

BIOLOGICAL ADVISORY TEAM "BAT" MEETING
Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

MINUTES

WHEN: December 6, 2007

WHERE: Texas Rivers Center, Room 226, 951 Aquarena Springs Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666

Attendance:

BAT Members

- Craig Farquhar – Chair
- Terri Siegenthaler
- Garry Stephens
- Linda Laack
- Randy Gibson
- Cal Newnam

HCP Consultant Team

- Loomis Austin, Inc.: Clifton Ladd, Amanda Aurora, Jennifer Williams, Melinda Clary (Lopez-Garcia Group), and Jean Krejca (Zara Environmental)
- Smith/Robertson: Melinda Taylor

Others in Attendance:

- USFWS: Allison Arnold
- Bill Finch – NRCS

BAT Members Not Present:

- Lee Elliott

1. Call to order: The BAT chairman Craig Farquhar called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.
2. Approve minutes from November 1, 2007 BAT Meeting: BAT members reviewed and approved the minutes from the November 1, 2007 meeting.
3. Citizen's Comments: No citizen comments were made.
4. Receive briefing on habitat identification for the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and karst invertebrates (Loomis Austin). Clifton Ladd and Amanda Aurora summarized the contents of two draft reports describing the methodology used to develop the habitat identification models for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo and maps of habitat distribution in the county. Jean Krejca gave an overview of a karst invertebrate habitat identification report and map for Hays County. Copies of the draft reports and maps were provided to the BAT for review. Amanda Aurora presented combined resource maps for Hays County to the BAT. The BAT was asked to review and provide comments on the habitat mapping products.
5. Assessment and Consideration of Options for Species Coverage in the Hays County RHCP: The BAT reviewed the complete list of species of concern in Hays County that was updated with new species information requested at the last meeting. BAT members reviewed the updated species list, the filtering criteria developed at the last meeting, and the results of the preliminary species

filter to identify which species should be addressed by the RHCP. BAT members then began discussion regarding whether and how each of the species on the filtered list should be addressed by the RHCP, and identified three categories for inclusions: covered species, additional species of concern, and evaluation species. BAT members agreed to recommend to the CAC that the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo be included in the RHCP as “covered species.” BAT members requested that the consultant team provide the BAT with a proposal based on the filtered list with recommendations for which species should be considered “evaluation species” in the RHCP.

6. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Agenda Items for Next Meeting: The BAT agreed that further discussion was needed on conservation strategies for the covered species and how to address additional and evaluation species in the RHCP. The BAT requested information about the other RHCPs that are being drafted in the region. The BAT also requested a presentation about the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program. BAT members agreed on a meeting time of 9:00 am and a tentative meeting date of January 8, 2007, with the location still to be determined.
7. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm.