RECORD OF DECISIONS
FROM April 11, 2003 MEETING

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Record of Decisions from October 11, 2002 meeting

The Coordinating Committee vote on the Record of Decisions for the October 11, 2002 meeting was tabled for verification with Commissioner Moore. Commissioner Moore was the Travis County reprehensive to the Coordinating Committee at the time of the October 11, 2002 meeting.

2. Approve schedule of meetings for balance of calendar year.

The Coordinating Committee vote on approving a meeting schedule for the balance of the calendar year was tabled and the Coordinating Committee Secretary was instructed to contact Council Member Wynn and Commissioner Daugherty to coordinate a future meeting schedule and to call a special meeting in early June to establish the meeting schedule and to conduct the BCCP Vision Exercise (Presentation Item 9) that was postponed from today's meeting.

3. Approve BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary recommendations concerning reorganization of the Citizens and Scientific Advisory Committees.

The Coordinating Committee Secretary recommendations concerning reorganization of the Citizens and Scientific Advisory Committees were approved on a 2-0 vote.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Skip Cameron, President Bull Creek Foundation – Mr. Cameron addressed comments to House Bill (HB) 1837. Mr. Cameron stated that the bill appeared to be mean-spirited Austin bashing and asked why was coming from the House of Representatives and why was it being presented by one of our own local representatives? Mr. Cameron asked why the Coordinating Committee with Citizen and Scientific Advisory Committee involvement did not monitor the bill. Mr. Cameron stated he was against the "taking" of land for the BCP that was acquired for other environmental purposes. Mr. Cameron recommended that the Coordinating Committee come out publicly against HB 1837. Councilman Wynn stated that he had no prior knowledge of the bill and was personally surprised by its recent announcement and stated that the City of Austin currently is in opposition of it. Commissioner Daugherty stated he did not know what the County's position is but that personally he does not want to be part of the "taking" land out of Prop II and felt that the majority of Commissioners would not want to tell the City this is what they should do.

Richard Viktorin, representing recreational runners in the Forest Ridge area – Mr. Viktorin express a concern that recreational runners are being unfairly singled-out and restricted in their use of the Forest Ridge tract of the City-owned portion of the BCP by posted regulations. Mr. Viktorin stated that trail runners want to be treated as equally as other group users of Forest Ridge. Councilman Wynn suggested that this issue be brought to the attention of the Citizen Advisory Committee. Commissioner Daugherty stated that he would work with Mr. Viktorin on the issue of public access in the BCP.

Lynda Jones, representing the Medway Citizens Group – Ms. Jones thanked the city, county and BCP staff for their efforts in BCP land grant writing, for helping to make the purchase of Medway Ranch a priority, and for listening to the Medway Citizens Group. Ms. Jones asked that the committee consider the big picture as they oppose or support HB 1837, and encouraged the committee to consider not only the BCP but also other open spaces in Texas and questioned what affects will double counting have on the number of acres of green/open space. Ms Jones asked the committee to consider how the bill would affect the landowners whose properties lie within the boundaries of endangered species habitat, would the bill relieve them of their responsibility to protect the species, and will the bill cause adverse affects on the negotiations at the table. Mr. Robert Pine, USFWS, stated that the role of the Services would remain the same regardless of the fate of the bill in that the Service will evaluate the biological worth of the habitat of any land proposed for inclusion in the preserve before it is accepted as preserve land.