

RECORD OF DECISION

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Scientific Advisory Committee Regular Meeting November 3, 2016, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Reicher Ranch Cana House 3621 South FM 620 Road Austin, Texas 78738

Present

Jean Krejca, Chair Kimberlee Harvey, BCCP Secretary John Cornelius David Steed Amie Treuer-Kuehn Nico Hauwert

Absent

Sam Whitehead Craig Farquhar, Vice Chair

1. New Business

- a. Members' issues and concerns none
- b. Advisory Groups as explained in the BCCP Shared Vision and Bylaws The only mention of advisory groups in the BCCP Shared Vision occurs under Section 3.4 Principal Duties of the BCCP CC item (b)4 and it states; To this end, The Coordinating Committee's principal duties are "to establish advisory groups as appropriate to implement the BCCP Shared Vision." The SAC also has Bylaws, which may be amended by a 5/7 majority vote of the members, and Guidelines which may be updated as needed. In an effort to reduce member fatigue and be more respectful of committee member and staff time, we are in the process of updating the Guidelines to reflect a reduction in regular SAC meetings from four to two per year and allowing the option to call in to the meeting to increase member convenience and reduce absences. The updated quidelines will be finalized during the first SAC meeting of next year and will be presented to the Coordinating Committee. Harvey reminded that the SAC does serve at the pleasure of the Coordinating Committee, and would still be required to have special sessions and/or working groups as needed, to address Coordinating Committee members' questions and concerns. Harvey explained that the BCP Partner Staff Reports would still be generated quarterly, and would be distributed to committee members. Krejca added that future reductions in meetings may help retain members with institutional knowledge, who were

- contemplating not serving on the committee next year. Steed stated that, with a reduction of meetings, absences should be less tolerated.
- c. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017 Harvey announced that she would be accepting nominations and self-nominations for committee elections for Chair and Vice-Chair up until December 31, 2016. Harvey will compile and distribute the election slate to the SAC ahead of the first meeting of the year, with prior discussion and agreement from the nominees.

2. Old Business

- a. Approve Record of Decisions from 2/11/2016 and 8/03/2016 Motion from Krejca to approve both, second by Cornelius, carried 5/0
- b. Subcommittee Reports:
 - i. Karst Hauwert announced his acceptance of a new position as BCP Program Manager for the City of Austin. In order to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest, he will be leaving the SAC and the Karst Subcommittee. He will continue to give reports during the City of Austin BCP Partner Reports. Committee members will reach out to potential SAC candidates. Hauwert reported on hydrogeological studies of Flintridge Cave. They got the last dye trace underway in August. Report should be completed in the next couple months. Studies to be used as baseline data to compare with possible impacted conditions in the future. Hauwert also reported on the Blowing Sink restoration projects and the Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve's acquisition by the City's Watershed Protection Department and name change to the Village of Western Oaks Watershed Management Area. Working with them to adopt BCP Land Management Plan for karst features on property.
 - ii. BCP Strategic Research Plan No update. Whitehead absent.

3. BCP Partner Reports

- a. City of Austin BCP Lisa O'Donnell announced Nico Hauwert was hired to be the City of Austin's (COA) BCP Program Manager and starts on October 31, 2016. O'Donnell also announced that the COA Outreach Coordinator quit her position and moved to COA Parks and Recreation Department. O'Donnell mentioned that the Wildland Conservation Division's vacancies for GIS/Regulatory Support and Outreach should be posted and filled soon. O'Donnell then reviewed the written report for the City and shared photos of land management activities on the BCP and a cave video that includes footage inside Midnight Cave. The video can be found on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTbS4bPlugE. O'Donnell also shared brochures with the group about Tawny Crazy Ants and the Keep Austin Wild program.
- b. Travis County BCP Linda Laack reviewed the written report for Travis County reporting on land management and research activities. Laack also talked about a recent law enforcement issue that happened after their report was written, at the Travis County Natural Resource Office. Someone broke into their storage building and stole an ATV and various other equipment, and cut a fence to drive it off of the property. They will be expanding on security measures at their office.
- c. LCRA BCP William reviewed LCRA's written report.
- d. Sunset Valley BCP none
- e. Other BCP Partners none

- 4. Next BCCP SAC meeting 2017 meetings to be scheduled in January
- 5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm