



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee

September 28, 2018, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Travis County Multi-Function Room B
700 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Attending:

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

1. **Citizen Communications** - None
2. **Approve Record of Decisions for the June 8, 2018 Regular Meeting** - Motion from Pool to approve, second by Shea, Carried 2/0
3. **Draft BCCP Public Access Land Management Plan: Updates and Timelines** – Secretary said the draft Public Access chapter has been distributed for review and comment to BCP Partners and the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. Once BCP staff have incorporated comments, the draft will be distributed electronically to the leaders of the user groups for a one-month public review period. BCP staff will again incorporate the comments into a final draft which will be presented to the Coordinating Committee for approval at the December 7th meeting.
4. **BCP Tour for the USFWS Deputy ARD for Ecological Services Southwest Region**– Jon White, Travis County Natural Resources/Environmental Quality Division Director, and Johanna Arendt, Travis County Community Liaison, spoke about taking Seth Willey, Deputy ARD for Ecological Services USFWS Southwest Region, on a tour of the BCP where LISD has proposed a road through the BCP.
5. **Funds Received for BCP Karst Studies from TxDOT for RM 620/RM 2222 Mobility Project Conservation Measures** – Nico Hauwert, Ph.D., P.G., City of Austin BCP Program Manager, said the BCP received \$390,000 for TXDOT's project conservation measures. The money will be used to further scientific knowledge of karst habitat in the project area.
6. **Management Agreement Complete for Village at Western Oaks Karst Preserve and Watershed Management Area** – Hauwert spoke about a management agreement with the City's Watershed Protection Department, saying it was a success story that allows additional protection of BCP Get Down Cave and a preserve site for public education at Millennium Cave.

7. **BCP Staff Comments Regarding Proposed Revisions to Endangered Species Act** – Lisa O'Donnell, City Senior Biologist, and Linda Laack, Travis County Natural Resources Field Supervisor, talked about proposed revisions by the USFWS on Sections 4, 7, and 9 of the Endangered Species Act and said the City and County both submitted comments.
8. **Contract Approved for BCCP Consulting Services for End-of-Permit Options** – Melinda Mallia, Travis County Natural Resources Program Manager, spoke about BCP staff's work with ICF, a consulting firm that is helping to identify end of permit options.
9. **Community Letter from Coordinating Committee to BCP Neighbors** – Arendt presented the Coordinating Committee with a draft letter to BCP Neighbors for review. Once finalized, she will present it to the committee for signatures in December. Pool asked that a similar letter be drafted for distribution to local scouts and outdoor children's groups.
10. **CAC Member Update: New Travis County Appointee** – Secretary said that Travis County Commissioners Court appointed Rose Farmer to the CAC.
11. **Report from Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)** – Jean Krejca, Chair, reported that the SAC met and held elections and the chair and vice chair were reelected. She said the group discussed the delisting of the Black-capped Vireo, and the 5-year USFWS review studies of BCP covered karst invertebrates. Lisa O'Donnell, City Senior Biologist, discussed the status of the Golden-cheeked Warbler.
12. **Receive BCCP Partner Reports; take action as appropriate** – BCP Partner Reports for April through June 2018 were presented. Mallia reported that there were 15 take applications and two Participation Certificates issued. She also talked about recent BCP acquisitions, and introduced Kelsey Me, the new Travis County BCCP Coordinator for development participation. Laack spoke about a Tawny Crazy Ant study with UT. She said the fall will focus on land-management activities. Hauwert highlighted a recent cave acquisition and talked about the potential for a management agreement for Pipeline Cave. He also spoke about bird surveys and BCP staff research and scientific publications. O'Donnell spoke about a recent decision by the Journal of Field Ornithology publishing company to not retract her paper on the Golden-cheeked Warbler called "Density influences accuracy of model-based estimates for a forest songbird." Hauwert also talked about City Environmental Criteria edits he submitted for karst restoration. Arendt spoke about recent BCP outreach and education events and activities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm

A video recording of this meeting can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxlod7HtN5o>