



Record of Decision

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting

July 17, 2018 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Reicher Ranch BCP
3621 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin, TX 78738

Present

Jean Krejca, Chair
Craig Farquhar, Vice Chair
Sam Whitehead
John Cornelius
Amie Treuer-Kuehn
Kimberlee Harvey, BCCP Secretary

Absent

David Steed
Jim Kennedy

1. **Citizens Communication** – Chris Fields, representing Austin Motor Sports Association, spoke of the importance of keeping grandfathered use language from the 1999 Public Access Management Chapter of the BCCP Land Management Plan in the updated draft.
2. **Chair and Vice-chair Elections** - Jean Krejca elected for Chair, and Craig Farquhar elected for Co-Chair. Appointment by acclamation with unanimous consent.
3. **Approve Record of Decisions from 11/01/2017** – During Citizens Communication, Chris Fields asked that an addition be made to the Citizen’s Communication item where he spoke, to include his role with Austin Motor Sports Association, clarifying that he is speaking for a larger group of citizens. With this revision, Krejca moved to approve. None opposed. Approved 5/0.
4. **New SAC Member Approved by Coordinating Committee** – The Secretary reported that the BCCP Coordinating Committee approved the Advisory Committee Task Group’s Recommendation for Jim Kennedy as the new SAC member, specializing in karst.
5. **Permitted Species Updates**
 - a. **Delisting of the Black-capped Vireo** - Lisa O’Donnell, City of Austin Senior Biologist, and the Secretary spoke about the delisting impacts on the BCCP Permit, and the comments submitted to the Service by BCP staff. They reported that the City and County still have an obligation to continue Black-capped Vireo protections and land management activities under the BCCP Permit. They also reported that there would be no longer be a mitigation fee for impacts in the BCCP Black-capped Vireo Habitat Mitigation Zone because it was no longer considered take.
 - b. **Federal Register Notice of 5 Year Status Review for BCCP Covered Species**
The Secretary stated that the Southwest Region is currently working on 5 year

status reviews for a long list of species. Four of the species under review are covered under the BCCP Permit. Five year status reviews are required by the ESA and are used to determine if a change in the status of the species may be indicated based on new information.

- c. **Bird Life Review of Golden-cheeked Warbler Status** –Farquhar and O'Donnell talked about the work that was done to compile information about the status of the Golden-cheeked Warbler in the winter range.

6. **BCCP Land Management Plan Updates**

Secretary reported that in response to public comment and BCCP Coordinating Committee direction, BCP staff has returned to the 1999 BCCP Land Management Plan for Public Access as a starting point for the second draft revision. BCP staff is updating the 1999 document to correct out of date information and to add clarifying text for some of the terms and conditions.

BCP staff are working on the first draft of the fire management chapter update. It will go to BCP Partners and the CAC and SAC for a review and comment period. After that review and revision, it will be publicly posted with an option for public online comment submission. The comments will be compiled, and the draft chapter and comments will be presented to the Coordinating Committee for review.

7. **Members' Issues and Concerns** None

8. **BCP Partner Reports Q&A** – Linda Laack, Travis County Natural Resources Field Supervisor spoke about recent Travis County BCP acquisitions and staff changes, and the discovery and treatment of a newly discovered oak wilt center. Nico Hauwert, Ph.D., P.G., City of Austin BCP Program Manager spoke about Golden-cheeked Warbler research and hydrogeologic studies, and cave restoration specifications and cave management activities. Johanna Arendt, Travis County Community Liaison, went over the Outreach and Education Partner Summary report highlighting volunteer hours and special events.

9. **Current Research**

- a. **Orion Research** - Cornelius gave a presentation about research on disease surveillance in white-tailed deer and feral swine.
- b. **Tawny Crazy Ants** – Travis Clark, Travis County Biologist, gave a presentation about current research being done on the BCP, with the University of Texas, on invasive Tawny Crazy Ants.