



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee

June 2, 2017, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**City Hall Chambers, Room 1001
301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

Attending:

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

- 1. Citizen Communications-** None
- 2. Approve Record of Decisions for the March 10, 2017 regular meeting-** Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
- 3. Current Events: Leander Independent School District (LISD) Vandegrift PTSA community meeting on new access road** – Jon White, Travis County Natural Resources/Environmental Quality Division Director, spoke about a community meeting he attended at Vandegrift High School regarding the proposed LISD road through a BCP electric utility corridor. He stated that the LISD board members spoke to the group encouraging them to use social media to contact their Federal representatives urging them to put pressure on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the construction of the roadway. White said he still supports BCP staff and former BCCP Secretary Willy Conrad's recommendations to not allow the road.
- 4. Presentation on BCP Outreach and Education Plan– BCP Outreach Partners-** BCP Outreach partners representing BCP properties from the City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon Society, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), and the Wild Basin Preserve gave presentations to talk about short-term and long-term BCP Outreach plans.
- 5. Review of the Travis Audubon Baker Sanctuary Tier III BCCP Land Management Plan Addendum; take action as appropriate** – The Travis Audubon Baker Sanctuary Land Management Plan addendum, which was approved by the Travis Audubon Board of Directors on May 15, 2017 was presented to the Coordinating Committee to approve the addendum to their current 2013 Tier 3 Land Management Plan. There are proposed improvements to the Baker Sanctuary which can be covered under the BCCP Permit Condition L which states that “Incidental take that may result from the implementation of land management activities within the boundaries of a preserve and

contained in a management plan approved by the Coordinating Committee, are covered and authorized under this Permit.” The 2013 Travis Audubon Baker Sanctuary Land Management Plan describes planned buildings, but not in great detail on page 39: “Approximately forty acres containing the JAEC, old Baker cabin, windmill, historical cemetery, steward’s residence, outbuildings and sheds, and proposed location of a new steward’s residence, classroom and other infrastructure necessary for the effective management of the Sanctuary.” The Addendum clarified the scope of the project for the Coordinating Committee. Zerrenner recommended the adoption. Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0.

6. **Report from Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** - Peter Torgrimson, Chair, mentioned that they elected officers at their last meeting and that he was elected as Chair and David Whatley was elected as Vice Chair. The CAC also had a conservable discussion of the updated CAC Guidelines. The group also discussed bias in scientific research as it related to development projects by having a round table discussion on Statesman article published on 4/14/2017, “How state agency-funded research often tilts towards development” by Asher Price. The SAC was also given a BCP/BCCP knowledge quiz to help BCP staff identify areas of expertise and educational opportunities.
7. **Review of updated Draft Guidelines for the BCCP Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC); take action as appropriate** – BCCP Secretary stated she worked with the CAC Chair and Vice-Chair to create this draft version of the updated CAC Guidelines and that these updates were distributed and discussed at the last CAC meeting and the members had the chance to comment and provide feedback. The guidelines were updated to reflect the reduction in regular meetings. Other changes included a refocus of the CAC charge, tracking member participation by term instead of by year, and language was added stating that members would be expected to uphold the CAC By-Laws and support the BCCP Shared Vision mission. Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
8. **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting rescheduled** – BCCP Secretary stated that the SAC meeting was cancelled and is in the process of being rescheduled.
9. **Receive BCCP Partner Reports; take action as appropriate** –BCP staff presented FY17, Q2 BCP Partner and Education and Outreach Reports. Nico Hauwert, Ph. D., City of Austin Program Manager for BCP, gave an update on the caves mentioned in the City of Austin’s State of the Environment Report. Hauwert said there was another harassment of a BCP Biologist by a rider at Emma Long Motocross Park on 4/24/17, and the biologist was asked for ID by the rider. Hauwert also reported that there is motorbike riding happening south of the designated areas where tree clearing was also found. Juniper was cleared in that area, during nesting season. Hauwert spoke about Jill Harding Recognition Day. Jill Harding is a science teacher at Bowie High School who spearheaded a cave access project for a cave found under the school, so it could be used as an outdoor classroom.

Kayla Miloy, Travis County BCCP Administrator reported that the number of Public Participation Certificates issued had dipped slightly during the nesting season. She also reported on recent BCP acquisitions by Travis County. Linda Laack, Natural Resources Supervisor for Travis County, reported on land management activities. Travis County has upgraded their hog trap technology, adding cameras and remote

trigger systems, which has increased the number of hogs trapped and increased staff time efficiency. Laack also reported on ongoing vandalism issues involving missing and cut locks on gates. White gave an update on the adverse effects on a creek that runs through Wild Basin, caused by development adjacent to the preserve.

10. Next BCCP Coordinating Committee meeting: September 1, 2017. 10:00am-12:00pm. Travis County Commissioners Court. 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701

Meeting adjourned at 3:39pm