



Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Coordinating Committee
Wednesday October 24, 2007
Travis County Commissioner's Courtroom
314 W. 11th Street, 1st Floor
Austin, Texas**

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approve Record of Decisions for the September 19, 2007 Coordinating Committee called meeting** – Approved on a motion by Member Daugherty, second by Chair Wynn, 2/0

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gary Rochelle – Gave a presentation to the committee evaluating the significance of “Take” of golden-cheeked warblers resulting from recreation trails. A copy of his presentation is part of the documentation for this meeting and incorporated her by reference.

Skip Cameron – advised the Committee that BCP is criminalizing people and nature. He said that is the original public access plan was implemented BCP would not have the problems described during the Law Enforcement Briefing (Agenda presentation item number 1). He referred to the public access process used by the City's Water Quality Protection Lands program as too arduous. He described the proposed language in the draft revised land management plans as unreasonable because they require 100% supervised access, 100% training for users, and require that access must enhance a tract.

Richard Viktorin – addressed the Committee regarding the BCCP public participation program for habitat mitigation. He provided the members a document (incorporated herein by reference) evaluating this program. He advised members that BCCP is failing to replace habitat at an 86% loss because fees for the program are too low.

Next, Mr Viktorin agressed public access on BCP. He advised members that trails in BCP are overregulated. Every BCP tract except parks are closed top public access. With respect to the draft revised Land Management Plan, staff has had sufficient time to prepare their proposal buy they are rushing public input. The Public hearings planned by the governing bodies have not been posted properly. Furthermore, plans should be changed to improve the public access provisions before the hearings.

Mr. Viktorin showed the members a scroll that he described as 100 feet of public comments supporting more access on BCP. He advised members that they should seek guidance from US Fish and Wildlife Service about whether these comments conflict with the BCCP permit. Members Daugherty and Chair Wynn agreed that it is “time to call the question with Fish”.

Dr. David Steed – addressed members as chair of the BCCP Scientific Advisory Committee. He requested a copy of Dr. Rochelle’s presentation for review by his committee. He described Dr. Rochelle’s presentation as pseudo-science. He referred members by research recently published by Ms. Jenifer Reedy, describing her conclusions as documenting that trail use has an impact on golden-cheeked warblers. This includes evidence that flush of individuals reduced nesting success and life expectancy.

He also described recent research on Ft. Hood by Alan Graber. He advised members that this research documents a fifty percent reduction in nesting success in the vicinity of trails used by mountain bikes.