

**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: November 13, 2008**  
**TIME: 6:00 p.m.**  
**WHERE: Wimberley Community Center, Senior Lounge  
14068 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, Texas 78676**

CAC Members

- Kathy Boydston
- Glenn Longley
- Dianne Wassenich
- Henry Brooks
- Melanie Pavlas-Snyder
- Bill Avera
- Jeff Wilkinson
- Melinda Mallia
- Catherine Livingston
- David Baker

Hays County Personnel

- Jeff Hauff

RHCP Consultants

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

Others

- Tom Hayes (Save Our Springs Alliance)

1. Call to Order. CAC Chair, Melinda Mallia, called the meeting to order.
2. Approve Minutes from June 12, 2008 and October 9, 2008 CAC Meetings. The minutes from the June 12<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved unanimously.
3. Citizens’ Comments. There were no citizens’ comments.
4. Presentation Regarding BAT Review of Literature Concerning the Relationship Between Ashe Juniper and Water. BAT Chair, Craig Farquhar, stated that the BAT collected reports

on the relationship between Ashe juniper and water issues and has compiled a short bibliography. Mr. Farquhar noted that the RHCP does not advocate for an increase in the amount of Ashe juniper in Hays County but that the BAT would continue to look at the issue. He also noted the recent traditional ESA section 6 grant award to Zara Environmental to study karst invertebrates in Hays County. There was some CAC discussion on the relationship between Ashe juniper and water. Henry Brooks stated that he would like the consultant team to take a closer look at RHCP section 6.4 and determine what else could be done to maintain heterogeneous woodlands. He also stated that he would like to see a line-item in the County's RHCP budget specifically for vegetation management in the preserve.

5. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Draft Funding Plan. Joseph Lessard gave a presentation on the updated funding plan. Bill Avera noted that he spent time with Mr. Lessard and was convinced that the funding plan was sound, reasonable, and would accomplish its purpose. Ms. Mallia noted that the County would ultimately save money by getting grants and donations, but that those things could not be considered in the funding model.
6. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Draft RHCP. Dianne Wassenich asked if the consultant team added language that gave the County the discretion to turn away "bad projects." The consultant team stated that they had done so. Catherine Livingston asked what became of the October CAC recommendation to the Commissioners Court that the Court freeze the Parks and Open Space bond funds until the RHCP had a viable funding plan. Melinda Taylor stated that the CAC recommendation was tabled by the Court and also noted that the Court ultimately wanted to see specific proposals for preserves. There was some discussion about how remaining bond funds would be spent. David Baker stated his belief that the RHCP does not go far enough to address habitat fragmentation that would happen in the future. Ms. Wassenich stated that delaying the RHCP from moving forward would not help stop the fragmentation. Ms. Livingston wanted to add a goal in the RHCP to help prevent fragmentation. Ms. Wassenich stated that the County could consider passing another bond issue. The consultant team agreed to add language to address the need to minimize habitat fragmentation. There was some discussion about why listed aquatic species were not covered in the RHCP. Kathy Boydston suggested emphasizing the value to species and the County by preservation of open space and green space. Mr. Brooks noted the problem of soil compaction that occurs after utilities restore rights-of-way. He wanted section 6.4 of the RHCP to state a goal of protecting soil texture and soil structure. Specifically, Mr. Brooks wants any preserve management plan to state that no work will be done when soils are wet, but only when soils are "workable and tillable." Alan Glen noted that, legally, the County could not require utilities to take specific actions in the utilities' rights-of-way, but could only recommend that they take certain actions. The CAC then unanimously passed the following motion: "The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends that the Hays County Commissioners' Court approve for further processing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a draft of the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan in a form substantially similar to the third draft before us tonight. This step will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hays County, and the consultant team to complete the required review processes under the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, including subsequent opportunities for public comment and hearing. It is also the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory

Committee that Hays County move with all deliberate speed, with all resources reasonably at its disposal, to acquire and conserve as much endangered species habitat as possible and as soon as possible.”

7. Other Business. The CAC agreed to give Ms. Mallia the authority to approve the November meeting minutes. Rebecca Hays agreed to send the minutes to the entire CAC and that the CAC members would email any comments or revisions to those minutes to Ms. Hays and Ms. Mallia. Ms. Taylor described the steps remaining in the RHCP process.
8. Adjourn.