

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

## **MINUTES**

October 26, 2022

### **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 Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia via WebEx	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)</i>
Ms. Karen Bishop for Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority (SARA)</i>
Mr. Scott Halty for Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System (SAWS)</i>
Mr. Rogelio Garcia	<i>Greater SATX</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn via WebEx	<i>Medina County</i>

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation  
 Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP  
 David Bernal, Management Analyst, EAPP  
 Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Margaret Villegas via WebEx	COSA Finance Department
Alejandro Tijerina via WebEx	COSA Finance Department

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 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 September 28, 2022, meeting. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

## **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Dillingham Ranch and Mikeska Ranch conservation easements closed on October 5, 2022 and increased the total protected acreage for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to 173,592 acres. Mr. Covington also stated that Fern Springs' Divisions 1, 4, 6 & 7 would close in early November and Division 5 would close in mid-November. Mr. Covington also stated that the Schneider property conservation easement was approved by City Council on October 20<sup>th</sup> and should close at the end of November. Mr. Covington also stated that the Hampton property acquisition, in partnership with the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD), and the Swain Ranch conservation easements are scheduled for City Council consideration on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, where the Hampton property should close by end of November and Swain Ranch should close in mid-December.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that there was an application for the Uvalde County seat on the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) and he is working with the City Clerk to schedule for City Council consideration.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens to be heard.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### 1. Briefing and update on EAPP alternative funding program: City Staff

a. Mr. Covington introduced the item and stated that Ms. Margaret Villegas with the City of San Antonio's Finance Department and would discuss the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program's (EAPP) alternative funding program that would commence during fiscal year 2023. Ms. Villegas introduced Alejandro Tijerina with the City's Finance Department and addressed the CAB members via WebEx. Ms. Villegas provided a presentation highlighting the EAPP's alternative funding source and stated that the EAPP would now be funded by a newly proposed 10-year \$100 million program which begins this year. Ms. Villegas stated that the EAPP would be funded through the issuance of debt through the San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation (MFC) which was approved by City Council in September 2020. Ms. Villegas also stated that the pledge for the issuance of the debt was a portion of the City's annual payment from the San Antonio Water System, which will come from the City's General Fund.

### 2. Discussion & Update regarding the Moos Ranch: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Moos Ranch Phase 1 for final 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 1:39 pm.**

5. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda item 2.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and a roll call was taken to ensure a quorum and a vote on the motion:
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on the Moos Ranch Phase 1. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

6. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the EAPP spending plan for the remaining balance of the 2015 Proposition 1 program which reflected the acquisition of the Schneider property conservation easement. Mr. Covington also advised the Hampton Property, which TPWD will hold title, and Swain conservation easements would be scheduled for Council consideration on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council agenda. Mr. Covington stated that the Moos Ranch and Morrow Ranch conservations easements are included in the updated spending plan. He also stated that the Stoner Ranch and Seco Valley Ranch conservation easements were two acquisitions proposed for the MFC funding program. He also presented the updated expenditure report which reflected a few due diligence expenses and the acquisition table reflected an update on Fern Springs, final approval on the Schneider Property, and the Hampton and Swain are pending City council approval on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates and that the monitoring activities were soon going to end for the year due to hunting season.

8. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – November 30, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:52 pm.