

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

## **MINUTES**

October 25, 2023

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Agency Represented</b>
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks &amp; Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Melinda Cerda for Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Thomas Marsalia	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty	<i>San Antonio Water System</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  
 Victoria Shum, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Myfe Moore	Citizen
Larry Dodson	Compatible Lands Foundation via Web Ex

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 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 27, 2023, meeting. Mr. Thomas Marsalia motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. Motion carried.

## **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Smart Ranch and D & M Bendele Ranch conservation easements both closed at the end of September. Mr. Covington also stated that total protected acreage for the program was officially 178,901 acres.
- Mr. Covington stated that the Moos Ranch Phase II conservation easement was approved by City Council on October 19, 2023. Mr. Covington also stated that once the program closed on the conservation easement that would bring another 627 acres into the program.
- Mr. Covington reported that the first Scientific Evaluation Team (SET) meeting took place on October 23, 2023. Mr. Covington stated that the SET began discussing possible updates to the SET's GIS spatial model and reviewed the scope of work for the solicitation which is targeted for release in January 2024.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

1. Discussion and update regarding the Dutton Ranch and Roland Smith Ranch projects: The Nature Conservancy
  - a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Dutton Ranch for stage 1 approval.
  - b. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Roland Smith Ranch for stage 1 approval.
2. Discussion and update regarding the Scenic Loop Property, TCW Helotes Ranch, and Marnoch Road projects: EAPP Staff
  - a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Scenic Loop property for final approval.
  - b. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the TCW Helotes Ranch for stage 1 approval.
  - c. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Marnoch Road property for stage 1 approval.

### **Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:24 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 1:29 pm.**

3. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 1 and 2.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
    - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 1 approval of the TCW Helotes Ranch project. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for stage 1 approval of the Roland Smith Ranch project. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Thomas Marsalia motioned for stage 1 approval of the Dutton Ranch project. Mr. Radar Gilleland seconded. No further discussion. Mr. Halty voted nay; all other CAB members present voted aye. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for final approval of the Scenic Loop property project. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 1 approval of the Marnoch Road property project. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
4. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report which reflected refunds for a due diligence item and closing costs on the D&M Bendele Ranch. Mr. Covington stated that most of the remaining balance of \$246,000 from the Proposition 1 funding would go toward the interlocal agreement between the EAPP and the Edwards Aquifer Authority for fiscal year 2024. Mr. Covington also stated that the expenditure report was updated to reflect the closing next month of the Moos Ranch Phase II conservation easement and minor due diligence costs on the line items for current projects.
5. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that annual monitoring inspections were wrapping up for the year except for a few property inspections which needed to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.
6. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – December 6, 2023, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:38 pm.