

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL - Minutes for the Travis County
Citizens Bond Advisory Committee
PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING
Thursday, June 30, 2011, at 7:00 P.M.
Lakeway Council Chambers
1102 Lohman's Crossing, Lakeway**

Attendees:

Committee Member:	Representing:	Travis County Staff:	Affiliation:
Jeffery W. Travillion, Sr.	Precinct 2	Steve Manilla	TNR Staff
Mark Evert	Precinct 3	Wendy Scaperotta	TNR Staff
Carolyn Vogel	Precinct 3	Charlie Watts	TNR Staff
Leigh Naftolin, M.D.	Precinct 3	Stacey Scheffel	TNR Staff
Joe Gieselman	Precinct 4	Steve Sun	TNR Staff
Nell Penridge	Judge	Randy Nicholson	TNR Staff
		Laura Seaton	TNR Staff
		Robert Armistead	TNR Staff
		Carol Joseph	TNR Staff
		Charles Bergh	TNR Staff
Commissioner Karen Huber	Commissioner Precinct 3		

Guests:

Kay Beasley	Melissa Eurich	Eric Castro
Robert Beasley	Mara Eurich	Scott Tracy
Tommy Blackwell	Carol Lochbaum	Tom Delancy
Terri Mitchell	John Lochbaum	Alan Tige
Karen Ford	Kathie Hanson	Jennie Braasch
Steve Albert	Kailen Wyays	Chuck Becheil
Sharon Seligman	Jerry Winnett	Jon Wells
Kent O'Brien	Christy Muse	Nancy Wells
James Sassin	Kristi Leipsner	Jim Linardos
Martha Chapman	Eugene Lowenthal	Tim Van Ackeren
Linda Sandlin	Miriam Wright	Lynn Issak-Atkins
Robert Ridlehoover	Jim Powell	Keith Stone
Artie Berne	Maureen Powell	Steve Jones
Judi Ronkartz	Bob Scanlon	Hope Phillips
Jocelyn Barclay	Polly Scanlon	Dave DeOme
Bill Pohl	Janis Tom	Brett Spicer
Cathi Boorti	Larry Tom	Tom Clark
Kyle Graef	Frank Black	Jane Schwendinger
John Pyane	Clarence Goins	Jim Schwendinger
Katy Payne	Hugh Linkler	Doug Saile
Alex Wood	Roy Waley	Mark Steinbach
Bernard Reding	Dean Leeper	Lori Duarte
Hill Abell	Tim Sullivan	Josh Kawinski

Brain Kokernot
Maury Christensen
John Hogge
Kurt Nielsen

Anita Dallas
J. R. Smith
Lew Adams
Tommy Buckwell

Tiffany Young
Jim Ratcliff
Joe Bain
Maryann Yamin

Commencement of Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Presentations by TNR Staff

Ms. Wendy Scaperotta, Parks and Land Conservation Projects
Ms. Stacey Scheffel, Drainage and Bridge Safety Projects
Mr. Charlie Watts, Roadway, Safety and Bike/Pedestrian Projects

Citizen Communication

Mr. Scott Tracy, RE: Flint Rock Road

Supports the Flintrock Road project. A local business owner, involved in a local running club, college age to middle-age members. The average runner in the group logs more than 2000 miles a year, mostly on local roadways in and around Lakeway. Has run he thinks a 100,000 miles around the country. Can't think of a more dangerous road than Flint Rock Road. His running group won't run it because it is too dangerous. Testifying because he is a runner and also the father of a teenage son and a baby girl and is shocked that there is still an dangerous road like Flint Rock Road.

Mr. Keith Stone, RE: Cameron Road – west of SH130

Land owner on Cameron Road in Precinct 1 and 2. It is the largest, most expensive project on the list. Highlighting the financial leverage created when this road is built in conjunction with the utility investments currently being made by the City of Austin in the immediate area. The Cameron Road project if approved would probably be drivable in five years. Shared a City of Austin CIP list showing the major utility improvements being done in the immediate area during that time frame including approximately \$50 million of wastewater lines and \$6 million of water lines. Emphasizing the importance of coordinating these efforts. He also said that for every dollar the County puts into this project, the City of Austin is putting in four dollars in infrastructure improvements, a serious financial leverage.

Mr. Steve Jones, RE: Flint Rock Road & Highlands Blvd/Bee Creek Road

City Manager of Lakeway, in support of the two safety road projects in Lakeway. Emphasizing the private-public partnership with the projects. Flint Rock Road, a private developer will be putting in the first section of the road from RM 620 to the edge of their property, the City of Lakeway then will pick up the cost to about Flint Rock Falls subdivision and the remainder in Travis County. If bonds are approved, the City is committed to participate with their own bond election in 2012. City is also involved in a smaller way in the Bee Creek Road improvement project, working with the developer who would improve Highlands Blvd and the City would help as it goes into Bee Creek.

Leigh Naftolin asked about the cost to Lakeway residents if the bond was passed in 2012. Mr. Jones did not know that number yet, shared that the construction cost total was estimated to be \$6.7 million, the City's share would be about \$2.6 million, and the County's share would be about \$4.1 million. These numbers were distributed in a hand-out.

Joe Gieselman asked him if the community uniformly supported the project. He said he had not checked with everyone, yet overall there has been overwhelming support. He is aware of one resident in the Majestic Hills area who is against the Flint Rock Road project yet most folks are in favor.

Ms. Hope Phillips, RE: Pedernales River Corridor, Parkland Acquisition

Supports the Pedernales River Corridor project. The protected land in the area will increase by approximately 800 acres with significant river frontage and connecting of Hamilton Pool with Reimers' Ranch Park. This stretch of the river is equal to a national park with springs, bluffs, beaches, and magnificent vegetation. She plans to will her land (as a conservation easement?) to share the Pedernales River Corridor with all. Do not let this area fall to the fate of the river at Highway 71. In economic and ecological hard times it is more important than ever to protect lands from development for the benefit of all. Texas rivers are our lifeblood and we can still save it.

Mr. David P. DeOme, RE: Flint Rock Road & Bee Creek Road

Mayor of Lakeway. Spoke in support of Flint Rock Road project. Everyone he knows is in support of the project except two in Lakeway; his grandchildren because they love to go down the road, only roller coaster ride in the area. Reemphasized the commitment of Lakeway to both projects and that the improvements are connected to safety issues. Demands have been put on these roads more than anyone ever thought, particularly due to increased traffic from The Highlands and Serene Hills. The new middle school, the new elementary school and the new 400 room hospital will further increase demand. Also reemphasized the developer commitment from the hospital and from the Highlands to help with the improvement cost.

Mr. Brett Spicer, RE: Bee Cave Road

Speaking on behalf of a developer, Mr. Dawlett, and lives in Bee Cave so he has a personal interest in the road improvement projects as well. The developer would like him to point out the history of Highlands Blvd. In 2007, the developer, Lakeway and Travis County entered a private-public partnership to improve Highland Blvd, four-lane of one mile, two-lane for one mile, dead ends into Bee Creek Road. Built to reroute congestion from RM620, the developer has spent about \$7.5 million on Highland Blvd. Has been reimbursed about \$2.1 million dollars from the County and has agreed to provide all right-of-way and easements for the expansion of Bee Creek Road. New elementary school being built in this area, generating increased traffic on the road, cars and buses. It will improve public access to the general area.

Mr. Tom Clark, RE: Lost Creek Sidewalks

General Manager of Lost Creek MUD. Supports the Lost Creek Sidewalk program. Correcting safety issue of increased traffic on the road over the years for pedestrians, particularly school children walking to and from bus stops. Submitted letters; one from the Eanes ISD superintendent, concerned for children's safety, the other confirming \$500,000 is available to cost-share this project.

Mr. Jim Schwendinger, RE: Flint Rock Road

Supports the improvement to Flint Rock Road, drives it five times a day. Emphasized the people who use Flint Rock Road each day for work or recreation: school bus drivers, delivery drivers, emergency services, runners, and cyclists. Read a letter of support from the UPS driver who drives this road several times daily on his route.

Mr. Mark Steinbach, RE: Pedernales, Conservation Easements

Executive Director of the Texas Land Conservancy, a state-wide land trust. They currently represent 13 different conservation easements in the Pedernales watershed, over 3500 acres. Supporting the Pedernales River Corridor project, tremendous opportunity for the County and for the lands which are considered highly fragmented and ecologically sensitive. Conservation easement monies leverage Federal and State dollars and create important land buffers.

Mr. Douglas J. Saile, RE: Roads

Supports finding for substandard roads. Currently working with Travis County on this year's allotment of funds. Pointed out that a half million dollars pays for improvements to about half a mile of road. Quoting Steve Manilla, he said there

are 30+ subdivisions with substandard roads vying for this funding. He requests that the Committee prioritize; he knows everyone wants funding for their project, yet feels they should emphasize projects that get people to and from work and home, remember those 30+ subdivisions, and try to find a way to get money dedicated to substandard roads each year, there would be a lot of people who would appreciate that. They may drive on nice roads to get to work, but it is a different story when they get home and drive substandard roads. In 1997, got \$3 million dollars allotted for substandard roads in Apache Shores and it was appreciated. They have 20 miles of road, 60 intersections, 2450 lots, and receive (in fees for roads) a maximum of \$35 a year. They do have some special assessments yet he is concerned there is no line item for substandard roads on the project list. Appreciate the Committee's challenge and would appreciate consideration for substandard roads.

Mr. Tim Sullivan, RE: Flint Rock Road Improvements

Support of improvements to the road. 22-year resident of Majestic Hills in Lakeway. He drives Flint Rock Road multiple times a day and used to run it, has an 18-year-old daughter who drives it and a 14-year-old son who will soon. Always been a dangerous road, development it making it a greater risk. The "roller-coaster" is the nickname for the dip in the road. It is east-west facing so you have the sun in your eyes going and coming. Adults find the dip interesting and high school kids find it as an opportunity to reach zero-Gs; common knowledge that you achieve that feeling while driving at 60 miles per hour. Another aspect when driving west at the dip is residual pile of concrete; this is due to concrete left in the concrete mixer truck chute being jarred onto the side of the road. This in combination with high rates of speed cause cars to veer into the center of the road. It is also a blind curve. A roll-over accident last week closed the road for several hours. He is the Chair of the Architectural Committee for Majestic Hills and they also support this improvement project.

Mr. Eric Castro, RE: Lost Creek Sidewalk Proposal

Resident and board member in Lost Creek. Supports the Lost Creek sidewalk project. The GM previously shared tonight the importance and cost-share aspect of the project. Would like to add: the community is sharing dollars one-to-one. Lost Creek Road is a thoroughfare/cut-through now. Funding of this project will allow for true multi-modal transportation: bicyclists, walkers, joggers, as well as the cars. The area also has green-belt hiking access in the area off Lost Creek Road; will be a benefit to all County residents who access this area for recreation.

Carolyn Vogel asked what the total project cost of \$1million dollars will cover. Mr. Castro responded that Lost Creek Road is the priority and with any left over funds other secondary sidewalk projects would be funded. They have worked with a consultant and have identified these.

Mr. Jim Ratcliff, RE: Flint Rock Road & Bee Creek Road

Lake Travis School District Manager of Facilities and Construction. Supports both roads projects. Submitted a letter from the superintendent. The district is growing 6-7% annually. Great deal of the growth is off Highway 71 near Bee Creek Road. Projecting new middle school opening in 2014 that will increase the road traffic about 200 cars and 18 buses twice-daily. New elementary school also planned and will increase traffic. On Flint Rock Road, currently running two bus routes. Current and future development projects up to seven routes on that road. Other speakers have shared the challenges of driving, bike riding, running that road; imagine them in a fully loaded school bus. Unable to put any more routes on the road until improvements are made.

Nell Penridge asked if the buses stop on Flint Rock Road. Mr. Ratcliff said there are a couple stops on the road yet most are in the subdivisions; challenging for the buses to enter the road due to poor site lines on Flint Rock Road.

Mr. Tom Delancy, RE: Substandard Road Budget, Cycling Facilities on New Roads

A resident from Apache Shores where 130/140 people vote in any given election. Five or six residents attending tonight's meeting appealing for more money for substandard roads. Former Board president and campaigns annually for assessment fee approval and most of that money goes to help improve their subdivision roads. Second reason at meeting, member of Lake Travis Cycling Club. More and more cyclists riding each day: RM 620, Bee Cave Parkway, 2222, etc. Would like to get off 620 and wants to ride on other roads around Serene Hills, Flint Rock Road, etc., yet it is too dangerous at this time. Bee Creek two-lane, no shoulders. Please make sure bike access is available on the all the road improvement projects. Third topic is support of trails in the Onion Creek parkway.

Joe Gieselman asked Steve Manilla if there are bike lanes planned in the road improvement projects and confirmed there are.

Mr. Kurt Nielson, RE: Substandard Roads. Debba Lane

Also from Apache Shores, won't repeat what has been said yet will emphasize that money used for substandard roads is leveraged and matched by communities. Only two roads coming out of development of 2000 homes. 2012 bond coming to Lakeway and wants to encourage adding a turn lane project to that program. Also in support of improvement projects in Lakeway.

Carlyon Vogel asked about financial commitment for substandard road projects. Mr. Nielson responded that the County does require participation from the community for these funds.

Mark Evert asked how many miles were left to improve in Apache Shores. Mr. Nielson responded about 8 or 9 miles were left and that Lakeway had annexed RM620 and the intersection into Apache Shores.

Mr. John Hogge, RE: Preserving unique opportunities always is a strength of Austin and Travis County

Supports the Pedernales River Corridor parkland acquisition. It works with the previous Reimers' Ranch acquisition. These opportunities are disappearing. You won't be able to buy 800 acres of Pedernales River front. You can push out roads projects, it maybe be painful. When land is developed the opportunity to preserve it is gone. It also takes the pressure off roadways by keeping homes out of Travis County. Also an avid rock climber. Austin and Travis County seems to promote unique recreational opportunities. Controversial yet unique is Formula 1 racing, our swimming holes, cliff diving, swimming, kayaking. Riemers' Ranch brought local rock climbing to new level, about 600 routes. Pedernales will add to this and to the uniqueness.

Mr. Lew Adams, Land Conservation

Did not speak.

Mr. Tommy Blackwell, RE: Rock Climbing

Resident of Lakeway and President of Central Texas Mountaineers, a local rock climbing club. Holds several agreements with local governments for climbing opportunities. Emphasized the return of investment in acquiring parklands. Increased parkland causes property values to increase, creating more revenue for the County. Wants to deeply encourage the committee to add as much parkland as they can.

Mr. Eugene Lowenthal, RE: Pedernales River Corridor, Land Conservation

Supports the Pedernales River Corridor parkland acquisition. Central Texas has a reputation of acquiring large tracks of land along our waterways. Pedernales Corridor is a logical next choice not only for the recreational uses but is worthy of protection as development occurs as predicted. Part of an (indiscernible name) organization that promotes protection of old southwest corridors as a high priority and this acquisition helps toward an established goal of six thousand acres to be preserved. We should collectively reassure this goal in this bond election. The Pedernales River supplies $\frac{1}{4}$ of the drinking water that goes into Lake Travis making conservation very important. Also in support of conservation easements. Speaking on behalf of several families. It is very cost effective in preserving natural resources and has a tremendous amount of leverage with other funding sources. Keeps farmers farming and ranches ranching, etc.

Mr. Tim Van Ackeren, RE: Pedernales River Corridor, Conservation Easements

Twenty year resident of Travis County supports the land purchase of the Pedernales River Corridor. Unique opportunity to add a jewel to existing parkland. All citizens of the County can benefit. Also supports the conservation easement program. Bought property next to the Schule (?) Ranch in part because is it is conserved land.

Chief James Linardos, RE: Flint Rock Road & Bee Creek Road

Travis County ESD #6. Concurs with earlier testimony from the school district and Mayor DeOme. Three main jobs: fire response, emergency medical services first responders and response to traffic collisions. Very much in support of the road projects as they are key strategic roadways for access in their work allowing for secondary ingress and egress. Fire engine is 44,000 pounds and the ladder truck in 73,000 pounds and based on what testimony has already been given, he can't say much more about the difficulty of maneuvering on the two roads. Referring to the "zero-G" dip on Flint Rock Road; we don't like speed bumps, we don't like speed humps, and we don't like that. His crew dreads going on that road and tries to find alternatives. Both these improvement projects would help increase response times which is what their work is all about.

Ms. Miriam Wright, RE: Pedernales River Parkland, Conservation Easements

Support of the Pedernales River Parkland acquisition and for the saving of the land. Has had experience in the County in the past with working to preserve land for parkland and believes it greatly adds to the quality of life for all. Is in support of conserving and purchasing all parks land that is proposed through the County. Also in favor of the old San Antonio Bridge project. She drives that road frequently with a trailer of hay. Most folks are thoughtful, yet you have to stop and let one person pass at a time. Used to be a nice road to drive, urges the Committee to keep funding for that project.

Ms. Karen Ford, RE: Land Conservation, Parks

Representing groups and individuals supporting land for conservation and for public use and parks. Emphasized the flyers that were distributed earlier about land conservation and its benefits and how it is a powerful tool and cost-beneficial way to spend public dollars. Also highlighting a letter from Scott Harper from the Austin office of Trust for Public Land. Also says thank you to the citizens who have come out in support of these projects, praised the Committee for its process and example, and praised staff for their public presentations. Mr. Harper's letter says the Trust is very supportive of the proposed projects and the emphasized the quality of life benefits they would bring and the various types of lands that would be protected.

Mr. Alex Wood, RE: Parkland Acquisition

Supports the Pedernales River Corridor project and believe this particular acquisition falls into a unique category because we have one opportunity to purchase it and if we don not, its is gone. In five years will go a different way and will be developed and turn become a burden to the County. It should be left open and protected. We can't afford not to do this.

Ms. Mara Eurich, RE: Parkland Acquisition on the Pedernales River

Supports the Pedernales River Corridor acquisition. She sees a mosaic of (undeveloped, open space?) land and is appreciative but sees a big gap and she believes it will go out for sale. She says she feels endangered by what will happen to the other parts of land that surrounds it if it is developed and this is why mosaics don't work. Jump on the bandwagon and get that piece of land.

Ms. Maryann Yamin, RE: Pedernales River Corridor Purchase

Lives on Hamilton Pool Road and supports the Pedernales River Corridor purchase. It is a great opportunity to preserve this land. In 2009, Hamilton Pool was designated the most endangered historical place by the Texas Historical Society. Protecting land close by will show support of this beautiful area.

Mr. Hill Abell, RE: Bicycle Safety Projects, Open Space Acquisition

For 28 years has been the Specialty (?) Bicycle (indiscernible) speaking on cycling infrastructure and is also a proponent for trails and open space. Bicycle advocates are crafting a proposal for the Committee with a couple of specific "asks." One is ask the Commissioners Court for capital improvements in service to a Bicycle Safety Plan. Travis County needs this, it will mesh with the current plan adopted by City of Austin and will create better infrastructure for transportation and recreation in the County. Also request specific bicycle lane specifications of all lanes constructed in the County. Any new road will ideally have bicycle lanes and opportunities to connect homes to schools and shopping areas and foster connectivity and get people out of cars. Also supports open space. He has helped develop the Reimers' Ranch property and sees the same for Pedernales property. Also supports all southeast open space opportunities.

Carolyn Vogel asked if the Bicycle Safety Plan includes the entire County. Mr. Abell said yes, in all unincorporated areas. An example, Hamilton Pool Road; if the road is reconstructed, include shoulders or bike lanes. Heavily used corridor, good example of quality of life enhancement in the County.

Mr. Roy Waley, RE: Land Preservation Bonds

Here on behalf of the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club, the oldest environmental organization in the world. Support of open space projects, particularly the Pedernales River Corridor. Scott Swearingem spoke last week and raised questions about spreading the money throughout all parts of Travis County including eastern Travis County. They met last night, they are co-chairs of the Conservation Committee and passed a resolution to clarify their position to not move any bond money from western Travis County to eastern Travis County, we just want more bond money period. All areas need to be served. Will receive a letter endorsing this view and expressing their support. Also a cyclist and agrees that people will want to get on their bicycles more for over all use, not just recreationally.

Mr. Sharon Seligman, RE: Pedernales River Project

Supports the Pedernales River Project. Two things she would like to stress. She is a realtor and she talks to people in the city who want to move to the western part of the County for open space and waterfront. And the thing they want out there is at risk if we do not protect the river and open space. It is critical and vital to include this in the bond issue.

Mr. Brain Kokernot, RE:

Deeply impressed by this process and the turn out of the smaller communities and when filling out the form to speak thought he was filling out a raffle ticket.

Ms. Judi Ronkartz, RE: Parkland and Roadways

President of the Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club which is in support of all the parkland and land conservation projects. Top priorities are the Pedernales River Corridor acquisition, Arkansas Bend, and Onion Creek greenways. Travis County has beautiful and unique resources, growing population, and those people need open space. Our club promotes the joy of mountain biking and environmental stewardship and any opportunities to increase open space. They participate and have 20 years of building and maintaining trails. As a cyclist, also supports all bicycle safety projects and all roadway projects that include bike lanes and sidewalks. She also supports the Eastern Creek Greenways projects. Lived here 31 years, has seen open spaces become unfamiliar due to development. Encourages the County to preserve open space so it can be enjoyed in ways "other than behind a windshield." Preserve open space for future generations and be thoughtful when planning roadways.

Mr. Kent O'Brien, RE: General Comments

Lives in Lakeway, thanks the Committee for their service, thanks to Commissioner Huber. Supports the bond referendum and believes it will be a good use of his tax dollars.

Action Items

Discussion on Other Items and Next Steps:

No Discussion. Last Public Outreach Meeting. The Chairman thanked all citizens who presented testimony and emphasized they can continue to do so online.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at approximately at 8:45 P.M.

Note: Above items summarized from the verbatim minutes. Due to the background noise, audience comments, and the levels at which constituents/representatives were speaking into the microphone, verbatim minutes of the meeting are transcribed as best as possible. Please refer to the tapes of the meeting for specific questions regarding the contents in this document. You can call TNR's open records request line at (512) 854-7683.