

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

## **MINUTES**

February 22, 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>
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 for Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Rogelio Garcia	<i>Greater SATX</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn via WebEx	<i>Medina County</i>
Mr. Rader Gilleland	<i>Uvalde 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

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 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 January 25, 2023 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 there are currently 175,293 acres of land protected under the EAPP and closings had occurred on Fern Springs Ranch Divisions II & III.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Moos Ranch and Littleton Ranch conservation easements and the Land Acquisition Team Professional Services Agreements would be presented to City Council on the March 23, 2023 Council agenda.
- Mr. Phillip Covington reminded CAB members that Financial Disclosure Reports were due to the Office of the City Clerk on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens to be heard.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

1. Election of Vice Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board
  - a. Dr. Francine Romero motioned for the nomination of Mr. Steve Graham for Vice Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Board. Dr. Romero opened the floor for a second or for other nominations. Mr. Homer Garcia seconded the nomination of Mr. Graham for Vice Chair. Dr. Romero called for a voice vote on the nomination of Mr. Graham for Vice Chair. Motion passed.
2. Discussion & Update regarding the Gilleland Ranch Phase II and Hilthon Ranch properties: The Nature Conservancy
  - a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Gilleland Ranch Phase II for stage 1 approval.
  - b. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Hilthon Ranch for stage I approval.
3. Discussion & Update regarding the Melissa Bendele Ranch: Green Spaces Alliance
  - a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Melissa Bendele Ranch for stage 2 approval.
4. Discussion & Update regarding the Scenic Loop property: EAPP Staff
  - a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Scenic Loop property for stage 1 approval.

## **Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:15 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 1:17 pm.**

5. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
  - Mr. Thomas Marsalia motioned for stage 1 approval on the Gilleland Ranch Phase II. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Mr. Rader Gilleland was recused from the item. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Hilthon Ranch. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval on the Melissa Bendele Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Scenic Loop property. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

6. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report that included the remaining balance for the Proposition I 2015 funding but that excludes the \$2 million EAPP was reimbursed for the Crane Bat Cave property. Mr. Covington stated that with the acquisitions of Moos Ranch and Littleton Ranch in March it would lower the remaining balance to approximately \$2 million. Mr. Covington also presented an updated expense tracker report to include due diligence for the properties currently being evaluated and those properties recommended for approval by the CAB such as the Moos Ranch and Littleton Ranch.

7. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates to report as the monthly inspections had recently begun for the year.

8. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – March 22, 2023, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:30 pm.