager RFQ
 - Injection Well Permit (TCEQ)
 - Production Well Construction: Wells 1 - 4
 - Internal Pilot Testing
 - Land Acquisition complete (Phases I and II)
- RFCSP was issued on January 14, 2011
- Up to 20,000 acre-feet per year in 2020, increasing annually in increments of 1,500 acre-feet, not to exceed 80,000 acre-feet per year by 2060 to be delivered to SAWS at either the Anderson or Nacogdoches Pump Stations
- RFCSP was closed on July 22, 2011. A total of nine proposals were received
- The Technical Evaluation Team has evaluated and ranked the proposals and made its recommendation(s) to the Selection Task Force in early December 2011
- 2011 EARIP Accomplishments
 - EARIP Steering Committee and Stakeholders agreed: Bottom-Up approach is the way to proceed
 - HCP successfully drafted and adopted by EARIP
 - Funding & Management Agreement drafted and adopted by EARIP
 - Proposed Implementation Agreement approved for submittal by EARIP to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - SAWS Board of Trustees approves EARIP documents
 - City Councils of New Braunfels and San Marcos approve EARIP recommendation; Texas State University and Texas Parks & Wildlife leadership approve EARIP documents
 - Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors adopts EARIP recommendation, associated documents, and funding commitment
 - All stakeholders continue to work TOGETHER
 - HCP, Application, and supporting documents submitted to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on Monday, January 2, 2012

Comments & Responses:

Mr. Schroeder asked how much water did SAWS use from ASR. Mr. Ahrens responded that SAWS brought back almost 12,000 acre-feet, but stored about 11 reflecting a balance of about 1,100 acre-feet.

Mr. Link asked is SAWS still in a storage mode today or is this coming out of the EAA? Mr. Ahrens responded everything we are storing today comes off of SAWS permit supply.

Mr. Link asked what the size of the SSLGC pipeline is. Mr. Siebert followed-up via an email to CAP members stating the SSLGC pipeline is 42" to the booster station in Seguin and then 36" into Schertz.

Ms. Torres asked why SAWS believes they can produce that much water from the Wilcox Aquifer. Mr. Ahrens responded that SAWS looks at studies that are done by the Texas Water Development Board on water availability, computer models based on the precocity and the recharge of the water as to how much volume might be available, SAWS also engaged in private geological consulting firms to perform analysis to determine if the production capability of the Aquifer, and SAWS drilled test wells to test the gallons per minute.

Judge Cate asked is one supplier going to supply all of the membranes. Mr. Ahrens responded it will be one manufacturer, one type/brand.

Mr. Link asked when SAWS anticipates the projects to come on line. Mr. Ahrens responded 2013 for Regional Carrizo and 2016 for Brackish Desalination.

Mr. Link asked when does the EAA start to charge for the HCP. Mr. Ahrens answered the question stating in 2012, one year ahead of HCP implementation there is funding available in 2013.

Mr. Link asked do you only have to select just one project for the RFCSP. Mr. Ahrens responded “No” we can choose one or more depending on our needs.

Dr. Dutton stated regarding the CAP EARIP Response paper, that the CAP and the region will have a different view of the EARIP five years from now.

Citizens to be Heard:

Jack Finger

Next Meeting:

February 21, 2012

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the Citizens' Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. by Judge Cate.