

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

June 23, 2021

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. Phillip Covington for Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)</i>
Mr. Robert Puente	<i>San Antonio Water System (SAWS)</i>

STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Clay Thompson	Green Spaces Alliance
Scott Halty	San Antonio Water System
Karen Bishop	San Antonio River Authority
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 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 May 26, 2021, meeting. Mr. Brock Curry motioned for approval of the minutes. Dr. Francine Romero seconded. Roll call was taken by Dr. Romero for votes. Minutes approved. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated the closing on the Smart Ranch would not occur due to an unpaid lien. He explained that the City's closing funds were returned by the title company and could either be used for future acquisitions or could be held for future acquisition of the Smart Ranch if the lien issue is cleared. Mr. Covington also stated that the total land protected remains at 164,060 acres under the EAPP excluding the Smart Ranch.
- Mr. Covington stated that the Mazurek Ranch, which CAB approved at the May monthly meeting, has been targeted for City Council action in early August. He also stated an update would be provided at the August CAB meeting with the results of City Council action and when closing should occur on the property.
- Mr. Covington stated that a new Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) was being negotiated for continued geological assessment services and monitoring assistance for conservation easements. He also stated that he would work with Mr. Brock Curry in getting the terms and conditions of the ILA finalized before it was presented to the City Council.
- Mr. Covington stated that a brief update on the proposed EAA water study and model would be scheduled on an upcoming CAB meeting agenda this fall.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Update on Proposition I Water Quality Projects: San Antonio River Authority
 - a. Ms. Karen Bishop provided a presentation on the results of City Council action on the final project to be funded under the EAPP and the extension of the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the San Antonio River Authority. Ms. Bishop also stated that the presentation would provide information on a request for a no-cost timeline extension for the University of Texas at San Antonio Low Impact Development Test Bed project and outline plans for a future stakeholder briefing on status of the demonstration projects.

2. Discussion & update regarding the High Places Ranch LLC (Kaspar), Pearce, Kolinek & Galewsky Ranches, and Froboese Ranches: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the High Places Ranch LLC (Kaspar) for stage 2 approval.
- b. Mr. Bezanson presented the Pearce Ranch for stage 2 approval.
- c. Mr. Bezanson presented the Kolinek Ranch for stage 2 approval.
- d. Mr. Bezanson presented the Galewsky Ranch for stage 2 approval.
- e. Mr. Jeff Francell presented the Froboese Ranches for approval of the stage 1 geological evaluation.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session at 1:43 pm.

3. 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 1:53 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 stage 2 approval on the High Places Ranch LLC (Kaspar). Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 2 approval on the Pearce Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Ms. Jessica Alderson motioned for stage 2 approval on the Kolinek Ranch. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the Galewsky Ranch. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 geological evaluation approval on the Froboese Ranches. Ms. Jessica Alderson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington presented a spending plan on the remaining balance of Proposition I funds with \$65 million expended or committed for acquisition and administration with a \$90 million cap for acquisition and administration. Mr. Covington stated that \$15 million was appropriated for acquisition in Fiscal Year 2021; approximately 168,000 acres will be protected by the end of the fiscal year and just over \$100,000 remaining from the appropriated amount as contingency. He also stated that about \$16 million will be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2022 with a projected acreage total of 176,000 acres under the EAPP with the close out of the 2015 Proposition I program.
6. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that there were no major issues with the current conservation easement site visits. Mr. Bernal also stated that the SA MUD conservation easement asked what could be done about a landowner located to the southwest who was excavating and causing sedimentation in the creek bed. He stated that SA MUD was provided a list of contacts to follow up with which included the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), SAWS and the EAA.
7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – August 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm, via a virtual meeting.
8. Adjournment at 2:11 pm.



April 28, 2021

TO: Edwards Aquifer Protection Program's Conservation Advisory Board
(EAPP-CAB)

The Conservation Society of San Antonio objects to the proposed plan to run an oversized water main and oversized sewer main through the Chapman and Gruendler Ranches' conservation easements which were acquired by the City of San Antonio for the purpose of protecting the Edwards Aquifer under the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program to protect the water supply. This area is over the sensitive recharge zone. New development is encroaching and threatening an already precious resource and this plan should be denied. We urge you to vote no on this proposal.

Respectfully,

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Patti Zaiontz, President