

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, June 17, 2009



**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY,
June 17, 2009**

**The Environmental Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday,
June 17, 2009, City Council Chambers, at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas
78701**

Board Members in Attendance:

Rodney Ahart, Dave Bezanson, John Dupnik, Mary Maxwell, Phil Moncada, and
Mary Ann Neely

Staff in Attendance:

Victoria Li, Joe Pantalione, Pat Murphy, Nancy McClintock, Leon Barba, Mike Ihnat,
Diane Gonzales, Mike McDougal, Mateo Scoggins, William Staubner, Robyn Smith
Chris Yanez, William Conrad, Edward Peacock, Gopal Guthikonda, & Marilla Shepherd

CALL TO ORDER

**Mary Gay Maxwell Chairman of the Environmental Board called the meeting to
order at 6:07 p.m.**

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- **Dana Hendry from the Inlet Protection Company spoke on the Expander Inlet Protector.**
- **Brent Brewer spoke on water fluoridation issues, he recommended that the Environmental Board select a panel of independent scientist in the Austin area to review the latest scientific evidence reports.**
- **Rae Nadler Olenick spoke on fluoridation compounds and issues.**
- **Andrew Hawkins from the SOS Alliance spoke on item 3a, and requested a postponement. The request for postponement for item 3a was disapproved: [VOTE 6-0]. Motioned by Board member Mary Gay Maxwell and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely.**
- **Bruce Aupperle spoke on item 2c and requested that the Environmental Board members obtain answers following questions:**

1. Why would we limit bulkheads to Lake Austin and not the other Lakes?
2. Why is the Environmental Board opposed to vertical bulkheads?
3. What's the definition of a vertical Bulkheads.
4. How will these changes impact the property owners?
5. How will property owners be involved in the process?
6. What is the source of the problem?
7. Explain, what is Boat dock access?

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 20, 2009.

The minutes for the regular meeting of May 20, 2009 were approved on Board member Phil Moncada's motion, Board member Rodney Ahart's second on a 6-0 vote. Board member Jon Beall was absent.

- b. Consideration of a resolution adopting Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species

The Environmental Board motioned to adopt the Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species Resolution by the Urban Forestry Board. See attached.

Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.

Motioned by Board member Rodney Ahart and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely, Board member Jon Beall was absent.

- c. Consider a recommendation/motion for Bulkheads.

The Environmental Board motioned to postpone the consideration of a recommendation for Bulkheads to the next Environmental Board meeting, and would like staff to respond to the following requests.

Approved Postponement: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.

Motioned by Board member Rodney Ahart and seconded by Board member Phil Moncada. Board member Jon Beall absent.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- a. **Name:** City of Austin Water Treatment Plant #4 Raw Water Pump Station Mass Excavation and Stormwater Facilities SP-2009-0144D
Applicant: AECOM-John Buser, P. E Agent.
Location: 12309 Bullick Hollow Road
Staff Person: Mike McDougal, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department
Request:
 1. Land Development Code 25-8-453 To allow development within the Water Quality Transition Zone.

Watershed: Lake Travis (Water Supply Rural) Drinking Water Protection Zone

Recommendation: Recommended for Consent

Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0].one absent.

Motioned by Board member Phil Moncada and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely. Board member Jon Beall absent.

4. ACTION ITEM

- a. Special staff report on the 2009-2010 Budget for the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department and proposed changes to the drainage utility fee, including a rate structure change for vertical construction. Diane Gonzales, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. And; Consider a recommendation by Environmental Board Budget subcommittee.

The Environmental Board recommends approval of the WPDR FY 2010 Proposed Budget. This budget enhances the staff and performance metrics necessary to promote core missions of WPDRD. Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent. See attached.

Motioned by Board member Phil Moncada and seconded by Board member Rodney Ahart. Board member Jon Beall absent.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Update on the status Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Friendship to Manchaca Electric Transmission Line project across the City's Water Quality Protection Lands. William Conrad, Austin Water Utility.

Briefing conducted as posted. The Environmental Board requests that Austin Water Utility staff report back on the status of the LCRA Friendship to Manchaca Electric Transmission Lines project after the meetings are conducted with LCRA.

- b. Staff briefing on Walnut Creek water quality. Mateo Scoggins, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department-Consider a recommendation/motion by the Environmental Board members for this item.

The Environmental Board recommends that Watershed Protection and Development Review Department continue to monitor watersheds within the City of Austin's jurisdiction, and to maintain water quality natural areas, and greenbelts in the City of Austin. See attachment.

**Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0] one absent.
Motioned by Board member Phil Moncada and seconded by Board member Rodney Ahart. Board member Jon Beall absent.**

- c. Update on the status of the Austin Clean Water Program-Gopal Guthikonda, P. E. Austin Water Utility.

This item was conducted as posted.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Phil Moncada, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely

Board member Phil Moncada reported that a special meeting was held on 6/15/09 regarding the Tree concerns at Barton Springs. He reported that Sara Hensley, Director of Parks and Recreation Department announced that only 3 trees would be removed and all of these trees were in the children's playground area that is currently closed to the public. These removals would allow the children of this community to again enjoy these amenities especially in light of the fact that school is out for the summer. The remaining trees will receive pruning and trimming, collar excavations, fertilizations and aeration of compacted soils to assist with long-term care and maintenance.

The Environmental Board would like to thank the Parks Board and Sara Hensley, Director of Parks and Recreation Department for creating a more transparent communication effort with the citizens of our community and thank all parties who came to speak on behalf of the Barton Springs park trees, without our citizen's input this City would not be Austin.

- b. Update on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizens Advisory Group – Mary Ann Neely

Board member Mary Ann Neely reported on this item.

- c. Update on the Environmental Awareness Awards- Executive Committee of the Environmental Board

Board member Mary Gay Maxwell reported on this item.

- d. Update on the 2009 Work Plan reports – Mary Gay Maxwell.

No update on this item.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION EB061709-4A

Date: June 17, 2009

Subject: WPDR FY 2009-2010 Proposed Budget

Motioned By: Phil Moncada

Seconded By: Rodney Ahart

Recommendation

1. The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the WPDR FY 2010 Proposed Budget as presented to the Environmental Board FY09 Subcommittee. This budget enhances the staff and performance metrics necessary to promote the three core missions of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department – water quality protection and enhancement, flood mitigation, and erosion protection.
2. The Board recommends staffing be commensurate with the increased activity within the Department due to on-going implementation of Bond projects and continued operational needs. This includes funding for the following positions:
 - a. Engineering Technician C for Flood Hazard Mitigation to assist with stormwater infrastructure updating of records
 - b. Truck Driver in Storm Drain Rehabilitation to assist with construction activities.
 - c. Environmental Inspection Specialist to further increase the number of pond inspections and follow-up visits to check for compliance
3. The Board recommends approval of a \$0.60 increase per ERU per month per residential unit and a \$14.83 increase per impervious acre per month for non-residential properties beginning in FY2010. FY 2006 was the last of a five year phased increase in the drainage fee. Since then, the department has been structurally unbalanced, operating at a deficit in FY 2008 and a projected deficit for FY 2009. The Drainage Utility Fund's reserve balance has funded these deficits, but an increase in the drainage fee beginning in FY 2010 is needed to continue to provide adequate program resources and maintain a stable transfer to the Utility Fund's Capital Improvements Program (CIP).
4. The Board recommends approval of a differential rate for those multi-family customers in residential vertical construction properties that have a significantly lower impact on the drainage system than the defined equivalent residential unit (ERU). The Board supports updating the Drainage Ordinance and proposal of a discounted ERU of 0.5 for vertical construction, which is defined as a structure with seven or more stories of dwelling units.

5. The Board recommends that additional Erosion Control crews be added, or that consultant/contractor help be solicited for erosion repairs.
6. The Board recommends that Watershed Protection & Development Review Department develop additional metrics to quantify the value of open space in protection of creek/stream water quality, and with these revised metrics investigate the opportunity to use CIP funds for fee-simple land, or conservation easement, purchase as a percentage of the total “water quality” projects annually.
7. The Board recommends that a metric be instituted that measures elevated review of stormwater controls in the recharge zone during rain events.
8. The Board recommends that the Department leverage, to the greatest extent possible relationships with local community organizations (i.e., American Youth Works) to maximize both the environmental learning potential for those who need those type of services, and the tangible environmental benefits organization like these bring to the Austin environment (i.e., re-vegetation of stream banks, invasive species removal, tree planting, etc.).

Rationale

The Environmental Board formed an ad hoc subcommittee whose members asked detailed questions of staff concerning the proposed budget and received a comprehensive presentation from staff to address those questions. The budget accurately identified funds needed to protect water quality, stabilize eroding creek banks, and mitigate channel and localized flooding, along with implementing improvements in development review, enhancing inspections, performing infrastructure and waterway maintenance, rehabilitating dry wet ponds, continuing to restore and enhance habitat, and restoring populations of local endangered species.

The Board notes that the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department continues to work effectively with other City Departments in accomplishing related watershed-oriented goals. An example of this type of interdepartmental cooperation is the Austin Clean Water Program, where over \$8 million of stream bank stabilization and restoration has been realized to date on creek rehabilitation projects undertaken under the Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP). In addition, Parks and Recreation Department also received parkland improvements including stream bank work, trail rebuilding and vegetation removal.

Vote: 6-0-0-1

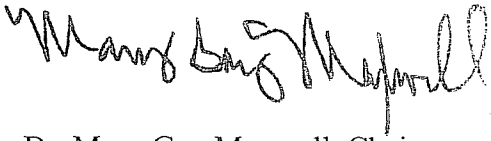
For: Ahart, Benzanson, Dupnik, Maxwell, Moncada, and Neely

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Beall

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Gay Maxwell".

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair