



## Record of decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting  
May 12, 2015 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Room 104 Waller Creek Center  
625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701**

### **Attending:**

Peter Torgrimson  
Ken Beck  
John Gosdin

Tom Hegemier  
Forrest Arnold  
David Whatley

### **Excused:**

Mary Anny Neely  
Hill Abel

### **Absent:**

Bill Moriarity

1. **Citizens Communication** - None
2. **BCP Partner Reports**
  - a. **City of Austin BCP** – Sherri Reviewed her written report including the Joint public outreach report
  - b. **Travis County BCP** – Jon White introduced Melinda Mallia as the new Environmental Program Manager responsible for managing Travis County's BCP program. Melinda reviewed her written report.

Jon White updated members about ongoing transportation projects of interest to BCCP. He noted that CTRMA/TxDOT have issued their Final EIS and Record of Decisions for SH45 Southwest. Travis County Commissioners Court has instructed County staff to engage those agencies to ensure that the best storm water and pollution controls possible are integrated into that project. Secretary Conrad advised members that U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has advised various elected officials and members of the BCCP Coordinating Committee that SH45, as described in the FEIS, might have an adverse impact on Flint Ridge Cave that could affect the good standing of BCCP's federal permit. He advised members to take action before that impact occurs.

White also advised members that the BCCP Partners had reviewed the Draft Habitat Conservation plan submitted by LISD to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provided comments from various partners staffs to LISD via a letter from the Coordinating Committee Secretary. He noted that while the letter to LISD offered advice on how the district might move their plans forward in a manner that did not jeopardize BCCP, those comments were not well received.

White Also mentioned a proposal for a road through BCP by District 6 City Council Member Don Zimmerman. Following a very brief discussion the chair tabled the discussion until agenda item 3.b. came up.

- c. **LCRA BCP** – Jarrod Depew gave a brief verbal report. He noted that GCWA monitoring is in progress on LCRA's 100 acre plots. He also mentioned that long time LCRA land Management Technician Joe Miller retired. Members Gosdin, Whatley, and Hegemeir all acknowledged Mr. Miller's outstanding contributions to BCP.
- d. **Other BCP Partners** - none

### 3. **New Business**

- a. **Brief members about the current members of the Coordinating Committee and their roles and responsibilities** – Secretary Conrad provided a briefing about the BCCP Coordinating Committee, its organization, and its responsibilities. He provided members with portions of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Travis County and City of Austin Implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan – Shared Vision
- b. **Members' Issues and Concerns** – Several Members expressed concern about a road proposed by City Council Member Don Zimmerman to cross BCP in the Bull Creek Macrosite. Members Gosdin and Torgrimson said they attended a Town Hall Meeting hosted by CM Zimmerman to discuss the subject. They noted that constituents attending the meeting were nearly unanimous in their opposition to the proposed road. Secretary Conrad noted that there has been no formal proposal submitted to the Coordinating Committee or the City Council. He advised that the proposed road would likely require a major amendment of the BCCP federal permit in order for the road to be routed and built as described in the press.

### 4. **Old Business**

- a. **Approve the Record of Decision from 10/22/14** – Motion from Beck to approve, second by Gosdin Carried 6/0
- b. **CAC Action regarding positive press coverage from 10/22/14** – Secretary Conrad advised members that will the CAC voted to approach Four Points News to do a positive feature story about BCCP on a motion from Member Neely, staff has not followed up on that action. He advised members that City and County staff will work with members to accomplish that action
- c. **Funding concerns for rural and small community fire departments adjacent to BCP** – Secretary Conrad share with

members correspondence he received from Mayor Ken Beck of Volente. In his email Mayor Beck expressed concern that the recent Austin Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) depicted identified risks for wildfire for the Wildland Urban Interface between Volente and BCP. He also noted that the Volente Fire Department is responsible for fighting wildfires on BCP. He believes this is a substantial responsibility for Volente, but BCP does not contribute to the tax base that supports VFD. He asked whether there were options available for BCP to help financially support VFD.

Conrad, advised members that he submitted Mayor Beck's concerns to the Austin Travis County Joint Wildfire Task Force executive committee. That committee assigned the review of the Mayors concerns to a task group under their Wildfire Response Subcommittee. That committee was given a specific written charge that was provided to members of the CAC. Conrad noted that Mayor Beck has brought this question forward to the CAC in the past and only received a response of "I don't know" Conrad noted that the task group will achieve a better answer, although it may or may not provided relief to the Mayor's concerns.

- d. **Update on BCCP Karst Substitution Process planning and take action as appropriate** – Conrad updated members on the actions of the BCCP Cave Substitution Task group. He said that they have have a fourth draft in progress. He believes that is a near-final draft that will be provided to the Coordinating Committee for review on June 3. He hopes to have the Coordinating Committee approve the policy during their August 23 meeting.
- e. **CAC vacant Positions and expected changes from City Boards and Commission changes** – Secretary Conrad advised member that there has been no action to identify and recruit new consensus members to the CAC because of recent turnover in the Coordinating membership. Now that the City's position on the Coordinating Committee is filled he will reconvene the advisory committee task group and begin that process. He also noted that the City's three positions on the CAC may be subject to turnover as well because the three boards and commissions those positions represent are being reorganized following the recent reorganization of Austin's City Council
- f. **CAC Annual Work Plan**
  - i. **Report from subcommittees**
    1. **Wildfire and fire support** - - see item 4. C.
    2. **Invasive species in landscaping** – no action
    3. **State of BCP report (joint with SAC)** – Secretary Conrad advised members that while the CAC and SAC have agreed to help the Secretary with this project he has not yet taken any action. He plans to convene a task group after the June Coordinating Committee. The goal will be to complete the report before the BCCP 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2016. The goals of the report to to evaluate the state of the permit and HCP, the state of the Preserve, and the state of the science

for species covered by the permit. The report will then recommend a roadmap to complete BCP and fully comply with the permit and HCP by the end of the permit term in 2026. BCP partners will then use the report to develop plans and take actions to ensure that BCCP is fully successful by the end of its permit's term.