



## **Record of Decisions**

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Coordinating Committee  
Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon  
Austin City Council Chambers  
City Hall  
301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Approve Records of Decisions for meetings on 4/26/07 and 8/15/07**  
Approved on a motion from Member Daugherty, second by Chair Wynn,  
Carried 2/0
2. **Take action on revised BCP Land Management Plans** – members took  
no action

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**Gary Rochelle** – Spoke representing the “Friends of BCP”. He reminded members that they had received proposals recommending increased public access on both The Canyon Vista Tract and on Turkey Creek Trail. To date those proposals have been ignored. He objected to the public access proposal process in the revised LMP stating that it was meant to limit access to only organized activities. He advised members that he believes BCP can support golden-cheeked warblers and have trails too. He said his organization supports unrestrained access for BCP, especially for Turkey Creek and Canyon Vista. He suggested members accept Citizens input requesting more access and develop a reasonable plan that supports access. He provided members with a document supporting his position.

**Richard Viktorin** – spoke for himself. He supported Dr. Rochelle’s comments. He does not support the revised LMP provisions for public access and considers the access proposal process abusive. He pointed out that he believes the plan for Turkey Creek was changed without notice at the last minute. He advised members that BCP does not need a process, it needs a plan with lines on a map for trails. He suggested a plan for a long longitudinal trail that would assure pressure on habitat was reduced. He told members that funding for public access must be budgeted because access is a “stepchild” in BCP. He said government needs to build more reasonable input for BCP because input from the SAC is biased against access while only input from the CAC is not.

**Ted Siff** – spoke for himself. He endorsed comments from both of the previous speakers. He complimented BCP staff on their three year effort to revise the LMP within in the constraints that they must address. He suggested BCCP should consider an alternative access proposal process that supported unencumbered and unsupervised access. He said staff efforts to support public access today are impressive given the budget limitations they face. Current budgets simply have no room for access work. He suggested that perhaps participation certificate funds could be used to support access since COA is already using PCs for operations. He asked members to develop a new policy directing the development of a master plan for trails on BCP. He noted that while the SAC fails to recognize that access is not harmful to BCP's protected species the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife refuge does. He advised that science does support the idea that access is not harmful.

**Jeff Mundy** – spoke representing Travis Audubon Society. He also spoke on behalf of Valerie Bristol from The Nature Conservancy. He reminded members that both organizations are managing partners in BCP. She asked him to convey to members that the draft revised LMP is well thought out and reasonable. Speaking for himself, Mundy said that Turkey Creek Trail needs a leash ordinance. He described personal experiences of being threatened by aggressive dogs off leash and owners who refused to control their animals when asked. He reminded members that recently the Legislature passed a statute holding dog owners criminally liable if their dog bites someone. He said leash free dogs are creating user conflicts. He closed by describing actions on Vaught Ranch that appeared to violate the Endangered Species Act and led to their donation of land to BCP. He advised that staff should provide education outreach on the Endangered Species Act.

**Glen Hall** – spoke for Sheila Holbrook-White and Friends of Turkey Creek. He advised members that the revised LMP bans dogs on Turkey Creek Trail and that this ignores grandfathering granted in the habitat conservation plan. He also advised that this was done with no public notice. It also attempts to repeal a City ordinance from 1994. He advised members that staff failed to document any threats to golden-cheeked warblers or water quality from dogs. He also advised that there has not yet been take reported at Turkey Creek as a result of dogs. He advised that the Turkey Creek Task group recommendations have not been incorporated into the LMP and asked that they be added.

**Scott Shepherd** – spoke for himself. He supported the comments of previous speakers. He asked that the Turkey Creek Task Force results be implemented. He also asked Travis County to organize a similar task force for Canyon Vista.