



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
July 29, 2015, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Waller Creek Center, Room 104
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Present

Willy Conrad, BCCP Secretary
John Cornelius
Craig Farquhar
Nico Hauwert
Sherri Kuhl, BCP Secretary
Jean Krejca
David Steed

Absent:

Sam Whitehead
Amie Treuer-Kuehn

1. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 5/11/15.** Motion from Steed to approve as corrected, second Cornelius, carried 5/0
2. **BCCP Karst Substitution Workshop Update** – Secretary Conrad advised members that the draft policy document they reviewed during their May meeting was submitted to the Coordinating Committee on June 26. Staff will be briefing Coordinating Committee members individually in preparation for action on August 21st. He asked members whether they had any further comments. Hauwert suggested that the source of permit conditions be more fully cited in the document. There were no further comments and the committee took no action. Conrad asked members to forward further comments to him, and he will either revise the document accordingly or present the comments to the Coordinating Committee for their consideration.
3. **Discuss and take action regarding a request from Coordinating Committee Member Pool to provide advice to the Coordinating Committee about whether or how SH45 SW might fragment habitat for wildlife in the vicinity of its proposed route** – Krejca will take the lead on this and provide a broad overview based upon available information from the FEIS and supporting documents.
4. **Discuss and take action regarding a request from Coordinating Committee Member Pool to review surveys and other monitoring work for GCWA along SH45 SW in order to determine whether the effect call is supported by the data presented** – Farquhar will take the lead on this and develop a draft review based on available information from the FEIS and supporting documents.

5. **Subcommittee reports:**
 - a. **Mountain Bike Experimental Design** - Steed (with O'Donnell and Kuhl) - Member Steed presented the subcommittee's final report. He advised members that the Davis paper reasonably leads us to the conclusion that mountain biking has an adverse effect of GCWA with respect to territory size, nesting success, and flushing distance. He said their report also supports use of the USGS Marion Publication as the standard for monitoring effects of trail/mountain bike activity on natural resources. Cornelius asked that the names of the report authors be included in the final document. Krejca asked that a bibliography with literature citations be added. Cornelius also recommended that when staffs begin implementation of the recommendations that there be thresholds identified that trigger management actions including critical enforcement actions. Steed made a motion to approve with the edits recommended. Cornelius seconded, carried 5/0.
 - b. **Karst** - Hauwert briefed members about the ongoing hydrogeological evaluation of Flint Ridge Cave. He advised members that the City of Austin has reached agreement with the Village of Western Oaks community for the City to take over ownership and management of the Village of Western Oaks cave preserve. Watershed Protection Department will be the managing agency. The repairs, restoration, and maintenance at Blowing Sink Preserve are ongoing, but almost complete.
 - c. **BCP Strategic Research Plan** - Whitehead was absent, but Sherri Kuhl briefed members about an effort to use a web application to share and document research efforts on preserves.
6. **Staffs' reports:**
 - a. Sherri Kuhl reviewed her written reports for the City.
 - b. Linda Laack reviewed Travis County's written report.
 - c. Erik Huebner reviewed LCRA's written report. He also introduced Bobby Humphrey as LCRA's new BCP manager.
7. **Members' issues and concerns** - None.