

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

September 27, 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	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Rader Gilleland	<i>Uvalde County</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<i>Medina County</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation
Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)
Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP
Victoria Shum, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Nic Maloukis	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Joseph Plappert	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Adela Kern	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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 August 23, 2023 meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that closing was scheduled for the 217-acre Smart Ranch conservation easement on September 28, 2023. Closing on the 650-acre D&M Bendele Ranch (aka Melissa Bendele Ranch) was scheduled to close on September 29, 2023. With these closings, the protected acreage for the program will be 178,901 acres at the end of Fiscal Year 2023.
- Mr. Covington reported the EAPP team is coordinating a meeting with the Scientific Evaluation Team (SET) to begin discussing the scope of work for a solicitation to select a contractor that will update the EAPP's GIS spatial model used to evaluate properties for protection through the program. The SET meeting is targeted to occur in October with a goal of releasing the solicitation in January 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Discussion and update regarding the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III and Hilthon Ranch projects: The Nature Conservancy
 - a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III for final approval.
 - b. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Hilthon Ranch for stage 2 approval.
2. Discussion and update regarding the Bryant Ranch project: Green Spaces Alliance
 - a. Mr. Clay Thompson presented the Bryant Ranch for stage 2 approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session started at 1:13 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 1:31 pm.

3. Action on proposed acquisition from Agenda Items 1 and 2.
 - Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions:
 - Mr. Steve Graham motioned for final approval of the Middle Verde Ranch Phase III project. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

- Mr. Steve Graham motioned for stage 2 approval of the Hilthon Ranch project. Mr. Thomas Marsalia seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- Mr. Thomas Marsalia motioned for stage 2 approval of the Bryant Ranch project. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

4. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented an updated copy of the expenditure report which included the approval of the D&M Bendele Ranch as the first acquisition using the San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation funding. Mr. Covington stated that the updated expense report reflects a small remaining balance of 2015 Proposition 1 funding in the amount of \$246,141 will be applied toward Edwards Aquifer Authority's interlocal agreement for contractual services in Fiscal Year 2024.

5. Monitoring status report: Ms. Susan Courage stated that there were no updates to report.

6. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – October 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm, at the San Antonio River Authority.

Adjournment at 1:38 pm.