

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

## **MINUTES**

November 30, 2022

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Agency Represented</b>
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks &amp; Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia via WebEx	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<i>Medina County</i>
Mr. Rader Gilleland	<i>Uvalde County</i>

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP  
David Bernal via WebEx, Management Analyst, EAPP  
Victoria Shum, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Casey Cowen, Park Naturalist, Parks & Recreation

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Thomas Marsalia	EAA

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:12 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 26, 2022, meeting. Dr. Russell Persyn motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

### **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington announced that Mr. Brock Curry would be retiring from the EAA and this would be the last meeting as a member of the board.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the total protected acreage for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to 174,840 acres. Mr. Covington also stated that conservation

easements have closed on Fern Springs' Divisions 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7. He also stated that the Hampton property conservation easement closed, in partnership with the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) and is now part of the Government Canyon State Natural Area. Mr. Covington also stated the closing on the Schneider property would occur on December 9th, and the Swain Ranch conservation easement would close on December 14th.

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that he and Homer Garcia would be attending the Community Health & Equity Meeting on December 13, 2022 as Development Services Department would present the proposed transfer for maintenance and operation of the Crane Bat Cave property for City Council consideration in January 2023. Mr. Covington also stated that, if approved, this transaction would reimburse the EAPP for the \$2 million originally spend to acquire the property in 2020 and those funds would be returned to the 2015 Proposition 1 fund.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the San Antonio Municipal Utility District (SA MUD) had expressed interest in donating a conservation easement on approximately 50 acres to the EAPP and would be presented at an upcoming meeting.
- Mr. Phillip Covington welcomed Mr. Rader Gilleland and introduced him as the new Uvalde County representative.
- Mr. Phillip Covington reminded CAB members that the Municipal Leadership Institute training required for all City board and commission members would need to be completed by November 30th.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens to be heard.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### **1. Briefing and Update on Texas A&M University San Antonio and University of Texas at San Antonio's Proposition 1-funded water quality projects: City Staff**

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented an update on the two water quality projects. Both project teams have requested administrative no-cost term extensions for their funding agreements to complete the scope of their projects which are both currently set to expire on December 31, 2022. Mr. Covington stated that the Texas A&M University project team has asked for a seven-month extension to complete the required first responder training modules. Mr. Covington also stated that the University of Texas at San Antonio project team has requested

a five-month extension on their roadway vegetation and pollutant removal study due to lack of precipitation.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Morrow Ranch: The Nature Conservancy
  - a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Morrow Ranch Addition for final approval.
3. Discussion & Update regarding the Seco Valley Ranch and Littleton Property: Green Spaces
  - a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Seco Valley Ranch for stage 2 approval.
  - b. Mr. Thompson presented the Littleton property for final approval.

**Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:37 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 2:03 pm.**

4. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda items 2 and 3.
  - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
    - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on the Morrow Ranch Addition. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the Seco Valley Ranch. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on the Littleton property. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the EAPP spending plan for the remaining balance of the 2015 Proposition 1 program which reflected the acquisition of the Hampton Ranch conservation easement and the upcoming closings of the Schneider property and Swain Ranch conservation easements. Mr. Covington also stated that the Morrow Ranch and Littleton property conservation easements would be targeted for City Council consideration in January and the Moos Ranch approved last month would not be presented to City Council until the Crane Bat Cave property reimbursement was received from the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan. He also stated that the Stoner Ranch and Seco Valley Ranch conservation easements were two acquisitions proposed for the new funding program to start in 2023. He stated that a total of about 7,000 acres could potentially be protected in FY 2023.
6. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates to report.

7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – January 25, 2022,  
at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:16 pm.