

**Pima County Conservation Acquisition Commission
Meeting**

**Manning House
450 West Paseo Redondo
Wednesday, August 25, 2004
1:00 p.m.**

A. Motions at the August 25 Meeting

1. Operating Policies: Commissioner Sheridan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pettis, to adopt the second option for Item E, with friendly amendments by Commissioner Prouty to specify that this conflict of interest exception apply specifically to non-profit entities, and by Vice-Chairwoman Johnson to specify that the statement of conflict be written. The motion passed 9-0.
2. Operating Policies: Commissioner Hare moved, seconded by Commissioner Corey, to adopt for Item H the following statement: The quorum requirement shall be 50% plus one (6 Commissioners). If because of conflicts of interest the Committee cannot act, the action is not prevented if the members who have apparent conflicts make known their substantial interest in the Committee's official records (ARS § 38-508 (B)). The motion passed 9-0.
3. Commissioner Pettis moved, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Johnson, to adopt the operating policies as amended. The motion passed 9-0.
4. Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commission Pettis, moved to approve the July 14 meeting summary. The motion passed 11-0
5. Motion stated by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Arnold: "The Priorities that were developed under the auspice of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Steering Committee, ratified by the Board of Supervisors and the various bond committees, and ratified by the electorate, are the priorities that this Commission will use as it's primary guidance for spending bond monies." Motion was to be stated in writing for the next Commission meeting.

B. Direction to Staff

1. Provide adopted Operating Policies to Commissioners.
2. Create a matrix of properties and criteria
3. Provide Jim Barry's report on 1997 Open Space Bond expenditures to Commissioners.
4. Provide a map of the properties included in the Pima County Land Adjustment Act to Commissioners.
5. Provide summary and recommendations page of ranch report to the Commissioners.

6. Provide Commissioner Marshall's motion regarding priorities, in writing for the next meeting.

C. Reference Materials

Maeveen Behan referred to the following SDCP web site for SDCP reports:

<http://www.pima.gov/sdcp/>

These reports are also available on CD. The CDs and reports are searchable with the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the August 25, 2004 meeting. Audiotapes of the meeting are available upon request.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. with a quorum.

Commissioners Present

Tom Sheridan (departed early)
Wanda Shattuck
Rob Marshall (arrived late)
Chuck Pettis (departed early)
Bill Roe, Chair
Helen Wilson (departed early)
Trevor Hare
Bill Arnold (arrived late)
Tim Prouty
Jan Johnson, Vice-Chair
Les Corey

Commissioners Absent

Chairman Roe stated that if Commissioners do not wish to be lobbied by other Commissioners or members of the public, they should tell the person that they do not wish to be lobbied.

2. Draft Operating Policies

MOTION: Commissioner Sheridan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pettis, to adopt the second option for Item E, with friendly amendments by Commissioner Prouty to specify that this conflict of interest exception apply to specifically to non-profit entities, and by Vice-Chairwoman Johnson to specify that the statement of conflict be written. The motion passed 9-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Hare moved, seconded by Commissioner Corey, to adopt for Item H the following statement: The quorum requirement shall be 50% plus one

(6 Commissioners). If because of conflicts of interest the Committee cannot act, the action is not prevented if the members who have apparent conflicts make known their substantial interest in the Committee's official records (ARS § 38-508 (B)). The motion passed 9-0.

It was clarified by the Chair that sufficient time would be given for the public to speak on items and speak during the call to the audience.

The Commission agreed to add to Item I.1. the date the property was acquired by the current owner.

MOTION: Commissioner Pettis moved, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Johnson, to adopt the operating policies as amended. The motion passed 9-0.

3. Draft Goals and Criteria

The Commission discussed the Draft Goals and Criteria for properties identified as Habitat Protection Priorities. There was disagreement on whether goals and criteria were needed, how the Conservation Lands System categories should be figured into large purchases, and how level of threat should be taken into account. There appeared to be some agreement that a focus on large landscape preservation was important. Chairman Roe asked Commissioners to consider drafting some of the ideas expressed.

4. Sweetwater Preserve and Trust for Public Land Donation

Mr. Huckelberry explained that he had met with representatives for the Trust for Public land, and that they would not reconsider providing more than a \$100,000 donation.

5. Update on the Purchase of A-7 Ranch

Christine Curtis, Real Property Services, provided a written update on the purchase of A-7 Ranch. The Board of Supervisors approved a purchase agreement on August 3rd, with the closing expected September 16. The purchase agreement included funds for the City's continued management of the Ranch for 90 days, with the option to extend for another 90 days.

6. Meeting Summary

MOTION: Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commission Pettis, made a motion to approve the summary. The motion passed 11-0.

Commissioner Arnold asked that motions be more clearly specified in the summaries. Commissioner Hare stated that the direction to staff to develop a matrix was included in the summary but not on the first page under Direction to Staff.

7. Update on 1997 Open Space Bond Program Expenditures

Jim Barry, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator, provided an update on 1997 open space bond expenditures (see handout). Remaining funds are earmarked for the purchase of Tumamoc Hill and Arizona Preserve Initiatives in the Tortolita sub area. Mr. Barry emphasized the likelihood that the Commission will be faced with opportunities not contemplated in the Bond Ordinance.

8. Staff Report on the Pima County Land Adjustment Act

Linda Mayro, Cultural Resources Manager, provided the Commission with a summary of federal legislation known as the Pima County Land Adjustment Act. A map showing the properties involved in this act (State Trust lands within Tumamoc Hill, private properties in the Ironwood National Monument and Las Cienegas National Monument, and BLM land near Sahuarita) will be provided to the Commission.

9. Intro to the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

Mr. Huckelberry spoke about the beginnings of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP); short term goal being the acquisition of a Section 10 Permit, and long term goals being the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and shaping the urban form. Mr. Huckelberry also stated that the impetus for the 2004 bond election was the SDCP Steering Committee requesting funding for the acquisition land identified during the SDCP process, and that the County is looking for cost effective large landscape preservation.

10. Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plans

Sherry Barrett, US Fish and Wildlife Service, provided an overview of multi-species habitat conservation plans, which are required for incidental take permits under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. Commissioner Prouty asked how the Commission and County could be assured that the lands acquired will get credit under the permit. Ms. Barrett explained that lands identified as Habitat Protection Priorities are the most important to preserve, followed by parcels in the Biological Core, followed by any parcels within the Conservation Lands System. Mr. Huckelberry stated that the County would be expecting credit for all acquisitions. Ms Barrett also clarified that benchmarking for the Permit is phased over 10 years, 20 years, and build out, or could be based on reaching certain numbers of acres conserved by the present bond fund allocation.

11. Science Technical Advisory Team and the development of the Conservation Lands System

Bill Shaw, Chair of the Science Technical Advisory Team (STAT) provided an overview of the development of the Conservation Lands System, and explained how this was the basis for the Habitat Protection Priorities.

12. Development of Habitat Protection Priorities

Commissioner Marshall explained how the Conservation Lands System is most useful for comprehensive land use planning, but needed refining for acquisition planning. By going over each sub area, Commissioner Marshall detailed how this refining occurred and resulted in a sub-set of the Conservation Lands System known as the Habitat Protection Priorities, which were adopted by voters as part of the 2004 conservation bond package. Commissioner Marshall recommended a two pronged approach: (1) look for opportunities along the San Pedro, Agua Verde Creek, Altar Valley, and Brawley Wash; (2) look for opportunities in the Southeast Corridor, Tortolitas, Tucson Basin and Santa Cruz, which are more complex areas due to land values and more fragmented parcels.

13. Ranch Technical Advisory Team and Science Commission

Commissioner Sheridan explained that Ranch Conservation was and is a major goal of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. In order to meet this goal, the Ranch Technical Advisory Team (TAT) was formed to provide the County with information on ranching in Pima County, and to provide recommendations to the County on how and why to preserve working ranches. The Ranch TAT produced several reports on ranching, and Commissioner Sheridan requested that a summary page be sent to all the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sheridan also stated that the Science Commission was formed with representatives from all of the technical advisory teams, to be intact for the life of the Section 10 Permit. This Commission will oversee the development the adaptive management and monitoring plans to meet the goals of the habitat conservation plan.

14. Cultural Resources and Historic Resources and the SDCP

Linda Mayro, Cultural Resource Manager, explained how archaeological and historical sensitivity areas were developed, similar to the biological conservation lands system, and how a list of priority cultural resources was developed through the Cultural and Historic Resource Technical Advisory Team. Ms. Mayro explained that there are areas of overlap between biological and cultural resources, and that she will continue to provide the Commission with information on cultural resources so that preservation of areas with multiple values can occur.

15. SDCP Steering Committee

Carolyn Campbell provided an overview of the membership of the Steering Committee, the process the Committee went through over several years, and the final recommendations of the Committee. Ms. Campbell presented a list of their recommendations, and highlighted three: (1) recommended the adoption of the ecosystem approach – the conservation lands system; (2) recommended funding options, including open space bonds, such that at least 50% of the cost of meeting the requirements of a Section 10 permit should be born by the general public; and recommended and adopted the habitat protection priorities map that was later

adopted by the Board of Supervisors and the voters that approved the Question 1 of the 2004 bond election.

16. Funding Issues and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plans

Sherry Barrett, US Fish and Wildlife Service, handed out a section on funding from the habitat conservation planning handbook. Ms. Barrett stated that the County needs to show assured funding sources for implementation of the plan, including acquisition, administration of the plan, and management and monitoring. The funding source for acquisition has been met with the successful bond election, and Pima County is still working to identify the funding sources for the other three aspects of implementation.

17. MSCP Implementation Agreement Drafting and Negotiating Committee

Commissioner Arnold provided an overview of the membership of the Committee and their charge to assist in drafting the implementation agreement between Pima County and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the County's application for a Section 10 Permit.

18. SDCP Overview; Question and Answer Period

Maeveen Behan, Assistant to the County Administrator, spoke about the 200+ reports generated as part of the fact-finding mission of the Conservation Plan. These reports can be accessed through the County's web site at: <http://www.pima.gov/sdcp/>, and are available on CD. The reports are searchable with the latest version on Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0. Ms. Behan encouraged the Commission to make use of this data and stated that if the Commission comes up with other questions, the County can run the data needed to answer those too.

The Commission discussed again whether there was a need to adopt additional direction to staff beyond the habitat protection priorities detailed by Commissioner Marshall, verified by Sherry Barrett as the best way to achieve the goals of the Section 10 permit, and approved by the voters at the May bond election.

MOTION stated by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Arnold: "The Priorities that were developed under the auspice of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Steering Committee, ratified by the Board of Supervisors and the various bond committees, and ratified by the electorate, are the priorities that this Commission will use as it's primary guidance for spending bond monies."

Motion was to be stated in writing for the next Commission meeting.

19. Draft Real Property Acquisition Process for properties not included in the bond ordinance

This item was continued to the next meeting.

20. September 16 meeting and agenda

Commissioners were asked to take a look at the list of possible agenda items for the September 16, with the understanding that some items may have to be postponed to the October meeting since the agenda looks very full.

21. Update on 2004 Conservation Bond Program Expenditures

Nicole Fyffe provided a handout detailing the costs charged to Question 1 of the 2004 Bond Ordinance, as of June 30, 2004. This update will be provided at each meeting.

22. Call to the Audience

No member of the public spoke at this time

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.