

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

May 24, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Agency Represented
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks & Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia via WebEx	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Thomas Marsalia	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty for Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Rogelio Garcia	<i>Greater SATX</i>
Mr. Rader Gilleland	<i>Uvalde County</i>

STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
David Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Dr. Jeffrey Hutchinson	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Dr. Vikram Kapoor	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Dr. Samer Dessouky	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Gian Villarreal	Seagull PME

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chairwoman Francine Romero. Roll call was taken by Dr. Romero. Dr. Romero called for a moment of silence for the one-year anniversary of the Uvalde tragedy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Romero asked for approval of the minutes for the April 26, 2023 meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of an amended version of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Minutes approved as amended. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the EAPP was scheduled to close on the Littleton Ranch conservation easement on May 31, 2023. He also stated that brought the total land protected under the EAPP to 177,635 acres.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the City Council-approved Smart Ranch conservation easement had been delayed for two years but will be ready to close within the next few months.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that site visits would be scheduled later in the year for CAB members to visit some of the UTSA water quality projects funded by EAPP through the 2015 Proposition 1 program. Mr. Covington also stated that another visit could possibly be scheduled at Edwards Aquifer Authority's Education Outreach Center which was constructed at Morgan's Wonderland Camp.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the terms of all the CAB members would expire at the end of the month and that each member would need to submit a new application for reappointment.
- Mr. Phillip Covington highlighted that it was Grant Ellis' birthday and wished him a great day.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Briefing and update on University of Texas at San Antonio's (UTSA) Proposition 1 funded water quality project (Roadway Vegetation): San Antonio River Authority and UTSA
 - a. The UTSA research staff represented by Dr. Jeffrey Hutchinson and Dr. Vikram Kapoor provided an overview of the Roadway Vegetation demonstration project. The UTSA research staff stated that the project evaluated soil and vegetation composition and density along roadways in the Edwards Recharge and Contributing Zones of Bexar County for control of sediments, nutrients, as well as pollutants. The UTSA research staff made recommendations of xeric species of vegetation most adaptable to roadway conditions based on the data collected.
2. Discussion and update regarding the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III: The Nature Conservancy
 - a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III for stage 2 approval.
3. Discussion & Update regarding the Melissa Bendele Ranch property: Green Spaces Alliance

- a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Melissa Bendele Ranch for final approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:45 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 2:09 pm.

4. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 2 and 3.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 2 approval on the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for final approval on the Melissa Bendele Ranch. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington provided an updated copy of the expenditure report that included the Morrow Ranch conservation easement which would be considered by City Council on June 1, 2023. Mr. Covington stated that upon acquiring the Morrow Ranch conservation easement, the 2015 Proposition 1 remaining balance would be under \$1 million. Mr. Covington also stated that after the Melissa Bendele Ranch acquisition the program would begin using the Municipal Facilities Corporation funds. Mr. Covington presented an updated expense tracker to reflect the Littleton Ranch would close at the end of the month, Morrow Ranch would be presented to City Council on June 1st and the Smart Ranch that would be closed later this year.

6. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that there were no updates to report.

7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – June 28, 2023, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:12 pm.