



Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2014 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Reicher Ranch Cana House
3621 South Ranch Road 620
Austin, Texas 78738**

Attending: Tom Hegemier
Forrest Arnold
Peter Torgrimson
Ken Beck
David Whatley
John Gosdin

Excused: Mary Ann Neely
Bill Moriarty

Absent: Hill Abel

Call to order: 6:40 PM

1. **Citizens Communication:** Tomas Pantin and Kent Browning signed up to speak. Mr. Pantin donated his time to Mr. Browning who spoke representing Friends of Emma Long Motorcycle Park. He presented a document he prepared as an Audit of the City's BCP golden-cheeked warbler population study. He advised members that according to his audit, GCWA numbers at the motorcycle park are "spot on average" with the rest of BCP. He also advised members that his audit identified thirteen material errors in the City's report.
2. **BCP Partner Reports**
 - a. **City of Austin BCP** – Sherri Kuhl reviewed her written report.
 - b. **Travis County BCP** - Mike Wallace reviewed his written report. Wendy Connally also spoke to the committee and notified members that she is resigning at the end of the month in order to accept a job in Olympia, Washington where her husband, Kevin Connally, is being transferred with USFWS.
 - c. **LCRA BCP** – No report.
 - d. **Other BCP Partners** – No report.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Review of BCCP participation fees and take action as appropriate** – Mike Wallace reviewed his written report. He noted that fee rates do not seem to affect BCCP participation instead, economic conditions do. He reviewed the history of fees and participation income. He also discussed how BCCP participation generates

significant income for acquisition and preserve management through Tax Benefit Financing. Following a brief discussion the Committee took no action.

- b. **Receive an update on the LISD road proposal** – Wendy Connally gave a brief report, noting that Leander ISD is pursuing its own federal permit under the Endangered Species Act. Their consultants have just completed field work gathering data and information to support their application. After a brief discussion no action was taken.
- c. **Receive update on City and County budgets** – City and County staffs reported that budgets are in the review and approval process with governing bodies. Both are funded at levels similar to fiscal year 14; with funding adequate to manage BCP in compliance with the permit. The City of Austin stated that its source of funding will likely change from Austin Water Utility revenues to General Fund Revenues. BCP will remain at Austin Water, but the utility will receive a transfer of funds from the General Fund for BCP.
- d. **BCCP Karst Substitution Process planning and take action as appropriate** – Willy Conrad gave a brief report concerning organization of a task group to develop criteria for implementing substitution of caves, karst features for other caves and karst features covered by the BCCP federal permit. The permit includes language to allow for substitution, but the language is unclear about criteria and the process to accomplish that. The Coordinating Committee Secretary is organizing a task group to develop a substitution process with criteria that can be recommended to the Coordinating Committee for adoption as BCCP policy. He asked whether the CAC should or would participate in the task group. After a brief discussion the committee did not take action.
- e. **Members' Issues and Concerns** – None presented.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Approve the Record of Decision from 3/25/14** Motion to approve as presented from Beck, Second by Hegemier. Carried 6/0.
- b. **CAC Annual Work Plan**
 - i. **Report from subcommittees:**
 - 1. **Wildfire and fire support** – Members had no report. Willy Conrad reported that the Austin Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan is complete and will be publicly rolled out soon.
 - 2. **Invasive species in landscaping** - No report.
 - 3. **State of BCP report (joint with SAC)** – Willy Conrad reported that the SAC has agreed to participate in this effort and has appointed Nico Hauwert to represent them. Conrad will be organizing a group to begin work in the fall.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM