

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

August 24, 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 (via WebEx) | <i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i> |
| 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> |
| Mr. Rogelio Garcia | <i>Greater SATX</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
Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office (via WebEx)

GUESTS PRESENT

| Name | Organization |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Jeff Francell | The Nature Conservancy |
| Rebecca Neill | The Nature Conservancy |
| Doug Dillow | Green Spaces Alliance |
| Clay Thompson | Green Spaces Alliance |

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Chairwoman Francine Romero. Roll call was taken by Dr. Romero. Ms. Jessica Alderson joined the meeting at 1:13 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Romero asked for approval of the minutes for the June 22, 2022, meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Covington stated that the seven Fern Springs Ranch conservation easements were presented to City Council on August 11, 2022. The Dillingham Ranch and Mikeska Ranch conservation easements were presented to City Council on August 18, 2022. Mr. Covington

stated that all nine conservation easements were approved by City Council. Upon closing, these acquisitions would bring the total protected acreage for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to 175,104 acres.

- Mr. Covington stated that Mr. Homer Garcia presented the Parks & Recreation budget to City Council as part of the FY 2023 budget. Mr. Covington also stated that \$10 million was earmarked from the general fund for the EAPP and would become available October 1, 2022.
- Mr. Covington stated he would present an overview of the EAPP at the 2022 Private Lands Conservation Forum next month.
- Mr. Covington reminded CAB members that MLI training for August needed to be completed before the end of the month.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Discussion regarding Edwards Aquifer Protection Program water study and model update:

Edwards Aquifer Authority

a. Mr. Paul Bertetti presented an overview of an assessment model designed by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). Mr. Bertetti stated that the EAA would proceed with the development of a model/tool which would allow for selections on possible acquisitions for their easement program. He also stated that the model would assist in property assessment for possible acquisition by the EAPP. Mr. Bertetti suggested that the EAA could hold off on solicitation to edit the scope of work, ensure validation of data and prepare the information so that it could be shared on a comprehensible level.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Swain Ranch, Froboese Ranches and Sycamore Creek Ranch:

The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Swain Ranch for final approval.
- b. Mr. Francell presented the Froboese Ranches (East Partition) for stage 2 approval.
- c. Mr. Francell presented the Sycamore Creek (Eastman) Ranch for stage 1 approval.

3. Discussion & Update regarding the Schneider Property, Littleton Ranch and Synergy Ranch:

Green Spaces Alliance

- a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Schneider property for final approval.

- b. Mr. Thompson presented the Littleton property for stage 2 approval.
 - c. Mr. Thompson presented the Synergy Ranch for stage 1 approval.
4. Discussion & Update regarding the Hampton Property and Bulverde Road Property: City Staff
- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented an update on the Hampton Ranch.
 - b. Mr. Covington presented the Bulverde Road property for stage 1 approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 2:12 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 2:30 pm.

5. Action on proposed items and acquisitions from Agenda items 1-4.
- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and a roll call was taken to ensure a quorum and a vote on the motion:
 - Mr. Steven Graham motioned for final approval of the Swain Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 approval on the Sycamore Creek (Eastman) Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval on the Littleton Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on the Schneider property. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Synergy Ranch. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for the stage 1 A geological evaluation approval on the Bulverde Road property. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
6. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated expenditure report that reflected closure of the conservation easement on the Pearce Ranch and City Council approval of the seven Fern Springs Ranches along with Dillingham Ranch and Mikeska Ranch. Mr. Covington provided an updated spending plan which listed the remaining acquisitions.

7. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage provided an update on the ESS Ranch conservation easement and stated that the landowner would address unpermitted disposal of construction material on the property.
8. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – September 28, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority. The November/December CAB meeting was scheduled for November 30, 2022.

Adjournment at 2:40 pm.