

Approved October 9, 2008

**CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ("CAC")
to the
Hays County
Regional Habitat Conservation Plan ("RHCP")**

**NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING
(also available at <http://www.hayscountyhcp.com>)**

A meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Hays County RHCP was held as follows:

WHEN: September 11, 2008
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
**WHERE: Wimberley Community Center, Senior Lounge
14068 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, Texas 78676**

In attendance

CAC Members

- Melinda Mallia
- Todd Votteler
- Glenn Longley
- Melanie Pavlas-Snyder
- Scott Johnson
- Bill Avera
- Henry Brooks
- Kathy Boydston

Hays County

- The Honorable Karen Ford

RHCP Consultants

- Alan Glen, Melinda Taylor, Rebecca Hays (Smith|Robertson)
- Clif Ladd, Amanda Aurora (Loomis Partners)
- Jean Krejca (Zara Environmental)
- Joseph Lessard

Others

- Allison Arnold (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Craig Farquhar (BAT chair; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

1. Call to Order. Melinda Mallia called the meeting to order. There was no quorum; therefore, no action was taken at this meeting.
2. Approve Minutes from June 12, 2008 CAC Meeting. Because there was no quorum, the CAC did not approve the minutes.
3. Citizens' Comments. There were no citizen comments.

4. Receive Report on RHCP Funding Options. Commissioner Ford reported that the Commissioners Court did not take action on setting aside \$11.5 million of the Parks and Open Space bond solely for endangered species habitat conservation. Joe Lessard gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft funding plan. The plan assumes an infusion of cash upfront from the \$11.5 million from the Parks and Open Space bond that would go towards purchasing approximately 970 acres of habitat. Mr. Lessard noted that although the participation fees were currently at \$7,500/acre in the draft funding plan, he believed this fee was too high. Mr. Lessard used an ultimate preserve acreage of approximately 5,600 acres. The CAC asked what happened to the ultimate 30,000 acre preserve. Melinda Taylor explained that 5,600 acres is basically 25% of the projected County-wide take over the 30-year life of the incidental take permit. Mr. Lessard noted that the funding plan shows a \$16.5 million deficit in the first 5 years and gave four options to fix that deficit: (1) increase the proportion of easements used (plan currently uses 25% easements); (2) increase the participation fees; (3) increase the cap on the tax increment allocation; or (4) issue bonds during the first five years. The CAC asked whether we could have managing partners. Mr. Lessard stated that that was possible. CAC discussed whether the TIA should simply be called “taxpayer subsidization” and that the funding plan should simply set forth the amount the County needs for the RHCP and then state that taxpayers will subsidize that amount. Mr. Lessard said that new growth would fund the plan.
5. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Draft RHCP. Melinda Taylor presented the comments the consultant team received from the public and from various CAC members and also presented some general responses to those comments. Regarding the proposed “optional measures” for Hays County aquatic species, Ms. Taylor noted that it was prohibitively expensive and time consuming to perform the additional analysis required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve the measures for additional species beyond those which are already covered by the measures. Allison Arnold stated that including best management practices regarding aquatics would still be a good idea as an “fyi” for developers and others. Jean Krejca suggested adding a summary of the other jurisdictions that have authority over water quality and quantity (like groundwater conservation districts). Henry Brooks noted the effects of an ecosystem dominated by juniper and asked the BAT to review that issue. Commissioner Ford stated that she would like the BAT to look at the evapotranspiration issue. Ms. Taylor noted that some comments addressed property rights issues. To that end, Ms. Taylor stressed that the plan is purely voluntary. The CAC members asked Ms. Arnold what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife concerns about the plan were. Ms. Arnold stated that she’d not read the latest draft yet. There was some discussion on whether the RHCP would facilitate development or whether there was a developer bias built in to the RHCP. Ms. Taylor noted that the RHCP would reflect that the County could deny participation at any time.
6. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action Regarding Additional CAC Meeting and Possible Joint Meeting with the CPAT. Rebecca Hays was instructed to coordinate setting the next CAC meeting on a date upon which the most CAC members were available to attend.
7. Other Business. Melinda Mallia noted that the CPAT wanted to know how to spend the bond money and that an RHCP representative might go to the CPAT meeting to help them understand what the RHCP is all about.

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8. Adjourn.