

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

December 6, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Agency Represented
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks & Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson via Web Ex	<i>Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn via WebEx	<i>Medina County</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
David Bernal, Management Analyst, EAPP
Steve Whitworth, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Nic Maloukis	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

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 October 25, 2023, meeting. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Covington stated that the Moos Ranch Phase II conservation easement closed and added 627 acres to the EAPP protected acreage. Mr. Covington also stated that the current protected acreage under the program was 179,528 acres.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that City Council approved the Scenic Loop property acquisition and Middle Verde Ranch Phase III conservation easement on November 30, 2023. Mr. Covington also stated that the acquisitions were expected to close later in the month and the total protected acreage for the program would be 182,222 acres.
- Mr. Covington announced that this would be Steve Graham's last CAB meeting as he would be retiring in January 2024. Mr. Steve Graham stated that Ms. Karen Bishop would serve as the interim San Antonio River Authority representative in a non-voting capacity.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that discussion regarding the Triesch Ranch and Toepperwein Ranch would be tabled for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Discussion and update regarding the Sycamore Creek (Eastman) Ranch, Triesch Ranch and Gilleland Ranch Phase II: The Nature Conservancy
 - a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Sycamore Creek (Eastman) Ranch for final approval.
 - b. The Triesch Ranch was tabled for discussion.
 - b. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Gilleland Ranch Phase II for stage 2 approval.
2. Discussion and update regarding the Toepperwein Ranch: Green Spaces Alliance
 - a. The Toepperwein Ranch was tabled for discussion.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:18 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 1:50 pm.

3. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 1 and 2.
 - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
 - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for final approval of the Sycamore Creek (Eastman) Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - No action was taken on Gilleland Ranch Phase II.
4. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report for the San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation funding. Pending closings on Scenic Loop property and the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III were reflected which are included in the fiscal year 2024 budget. Some due diligence expenses were reflected along with expenditures associated with the 2015 Proposition 1 funded demonstration projects. Mr. Covington also presented an updated expense tracker which reflects status of all the current projects, appraisals, and due diligence expenses since the last CAB meeting.
5. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates and that monitoring visits were wrapping up for the year.
6. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – January 24, 2024, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:55 pm.