

Guadalupe River Habitat Conservation Plan (GRHCP) Technical Advisory Group

July 19, 2022

Background

In contemplating the creation of a GRHCP, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) envisioned the engagement of stakeholders and the creation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that will provide GBRA and the GRHCP Project Team with input on the development of the GRHCP. The TAG will consist of technical experts representing various scientific disciplines to ensure an un-biased, scientifically sound approach to protect the GRHCP's covered species.

Overview

In creating the GRHCP TAG, GBRA considered experts from state agencies, other river authorities, universities, and private firms. The members listed below are recognized experts in their respective fields and have extensive habitat conservation planning experience. They were selected because of their extensive backgrounds and experience working on related issues and will provide GBRA with objective and independent peer-reviews of the technical analyses and recommendations in the GRHCP. Their input will be primarily solicited through email communications and at in person meetings. Input will be summarized in the GRHCP. The GRHCP TAG will meet at least two times – including once at the beginning of the GRHCP development process, and again at the completion of the final GRHCP draft. The TAG may meet in addition to the two planned meetings if a need is identified. TAG meetings will be open to the public. Additionally, on an as needed basis, GBRA may convene additional ad-hoc technical advisory panels on the GRHCP's covered species, such as the mussels, salamanders, or coastal birds.

Role and Responsibilities

The GRHCP TAG will act in an advisory role only and will be called upon as needed. They will review and provide input on various sections or chapters of the GRHCP as they are being developed by the GRHCP Project Team. Additionally, the GRHCP TAG members may be asked to provide input on specific scientific matters that are relevant to development of the GRHCP. The responsibilities of the GRHCP TAG will include the following:

- Attend a GRHCP TAG “kick-off” meeting.
- Review and provide comments and input on GRHCP technical memorandums and working draft chapters as they become available.
- Attend a GRHCP TAG closing meeting, where the TAG Chair will present summary of their work at this meeting and/or at a GRHCP Public Stakeholder meeting.

Additionally, GBRA staff will document comments received from the TAG, along with GBRA's responses to those comments, in a matrix.

Administration

The TAG is expected to hold only two in person meetings, with additional meetings, if necessary, as determined by GBRA. GBRA and the GRHCP Project Team will be responsible for meeting logistics, including preparing meeting agendas and minutes. Members of the TAG will be compensated for mileage and per diem expenses to attend the “kick-off” and closing meetings.

Members

The TAG will consist of the following members:

- Dan Opdyke (Anchor QEA) – Chair. Water quality and hydromodeling expert.
- Webster Mangham (Trinity River Authority). Mussel policy specialist and familiar with River Authority operations.
- Cindy Loeffler (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-retired). Extensive experience in habitat conservation planning.
- Ryan Smith (Texas Nature Conservancy). Ecosystem expert.
- A fifth member will be designated after consultation with the TAG Chair.