



## Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Scientific Advisory Committee  
August 4, 2014 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Waller Creek Center, Room 104  
625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701**

Attending: Jean Krejca  
Craig Farquhar  
Amie Treuer-Kuehn  
Sam Whitehead  
Nico Hauwert  
David Steed

Excused: John Cornelius

### Call to Order 3:02 PM

Mr. Alan Roddy addressed members encouraging them to consider recommending to the Coordinating Committee that BCP apply for recognition as a National Natural Landmark. He noted that it would allow BCP research to gain national recognition and would enhance grant funding opportunities. He noted that Travis County staff is currently working on an application for listing as a National Natural Landmark. Conrad advised members that the Coordinating Committee had considered this about a year ago and decided there was no benefit to BCCP while it did commit staffs to additional monitoring and reporting. Linda Laack responded that she was not aware of anyone from the county engaged in filing applications for this recognition.

1. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 3/17/14** – Approved on a motion from Hauwert, second by Farquhar, Carried 6/0.
2. **Discuss and take action regarding CAC proposed “State of BCCP Report” – Secretary** – Secretary Conrad advised members that the Citizens Advisory Committee has added an action to their work plan to prepare a State of the BCCP Report. This report will focus on the compliance, scientific, and economic successes of BCCP. It will also review challenges facing BCCP as it approaches the end of its permit. The CAC asked the SAC if they would be willing to collaborate in a joint report. Following discussion Hauwert made a motion for the CAC to support completion of a joint Citizens Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee State of the BCCP Report. Second By Farquhar, carried 6/0. Hauwert volunteered to be the SAC representative on the joint committee and Chair Krejca appointed him to that role.

3. **Discuss and take action for BCCP karst substitution workshop** – Secretary Conrad reported to members that he is organizing a group of stakeholders to develop a process to support substitution for caves listed on the BCCP Federal Permit. The permit includes conditions to allow such substitutions. However, it does not define a process, define terms in permit conditions, or define when or how proposals for such substitutions might occur. The goal of this collaborative process will be to fully define a process for substitutions that will then be recommended to the Coordinating Committee for adoption as policy. During discussion members supported the action. Two SAC members have been invited to participate in the process. No action was taken.
4. **Subcommittee reports**
  - a. **Golden-cheeked Warbler modeling task group** - Member Steed advised the committee that while he is listed as the chair for this subcommittee member Farquhar is most directly involved. They told members that they are supporting efforts by Lisa O'Donnell on City BCP staff to prepare a scientific paper addressing appropriate methods for monitoring golden-cheeked warblers and other avian species. O'Donnell was absent but Sherri Kuhl advised members that the paper is nearly complete. Comments have been received from members and others, and are incorporated into the current draft. That draft will be finalized soon and sent to members for further review. Farquhar advised members that the paper will be submitted to a management oriented journal because it speaks to a methodology question.
  - b. **Mountain Bike Experimental Design** – Steed advised members that a proposed summary of review findings of the Craig Davis Et Al 2010 article (AKA Allen Graber Study) dealing with this subject has been sent to committee members. There has been no response. He will resubmit the review to members with the goal of reporting at the next meeting. Secretary Conrad will help coordinate reengagement of the subcommittee members.
  - c. **Karst** – Member Hauwert reported that the karst subcommittee has been mostly inactive in the last quarter. He advised members that several projects initiated based on subcommittee recommendations continue with implementation. Examples of the projects include karst investigations on land adjacent to the proposed SH45 SW right-of-way, and stabilization of cave entrances in the blowing sink cave preserve.
  - d. **BCP Strategic Research Plan** – Member Steed advised members that he has not taken action on this subcommittee and asked that its chair be reassigned to another member. He described the goal for this subcommittee is to identify long term research needs for BCCP so that BCP might serve as a laboratory for subjects relative to BCP needs. Following discussion Sam Whitehead volunteered to chair this subcommittee. Chair Krejca appointed him to that position and asked him to develop a vision for the committee and report back at the next meeting. Secretary Conrad will provide documents and records for previous SAC consideration and action as well as records of Coordinating Committee input into this subcommittee.
5. **Staffs' reports** – Sherri Kuhl and Linda Laack reviewed staff reports for the City and County programs respectively. Kuhl also reviewed the joint outreach report for members.
6. **Annual work plan update** - Chair Krejca noted that she does not have a draft to work from. Secretary Conrad advised members that development of a work plan was discussed in the past as a tool to guide proactive actions by the committee to address emerging and current issues. He will work with the Chair to develop an

outline to be fleshed out during the next meeting and to be adopted during the first meeting in 2015 for implementations during the new calendar year.

7. **Members' issues and concerns** – Chair Krejca asked for an update on planning for SH45 SW. Secretary Conrad advised that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review. He noted that the City has concerns about its completeness and that they have asked TxDOT to either withdraw it or extend the comment period until several studies described in the report as ongoing are complete. Members discussed commenting on the report. Secretary Conrad noted that the Coordinating Committee has not taken action or adopted a position on this project. Members should not comment on behalf of BCCP. Nico Hauwert discussed the projects ongoing karst investigations. He noted that these are follow up to work done in 2007. They are finding and evaluating more features in the ROW. However, investigators are not entering any identified features. He also discussed work being done by others not associated with the project outside of the ROW. He advised members that several features adjacent to the ROW have been discovered and are being evaluated.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM**