



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
February 11, 2016, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
One Texas Center - The Cavern, 11th Floor
505 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

Present

Jean Krejca
Sam Whitehead
Craig Farquhar
Nico Hauwert
David Steed
Amie Treuer-Kuehn
Sherri Kuhl, BCCP Secretary

Excused

John Cornelius

1. **New Business**
 - a. Members issues and concerns – none raised.
 - b. Chair and Vice-Chair election for 2016 – deferred to end of meeting because Craig Farquhar was running late – see Page 3.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 9/23/15:** Motion from Hauwert to approve, second by Steed, approved 5/0.
 - b. **Discuss and take action regarding a request from Coordinating Committee Member Pool to provide advice to the Coordinating Committee about whether or how SH45 SW might fragment habitat for wildlife in the vicinity of its proposed route:** Krejca summarized the work she has completed on a broad overview based upon available information from the FEIS and supporting documents. She requested that they take a vote on approving these documents with comments from the SAC over the next 3 weeks. Amie suggested adding a map and offered to put that together.
 - c. **Discuss and take action regarding a request from Coordinating Committee Member Pool to review surveys and other monitoring work for GCWA along SH45 SW in order to determine whether the effect call is supported by the data presented:** Farquhar summarized his review of Golden-cheeked Warbler information from the FEIS and supporting documents. Farquhar focused on the issues that he found most problematic in their analysis of the Golden-cheeked Warbler impact studies that were done for SH45SW. He also summarized some of the recent papers on impacts of noise on GCWA and concluded that the determination of “no effect” is very different than saying they did not determine an effect. Steed suggested including the Engels research on impacts of suburban

development on GCWA. Krejca suggested adding an executive summary to the papers. Krejca requested a vote to approve moving forward with the documents so they could be provided to Pool at the next Coordinating Committee meeting on March 18th. Hauwert made a motion that they send these documents on to Council Member Pool with comments from the SAC over the next 3 weeks. Treuer-Kuehn seconded the motion, passed 6/0.

d. Update on State of the BCCP Report and BCCP Anniversary Celebration

(Secretary): Kuhl provided an update on the State of the BCCP Report and the BCCP 20th Anniversary Celebration planned for May 6th at Reicher Ranch. Whitehead mentioned an event on Earth Day with the Concordia Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalists class.

i. Citizen comment from Shari Lakin – introduced herself to the group.

e. Update on question from CAC regarding Public Information Act (Secretary):

Kuhl informed the Committee that the work of this committee is subject to the Public Information Act. The best solution is to just copy the Secretary on all reports or communications that are the work of this committee and the Secretary will keep all of the records. Melinda Mallia said the County attorney also agreed with the City legal interpretation of the application of the Public Information Act.

f. Update on Karst Land Management Plan (Secretary): Kuhl explained that Council Member Pool asked for the red-line version of the Karst Land Management Plan prior to approving the final draft. Kuhl will send the red-line and final draft out to the SAC electronically.

g. Subcommittee reports:

i. Karst: Hauwert mentioned the City BCP staff does most of the karst reporting, but talked about a couple of areas where we partner with Watershed. Reported on the Flint Ridge Cave hydrogeological studies for SH45SW. He also summarized the Blowing Sink restoration project. Offered up that we could take SAC members out on a fieldtrip in a month or two if they are interested. Village of Western Oaks cave preserve - still waiting on a response from the developer. Five new education caves that have been restored and are getting ready to be able to take people into them. Goat Cave Karst preserve, working on new signage and solution for parking. Krejca asked about long term plans for Blowing Sink and Hauwert discussed potential for putting in a shaft net to it to dig it out, but this project is not yet funded. Krejca asked about whether the RMA was going to mitigate for impacts to Flint Ridge Cave. Kuhl reported that City staffs are working on a technical level, but not involved in negotiations. Krejca also asked about the Karst Substitution Policy and Kuhl said that it will be in the new version of the Karst Land Management Plan.

ii. BCP Strategic Research Plan: Whitehead handed out a written report for the subcommittee and led a discussion on how to best move forward with developing a BCP Strategic Research Plan. Proposing to do interviews of BCP staff, people around at the beginning of the BCP. Question on whether to interview the other BCP land managers. Want to review documents that Kuhl mentioned. Hauwert mentioned early karst subcommittee and Krejca said listed species recovery plans would also be a good source of information on research needs. Whitehead asked about a timeline – Kuhl suggested summer to be ready for potential fall

research with faculty and students. Steed suggested work with TPWD to get their mapped information on listed species. He also recommended that we do more extensive inventory on listed or rare species on each BCP preserve tract. Truer-Kuehn asked for the BCP parcel shape files so she could send us the TPWD information. Amy Belaire, Wild Basin Natural Resource Manager and Coordinator of education and research, introduced her students and updated the group on the Trello project management software that is being used to hold all of the research information. Linda Laack updated the group on the BCP Land Manager's meeting that will be held March 1st at Concordia. Steed asked that SAC members be on the invite list for the BCP Land Manager's meeting.

3. Staffs' reports:

- a. Bill Reiner reviewed the written reports for the City BCP.
- b. Melinda Mallia and Linda Laack reviewed the Travis County's BCP written report.
- c. Erik Huebner reviewed LCRA's written BCP staff report.

New Business Cont.:

Returned to item 1.b. to vote on **Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016**: Kuhl reported that the nominees for 2016 are Krejca for Chair and Farquhar for Vice-Chair. David Steed nominated Jean for Chair and Craig for Vice Chair. Nico seconded it. Voted in officers unanimously, 6/0. Jean moved to adjourn, Nico seconded.