



Revised

Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Coordinating Committee**

April 29, 2016 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Austin City Hall, Room 1001
301 West 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

Attending:

District 7 City Council Member - Leslie Pool, Chair
Precinct 3 Commissioner – Gerald Daugherty, Co-chair
USFWS - Adam Zerrenner, Member (Ex Officio)
Acting BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary - Sherri Kuhl

Call to Order 10:04 AM

1. Citizen Communications:

Tomas Pantin – Asked that the information he presented in August 2015 be included in the citizen communication record. Communicated that he believes the Trail Master Plan is not an enforceable document within the BCP legal system. He stated that the “Board” directed the Secretary to include it in the Public Access Chapter and the revision of that chapter has not been completed. He stated that BCCP has been enforcing this document. He commented that the “Board” directed the Secretary to develop the Trail Master Plan with the intention of opening new trails and that grandfathered uses would stay the same. He would like for it to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

2. Approve Record of Decisions for the March 18, 2016 regular meeting - Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0.

3. Report from Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Jean Krejca gave a brief report to the Committee. She reported that they did not quite have a quorum at the last meeting, talked about the State of the BCCP report, the Karst Land Management plan update that was approved by the Coordinating Committee, and a karst subcommittee report regarding dye tracing at Flint Ridge Cave.

4. Report from Citizens Advisory Committee - Chair Peter Torgrimson gave members a report. The CAC met on April 12th and they have two vacancies on the committee. The CAC recommends that Joan Marshall be appointed for the environmental consensus

member. He believes that she will be a good addition to the CAC and good representative of the environmental interests of Austin. The Advisory Task Force is still working on the consensus member representing the development community. The CAC is looking forward to the BCCP 20th Anniversary event on May 6th. Peter said they had considerable discussion about how the CAC could be more effective in supporting staff on the State of the BCCP report, and that staff are currently stretched thin. CAC work committees include the Invasive Species Committee – invasive species moving into the Preserve from surrounding neighborhood landscaping in a significant way and the goal is to cut more off at the source. Peter also talked about trying to re-energize this sub-committee. Mary Ann Neely and Richard DePalma agreed to co-chair the invasive species sub-committee. Peter stated how wildfire is also a threat to the Preserve, and that Kent Browning has agreed to reach out to the Austin-Travis County Wildfire Coalition to see what, if anything, the CAC could be doing in this area. Council Member Pool asked about the list of invasives and Peter mentioned the “big four” – Ligustrum, Nandina, Chinaberry, and Chinese tallow. Pool discussed how it is beginning to shift and more nurseries have a native plant section. She mentioned that Neely and DePalma are on the Environmental Commission and Parks Board and asked if those committees are working together with CAC. Torgrimson said the efforts were just getting started. Pool and Daugherty expressed their support for the efforts. Pool requested education information be available at the BCCP Anniversary Event on invasive plants. Acting Secretary Kuhl agreed that we would do that and also that we are going to be giving away native plants at the event. Pool also expressed support for the City BCP staff working with the Austin Fire Department on coordinated efforts on fuel mitigation.

- 5. Approval of new CAC consensus member representing the environment –** Daugherty made a motion to accept Joan Marshall as the environmental representative for the CAC. Pool seconded it. Kuhl discussed that three candidates were considered and Marshall was the one selected by the Advisory Task Force. Kuhl mentioned that Jim Kennedy and Crystal Daitri were also interested and we hope that they may serve on the SAC or CAC in the future.
- 6. CAC and SAC attendance report –** Coordinating Committee had requested that if someone missed 2 meetings that it be reported to the Coordinating Committee. Kuhl reported that only one member has missed two meetings, Ken Beck. Kuhl expressed that he was still active and interested and that the absences were excused.
- 7. BCCP 20th Anniversary Celebration and State of the BCCP report –** Acting Secretary Kuhl reported that all the partners are involved in getting ready for the event and shared the event announcement with the CC. She also mentioned the Community Impact story and ads, and that the City and County will be doing additional announcements this week. Kuhl also shared that we prepared a poster and timeline that will be at the event and can be used for outreach in the future. A karst video is underway now to be completed this year. Proclamations will occur next week on May 3rd at Commissioners Court and at City Hall on May 5th. Adam Zerrenner reported that Michael Bean, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior will be attending the event and also coming early to take a hike on the BCP. Bean is a national expert and works on how to effectively protect endangered species in communities throughout the country. Zerrenner also announced that Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Regional Director for the USFWS Southwest Region will be attending. Kuhl gave an update on the State of the BCCP report. Pool said that she thinks it’s

amazing that we have preserved tens of thousands of acres while growing as a community and thinks it's great that we are going to celebrate it. She thanked staff for all the science that goes into it and also for the preparations for the event.

8. BCCP Secretary Position update – Interim Secretary Kuhl mentioned that the position is posted until May 13th. She stated that it is critical for the future of the BCCP that we have a good BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary to carry us forward. Pool asked about the timeline of the process and Kuhl addressed how that process will work.

9. Receive reports from BCP partners on wildfire planning and actions; Land Management, Public Outreach, BCP Participation, Infrastructure Management, and BCCP Compliance, take action as appropriate:

Kayla Miloy and Linda Laack gave the Travis County report, briefing members on participation certificates, their new community liaison position, and land management activities. Linda also mentioned the illegal clearing of trees by a neighbor in the Steiner Ranch Preserve and a communication piece that was put together that the HOA gave to all the existing residents and to new residents in a welcome packet in Steiner. Pool asked about requesting the HOA's discuss the information at their annual meetings. Daugherty suggested communicating the information to the HOA Board. Daugherty also suggested that the communication could come from him and Council member Pool to the HOA. Pool also agreed that this was a good idea.

Kuhl gave the COA staff report and reported on Black-capped Vireo's being recorded on the Vireo Preserve for the first time in 20 years following restoration efforts there; Wildfire Contingency Plans; and outreach to neighbors in newsletters. She agreed that it would be helpful to have communication come out from Daugherty and Pool. A written report from LCRA was provided in the packet. Zerrener asked about the Golden-cheeked Warbler five year study and asked if we could have a presentation on that study at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am