

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

April 26, 2023

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. 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>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<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
Victoria Shum, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Dr. Janis Bush	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Dr. Brian Laub	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Lani May	The University of Texas at San Antonio
John Villarreal	Seagull PME

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 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 February 22, 2023 meeting. Dr. Russell Persyn motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. Minutes approved. Motion carried. Dr. Romero stated that the March CAB meeting was cancelled.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the EAPP has closed on the Moos Ranch conservation easement project and 177,561 acres have now been protected under the program.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Morrow property conservation easement would be presented to City Council on the June 1, 2023.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Littleton property conservation easement would close in May.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Classen-Steubing Park would soon open to the public. The park boundary required encroachment into the conservation easement area. The 160-acre conservation easement boundary will be revised and documented via a new survey as permitted under the conservation easement which is held and monitored by Edwards Aquifer Authority.
- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Edwards Aquifer Conservancy will hold a gala on Saturday, May 13th, and will present an award to the City of San Antonio in recognition of the City's conveyance of 151 acres acquired as part of the Morgan's Wonderland Camp conservation easement project. The conveyed property is now being used as part of the EAA Field Research Park and a conservation easement is held by the City.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Briefing and update on University of Texas at San Antonio's (UTSA) Proposition 1 funded water quality project (Rooftop Retrofit)
 - a. Dr. Brian Laub presented an overview of the UTSA Main Campus Rooftop Retrofit demonstration project. He stated that the project was completed and provided the results of the project. Dr. Laub and Ms. Lani May gave recommendations based on the findings of the project such as construction of the bioretention basins should be done by persons knowledgeable about the materials as well as to communicate what specifications need to be met to begin the project based on the LID guidance manual. Dr. Laub stated that the overall value of the project was worth the cost and should be incorporated in other venues such as other college campuses. Dr. Janis Bush stated that the Department of Integrated Biology was helped by the students who formed the Bioswale Brigade which maintain and lead educational tours of the project.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Sycamore Creek and Triesch Ranch: The Nature Conservancy
 - a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Sycamore Creek Ranch stage 2 approval.
 - b. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Triesch Ranch for stage 1 approval.
3. Discussion & Update regarding the Bryant Ranch property: Green Spaces Alliance
 - a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Bryant Ranch for stage 1 approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:51 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 1:58 pm.

4. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 2 and 3.
 - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
 - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 1 approval on the Triesch Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Bryant Ranch. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for stage 2 approval on the Sycamore Creek Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expense tracker that included the closing of Moos Ranch, the projected closing of Littleton Ranch in May and Morrow which is on the City Council June 1st agenda. Mr. Covington also presented updates to some current projects to reflect due diligence on the expense tracker. He also presented an updated expense report to reflect the Moos Ranch and Littleton property conservation easements. Mr. Covington stated that when the Morrow Ranch acquisition takes place the 2015 Prop 1 balance would be under \$1 million. Mr. Covington also stated that with the next acquisition into the program the Municipal Facilities Corporation funding would need to be used, which would either be the Melissa Bendele Ranch or Seco Valley Ranch. Mr. Covington presented an updated spending plan for the 2015 Proposition 1 funds to reflect the Melissa Bendele Ranch and Seco Valley projected use of the Municipal Facilities Corporation funds and a list of projects that may be funded in fiscal year 2024. Mr. Covington requested a hold on any new projects until later this calendar year as a large number of projects are currently under evaluation.

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 – May 24, 2023, at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 2:25 pm.