



BCCP COORDINATING COMMITTEE RECORD OF DECISIONS FROM August 21, 2006

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve and recommend to Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court a City of Austin request for a minor amendment to Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit PRT-788841 to move the location of Water Treatment Plant 4 to a 45 acre parcel to be removed from the City of Austin Cortana BCP tract, and in so doing, transfer the BCCP Infrastructure Special use Tract designation with the plant to the new site. As part of this action City of Austin will dedicate the original WTP4 site, excluding the existing fire and EMS station, to BCP.**

Chair Wynn made a motion to approve action Item 1, and to accept and adopt all conditions recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee as presented in presentation items 2 and 3 of this meeting. Motion was seconded by member Daugherty. Motion carried 2/0

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Melody Lytle spoke as a former City BCP Biologist. She said the plan to move WTP4 would result in destruction of 100% of the City's black-capped vireo habitat. She reminded the committee of what she described as widespread criticism of the Alan Plummer alternate site study. She said she does not believe there are only two feasible sites. She also advised that this change in the BCCP permit goes beyond a minor amendment and she read a quote into the record from the land management plans Tier II BCVI accredited to Lisa O'Donnell.

Jackie Davis also spoke as a former City BCP Biologist. She addressed her comments to Commissioner Daugherty. She said she does not believe that all potential sites are fully investigated, that the maps do not depict the extent of all available sites, and that the alternate site process needs to be revisited. She criticized the City's rush to move this project forward with no time for public discussion. She also said this proposal goes beyond a minor amendment. Ms. Davis also said this decision requires a public hearing under chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. She said BCP should implement this now in order to avoid costly and time consuming litigation. She also advised the committee that new black-capped vireo habitat is hard to create. She asked what if the birds do not occupy new habitat when Cortana habitat is destroyed.

Jane Tillman addressed the committee representing Travis Audubon Society. She read their policy statement regarding moving WTP4 into the record. She said her society opposes the move to Cortana and recommends site B or another site that is not in BCP. She commented that the City owns no other historically occupied black-capped vireo sites, and noted that the City "has five pairs of vireos in the hand and none in the bush". Mayor Wynn responded that he hopes Audubon will assist with development of the BCCP vireo restoration plan.

Joe Lessard addressed the committee as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee BCP Completion Task Group. He questioned plans to move WTP4 to protect non-listed species versus that impact on a listed species. He noted that BCCP is designed to consider this type of action but, it assumes completion of the preserves. He said that today preserve completion is in doubt. He said that BCP is not fully funded and that this is an issue of cash flow. He advised the committee that the plan to take vireo habitat for WTP4 is directly linked to the BCP completion issue. He recommended that the City Council and Commissioners Court hold a joint work session to develop a plan within 90 days to complete BCP acquisition.

Mary Arnold addressed the committee about the plan to move WTP4. She stressed the value of the Chapter 26 process and asked the committee to delay any action until hearings under this code could be held. She criticized the June 22, 2006 City Council decision to move WTP4 to Cortana because it did not include any meaningful public input. She also asked the committee to not include Little Barton Creek tract in BCP because this will reduce the overall amount of land protected since this site is already protected under another City program. She also suggested that the City not waste any money on vireo habitat restoration on this tract.

Note:

The Coordinating Committee adjourned to an executive session to seek advice from legal council at the request of Commissioner Daugherty. They reconvened after taking no action during executive session.