



Item 11

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: January 8, 2013

Prepared By: Rose Farmer **Phone #:** 854-7214

Division Director/Manager: Jon White, TNR-NREQ

Department Head: Steven M. Manila, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action on a proposed amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan- Shared Vision.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

This proposed amendment would increase the membership in the Coordinating Committee for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) from having one member per agency to having two members per agency. This proposed change in membership would help foster better communication between the committee members and agencies they represent.

The Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan-Shared Vision was signed by both agencies on August 3, 1995. This agreement between the co-permit holders was signed prior to the issuance of the federal permit (BCCP) under Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act which was issued to the City of Austin and Travis County on May 2, 1996 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This Interlocal-Shared Vision Agreement outlined the basic structure of the relationship between the two agencies to administer and implement the plan.

In Section 2.3 of this agreement, it outlines the membership composition of the BCCP Coordinating Committee (the governing body for this permit). Coordinating Committee membership currently consists of one voting member from Travis County Commissioners Court, one voting member from the Austin City Council, and one non-voting member from USFWS. Changing the number of voting members from one per agency to two per agency would not change the composition of the committee but would help improve member communication on issues of concern and also improve voting since working on a committee of just two voting members has occasionally been problematic.

In Section 7.2 of this agreement, it lists the official process to amend the Interlocal-Shared Vision agreement. If Travis County wishes to amend this agreement, it can submit a written proposal requesting that this be discussed by the BCCP Coordinating Committee at a regular or special meeting. The Coordinating Committee will then review and make a recommendation to the Travis County Commissioners Court and Austin City Council for their official votes to amend this agreement. If the two agencies adopt this amendment, they would send copies of the adopted resolutions to the BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary with a copy of the amendment to USFWS for their approval.

In addition, the two agencies would also seek approval from USFWS under the BCCP permit which would likely result in a minor administrative amendment. USFWS staff believe that this would be approved as a minor amendment since the composition (percentage of membership per agency) of the Coordinating Committee will not have changed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TNR recommends that Travis County send an official proposal requesting that the BCCP Coordinating Committee consider an amendment to increase the BCCP Coordinating Committee membership to: two County Commissioners (voting members), two City Council Members (voting members), and one USFWS (non-voting member) to be discussed at the next regular meeting.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

NA

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

NA

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

Draft Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan-Shared Vision

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429
Jon White	Division Director, NREQ	TNR	854-7212
William Conrad	BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary	COA	972-1661
Sherri Kuhl	AWU BCCP Program manager	COA	972-1664

Linda Laack	BCCP Sr. Biologist	TNR	219-6190x8
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CC:

Mike Wallace	Envioronmental Specialist	TNR	854-7213

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CITY OF AUSTIN:

By: _____

Assistant City Manger

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____

City of Austin, Law Department

TRAVIS COUNTY:

By: _____

Samuel J. Biscoe
County Judge

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____

Travis County Attorney's Office