



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee

December 1, 2017, 10:00 AM to 12:00 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 – All of the citizens who signed up to speak wanted to address the Draft BCCP Land Management Plan chapter for Public Access and waited to speak until agenda item #3.
2. Approve Record of Decisions for the September 22, 2017 Regular Meeting – Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
3. Discussion of 2017 Draft BCCP Tier II Land Management Plans; take action as appropriate – Harvey reported that two draft chapters had been made available for review and comments were submitted by BCP Partners, advisory committee members, and the public.
 - a) Chapter 5: Infrastructure Corridor Management – Harvey reported that this chapter had updates reflecting the move to digital data for the BCCP Infrastructure Corridors. The chapter was updated to include the GIS data as an approved source for the BCCP Infrastructure Corridors. There were no public comments submitted for this chapter. There were no comments or concerns from the SAC or CAC. BCP staff asked the Coordinating Committee to approve the 2017 Infrastructure Corridor Management chapter of the BCCP Land Management Plan. Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
 - b) Chapter 6: Fire Management – *Postponed until 2018* - Harvey reported that updates to this chapter have begun but have not yet been completed. BCP staff will post the draft in 2018 and follow a similar public comment period as it is discussed at the SAC and CAC, and then presented to the Coordinating Committee for approval.
 - c) Chapter 12: Public Access Management – Harvey reported that there are no parks planned for closure and there are no planned changes to the currently approved public access land uses on the BCP. The intent of the revision was to merge guidance from the BCCP governing documents including the 1996 Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, from the

approved 1999 Public Access Land Management Plan, and to incorporate the City's approved Trail Master Plan (TMP). The TMP process was created to be a mechanism to allow for additional sustainable trails to be built within the City's BCP. The draft public access chapter was discussed at the last Citizen's Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee meetings and public comments were submitted by citizens through an online survey. BCP Staff did not seek approval of this draft document and will be updating the draft in response to public comments and Coordinating Committee direction.

Citizen's Communications: Twenty people signed up to speak on this agenda item, but nine of those people gave their time to other speakers. The speakers came from mountain biking, motocross, and rock climbing communities. The mountain biking and motocross community members voiced concern about missing language from the BCCP 1999 Public Access Chapter addressing grandfathered uses, stating that the omissions could be used to further restrict or eliminate grandfathered access. The rock climbing community members spoke in favor of ensuring that rock climbing remain a recognized and approved recreational activity within grandfathered tracts of the BCP, as described in the 1999 Public Access Chapter. Many that spoke voiced their preference for the BCCP 1999 Public Access Land Management Chapter language over the consolidated 2017 Draft Public Access Land Management Chapter.

4. Letter from Coordinating Committee to BCP Neighbors – Johanna Arendt, Travis County Community Liaison presented the updated community outreach letter and it was signed by the Coordinating Committee.
5. Current Events:
 - a) City of Austin Development Services Environmental Review Meeting Update - Harvey reported meeting with the City's Development Services group to give a refresher on the BCCP and to discuss ways to educate potential permit applicants about the importance and benefit of the program before they even send their email notification of development. Out of the development notification emails, Travis County reports that they turn 1/3 to 1/2 of those notifications into BCCP Participation Applications for development.
 - b) Update on the BCCP Infrastructure Workshop held October 13, 2017 – Harvey reported that the workshop was held at the Wildflower Center and it was a very successful event. Infrastructure project managers and field crews attended the half-day event to learn about infrastructure compliance in the BCCP permit area and about special considerations for working in endangered species habitat.
 - c) Court Hearing on the Golden-cheeked Warbler Delisting Lawsuit – Nico M. Hauwert, Ph.D., P.G. briefly mentioned there was a recent hearing, but said Mr. Farquhar would be discussing it in more detail during agenda item 8.
 - d) Approval of Interlocal Agreement between City and County for Sharing Costs of a BCCP Consultant to Help Identify Permit Renewal Options – Harvey reported that an interlocal agreement was approved for the City and County to share costs for a BCCP consultant to help identify options for permit renewal.
6. Presentation on Tawny Crazy Ants: Threats to the BCP and Summary of Section 6 Grant Study on Karst Invertebrate Impacts and Control Methods –Todd Bayless, Travis County Natural Resources Specialist, gave an informative PowerPoint presentation that included information about the invasive species and promising research to control the

population. Bayless also reported that Tawny Crazy Ants have been found on the BCP.

7. Report from Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - Peter Torgrimson, Chair, reported that updated CAC By-laws were approved at their last meeting. The By-laws were updated to reflect the date of the previously updated and approved CAC Guidelines. He also mentioned that CAC had a discussion regarding balancing public access with habitat preservation on the BCP, and the grandfathering issues related to the BCCP Land Management Plan Chapter. Torgrimson spoke of the CAC goal to create a more systematic orientation for new members. To help with this, they have added a "Getting to Know the BCCP" permanent agenda item, where BCP Staff gives presentations detailing the various aspects of the BCCP. Torgrimson mentioned that the CAC were shown the City's new BCCP Infrastructure Compliance website, and they provided positive feedback about the site.
8. Report from Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) – Craig Farquhar, Co-Chair, reported that there was a hearing related to the motion to delist the Golden-cheeked Warbler, and the Service's filing of a motion to dismiss in November. It may go to trial in 2020, in part, because of differing takes on what the best available science is.
 - a) Statement of the BCCP Scientific Advisory Committee concerning the review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of a petition to delist the Golden-cheeked Warbler. – Farquhar presented a statement from the SAC, in support of the best available science as provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, supporting the continued listing of the Golden-cheeked Warbler as endangered.
9. Advisory Committee Task Group Recommendation for New SAC Member; take action as appropriate – Harvey reported that at the end of October, an email was sent to the Advisory Committee Task Group asking for an SAC recommendation. Members of the task group include the BCCP Secretary, Travis County BCP Manager, COA BCP Manager, LCRA BCP Manager, Sunset Valley BCP Manager, CAC Chair, SAC Chair, and delegates from each of the Coordinating Committee members. The Advisory Committee Task Group's job is to make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee to fill the vacancies. The task group recommends new appointees to the Scientific Advisory Committee based upon consensus of the task group. The Advisory Task Group recommended that the Coordinating Committee approve Jim Kennedy as the new SAC member. Motion from Daugherty to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
10. 2017 Advisory Committee Member Attendance Report; take action as appropriate - Secretary – Harvey presented the Coordinating Committee with the 2017 Advisory Committee Member Attendance Report.
11. Receive BCCP Partner Reports; take action as appropriate – Nico Hauwert, BCP Program Manager for the City of Austin mentioned that all staff reports were in their packet, and in the interest of keeping on schedule, he encouraged the Coordinating Committee to reach out to staff if they have any questions during their review of the reports.
12. BCCP Coordinating Committee meetings next year: 2018 meetings to be finalized at the beginning of 2018. – Commissioner Daugherty announced that Precinct 2

County Commissioner Shea would be on the BCCP Coordinating Committee for 2018, but that he would be back on the BCCP Coordinating Committee in 2019. Because there are now BCP in both Precincts, the two Precinct Commissioners would be taking turns as Coordinating Committee members moving forward. Council Member Pool thanked the Commissioner for his service, and for helping to make her first few years sitting on the Coordinating Committee with him enjoyable.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am