

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

## **MINUTES**

February 28, 2024

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Agency Represented</b>
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks &amp; Recreation Board</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia via WebEx	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Thomas Marsalia	<i>Edwards Aquifer 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Brent Doty	Edwards Aquifer Authority
Joseph Plappert via WebEx	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Brian Mast	San Antonio River Authority

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:03 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 January 24, 2024, meeting. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of an edited version of the minutes. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. Motion carried.

### **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Scenic Loop property was pending payment via wire transfer from the Department of Defense and an extension on the option to purchase

agreement was in place until April 1, 2024. Mr. Covington also stated that the acquisition would bring an additional 156 acres acquired under the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP).

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Sycamore Springs conservation easement was scheduled for City Council consideration on the March 7<sup>th</sup> A Session agenda and with approval of that property the closing would be targeted for later in March or early April.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that Mr. Homer Garcia was attending the Texas Recreation & Parks Society conference and would join the CAB meeting virtually.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that an update and briefing on the EAPP would take place at the B Session on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM and that the presentation would be given by Mr. Homer Garcia and Mr. Grant Ellis.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the 2023 financial disclosure reports were due on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and that he would assist those who still needed to submit a report to the Office of the City Clerk.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that Mr. Brian Mast would be replacing Mr. Steve Graham as the San Antonio River Authority representative on the CAB and pending City Council consideration on March 21<sup>st</sup> and would officially join the board at the March meeting.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that due to an item that required the recusal of a CAB member, the Hilthon Ranch would be presented first and go into open session and closed session and voting on that item before proceeding on another round of consideration for the Gilleland Ranch item.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

1. Discussion and update regarding the Hilthon Ranch and Gilleland Ranch Phase II projects: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Hilthon Ranch for final approval.

## **Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:09 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 1:35 pm.**

2. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda item 1.
  - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
    - Dr. Russell Persyn motioned for final approval on the 346.71 tract of the Hilthon Ranch. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
1. Discussion and update regarding the Hilthon Ranch and Gilleland Ranch Phase II projects: The Nature Conservancy – Part 2
  - b. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Gilleland Ranch Phase II for stage 2 approval. Mr. Radar Gilliland recused himself from the presentation and discussion.

**Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:38 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 2:25 pm.**

2. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda item 1.
  - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
    - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval of the Gilleland Ranch Phase II. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
3. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report and cited the most recent expenditures were centered around the 2015 Proposition I Demonstration Projects. Mr. Covington also presented an updated expense tracker which reflected due diligence expenses on projects such as the Scenic Loop conservation easement which is still pending closing and also pending City Council consideration on the Sycamore Springs conservation easement.
4. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that there were no updates to report on the monitoring visits and that monitoring had begun again for the year.
5. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – March 27, 2024, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:31 pm.