

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, June 17, 2009



**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY,
June 17, 2009**

**The Environmental Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday,
June 17, 2009, City Council Chambers, at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas
78701**

Board Members in Attendance:

Rodney Ahart, Dave Bezanson, John Dupnik, Mary Maxwell, Phil Moncada, and
Mary Ann Neely

Staff in Attendance:

Victoria Li, Joe Pantalione, Pat Murphy, Nancy McClintock, Leon Barba, Mike Ihnat,
Diane Gonzales, Mike McDougal, Mateo Scoggins, William Staubner, Robyn Smith
Chris Yanez, William Conrad, Edward Peacock, Gopal Guthikonda, & Marilla Shepherd

CALL TO ORDER

**Mary Gay Maxwell Chairman of the Environmental Board called the meeting to
order at 6:07 p.m.**

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- **Dana Hendry from the Inlet Protection Company spoke on the Expander Inlet Protector.**
- **Brent Brewer spoke on water fluoridation issues, he recommended that the Environmental Board select a panel of independent scientist in the Austin area to review the latest scientific evidence reports.**
- **Rae Nadler Olenick spoke on fluoridation compounds and issues.**
- **Andrew Hawkins from the SOS Alliance spoke on item 3a, and requested a postponement. The request for postponement for item 3a was disapproved: [VOTE 6-0]. Motioned by Board member Mary Gay Maxwell and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely.**
- **Bruce Aupperle spoke on item 2c and requested that the Environmental Board members obtain answers following questions:**

1. **Why would we limit bulkheads to Lake Austin and not the other Lakes?**
2. **Why is the Environmental Board opposed to vertical bulkheads?**
3. **What's the definition of a vertical Bulkheads.**
4. **How will these changes impact the property owners?**
5. **How will property owners be involved in the process?**
6. **What is the source of the problem?**
7. **Explain, what is Boat dock access?**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 20, 2009.

The minutes for the regular meeting of May 20, 2009 were approved on Board member Phil Moncada's motion, Board member Rodney Ahart's second on a 6-0 vote. Board member Jon Beall was absent.

- b. Consideration of a resolution adopting Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species

The Environmental Board motioned to adopt the Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species Resolution by the Urban Forestry Board. See attached.

Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.

Motioned by Board member Rodney Ahart and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely, Board member Jon Beall was absent.

- c. Consider a recommendation/motion for Bulkheads.

The Environmental Board motioned to postpone the consideration of a recommendation for Bulkheads to the next Environmental Board meeting, and would like staff to respond to the following requests.

Approved Postponement: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.

Motioned by Board member Rodney Ahart and seconded by Board member Phil Moncada. Board member Jon Beall absent.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- a. **Name:** City of Austin Water Treatment Plant #4 Raw Water Pump Station Mass Excavation and Stormwater Facilities SP-2009-0144D
Applicant: AECOM-John Buser, P. E Agent.
Location: 12309 Bullick Hollow Road
Staff Person: Mike McDougal, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department
Request:
 1. Land Development Code 25-8-453 To allow development within the Water Quality Transition Zone.

Watershed: Lake Travis (Water Supply Rural) Drinking Water Protection Zone

Recommendation: Recommended for Consent

Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0].one absent.

Motioned by Board member Ahart and seconded by Board member John Dupnik. Board member Phil Moncada recused and Board member Jon Beall absent. See attached.

4. ACTION ITEM

- a. Special staff report on the 2009-2010 Budget for the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department and proposed changes to the drainage utility fee, including a rate structure change for vertical construction. Diane Gonzales, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. And; Consider a recommendation by Environmental Board Budget subcommittee.

The Environmental Board recommends approval of the WPDR FY 2010 Proposed Budget. This budget enhances the staff and performance metrics necessary to promote core missions of WPDRD. Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent. See attached.

Motioned by Board member Phil Moncada and seconded by Board member Rodney Ahart. Board member Jon Beall absent.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Update on the status Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Friendship to Manchaca Electric Transmission Line project across the City's Water Quality Protection Lands. William Conrad, Austin Water Utility.

Briefing conducted as posted. The Environmental Board requests that Austin Water Utility staff report back on the status of the LCRA Friendship to Manchaca Electric Transmission Lines project after the meetings are conducted with LCRA.

- b. Staff briefing on Walnut Creek water quality. Mateo Scoggins, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department-Consider a recommendation/motion by the Environmental Board members for this item.

The Environmental Board recommends that Watershed Protection and Development Review Department continue to monitor watersheds within the City of Austin's jurisdiction, and to maintain water quality natural areas, and greenbelts in the City of Austin. See attachment.

**Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.
Motioned by Board member Phil Moncada and seconded by Board member Rodney Ahart. Board member Jon Beall absent.**

- c. Update on the status of the Austin Clean Water Program-Gopal Guthikonda, P. E. Austin Water Utility.

This item was conducted as posted.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Phil Moncada, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely

Board member Phil Moncada reported that a special meeting was held on 6/15/09 regarding the Tree concerns at Barton Springs. He reported that Sara Hensley, Director of Parks and Recreation Department announced that only 3 trees would be removed and all of these trees were in the children’s playground area that is currently closed to the public. These removals would allow the children of this community to again enjoy these amenities especially in light of the fact that school is out for the summer. The remaining trees will receive pruning and trimming, collar excavations, fertilizations and aeration of compacted soils to assist with long-term care and maintenance.

The Environmental Board would like to thank the Parks Board and Sara Hensley, Director of Parks and Recreation Department for creating a more transparent communication effort with the citizens of our community and thank all parties who came to speak on behalf of the Barton Springs park trees, without our citizen’s input this City would not be Austin.

- b. Update on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizens Advisory Group – Mary Ann Neely

Board member Mary Ann Neely reported on this item.

- c. Update on the Environmental Awareness Awards- Executive Committee of the Environmental Board

Board member Mary Gay Maxwell reported on this item.

- d. Update on the 2009 Work Plan reports – Mary Gay Maxwell.

No update on this item.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**