

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

## **MINUTES**

January 27, 2021

### **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. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Stephen Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<i>Medina County</i>

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Melinda Cerdá, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation  
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  
Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Kelsey Scherschel, Special Projects Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Victoria Shoemaker, Senior Advisor, Mayor's Office

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Kyle Garmany	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Matthew Fischer	Green Spaces Alliance
Scott Halty	San Antonio Water System
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Karen Bishop	San Antonio River Authority
Meera Keshav	San Antonio River Authority
Kyle Kaspar	Landowner

### **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 December 2, 2020 meeting. Dr. Russell Persyn motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Steve Graham seconded. Dr. Romero called for a voice vote. Approval of the minutes was unanimous. Motion carried.

## **ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the 1,603-acre Brown Ranch conservation easement in Kendall County closed on December 15, 2020 with the 1,603-acre property increasing the total land protected to 163,114 acres under the EAPP.
- Mr. Covington stated that the Hilton Ranch and Shut-In Ranch conservation easements were approved by the City Council at the Council meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. He also stated that the projected closing of both conservation easements would occur in February and bring the total land protected to 163,736 acres.
- Mr. Covington stated that Financial Disclosure Reports are due on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens to be heard.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

1. Briefing on status of Proposition I water quality projects: San Antonio River Authority
  - a. Mr. Covington stated that Ms. Karen Bishop with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) would provide an overview and status of the currently funded water quality projects. Ms. Bishop presented details on the current and completed water quality projects and those projects that requested an extension on their completion timelines. Ms. Bishop stated that there would be a single action item at the end of the presentation that would extend completion timelines, identify the two top ranking projects from the most recent request for proposals and coordinate presentations for the next CAB meeting. Dr. Romero opened for a vote on the motion. Dr. Russell Persyn motioned. Mr. Steven Graham seconded. Dr. Romero began a roll call vote. Ms. Jessica Anderson voted yes. Mr. Homer Garcia had suggested for the original motion be split into two separate motion items. Dr. Romero inquired with Mr. Steve Whitworth as how to move forward as a vote had already begun on the original motion. The remaining CAB members present voted no on the single motion. The original motion was not passed. Ms. Bishop also stated that a

third motion item that would extend the CoSA and SARA Inter Local Agreement (ILA) be considered by the CAB. The CAB discussed three separate motions.

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and roll call votes were taken:
  - Dr. Russell Persyn motioned for CoSA and SARA staff proceed with the ILA contract extension for the SARA. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Dr. Persyn motioned for the CoSA and SARA staff to proceed with executing contract extensions for the projects presented. Mr. Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Dr. Persyn motioned to authorize the CoSA and SARA staff to proceed with identification of the top two ranking projects from proposals submitted by the 12/30/2020 application deadline and to coordinate a presentation for each of those proposals for the February 2021 CAB meeting. Mr. Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Ellen White Ranch: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Ellen White Ranch for stage 2 approval.

3. Discussion & Update regarding the Harris, Curd, High Places & Smith Ranches: Green Spaces Alliance

- a. Mr. Matthew Fischer presented the Harris Ranch for stage 1 approval.
- b. Mr. Fischer presented the Curd Ranch for stage 1 approval.
- c. Mr. Fischer presented the High Places Ranch for stage 2 approval.
- d. Mr. Fischer presented the Smith Ranch for final approval.

4. Discussion & Update regarding the Arbolada Project & Stoner Ranch: City Staff

- a. Mr. Phillip Covington presented the Arbolada Project for stage 1 approval.
- b. Mr. Covington presented the Stoner Ranch for stage 1 approval.

**Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session at 1:59 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 at 2:25 pm.**

5. Action on proposed acquisitions in Bexar, Medina, and/or Uvalde Counties:

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and a roll call was taken to ensure a quorum and a vote on the motion:
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 approval on the Curd Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
    - Dr. Russell Persyn recused himself from the vote.
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the Ellen White Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the High Places Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1 approval on the Stoner Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on the Smith Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 approval on the Arbolada Project. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
  - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 approval on the Harris Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

6. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the 2015 program budget was updated to include the closing of the Brown Ranch conservation easement on December 15<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that the Hilton Ranch & Shut-In Ranch conservation easements which were approved on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Covington presented the current funding committed to the demonstration projects and provided a remaining balance of \$23 million. He also presented the expenditure report which reflected the Brown Ranch conservation easement, the approval by City Council of the Hilton & Shut-In Ranches, the Marshall Smith conservation easement and regular due diligence for properties in the cue.

7. Monitoring status report: Mr. Covington stated that the annual monitoring visits had just begun for the year and that there were no issues to report at this time.

8. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – February 24, 2021 at 1:00 pm, via a virtual meeting.

9. Adjournment at 2:39 pm.