



Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
March 17, 2014 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Waller Creek Center, Room 104
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

Attending:

David Steed
Nico Hauwert
John Cornelius

Jean Krejca
Craig Farquhar
Amie Treuer-Kuehn

Absent:

Sam Whitehead

Call to order at 3:00 PM

1. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 1/14/14** Motion from Hauwert, Second Cornelius, Approved as presented 6/0
2. **Election of Officers** – Chair Steed opened the nominations process by asking members about their interests regarding the SAC. John Cornelius said he currently serves on the trail subcommittee and the modeling subcommittee. He wished to remain of the subcommittees, but wishes to step down as vice chair.

Jean Krejca advised members she would like to run for chair. She believes that while David has amazing perspective she can bring a new “lens” to the committee. She would like to move the committee away from “FYI” type agendas to focus on items that will have more of a direct impact on BCP. Her expertise is primarily Karst, and that discipline is where BCCP has most of its current challenges. Bird habitat acquisition is complete but karst compliance still has challenges.

Nico Hauwert said he would not seek more responsibility on the SAC. He had been considering asking Jean to lead the Karst subcommittee but he offered to continue leading that subcommittee.

Amie Treuer Kuehn said this was her first meeting and did not wish to serve as an officer but was happy to serve on any subcommittee.

Craig Farquhar said he serves on the golden-cheeked warbler [monitoring], and trails subcommittees. He expressed interest in serving as vice chair.

David Steed said he was interested in continuing as chair. He said he would like to continue in light of the current LISD road proposal. He offered that he believes his strong points are having contacts and respect from the Mayor, the county, the LISD superintendent, TxDOT officials, and LISD board members.

Following members comments Nico Hauwert made a motion to nominate Jean Krejca as chair. John Cornelius nominated David Steed for chair. Both nominees accepted. Following discussion the question was called. Jean Krejca received 4 votes, David Steed received 2 votes. Jean Krejca was elected chair

The floor was opened for nominees for vice chair. John Cornelius nominated Craig Farquhar. He accepted. Nominations closed and Craig Farquhar was elected vice chair 6/0.

3. **Report on LISD Road Position Statement** – Member Krejca provided a recent draft of the position statement regarding the LISD road proposal and gave a brief presentation describing recent changes to the original draft. She advised members that she believes that there is a sense of urgency for the SAC to take a position on this matter.

David Steed said he had recently been preparing some recent additions for the statement. He felt like it needed expansion commenting on the importance of the Bull Creek Macrosite with emphasis on the habitat quality there.

Craig Farquhar noted that some section 6 funding was used by the County to purchase the tract and if the road were approved that might have to be paid back.

Wendy Connally noted that there have been many discussions between the LISD team, elected officials, and county staff. There is currently an understanding that LISD might pursue their own 10 (a) permit. Steed mentioned that should that move forward there needs to be an appropriate analysis of both direct and indirect effects; and those should all be mitigated. He asked Tanya Sommer from USFWS whether they had been contacted by LISD seeking to initiate a permit. She responded that the Service had not participated in any direct communication regarding a separate permit yet.

Connally advised members that she had prepared a white paper regarding this matter and that she would share that with members.

Members agreed to have final comments to Krejca by April 7, 2014 and she would finalize the position paper and provide it to the Coordinating Committee Secretary.

4. **Receive report on revised land management plan chapters for Oak Wilt (Chapter 3) and Karst Management (Chapter 9)** – Sherri Kuhl presented members with draft copies of the Karst and Oak Wilt Chapters. After a brief review she asked members to provide her with comments before April 11, 2014
5. **Subcommittee reports**
 - a. **Golden-cheeked Warbler modeling task group** – Lisa O'Donnell briefed members about the status of the publication evaluating monitoring methods. She has received excellent comments from her co-authors and the paper is not far

from completion. Farquhar noted that this article could impact conservation policy, agencies, and people. It is important to get it right.

- b. **Mountain Bike Experimental Design** – Steed advised members that he has emailed a trail effects monitoring plan to members and asked for comments. He expects this to move forward soon.
- c. **Karst** – Hauwert briefed members about several ongoing actions. He has submitted an article to the Journal of Water Resources. The Davis Lane realignment project karst hydrogeology study is wrapping up.

He is also starting efforts to evaluate karst and Flint Ridge Cave relative to the planned SH 45. He is beginning a hydrogeological study to define the subsurface basin for Flint Ridge Cave.

- d. BCP Strategic Research Plan – no action
- 6. **Staffs' reports** - Wendy Connally and Lisa O'Donnell reviewed written reports.
 - 7. **Annual work plan update** – Krejca will take the lead on this when she assumes chair at the next meeting.

8. **Members' Issues and concerns:**

Cornelius – none

Krejca – she would like to see this agenda item with posting language more specific to each of the SAC disciplines. Is there something that the SAC needs to address that they are not getting to.

Hauwert – he believes the SAC is working well.

Treuer-Kuehn – Invasive Species

Farquhar recommended that the SAC stay focused on subcommittee work and finish tasks.

Wendy Connally asked whether the SAC might hold a social meeting. Steed said he would like to do this with the CAC.

Meeting adjourned with no objection at 5:00 PM