

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, June 16, 2010



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY JUNE 2, 2010

The Environmental Board convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, City Council Chambers, at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

J. Robert Anderson, Robin Gary, Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely;
& James Schissler

Staff in Attendance:

Pat Murphy, Marilla Shepherd, Mitzi Cotton, Lynne Lightsey, Nancy McClintock
Chuck Lesniak, Thais Perkins, David Johns, William Stauber, Bryan Barnett,
Nathan Bendik, Chris Herrington, Laurie Dries, and Erin Wood

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- **Sharon Blythe spoke about the proposed City of Austin water transmission lines for the Jollyville transmission mains along Spicewood Springs Road. She reported that the City has torn holes in Karst formations along Spicewood Springs Road without any permits, and she stated that there's damage to the Jollyville Plateau Salamander habitat along Spicewood Springs Road.**

The Environmental Board requests that a report on these issues by City staff to be presented to the Board on July 21, 2010.

- **Jill Rowe spoke about issues related to the new Water Treatment Plant #4 site: Potential shaft sites, and the influence on the Bull Creek headwaters, the Chapter 26 process, giant mining operations, major impact facilities, and the important locations of the shafts. The Environmental Board requests that a report on these issues by City staff be presented to the Board on July 21, 2010.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board regular meeting of May 19, 2010.

**The minutes for the Environmental Board regular meeting on May 19, 2010 approved on Board member Robin Gary's motion, and Board member Bob Anderson Second. [Vote 4-0]
Phil Moncada absent and James Schissler abstaining.**

**The minutes for the Environmental Board regular meeting on June 2, 2010 approved on Board member Robin Gary's motion, and Board member Bob Anderson Second. [Vote 4-0]
Phil Moncada absent and James Schissler abstaining**

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Briefing to the Board and public on a possible Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) regarding the Jollyville Plateau Salamander between the City of Austin and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chuck Lesniak and staff from the Watershed Protection Department, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff.

There were 3 presentations:

- Jollyville Plateau Salamander Studies – Nathan Bendik, Watershed Protection Department
- What the CCAA is, and how it works – Alicia Shoal, Fish and Wildlife Department
- What is the City of Austin's approach to the CCAA, Chuck Lesniak, Watershed Protection Department

4. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ON THE CCAA BRIEFING

QUESTIONS ON ITEM #3.

Bill Bunch's questions.

- **If the City of Austin runs into the flow path will they stop the tunneling process?**

Staff's answer:

How the construction will work is going to be what the CCAA will cover. That's what the workshop will be about.

- **Can he attend the workshop if not he would like to know why or why not? Can Dr. Hayes attend as an observer?**

Staff's Answer:

This workshop is for the applicant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They will be working to draft an agreement, and will be getting started with the fundamental and core issues.

The Environmental Board requested that staff bring a draft copy of the CCAA agreement to the Board for consideration.

- **Why is the public process set up with a one time opportunity to engage?**

Staff's Answer:

We are looking for more opportunities for the public to engage.

One of the things that the workshop will discuss is: When will it be appropriate to make the draft document open to the public and have written comment.

- **Who is the Karst Hydrogeologist that can tell us we can do this safely?**

Staff's Answer:

Our most experienced Geologist is David Johns, Watershed Protection Department.

- **Where's the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process?**

Staff's Answer:

The NEPA process is part of the CCAA.

Roy Whaley questions.

- **Is there a draft agreement started between the City of Austin and the CCAA?**

Staff's Answer:

Yes, staff will provide a copy upon request.

- **Is there an outline of the questions?**

Staff's Answer:

Staff will provide a copy of the outline

Tom Hayes questions.

- **Can we get a decision as to whether or not Dr. Hayes can attend the workshop or not?**

Staff's Answer:

A motion was made by Board member Jon Beall to include Tom Hayes in the workshop, but there was no second, motion failed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CCAA

You will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding this item. Written comments will also be accepted.

SPEAKERS ON ITEM #3.

- Carol Lee spoke about managing the existing preserves.
- Bill Bunch spoke about treatment to the species, habitat, the water flow plans, the impacts on the Salamanders, the range of the species concentrations.
- David Richardson spoke about community reviewing the process, the need for preservation of water quantity and water quality and the larger picture of preserving all Salamanders.
- Sharon Blythe spoke about the habitat of the Salamanders. Ms. Blythe will provide the Environmental Board with documentation of the referenced information. Chuck Lesniak will come back to report to the Board on July 21, 2010, about a way that the public can participate, opposed to just the formal structure of the Environmental Board public hearings.
- Scott Johnson spoke about the Bull Creek watershed endangered species that live in the 32 square miles bounded by FM 2222, and FM 360.
- Tom Hayes signed up to speak and requested to be an observer at the CCAA workshop.

6. 10 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely
The next meeting is July 1, 2010.

- 2) Urban Growth Policy subcommittee – Phil Moncada, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell and one vacancy.
New Board member James Schissler will consider being on this subcommittee.

- 4) Water Treatment Plant #4 subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely
No report this week.

- 5) Development Subcommittee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell & **Mary Ann Neely**

- 6) Water Quality Regulations subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair,
Robin Gary and Phil Moncada

Mary Ann Neely reported on this item.

The pervious meeting on June 14, 2010 was canceled for lack of a quorum.

8. NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items:
None.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

