

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

## **MINUTES**

January 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. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Dept.</i>
Ms. Karen Bishop for Mr. Steve Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Scott Halty for Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System</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

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Thomas Marsalia	Edwards Aquifer Authority
Deborah Reid	Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Marcio Giacomoni	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Gian Villarreal	Seagull PME

### **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 November 30, 2022, meeting. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

## **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that Fern Springs Ranch Divisions 2 & 3 were closing soon and would bring the total amount of to 175,293 acres of land protected under the EAPP.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that Mr. Thomas Marsalia would be appointed to represent the Edwards Aquifer Authority on CAB upon approval by City Council on January 26th.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Crane Bat Cave transfer to Development Services Department as part of the Southern Edwards Plateau-Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP) and was scheduled for City Council consideration on January 26th. Mr. Covington also stated that the SEP-HCP was planning to establish a karst fauna preserve and would reimburse the EAPP the \$2 million that would go back to the 2015 Proposition 1 program funds.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated the election of CAB officers would have to be done since Mr. Brock Curry retired and at minimum a new Vice Chair would need to be elected.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens to be heard.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

1. Briefing and update on Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance's (GEAA) Proposition 1-funded water quality project: San Antonio River Authority & GEAA
  - a. Ms. Deborah Reid presented an overview of the final report for the Lorence Creek Stormwater Retrofit and research water quality project. Ms. Reid stated that there were important observations made and had recommendations for future research.
2. Briefing and update on University of Texas at San Antonio's (UTSA) Proposition 1-funded water quality project (LID Test Bed): San Antonio River Authority & UTSA
  - a. Dr. Marcio Giacomoni presented an overview of the final report for the Low Impact Development Test Bed at the University of Texas San Antonio Main Campus. Dr. Giacomoni stated that the LID project included many student activities involved with maintenance, lab work and presentations as well as development of education modules. Dr. Giacomoni stated that project recommendations were made to TCEQ, explained the results of the project, and listed possible future research projects.

3. Discussion & update on proposed EAPP Land Acquisition Team Professional Services Agreements:  
EAPP Staff

a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented an overview of the solicitation for the Land Acquisition Team (LAT) services. Mr. Covington stated that there are two LAT service agreements which are The Nature Conservancy and Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas that run concurrently with the 2015 Proposition I funds and would end with the full expenditure of the funding this spring. Mr. Covington also stated that two responses were received from the solicitation and recommended to secure professional services agreements with the selected vendors. Mr. Covington stated that negotiation of Professional Services Agreements is underway. An adjustment in the compensation scale was recommended in consideration of the City's insurance requirements and inflation.

4. Discussion and update regarding the Moos Ranch Phase II and Middle Verde Ranch Phase III properties: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Moos Ranch Phase II for stage 2 approval.
- b. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III for stage 1 approval.

5. Discussion and update regarding the San Antonio MUD No. 1 Phase II properties: EAPP Staff

a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented a proposal from San Antonio Municipal Utility District No. 1 to donate a conservation easement on four parcels totaling approximately 55 acres for stage 1 approval. Mr. Covington stated that the EAPP would only be responsible for due diligence expenses and closing costs since the easement would be donated.

**Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 2:02 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 2:19 pm.**

6. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
  - Mr. Homer Garcia motioned for approval on the EAPP Land Acquisition Team Professional Services Agreements. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval on the Moos Ranch Phase II. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

- Mr. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
7. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report that included all the Fern Springs properties, the Hampton property, and the Swain property. Mr. Covington stated that there were a few expenditures for the water quality demonstration projects. Mr. Covington also presented an updated expense report which included the Littleton Ranch, Morrow Ranch, and Moos Ranch pending City Council consideration and Fern Springs Divisions 2 and 3 which were scheduled to close January 27<sup>th</sup> and which also provides due diligence expenses for the projects.
  8. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that the annual inspections had recently begun for this year and that there were no updates to report.
  9. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – February 22, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:29 pm.