



Draft Record of Decision

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
May 2, 2017 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Reicher Ranch BCP
3621 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin, TX 78738

Present

Peter Torgrimson, Chair
David Whatley, Vice Chair
Forrest Arnold
Annie Kellough
Kent Browning
Joan Marshall
Laurie Dries
Ken Beck
Kimberlee Harvey, BCCP
Secretary

Absent

Mary Ann Neely
Richard DePalma
David Smith
Tom Hegemier

- 1. Citizens Communication** None
- 2. Chair and Vice-chair Elections** Peter Torgrimson elected as Chair. David Whatley elected as Vice Chair. Motion by Ken Beck for appointment by acclamation. Seconded by Forrest Arnold. Both passed unanimously.
- 3. Approve Record of Decision from 10/24/2016** An error was found on the ROD. Mary Ann Neely should have been included on the absence list, so it was updated. After the update, Marshall made a motion to approve, seconded by Arnold, carried 6/0 with two abstentions (Beck and Kellough).
- 4. Review of Updated Draft CAC Guidelines** CAC Guidelines were updated at the direction of the Coordinating Committee and with the help of the Secretary and the CAC elected Chair and Co-Chair. The Secretary read through the new guidelines with the CAC and the group discussed the changes and had opportunity for 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. The guidelines will be presented to the Coordinating Committee for approval. Updates will be needed to the By-Laws to reflect the date of the new approved guidelines. The CAC By-Laws may only be amended by a Super-majority vote of two-thirds of the Committee appointments that are actually filled, so the committee will be voting on those changes at the next CAC meeting.

5. **BCP Partner Reports Q&A** BCP partner reports were distributed ahead of the meeting for CAC review and BCP Staff was on hand to answer questions.
6. **Current Topic Discussions**
 - a. **Members' issues and concerns**
 - b. **Identifying Outreach Opportunities – CAC Member Feedback Form** CAC members were given a questionnaire to complete during the meeting. BCP staff will use the answers to the questionnaire to identify and develop outreach and education materials and opportunities in support of the BCCP. CAC was also asked if they would be interested in attending outreach events with BCP staff and BCP staff will work on offering that opportunity to those interested.
 - c. **Scientific Integrity**
 - i. **Round table discussion on Statesman article published on 4/14/2017, “How state agency-funded research often tilts towards development” by Asher Price** The CAC discussed this article and came up with the following summary of thoughts:
 1. Policy moves faster than science.
 2. Statistics are not usually the problem as much as the underlying assumptions made.
 3. Environmental assessments can sometimes be not credible.
 4. Science operates by conflict so conflicting data should not be suppressed.
 5. There is a need to increase the scientific literacy of many politicians.
7. **A Closer Look at the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)** The Chair suggested the committee dedicate a portion of the meetings to learning more about different aspects of the BCCP through presentations given by BCP staff, so the “Closer Look” series was implemented.
 - a. **BCCP Quiz** The CAC was given an 18 question multiple choice quiz on the BCCP in an effort to identify areas of expertise and educational opportunities. Quizzes like these may be distributed throughout the year to help create topics and presentations for upcoming closer look topics as well.
 - b. **BCCP Timeline** A BCCP Timeline, created for the BCP 20th Anniversary event in 2016, was on display. In depth discussion of the timeline was tabled until the next meeting.
 - c. **BCCP Financing Mechanisms** Tabled until the next meeting.
8. **Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm**