



Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
May 22, 2012 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Waller Creek Center Room 105
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

Attending:

Peter Torgrimson
Lynne Weber
Ken Beck
Mary Ann Neely
Liz Murray
Robert Kleeman
Joe Lessard

Excused:

Carol Lee
Sarah Faust
Valerie Bristol

1. **Citizens Communication** Greg Sedlock asked to speak during item 3d.
2. **BCP Partner Reports**
 - a. **City of Austin BCP** – Willy Conrad Introduced Sherri Kuhl as the new BCP program manager for the City. Lisa O'Donnell then presented and discussed her written report
 - b. **Travis County BCP** – Rose Farmer and Shelly Miller presented and discussed their written report.
 - c. **LCRA BCP** – no report.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Review and take action on CAC Bylaws committee report** – Lynne Weber read the committee's report into the record. Lessard moved to accept the report. Neely Second, carried 7/0
 - b. **Accept slate of nominees and elect vice chair** - Robert Kleeman nominated Joe Lessard, Neely second, carried 7/0
 - c. **Consider BCCP Participation fee Schedule and take action to recommend a 2012/2013 Fee Schedule to the BCCP Coordinating Committee** – Shelley Miller discussed her written report to the Committee. She also advised the committee that the Secretary's staff recommendation was to keep fees the same as last year. Following discussion Lessard moved to accept the staff recommendation, Webber second, carried 7/0
 - d. **Discussion about recent media articles relative to River Place encroachment and trespass, and City Responses** –

Greg Sedlock spoke to the CAC about recent events in River Place Community that led to the news articles referenced on the agenda. He described high fences used by City BCP along most boundaries with the neighborhood as unsightly, unnecessary, and a safety threat in the event of wildfires. He also described five foot tall wrought iron fences built behind one neighborhood by BCP as the result of a 2006 agreement with neighbors as a preferred fencing style for River Place HOA. He also expressed dismay about short segments high fence recently constructed behind the wrought iron fence along three lots as a response to recent events of trespass and habitat damage. He asked whether a proposal from the HOA to enter into agreements with the BCCP, City, or other entity to institute formal community education about BCP, provide BCP information to new homeowners, and replace existing unsightly fence with fences more acceptable to the Community. He stated that the HOA might agree to provide a surety to provide for enforcement of any provisions concerning trespass, encroachment, or damage. He also described how Steiner Ranch seems to have a similar agreement.

Willy Conrad responded that the current wrought iron fence was the result of agreements that now have proven to be somewhat ineffective. He said he was skeptical about new agreements.

Rose Farmer responded that the Steiner Ranch fences were the result of agreements that were struck before those mitigation lands were dedicated to BCP. The Steiner Ranch HOA also provided exceptional enforcement of those agreements.

Joe Lessard asked staff to provide the River Place HOA with Copies of the Steiner Ranch agreements so that they might consider those in any proposal they might craft. He also made a motion for "Staff to provide River Place HOA with copies of the appropriate Steiner Ranch documents and to ask them to return to the CAC at a later date to discuss their willingness to enter into similar agreements that must also be acceptable to the City and County BCP staffs. Second by Beck.

During Discussion Bill Aleshire addressed members on behalf of two clients. He asked the members consider current fencing practices potential effects on the ability of firefighters to protect these homes from wildfire. He also described fences behind his clients' homes as unnecessary.

Kleeman called the question and the motion carried 7/0

- e. **Receive information about Travis County's Conservation Easement Program** – Rose Farmer discussed her written report.
- f. **Members' Issues and Concerns** - none

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Approve Record of Decision from 2/9/12** – approved as submitted on a motion from Webber, second by Beck carried 5/0. Kleeman and Lessard abstained.
- b. **Wildfires and BCP:**
 - i. **Wildland Urban Interface Planning Efforts** - tabled
- c. **CAC Annual work plan**
 - i. **Make assignments** Tabled, The chair and secretary will collaborate with members to make assignments using email and will report results at the next meeting