



## Item 29

# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** March 5, 2013

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

**Division Director/Manager:** Jon White, NREQ

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

**Sponsoring Court Member:** Commissioner Eckhardt, Precinct Two

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:** Consider and take appropriate action concerning which applications merit the start of acquisition negotiations under the Conservation Easement Bond Program of November 2011.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO GOV'T CODE 551.072 Real Estate)

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Travis County initiated a program to conserve land through conservation easements with willing landowners. The first phase of this program will be implemented with \$8.3 million in bond funds approved by the voters for this purpose in November 2011. A portion of this total will be available each year through 2018 to complete conservation easement acquisitions.

Travis County Commissioners Court approved the Land Conservation Program Guidelines, Conservation Easement Application, and the Resolution to Conserve Natural and Cultural Resources on May 1, 2012. Staff have now completed our review and scoring of the first group of applications under the approved Guidelines. These applications were scored according to the Guidelines Selection Criteria which included items such as desired conservation purposes, uniqueness of the property, benefits to Travis County, cost effectiveness, degree of development threat, controlled public access allowed, etc.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

There will be a general summary of the program in open Court followed by an Executive Session consultation with attorneys. Staff will brief the Court members on the merits of the applications submitted and will recommend the start of negotiations with several of the applicants that meet the Selection Criteria under the Guidelines.

### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:**

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429
Jon White	Division Director	TNR	854-7212
Charles Bergh	Division Director	TNR	854-9408
Anna Bowlin	Division Director	TNR	854-4659
Randy Nicholson	Division Director	TNR	

**CC:**

Greg Chico	Travis County	TNR	
Wendy Scaperotta	Travis County	TNR	
Robert Armistead	Travis County	TNR	
Mike Wallace	Travis County	TNR	

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