

# **BELCOR RHCP**

**Bell and Coryell Counties Regional Habitat  
Conservation Plan (BELCOR RHCP)**

**Steering Committee  
Meeting**

**March 20, 2024  
2:00 p.m.**

**Teams, Virtual Meeting**

# BELCOR RHCP

## Steering Committee

### Members:

Judge David Blackburn – Bell County  
Judge Roger Miller – Coryell County  
Tiffany Malzahn – BRA  
Scott Brooks – Clearwater UWCD  
Ryan Haverlah – City of Copperas Cove  
David Mitchell – City of Harker Heights  
Patrick Wagner – Middle Trinity GCD

### Consultants:

Velma Danielson – ICF, Project Director  
Erin Hitchcock – ICF, Project Manager  
Alicia Reinmund-Martinez – ICF, Deputy Project Manager  
Lucas Bare – ICF, Senior Advisor

### Ex Officios:

Dirk Aaron – CUWCD, Project Manager  
Whitney Ingram – CUWCD, Assistant Project Manager  
Shelly Chapman – CUWCD, Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Griffith – Bell County Auditor's Office

# Agenda

**NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BELCOR RHCP Steering Committee  
March 20, 2024**

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Steering Committee (Parties) Representing Bell County, Coryell County, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, Brazos River Authority, City of Killeen, City of Temple, City of Copperas Cove, City of Harker Heights, City of Belton, City of Gatesville, Village of Salado, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, and Killeen-Temple MPO will hold a **virtual** Steering Committee Meeting on March 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm. **The meeting will be accessible via Teams Meeting at:**

[https://teams.BelCorRHCP\\_SteeringCommitteeMarch20\\_2024](https://teams.BelCorRHCP_SteeringCommitteeMarch20_2024)

The following items will be discussed<sup>1</sup>.

**Steering Comm Meeting<sup>2</sup>:**

1. Call to Order.
2. Welcome, roll call, and purpose of meeting.
3. Approve minutes of the October 18, 2023 Steering Committee Meeting.
4. Approve minutes of the January 17, 2024 Steering Committee Meeting.
5. Receive financial report from Bell County Auditors Office.
6. Receive updates from the ICF Technical Consulting Team on the project schedule.
7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the BELCOR RHCP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Nominations and confirm their proposed membership.
8. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to discuss the BELCOR RHCP Biological Advisory Team (BAT) including reimbursement of BAT members' travel Expenses.
9. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the presentation and timeline of review of the Hydrologic Conditions and Modeling Needs Technical Memorandum.
10. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on approval of the Species Account Memorandum.
11. Review of the Bell County BELCOR RHCP website.
12. Public comments (limit 3 minutes per person).
13. Discuss agenda items for the March 27, 2024 Coordinating Committee meeting.
14. Adjourn.

Dated the 15th day of March, 2024

Bel/Cor Project Manager

By:   
Dirk Aaron

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than set forth above.

The Bel-Cor Coordinating Committee is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the CUWCD office at 254-933-0120 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.

<sup>1</sup>During the meeting, the Committee reserves the right to go into executive session for any of the purposes authorized under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, for any item on the above agenda or as otherwise authorized by law.

<sup>2</sup>Citizens who desire to address the Committee on any agenda matter may by signing up to do so prior to this meeting. Public comments will be received and must relate to any of the respective agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. No discussion or final action will be taken by the Board except as authorized by section 551.042 of the Government Code.

<sup>3</sup>No formal action will be taken by the Committee on workshop agenda items. These items are on the agenda to provide the Committee staff, Steering Committee, and members of the public, and interested parties interested in the development of the Bel-Cor RHCP an opportunity to bring to the public's and each other's attention important activities and issues pertinent to the development of the two county regional habitat conservation plan, including, but not limited to, current events in the two counties, state and/or regional developments related to threatened or endangered species, and activities of the ICF Technical Consultants. Substantive deliberation and formal action on any of these issues will be conducted pursuant to a specific item that may occur on a future agenda.

Minutes  
October 18, 2023

# BELCOR RHCP

## Bell and Coryell Counties Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (BELCOR RHCP) Virtual Meeting of the Steering Committee October 18, 2023 Minutes

The BELCOR RHCP Steering Committee held a virtual meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

### **Attendees present:**

#### **Steering Committee Members**

- Judge David Blackburn: Bell County
- David Mitchell: City of Harker Heights
- Scott Brooks: Clearwater UWCD
- Ryan Haverlah: City of Copperas Cove
- Tiffany Malzahn: Brazos River Authority
- Patrick Wagner: Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

#### **Staff members and Project Team:**

- Dirk Aaron: Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD)
- Shelly Chapman: Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD)
- Alicia Reinmund-Martinez: ICF
- Erin Hitchcock: ICF
- Lucas Bare: ICF

#### **Others**

- Elizabeth Bates – FWS HCP Coordinator
- Chelsea Acres – TPWD

#### **1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Judge David Blackburn (Bell County) at 3:00 p.m.

#### **2. Welcome, roll call, and purpose of the meeting.**

Dirk Aaron welcomed the committee members and conducted the roll call of the members present. Judge Blackburn noted that a quorum of the members was established.

#### **3. Receive updates from the ICF Technical Consulting Team on the RHCP Foundations Technical memo.**

The Committee Members received a copy of the Foundations Technical Memorandum via e-mail on October 13, 2023, to review prior to the meeting.

Erin Hitchcock presented information and updates related to the Foundations Memorandum. Erin and Lucas addressed questions and concerns regarding the same.

#### **4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to discuss Steering Committee comments, questions, and feedback on the RHCP Foundation Technical Memorandum.**

There were no other comments or discussions. No action was taken.

#### **5. Receive updates from the ICF Technical Consulting Team on the Stakeholder Involvement Plan.**

Committee members received a copy of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan via e-mail on October 13, 2023, to review prior to the meeting.

# BELCOR RHCP

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented information and updates related to the Stakeholder Involvement Plan and addressed questions and concerns regarding the same.

**6. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to discuss Steering Committee comments, questions, and feedback on the Stakeholder Involvement Plan.**

There were no other comments or discussions. No action was taken.

**7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to recommend nominees to the BELCOR RHCP Citizens Advisory Committee.**

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented the criteria for the CAC members. She commented that the timeline for nominations should be no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024. The coordinating committee makes those nominations. Judge Blackburn asked that Coordinating committee members get nominations to Dirk prior to the next meeting.

Elizabeth Bates shared that the TWP Commission appoints a member to the CAC. This will need to be an item on the Commission's agenda. She suggested that someone contact them as soon as possible to get this on their agenda. Dirk Aaron will work with Chelsea Acres to make that happen.

Scott Brooks asked for an explanation of what "undeveloped" land is. Alicia will have to get clarification and the legal definition.

(No action taken)

**8. Public comments (limit 3 minutes per person).**

There were no public comments.

**9. Discuss agenda items for the October 25<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Committee meeting.**

- Financial report/Update from the Auditor's Office
- Minutes of the August meeting
- Timeline and milestones
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Update on upcoming tasks
- Update on BELCOR website

**10. Adjourn.**

Judge Blackburn adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

---

Judge David Blackburn,  
Coordinating Committee Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

---

Dirk Aaron,

Minutes  
January 17, 2024



# BELCOR RHCP

## Bell and Coryell Counties Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (BELCOR RHCP) Virtual Meeting of the Steering Committee January 17, 2024 Minutes

The BELCOR RHCP Steering Committee held a virtual meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

### **Attendees present:**

#### **Steering Committee Members**

- Judge David Blackburn: Bell County
- David Mitchell: City of Harker Heights
- Scott Brooks: Clearwater UWCD
- Ryan Haverlah: City of Copperas Cove
- Tiffany Malzahn: Brazos River Authority
- Patrick Wagner: Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

#### **Staff members and Project Team:**

- Dirk Aaron: Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD)
- Shelly Chapman: Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD)
- Alicia Reinmund-Martinez: ICF
- Erin Hitchcock: ICF
- Jennifer Griffith: Bell County Auditor's Office
- Kylie Brooks: Bell County Auditor's Office

#### **Others**

- Elizabeth Bates – FWS HCP Coordinator
- Chelsea Acres – TPWD
- James Stafford – Bell County
- Jennifer Bronson-Warren – TPWD
- Zach Adcock
- Darren Proppe – TPWD
- Kemble White
- Justin Grimm - BRA

#### **1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Judge David Blackburn (Bell County) at 2:00 p.m.

#### **2. Welcome, roll call, and purpose of the meeting.**

Dirk Aaron welcomed the committee members, conducted the roll call of the members present, and introduced other guests in attendance.

Judge Blackburn noted that a quorum of the members was established.

#### **3. Approve minutes of the October 18, 2023, Steering Committee meeting.**

Minutes were not submitted in time for the Committee to review prior to the meeting. Judge Blackburn suggested the minutes be approved at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. All agreed.

#### **4. Receive financial report from Bell County Auditor's Office.**

# BELCOR RHCP

Jennifer Griffith presented the financial report.

Ryan Haverlah moved to accept the financial report as presented. Scott Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Receive updates from the ICF Technical Consulting Team on the project schedule.**

Erin Hitchcock presented information and updates related to the project schedule timeline.

No action was taken.

**6. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the BELCOR RHCP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) nominations and confirm their proposed membership.**

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez presented information and requirements for the CAC as identified in the Parks & Wildlife Code. Parks & Wildlife is required to appoint one member to the CAC. They have appointed Cullom Simpson who is a wildlife biologist. TPWD Commissioners will be approving that appointment at their meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dirk informed the Committee that Scott Brooks made two nominations to the CAC and David Mitchell made one nomination to the CAC.

David Mitchell presented his nomination, Spencer Smith, a citizen from Harker Heights with a passion for this topic. He is knowledgeable and will be an asset to this committee.

Scott Brook nominated Bruce Whitis, an extensive landowner in Bell and Coryell County. He holds land for agricultural use and land development use. He holds a degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M. Bruce has a lot of knowledge on land development activities and how an RHCP will affect that.

Scott also nominated John Fisher, a former Bell County Commissioner. He holds a degree in animal science from Texas A&M. His family has owned land and ranched in Bell County for many years. John is also a business owner.

Judge Blackburn touched on one of the requirements related to undeveloped landowners stating that 33% of the CAC members must have undeveloped land. Bruce Whitis and John Fisher meet those requirements. Spencer Smith does not.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez noted that there must be four members or 33% (whichever is greater) that own undeveloped land. Dirk Aaron commented that there are no representatives from Coryell County at this time. Scott Brooks reminded Dirk that Bruce Whitis owns land in both Bell & Coryell Counties.

Judge Blackburn will reach out to Judge Miller in Coryell County to see if he has any nominations. Alicia reminded the Committee that Cullom Simpson counts as a committee member. That makes four members of the CAC and two of the members are undeveloped landowners. The CAC needs one more member that has undeveloped land.

Ryan Haverlah commented that he has spoken with several landowners in Coryell County, but they have shown no interest. He has a couple more requests out there and will reach out to them again. He should be able to come back with a nomination at the next meeting.

Judge Blackburn asked if there was anything else to discuss.

Scott Brooks moved to recommend CAC nominees Spencer Smith, Bruce Whitis, John Fisher, and the representative appointed by TPWD to the Coordinating Committee on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ryan Haverlah seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

# BELCOR RHCP

**7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to discuss the BELCORE RHCP Biological Advisory Team (BAT) as it relates to the Coordinating Committee appointment.**

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez reminded the Committee of the role and requirements for the BAT as it relates to the Coordinating Committee. Parks & Wildlife Code requires three professional biologists, one landowner, one appointment from TWPD, and one member of the Coordinating Committee. Judge Blackburn asked if there were any others to be considered. Dirk Aaron recommended Pete Diaz with US Fish. Pete will have to get approval from his boss. Paul Crump and James Tracy were also discussed.

Alicia recommended the Steering Committee continue to pursue members to the BAT and present Pete Diaz and Paul Tracy as possible candidates.

Judge Blackburn suggested Tiffany Malzahn represent the Coordinating Committee on the BAT. She agreed.

Ryan Haverlah moved to recommend Pete Diaz and Paul Tracy to the BAT and continue to pursue others' availability and qualifications, as well as appoint Tiffany Malzahn as the representative from the Coordinating Committee. Scott Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to recommend nominees to the BELCOR RHCP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).**

(Discussed in agenda item #5)

**9. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the presentation of the Species Account Memo.**

Erin Hitchcock presented information and updates related to the Species Account Memo.

Alicia Reinmund-Martinez summarized the next Technical Memorandum that the Committees will be addressing is the existing Hydrogeologic Conditions.

No action taken.

**10. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the presentation by Dr. Kemble White.**

Received presentation from Dr. Kemble White.

**11. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the revised Foundations Technical Memo and the revised Stakeholder Improvement Plan (SIP).**

Erin Hitchcock recapped the revisions to the Foundations Technical Memo and Stakeholder Improvement Plan. She recommended the Committee consider approving these memos at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Everyone should have the final copy.

**12. Public comments (limit 3 minutes per person).**

There were no public comments.

The committee did receive a quick overview of the RHCP website from James Stafford with Bell County.

**13. Discuss agenda items for the January 24<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Committee meeting.**

- Financial report/Update from the Auditor's Office.

# BELCOR RHCP

- Minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting & January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Update on BELCOR RHCP website.

**14. Adjourn.**

Judge Blackburn adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

---

Judge David Blackburn,  
Coordinating Committee Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

---

Dirk Aaron,  
Project Manager

# Financials