

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

May 25, 2022

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	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Thomas Marsalia for Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)</i>
Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority (SARA)</i>
Mr. Scott Halty for Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System (SAWS)</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn (via WebEx)	<i>Medina County</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation
Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)
Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP
David Bernal, Management Analyst, EAPP
Victoria Shum, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
Melissa Ramirez, Assistant Director, Development Services
Monique Mercado, Principal Planner, Development Services
Logan Sparrow, Policy Administrator, Development Services

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Dr. Sheeba Thomas	San Antonio River Authority

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 April 27, 2022, meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that EAPP had closed on the Galewsky Ranch conservation easement on May 2, 2022.
- Mr. Covington stated that the Pearce Ranch conservation easement would be presented to City Council for consideration and approval on June 16, 2022.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Briefing on the Leon Creek Watershed Water Quality Model and Analysis: San Antonio River Authority

- a. Dr. Sheeba Thomas presented an overview of the results from an updated water quality model and analysis of the Leon Creek watershed. Dr. Thomas stated that the model projected a future increase in impervious cover and the model would allow for understanding how development would affect the water bodies in the area. Dr. Thomas also stated that the water bodies are monitored and measured against the most stringent water quality standards. Dr. Thomas stated that the model focused on use of best management practices in critical areas of potential impact to the watershed where such improvement strategies when implemented could aid the most in water quality protection.

2. Discussion & Update regarding Request for Qualifications for Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) Land Acquisition Assistance: City Staff

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented an update on the Request for Qualifications of the LAT services for the EAPP and future City Council consideration of Professional Services Agreements. Mr. Covington stated that there were two qualified applicants and that both would be presented to City Council for consideration and approval based on the recommendation on the review of the evaluation committee.

3. Briefing on EAPP Land Acquisition and Evaluation Process: City Staff

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented a brief overview of the EAPP acquisition and property evaluation process and distributed a one-page summary for reference. Mr. Covington stated that the evaluation process included property modeling/ranking, CAB review, due diligence and final approval by CAB & City Council.

4. Discussion & Updates regarding the Hampton and Moos Ranches: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Hampton Ranch for stage 2 approval.

- b. Mr. Francell presented the Moos Ranch for stage 2 approval.
5. Discussion regarding proposed transfer of operations and management of Crane Bat Cave Property from EAPP to Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP): City Development Services Department
- a. Melissa Ramirez presented an overview of the proposed management transfer of the Crane Bat Cave to the SEP-HCP from the EAPP. Ms. Ramirez stated that there would be 100% reimbursement of the cost for the fee simple acquisition amount paid by the EAPP. Ms. Ramirez also stated that the SEP-HCP was considered on the City Council's agenda the previous day and recommended for approval.

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 2:28 pm.

6. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda items 2, 4 & 5.
- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and a roll call was taken to ensure a quorum and a vote on the motion:
 - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for acceptance of the proposal to transfer operations and management of Crane Bat Cave Property from EAPP to the SEP-HCP and reimbursement of \$2,059,144.18 to the EAPP. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for conditional stage 2 approval on the Highway 211/Hampton property with direction provided to the LAT by CAB in Executive Session. Mr. Homer Garcia seconded. Ms. Jessica Alderson recused. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for stage 2 approval on the Moos Ranch Phase 1 2,262 acres with the option for acquisition within two years of a Phase II 622 acres. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Homer Garcia motioned for approval on the solicitation for the LAT associated with the EAPP beginning in FY 2023 through the alternative funding plan. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

7. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated expenditure report reflected the Galewsky Ranch which closed on May 2, 2002. Mr. Covington stated that there was approximately \$10.5 million remaining for additional acquisitions under the 2015 Proposition I program. Mr. Covington also stated that updates were made to the water quality projects and that the \$10 million had been fully committed minus a small remaining balance which could be used for contingency. Mr. Covington presented an updated Acquisition Tracker with a new format for ease of reference. Mr. Covington also stated that the Pearce property would be taken to City Council for consideration in June.
8. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that there were no updates on the annual monitoring site visits.
9. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – June 22, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:38 pm.