

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

March 26, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Agency Represented
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks & Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks & Wildlife Department</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Dr. Sheeba Thomas-Dominguez for Mr. Brian Mast	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Thomas Marsalia	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Rader Gilleland	<i>Uvalde County</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation
Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)
Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP
Victoria Shum, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Mikel Wilkins	San Antonio River Authority
Mike Shannon	City of San Antonio – Development Services Dept.
Monique Kormann	City of San Antonio – Development Services Dept.
Lauren Chavez	City of San Antonio – Development Services Dept.
Logan Sparrow	City of San Antonio – Development Services Dept.
Marc Friberg	Edwards Aquifer Authority
Buck Benson	Barton Benson Jones
Jim Fatheree	First Continental
Mary Michael Zahed	Texas Water Resource Institute

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Chairwoman Francine Romero. Roll call was taken by Dr. Romero.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Romero asked for approval of the minutes for the February 26, 2025 meeting. Mr. Phillip Covington noted that Dr. Papagiannakis and Dr. Giacomoni with UTSA needed to be added to the list

of guests present at the February CAB meeting. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of the minutes as amended. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that there was a total of 187,343 acres protected by the EAPP and he presented an updated map of the protected properties under the program.
- Mr. Covington reminded CAB members that Financial Disclosure Reports are due.
- Mr. Covington introduced Joey Olivares as the Parks and Recreation Department's new Park Operations Supervisor for Urban Wildlife management.
- Mr. Covington distributed Fiesta medals to CAB members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Briefing and possible action on the transfer of operations and management of Rancho Diana Huesta Cave preserve from the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP).

- a. Monique Kormann, Policy Administrator with the City's Development Services Department, presented a proposal to transfer 163 acres of the Rancho Diana Natural Area preserve to the SEP-HCP for establishment of a karst fauna preserve. The SEP-HCP would reimburse the EAPP based on the original acquisition cost per acre under the Proposition 3 program in 2001. In exchange, EAPP would grant a conservation easement on the 163 acres to Edwards Aquifer Conservancy, Edwards Aquifer Authority's non-profit organization. Mr. Thomas Marsalia abstained from the discussion.

2. Briefing and update on Maverick Ranch project: Edwards Aquifer Authority staff

- a. Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager of Edwards Aquifer Authority, requested CAB consideration for EAPP to sign as Trustee on a deed for a six-acre property located on Scenic Loop Road in northern Bexar County. The property is being acquired by Edwards Aquifer Authority from Pond Foundation which is seeking the City's EAPP to serve as a third-party enforcer of restrictive covenants limiting development and restricting activities during Golden Cheeked Warbler nesting season. Mr. Phillip Covington confirmed that City Attorney's Office advised that this item did not require City Council consideration. Mr. Thomas Marsalia abstained from the discussion.

3. Discussion and update regarding the Bloomfield Hills property: EAPP Staff

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Bloomfield Hills Property for stage 2 approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:28 pm.

Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property) and 552.071 (consultation with an attorney).

Closed Executive Session & Opened Regular Session ended at 1:52 pm.

5. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda items 1, 2 and 3.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
 - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of the transfer of operations and management of Rancho Diana Huesta Cave preserve from the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP). Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Mr. Thomas Marsalia abstained. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Dr. Francine Romero motioned to authorize EAPP staff to execute the deed as Trustee for the Maverick Ranch property. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. Mr. Thomas Marsalia abstained. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 2 approval of the Bloomfield Hills property. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

6. Program Fiscal Report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the program expenditure and expense tracker reports to reflect all the current acquisitions and due diligence.

7. Monitoring Status Report: Ms. Susan Courage provided an overview of annual monitoring activities and compliance concerns during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025.

8. Report, Discussion and Action regarding Agenda and Date for upcoming CAB meeting:

April 23, 2025, at 1:00 pm, at the Guenther office of the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:56 pm.