

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

December 2, 2020

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	<i>COSA Parks & 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>
Mr. Rogelio Garcia	<i>San Antonio Economic Development Foundation</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<i>Medina County</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Melinda Cerda, 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
Victoria Shum, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
Victoria Shoemaker, Senior Advisor, Mayor's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Francell	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
Allison Elder	San Antonio River Authority
Dr. Ron Green	Southwest Research Institute
Mauricio Flores	Southwest Research Institute
Dr. Doug Schnoebelen	U.S. Geological Survey
Dr. Steve Opshal	U.S. Geological Survey
Namjeong Choi	U.S. Geological Survey
Cassi Crow	U.S. Geological Survey
Kyle Kaspar	Landowner

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairwoman Romero. Roll call was called by Dr. Romero.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Romero asked for approval of the minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of the minutes. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. Dr. Romero completed a roll call vote. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Covington stated that the Monier Ranch conservation easement closing occurred on October 16th and with that a total of 161,511 acres was protected under the EAPP.
- Mr. Covington stated that the Brown Ranch conservation easement was approved by City Council on November 12th. Mr. Covington also stated that closing was tentatively set for December 15th on the 1,603-acre property which will increase the total land protected under the EAPP would be 163,114 acres.
- Mr. Covington stated that the San Antonio River Authority's request for water quality projects had been extended and would close at the end of December.
- Mr. Covington stated the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) grant application opportunity for the proposed Bexar Ranch conservation easement acquisition in northwestern Bexar County would be postponed to allow time for due diligence to be completed. A stronger proposal may be prepared and submitted in 2021 to the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program next summer when the next application period opens.

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 updates on two water quality projects would be provided by Dr. Ron Green with the Southwest Research Institute and Dr. Doug Schnoebelen and Dr. Steve Opsahl with the U.S. Geological Survey. Mr. Covington also stated that Ms. Karen Bishop with the San Antonio River Authority would be available for questions about the projects as well. Dr. Green presented an update with results on the development of an

integrated surface-water/groundwater model for the Helotes Creek Watershed of northwest Bexar County. He described that the model would help answer the question of what impact would wastewater disposal practices such as on-site sewage facilities, Texas Land Application facilities, and Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems have on the quality of recharge to an area of the Edwards Aquifer found entirely contained in Bexar County. Dr. Green fielded various questions from the CAB members. Dr. Opsahl presented an update with results of a study that would characterize the connection between stormwater runoff and ground water quality in the Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer in Bexar County. He stated that there was a need to understand how the quality of surface water affected the quality of the groundwater in regions with best management practices in place. Dr. Opsahl also stated the study assessed how the Edwards Aquifer would respond to stormwater runoff as it related to water quality for different urbanized areas within Bexar County.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Klaus Ranch & Jagge-Foley II: The Nature Conservancy
 - a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Klaus Ranch for final approval.
 - b. Mr. Bezanson presented the Jagge-Foley II properties for final approval.
3. Discussion & Update regarding the Henderson Property & Highplaces Ranch: Green Spaces Alliance
 - a. Mr. Matthew Fischer presented the Henderson Property for stage 2 approval.
 - b. Mr. Fischer presented the Highplaces Ranch for stage 1 – B appraisal approval.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session at 2:12 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 2:23 pm.

4. 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 final approval on the Klaus Ranch. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

- Mr. Brock Curry motioned for final approval on Jagge-Foley II. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the Henderson property. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 1-B approval on the Highplaces Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the 2015 program budget was updated to include the closing of the Monier Ranch as well as the Brown Ranch being approved by City Council with a tentative closing date of December 15th. He also stated that with those acquisitions a total of 163,114 acres would be protected under the EAPP.
6. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that all site inspections had been completed for the year and would resume next year. He also stated that for those properties that could not be visited this year due to the pandemic, a desktop review of the properties would be performed using remote sensing or satellite imagery and a landowner questionnaire submitted to the Edwards Aquifer Authority providing updates on any work conducted by the landowner.
- Mr. Covington provided a summary of the year-end meeting with EAA staff at the EAA Field Research Park, the 145-acre properties formally known as Cibolo Vista Tracts I & II which the City acquired in fee. He stated that EAA staff provided an overview of the planned research that would be held there in the near future and the benefits the research facility would have on the water community moving forward.
7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – January 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm, via a virtual meeting.
8. Adjournment at 2:36 pm.