



## Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting  
January 27, 2014 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Waller Creek Center Room 104  
625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701**

### **Attending**

Lynne Weber  
Ken Beck  
David Whatley  
John Gosdin  
Peter Torgimson  
Tom Hegemeyer  
Valerie Bristol  
Mary Ann Neely

### **Excused**

Joe Lessard  
Hill Abel  
Bill Moriarty

1. **Citizens Communication - None**
2. **BCP Partner Reports**
  - a. **City of Austin BCP** - Sherri Kuhl reviewed a written report
  - b. **Travis County BCP** – Wendy Connally reviewed a written report
  - c. **LCRA BCP** – Willy Conrad gave a verbal report on behalf of Jarrod Depew
  - d. **Other BCP Partners** - None
3. **New Business**
  - a. **Elections of CAC officers**

Chair – Peter Torgimson was nominated on a motion from John Gosdin, Second by Ken Beck, carried 8/0  
Vice Chair – David Whatley was nominated on a motion from Mary Ann Neely, second by Ken Beck, carried 8/0

Mary Ann Neely moved to adopt the ballot and to elect all nominees to the offices they were nominated for, second from Lynne Webber, carried 8/0.
  - b. **Review BCCP Participation Fee schedule, consider changes, and take action as appropriate** – Secretary Conrad introduced the subject noting that current fees have been in place since 2011. He introduced Travis County

Participation Coordinator Mike Wallace. Wallace reviewed the history of participation fees. He noted that fee rates do not seem to drive participation. Over time as fee rates have fluctuated participation levels remain fairly consistent. Several members discussed that fees collected typically do not generate adequate revenue to purchase amounts of land equivalent to what is being lost. Secretary Conrad note that participation's biggest revenue result is the tax benefit revenue generated by improvements on property that generate more tax revenue. A portion of that incremental tax revenue increase is dedicated to BCP/BCCP at Travis County. Mike Wallace noted that the 2013 Tax Benefit Funds available was close to \$10 million. Secretary Conrad also noted that reduced participation fee rates encourage private property owners to take affirmative action to comply with the Endangered Species Act. This was part of the intent for BCCP and its public participation program.

Following the briefing and discussion no action was taken.

- c. **Briefing for BCP Land Management Plan, Tier II Chapter 12, Public Access** – Secretary Conrad advised members that the draft revised plan is not quite ready and asked to table this item to a future meeting.
- d. **Briefing about BCP Education and Outreach Programs** – Amanda Ross gave a presentation and entertained a discussion on behalf of and with input from all BCP partner organizations. During discussion members asked program staffs to coordinate more with neighborhood groups and homeowners associations.
- e. **Members' Issues and Concerns** – David Whatley observed that there has never been any sort of social event for the CAC and little opportunity for social interaction between members. Following a suggestion from Mary Ann Neely noting that some similar groups have pizza or food to share thirty minutes before the meeting convenes, David offered to provide pizza before the next meeting. Willy Conrad offered to organize a spring picnic for members to include BCP site visits and information about management. All members agreed this would be good to do.

#### 4. **Old Business**

- a. **Approve the Record of Decision from 11/5/13** – Approved with a motion from Mary Ann Neely, Second from Ken Beck, Carried 8/0
- b. **Receive a report from the Coordinating Committee Secretary on proposed changes to the BCCP Advisory Committee Guidelines requested by the Coordinating Committee** – Secretary Conrad reviewed a report prepared for the Coordinating Committee. During discussion David Whatley noted that members have a responsibility to attend and participate in order to represent BCP to the public and carry their input to the Coordinating Committee. Members discussion supported this responsibility but also noted challenges of meeting this commitment with other personal and professional commitments. All agreed that the Coordinating Committee's concerns were valid and real. All agreed that the proposed guidelines are reasonable. Mary Ann Neely made a motion to recommend the draft revised guidelines to the Coordinating Committee. Ken Beck seconded. Carried 8/0
- c. **Sunset Valley Managing Partner Agreement Update:**
  - i. **Sunset Valley Approval of Managing Partner Agreement**
  - ii. **Gaines Creek Tract Land Management Plan**
  - iii. **Travis Co. Commissioners Court Action**Following a briefing from Wendy Connally no action was taken.
- d. **CAC Annual Work Plan**
  - i. **Report from subcommittees**

1. **Wildfire and fire support** – Secretary Conrad reported that input from this committee supporting the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Austin and/or Travis County was effective. The progress in completing the Joint City-County CWPP had been slowed during the fall but the project is back on track with completion expected by mid-April.
2. **Invasive species in landscaping** – Amanda Ross is working with Hill Abel to convene this task group.
3. **Friends of BCP group** – No action since the last meeting.