



RECORDS OF DECISIONS

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee

September 25, 2020, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

This meeting was held via videoconference and a recording is available here:
<https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/79552>

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

Citizen Communications - None

Items for discussion:

1. **Approve Record of Decisions for the May 29, 2020 Regular Meeting** - Motion from Pool to approve, second by Shea, Carried 2/0
2. **Bone Cave Harvestman Update-** Lisa O'Donnell, Senior Biologist for City BCP, reported on the Bone Cave Harvestman Status Review, and the joint City/County response entitled Support for Maintaining Endangered Status for the Bone Cave Harvestman, submitted to the Service on September 3, 2020.
3. **Proposal to Add a Definition of "Habitat" to Regulations that Implement Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)-** O'Donnell also reported that the City of Austin and Travis County submitted separate comments to the Service on the Proposal to Add a Definition of "Habitat" to Regulations that Implement Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
4. **Tawny Crazy Ants Found on Additional BCP Tracts-** Nico Hauwert, City of Austin BCP Program manager, and Jonny Scalise, BCP Biologist for the City, reported that the invasive Tawny crazy ants have recently been observed in Emma Long Metropolitan Park. They also spoke about research being done to find treatment methods.
5. **Wildfire Mitigation on the BCP-** David Gimnich, BCCP Infrastructure Coordinator reported on wildfire mitigation coordination with electric utilities that have assets within BCCP Infrastructure Corridors throughout the BCP.
6. **National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition Hosts Virtual Annual Meeting November 17-18 2020-** Secretary reported on the upcoming free virtual conference of the National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition and encouraged participation.

7. **Receive BCP Partner Reports-** Linda Laack, Travis County Natural Resources Field Supervisor, reported that many activities were altered due to COVID-19, including the bird surveys. She reported that Warbler numbers seemed to be stable compared to previous years, and that there was an increase in Vireo numbers. She also said preserve encroachment activities including tree clearing and trespassing have increased. Johanna Arendt, Travis County Community Liaison, reported on the education and outreach highlights stating that outreach activities decreased because of COVID-19. Essential volunteer activities were modified but continued with increased safety measures in place. She also described an increase in online education and outreach opportunities. Cait McCann, City of Austin Education and Outreach Coordinator, described thoughtful efforts to be more inclusive to more people in local communities by highlighting conservation efforts relatable to the BCP. Hauwert reported on recent City BCP acquisitions, and land restoration efforts on the Vireo tract. He also stated that surveys were conducted less this year due to COVID-19.
8. **Identify Future Agenda Items** – Pool requested an update on the Permit renewal and update tasks and Commissioner Shea mentioned she'd like future updates on wildfire outreach to communities and preserve neighbors.