

# ***CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD***

## **MINUTES**

May 22, 2024

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)

Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP

David Bernal, Management Analyst, EAPP

Victoria Shum, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

Andrew Gibbons, Senior Management Analyst, Director's Office

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Joseph Plappert	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Eric Trevino	Landowner

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:06 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 March 27, 2024, meeting. Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for approval. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. Motion carried.

### **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Sycamore Springs Ranch conservation easement and the Scenic Loop property acquisition had both closed since the last CAB meeting. Mr. Covington also stated that the total acreage including these two acquisitions is 182,334 acres protected under the program.

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that he had begun to incorporate the input provided by the CAB members on how to administer the meetings. Mr. Covington also stated that he had begun to upload the due diligence documents to the SharePoint site and would provide the web link to the CAB members by the next meeting.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the June 26<sup>th</sup> CAB meeting would be held at the San Antonio River Authority's Euclid office.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Hilthon Ranch Division 1 conservation easement would be presented to the City Council for consideration on June 20th and with approval scheduled for closing in July.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that an updated appraisal for Seco Valley Ranch conservation easement had been completed and would be presented to the CAB at the June meeting.
- Mr. Grant Ellis stated that both Mr. Homer Garcia and Ms. Melinda Cerda had to attend City budget meetings and that he would be voting in proxy for the Parks Department.
- Mr. Grant Ellis introduced Mr. Andrew Gibbons to the CAB members. Mr. Gibbons addressed the CAB and explained his role within the Parks Department.
- Mr. Phillip Covington introduced Mr. Eric Trevino to the CAB members and stated that his family's property is on the agenda.
- Dr. Francine Romero stated that there would be no CAB meeting in July.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### **1. Election of Officers**

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington called for nominations for the Vice Chair position of the CAB.
  - 1. Dr. Francine Romero nominated Mr. Scott Halty to serve as the Vice Chair of the CAB. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

### **2. Discussion and update regarding the Roland Smith Property and Hilthon Ranch projects: The Nature Conservancy**

- a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Roland Smith property for stage 2 approval.
- b. Mr. Bezanson presented the Hilthon Ranch Division 2 for final approval.

3. Discussion and update regarding the Trevino Property and Harrison Ranch projects: EAPP Staff
  - a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Trevino property for stage 1 approval.
  - b. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Harrison Ranch for stage 1 approval.

**Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:35 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 2:04 pm.**

4. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda items 1, 2 and 3.
  - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
    - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1A approval of the Trevino property. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval of the Harrison Ranch. Mr. Radar Gilleland second. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval of the Roland Smith Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Thomas Marsalia motioned for final approval of the Hilton Ranch Division 2 on the condition of the acceptance of the recommended bargain sale. Mr. Grant Ellis seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of an updated expenditure report which reflected the Scenic Loop property acquisition and Sycamore Springs Ranch conservation easement approval by City Council and to date had expended \$9.7 million in San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation funding for acquisitions with a total of 3,971 acres. Mr. Covington also stated that there were outside due diligence expenditures for projects such as an updated survey for Classen-Steubing Ranch conservation easement. Mr. Covington presented an updated expense tracker which reflected final approval of Hilthon Ranch Division 1 and due diligence expenses with properties that are currently under consideration.
6. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates to report.
7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – June 26, 2024, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority's Euclid Office.

Adjournment at 2:10 pm.