

BIOLOGICAL ADVISORY TEAM OF THE SOUTHERN EDWARDS PLATEAU HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN MINUTES

DATE: January 29, 2010
LOCATION: Texas Wildlife Association HQ
2800 Northeast Loop 410 Suite 105
San Antonio, TX 78218

Meeting #1

10:00 Call to Order; Richard Heilbrun, TPWD

The meeting was called to order by Richard Heilbrun at 10:01 am.

10:00 Welcome, introduction of Plan Participants, consultants, Agency personnel, and BAT; Richard Heilbrun, TPWD

Richard Heilbrun, Clifton Ladd (Loomis Partners), and Allison Arnold (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) gave introductions and identified the roles of the Biological Advisory Team (BAT) members, project partners, consultant team, and agency representatives.

Mr. Heilbrun asked for public comments. No public comments were received. Mr. Heilbrun stated that a designated public comment period would be added to all future agendas for BAT meetings, and that individuals would be limited to a couple minutes of speaking time each. Ms. Arnold emphasized the importance of public involvement in plan development and described the Service's biological priorities for the plan.

10:10 Overview of HCP and responsibilities of the BAT (Presentation and Discussion); Allison Arnold, USFW

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is appreciative of the time generously provided by the Biological Advisory Team members. Input from the BAT will be critical to the decision-making process that we anticipate will lead to the development of a comprehensive Regional Habitat Conservation Plan that will benefit the citizens of the greater Bexar County area, provide and plan for economic growth of San Antonio, and provide valuable support to species listed as threatened or endangered that occur in the Plan area. The Service advises the BAT to consider the areas that are currently facing the greatest degree of peril. Those areas that provide habitat for endangered species in areas under severe development pressure are our highest priority. It is imperative that the public be recognized and be accommodated so that their concerns, ideas, suggestions, and other

comments can be incorporated into the overall Plan in order to maximize the benefits of the Plan.

10:25 Timeline presentation, Amanda Aurora, Loomis Partners

Amanda Aurora gave a presentation on the SEP-HCP work plan and major milestones. Ms. Aurora described four project phases (Project Foundations, Conceptual Design and Alternatives, Permit Application Package, and Permit Processing). Ms. Aurora identified significant project milestones for each phase, including the expiration of the USFWS grant in September 2012. Ms. Aurora and Clif Ladd explained that the project is already slightly behind schedule.

10:45 Presentation and Discussion of Open Records, Open Meetings requirement and discussion of email exchanges, Richard Heilbrun, Allison Elder (Braun & Associates)

Allison Elder (Braun & Associates) described the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act, as it applies to the operation of the BAT. Discussion followed regarding how email communications are considered under the Act, posting requirements and procedures for meetings, establishing a protocol for running BAT meetings, and how to share information among BAT members.

11:00 Criteria for making decisions in the BAT; Discussion

Richard Heilbrun led a discussion as to how the BAT should make decisions. The BAT discussed alternatives including consensus, majority vote, super majority vote, and the possibility for minority opinions for the record. Mr. Heilbrun stated that the BAT includes eight members and a quorum for the group is five members. The BAT also discussed the possibility of alternates as voting proxies, if an appointed member can not attend a meeting.

MOTION (Jayne Neal): The BAT will not recognize alternates or proxies for voting purposes. SECOND (Andy Gluesenkamp). VOTE: Voice vote carried unanimously.

MOTION (Jayne Neal): The BAT will strive for consensus, but if there is more than one dissenting vote then the motion does not carry. Dissenting opinions may be submitted for the record. SECOND (Andy Gluesenkamp). VOTE: Voice vote carried unanimously.

11:05 ACTION ITEM: Creation of a Committee Charge

Richard Heilbrun tabled this item until the next BAT meeting.

11:10 ACTION ITEM: Discussion and recommendation of Species to be listed

This item was postponed until after the discussion of the proposed Plan Area.

Amanda Aurora gave a presentation on the general considerations for the list of species covered under the SEP-HCP. The BAT discussed how to approach creating the recommended list of species to be covered, how to address plants, and considerations regarding jeopardy for some karst species.

Richard Heilbrun offered to distribute species lists compiled by Jackie Poole and Julie Groce for consideration at the next BAT meeting.

No action was taken regarding a recommendation for the list of covered species for the SEP-HCP.

12:00 ACTION ITEM: Discussion and recommendation of Proposed Plan Area

Amanda Aurora gave a presentation on the general considerations for delineation of the Plan Area. Robert Gulley (Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan) talked about the status of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan (EARIP) and possible coordination between the SEP-HCP and the EARIP. The BAT discussed the possible inclusion of other counties (including Comal County) and possible conflicts with other regional habitat conservation plans under development (Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and the EARIP habitat conservation plan).

Allison Arnold stated that the USFWS will explore whether official government participation is required to be able to include a particular jurisdiction in the Plan Area and will report on their findings at the next meeting.

No action was taken on a recommendation for the SEP-HCP Plan Area.

12:55 Schedule early and late February meeting times and location

Richard Heilbrun recommended that the BAT meet again before the next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting and offered to set up an online poll to establish the next meeting date. Mr. Heilbrun stated that the next meeting would be held at the Texas Wildlife Association headquarters and scheduled from 9am to 3pm on the selected day.

Justin Dreibelbis suggested that the consultant team prepare draft proposals for the plan area and list of covered species for consideration at the next BAT meeting.

1:00 Adjourn

MOTION (Justin Dreibelbis): Adjourn the meeting. SECOND (Valerie Collins). VOTE: Voice vote carried unanimously.

Next CAC meeting is Feb 16, 2010 at 2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North

Sign-in Sheet

BAT Meeting #1

29 January, 2010

✓	Name	Organization	Email	Phone
	Charlotte Kucera	USFWS		512-490-0057
	Christina Williams	"		"
	Clifton Ladd	Coon's Partners		
	Ananda Aurora	"		
	Allison Arnold	USFWS		512 203-5145 mobile 512 490-0057
	Susan Beaver	HEPA	stobeyus@stobeyglobal.net	210-695-6627
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	Jacie Poole	TPWD		
	Bobbiway	Medina Ranch Inc	bwray@winthamTX.com	249-2300
	Diane Bartlett	Bexar Co	dbartlett@bexar.org	335-3843
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