



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee

June 8, 2018, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

City Hall Chambers, Room 1001
301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Attending:

Austin City Council Member District 7 – Leslie Pool, Chair
Travis County Commissioner Precinct 2 – Brigid Shea, Co-Chair
USFWS – Michael Warriner, Member (Ex Officio)
BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary – Kimberlee Harvey

1. **Elect Coordinating Committee Chair** – Member Pool presented a motion to have both voting members serve as co-chairs. Member Pool would preside over the meeting when it is held in City of Austin Facilities, Member Shea will preside when meetings are held in County facilities. Second by Shea. Motion carried 2/0
2. **Citizen Communications** – Chris Fields, representing the Austin Motor Sports Association, spoke about his concern for proposed changes to the BCCP Land Management Plan Public Access Management chapter, specific to language regarding the motorcycle riding area of Emma Long Park.
3. **Approve Record of Decisions for the February 9, 2018 Regular Meeting** - Motion from Shea to approve, second by Pool, Carried 2/0
4. **BCCP and the Delisting of the Black-capped Vireo; take action as appropriate** – Melinda Mallia, Travis County Natural Resources Program manager, and Sherri Kuhl, City of Austin Wildland Conservation Division Manager, spoke about the delisting impacts on the BCCP Permit. They reported that the City and County still have an obligation to continue Black-capped Vireo protections and land management activities under the BCCP Permit. They also reported that there would be no longer be a mitigation fee for impacts in the BCCP Black-capped Vireo Habitat Mitigation Zone because it was no longer considered take. Commissioner Shea stated that the delisting does not open up the BCP to development. It will continue to be preserve land in perpetuity.
5. **Process and Schedule Updates for 2017-18 Draft BCCP Tier II Land Management Plans**
 - a) **Chapter 6: Fire Management.** Secretary reported that BCP staff are still working on the updated draft chapter, but once a first draft is complete, it will be distributed for review and comment to BCP Partners and the Scientific Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee. City and County BCP

staff will review and incorporate partner and advisory committee comments as appropriate into an updated draft version that will be posted for public review. There will be an online system for public comment submittals, along with opportunities for the public to speak at BCCP meetings. After the public comment period closes, City and County BCP staff will review and incorporate public comments before presenting the final draft document to the Coordinating Committee for review and approval.

- b) **Chapter 12: Public Access Management.** Secretary reported that when a revised draft of the Public Access chapter of the Land Management Plan is completed by City and County staff and reviewed by the other BCP partners and advisory groups, it will be presented to the leaders of user-group organizations including bicyclists, motorcyclists, climbers and cavers. A period of a month or more will be allowed for the user-group leadership to disseminate the draft to their members to review. During that time, the draft will also be posted on the County website. City and County staff will then hold a general public meeting to hear feedback on the draft, which will be considered when preparing the final draft for approval by the BCCP Coordinating Committee.
6. **CAC Member Updates; take action as appropriate** – Secretary reported that the City's Parks and Recreation Board appointed Fred Morgan to the CAC, and that there was a vacancy for a Travis County appointee. Secretary also reported that the advisory committee task group provided a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee to appoint Lynne Weber for the Environmental Interests Consensus position. Shea motioned to accept the recommendation to appoint Lynne Weber to the CAC. Second by Pool. Motion carried 2/0.
 7. **Report from Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** - Peter Torgrimson, Chair, reported they last met on April 24, 2018, and Laurie Dries was elected as Vice-Chair and he was reelected for Chair. He also reported that, with BCP Staff help, they are closer to their goal of a more robust orientation packet for new members which also provides important information for long-time members. He also spoke of the importance of a more active role supporting the BCP, including connecting with neighbors of the BCP, and identifying potential threats to the preserve from development pressures, namely new roads. Shea asked about a Friends of BCP Group, and if that could help with the more active role Torgrimson discussed. He agreed that it could, but stated efforts in the past to create a friends group fell short because of lack of resources and leadership. Coordinating Committee agreed that options for a friends group should be explored again.
 8. **Flint Ridge Cave Hydrogeological Study Report Update** – Nico Hauwert, Ph.D., P.G., City of Austin BCP Program Manager, talked about ongoing and proposed monitoring and scientific studies conducted in and near Flint Ridge Cave, including hydrogeological studies for surface and subsurface catchment areas and drips. Shea requested a compilation of construction inspection reports for SH45 SW. Jon White, Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Director, stated that BCP staff have not had free access to the site, but that he would be able to provide Travis County inspection information. Shea asked about the development of a plan, should there be observed impacts to the cave. Daryl Slusher, Austin Water Assistant Director, stated that staff will work on identifying a plan or policy direction for reporting impacts to the cave, with approval by the Coordinating Committee.

9. **Receive BCP Partner Reports; take action as appropriate** – BCP Partner Reports for January through March were reported. Mallia reported about new BCP acquisitions. Linda Laack, Travis County Natural Resources Field Supervisor, reported bird surveys were winding down. She also reported about partnering with the University of Texas for studies on the invasive Tawney Crazy Ants. Hauwert reported that TxDOT would be funding karst studies as part of the conservation measures for the 2222/620 roadway project. He also spoke about studies of soft-bodied tics in caves and preserve encroachment issues. Cait McCann, Outreach Coordinator for City of Austin Wildland Conservation Division, talked about the success of the Austin Cave Festival and the cave simulator trailer. Johanna Arendt, Travis County Community Liaison, went over the Outreach and Education Summary report highlighting volunteer hours and special events. Shea asked staff to look into whether a requested Onion Creek discharge permit could affect endangered species covered under the BCCP in the Permit area.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34am

Video of this meeting can be found on the following City of Austin website:
<http://austintx.swagit.com/play/06082018-589/>