



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
September 23, 2015, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Waller Creek Center, Room 104
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Present

Sam Whitehead
John Cornelius
Craig Farquhar
Nico Hauwert
Sherri Kuhl, BCP Secretary
Amie Treuer-Kuehn
David Steed

Absent:

Jean Krejca

John Cornelius, Vice Chair, led the meeting in Jean Krejca's absence.

1. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 7/29/15.** Motion from Hauwert to approve, second by Steed, carried 6/0
2. **BCCP Cave Substitution Policy Update** – Kuhl advised members that the Cave Substitution Policy was approved by the Coordinating Committee at their meeting on August 21, 2015. She discussed the steps that would be involved in the process and thanked everyone, especially the SAC karst subcommittee, for their time and efforts put into producing the process document. Nico stressed the importance of spending time and resources on looking for new caves and digging out features that have been previously filled in by ranchers.
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 continues to work on providing 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 is reviewing Golden-cheeked Warbler information from the FEIS and supporting documents. Farquhar discussed the site visit made with City staff to the Water Quality Protection Land tract that the proposed SH 45 SW would cross. Hauwert updated the members on the subsurface drainage studies of Flint Ridge Cave, and the members discussed the potential SH 45 SW road project.

5. **Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016** - Kuhl asked for nominations and self-nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016. Anyone interested in serving, please contact Kuhl and she will develop a slate of candidates for the first meeting of 2016.
6. **Subcommittee reports:**
 - a. **Karst** - Hauwert 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; and are looking for a closing date. Watershed Protection Department will be the managing department and will continue using them for education. The repairs, restoration, and maintenance at Blowing Sink Preserve are ongoing, but almost complete. O'Donnell gave an update on the Tawny Crazy Ant Section 6 grant and upcoming research study on this new invasive species.
 - b. **BCP Strategic Research Plan** - Whitehead gave a report for the subcommittee and led a discussion on how to best move forward with developing a BCP Strategic Research Plan. First step will be to conduct a bibliography of all of the research that has been done on the BCP.
7. **Staffs' reports:**
 - a. Lisa O'Donnell reviewed the written reports for the City and the BCP Partners Education and Outreach.
 - b. Linda Laack and Melinda Mallia reviewed Travis County's written report.
 - c. Erik Huebner reviewed LCRA's written report.
8. **Members' issues and concerns** - Members discussed working on the State of the BCP report with the CAC. Whitehead and Treuer-Kuehn volunteered to help. It was also mentioned that there will be a Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo Symposium in January of 2016.
9. **Next SAC Meeting** – Kuhl discussed scheduling next year's meetings in January 2016.