



**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
April 10, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the San Antonio River Authority’s Boardroom, 100 East Guenther Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Committee Members Present:

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair	Olga Lizcano, Co-Chair
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe	Abigail Kinnison, Beacon Hill NA
Theodore Ozuna, Donaldson Terrace NA	Eduardo Hinojosa, Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society
Ashley Hernandez, Woodlawn Lake NA	Santiago Garcia, Jr., Westside Development Corporation
Roberto Hinkson, San Antonio Conservation	Susan Schleicher, Our Lady of the Lake University

Elected Officials Present:

Congressman Lloyd Doggett, U.S. House of Representatives, 25th District
Director Roberto G. Rodríguez, San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County District 2

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

Suzanne Scott, SARA	Rudy R. Farias, SARA
Danny Allen, USACE	Brian Mast, SARA
Fred Blumberg, Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS	Caroline Russell, Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS
Charlotte Kohl	John Espinoza, Brown & Gay Engineering
Kevin Conner, Jacobs	Elizabeth Yanez, Brown & Gay Engineering
Rosemary Geyer	Jerry Geyer
Russell Morkovsky, LNV, Inc.	Darian French, Brown & Gay Engineering
Dr. Gary Dryden	Gerald Hernandez
David Parkhill, AECOM	Caleb Etheredge, TBG

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chair Robert Ramirez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

Mr. Ramirez introduced and welcomed Congressman Lloyd Doggett. Congressman Doggett thanked Director Rodríguez for his time and tour of the Westside Creeks and the San Antonio River Authority team for meeting with him in Washington DC recently. Congressman Doggett said he continues to support the work being done on the west side on behalf of its citizens.

Co-Chair Olga Lizcano thanked members present and introduced Ms. Susan Schleicher with Our Lady of the Lake University. Ms. Lizcano also reminded those present about the quickly approaching May 12, 2012 election and encouraged all to vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for February 7, 2012

Mr. Ramirez presented the minutes to the Committee and asked if there were any corrections. As there were none, a motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Mr. Ramirez urged all present to ensure they sign in as he noticed several committee members missing from the Committee Members Present. The sign in sheet is used to reflect all those present at the meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study Update

Danny Allen, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), provided an update on the USACE Westside Creeks Feasibility Study. SARA and the USACE signed the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and are presently working to reach Decision Point 2 (DP2) by December 2012. DP2 entails environmental studies such as bird surveying, determining pilot channel dimensions, and vegetation density and placement for sustainable aquatic habitat. The USACE National Significance Resource Determination is focused on the central flyways for resident and migratory birds. Mr. Allen then provided additional information on the bird study currently underway to include bird species, populations, and communities observed within the study area.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Elmendorf Lake Study Update (Apache Creek)

Fred Blumberg, Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS, provided a presentation on the first segment of Apache Creek, Apache Creek Reach 1 (AP1) which includes Elmendorf Lake. The Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS' scope of work included determining opportunities to make the existing plans and activities more cohesive, evaluating flood mitigation and water quality benefits of proposed projects, determining opportunities for connection of current plans with other facilities and features, verifying and validating cost estimates, performing an evaluation of the dredging project, and developing a preliminary vision for the Elmendorf Lake Area and a conceptual plan for Elmendorf Lake Park. Mr. Blumberg provided detailed information on evaluations performed on Flood Mitigation and Water Quality and potential recommendations found while accomplishing those evaluations for Apache Creek, to include Best Management Practices (BMPs) and low impact development.

Mr. Blumberg stated the overall objective was to develop a plan for "A Great People Place in the Westside." The plan consisted of identifying sustainable solutions that could connect the lake, Our Lady of the Lake University and the community; connect other area recreation opportunities; seek compatibility with periodic high water in park areas; identify future flood mitigation measures and water quality enhancements; identify habitat improvement and environmental education opportunities; and provide a regional resource and catalyst for private investment and renewal in the area.

The Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS team then presented the overall vision and concept plan for the Elmendorf Lake Study area developed as part of the initial scope. The concept (vision) included gateways and signage, a nature center, an island for environmental education and outdoor recreation, a central park and "sprayground," marina and wetlands area and aquatics center.

In conclusion, Mr. Blumberg recommended the following: 1) SARA should further investigate flood mitigation measures, including the addition of a spillgate at Elmendorf Lake Dam, 2) SolarBee mixers would provide a more cost-effective alternative to dredging, along with stormwater BMPs, 3) additional

water quality studies should be performed, 4) sustainable stormwater BMPs can be integrated into the park improvement design.

Mr. Rodríguez, SARA Board of Directors, asked Mr. Blumberg how the families in potential construction zones (possible expansion) would be affected. Mr. Blumberg responded at this time, there is no proposed expansion outside of the 100 year floodplain. Suzanne Scott also stated this plan is simply a concept that reflects the potential of what could be done and the concept could be modified. Mr. Rodríguez also asked Mr. Blumberg if the Veteran's Memorial planned for Elmendorf Lake is still in the concept plan. Mr. Blumberg confirmed it is in the plan, but not specifically reflected as an exact location on the maps.

Jerry Geyer asked if Bexar County showed any interest in this project with regards to funding. Ms. Scott confirmed the county is interested. The county would like to ensure the project goes forward with the city's partnership. The city's partnership is based on the success of the upcoming bond election as the bonds will be used for funding on the city's behalf. If the bond election is successful, then the planning will move forward with both the county and the city funding the project.

Gabriel Velasquez asked if the current plan could be shown out in the community so citizens could be made aware of potential issues such as dredging and construction that could affect both residents and business owners. Mr. Ramirez assured Mr. Velasquez SARA and Bexar County have taken steps to ensure transparency and communication to the public regarding any plans for the Westside Creeks at the appropriate time. A public meeting will be conducted so the community can review the plans and any issues affecting them.

Mr. Velasquez made a motion to request SARA convene a community meeting, at the earliest possible opportunity, at an elementary school in the community to provide an update on the new conceptual plan for Elmendorf Lake with SARA, Bexar County and Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS attending to present the plan and answer any questions from the community.

Olga Lizcano amended to add update on the overall Westside Creeks, to include Elmendorf Lake Park. Gabriel revised his motion to add Westside Creeks regarding updates to the conceptual plan, new projects, future developments, etc.

Ms. Suzanne Scott asked if the update related to other projects located along the Westside Creeks that are specifically related to the bond, as well as dredging as part of the same meeting. Ms. Lizcano confirmed that was what she was requesting.

Abigail Kinnison raised a concern that if the bond does not pass, the scope of work will have to be revised and will impact the overall Elmendorf Lake Park concept. At which time, the community will need to be revisited at a later time with a second plan. The concern was that it would create confusion within the community. Mr. Velasquez didn't feel it would confuse the community and the meeting could be used to highlight the positive aspects of the bond election.

Mr. Ramirez asked Mr. Blumberg if the plan presented studied transportation availability and parking issues. Mr. Blumberg confirmed the plan does take VIA's 2035 plan into consideration, as well as certain transit stops.

Mr. Rodríguez, SARA Board of Directors, suggested proceeding with caution and strongly advocated for informing the community of the proposed concept plan and the flexibility for revising the concept plan should there be strong opposition from local residents.

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Briefing on San Pedro Creek Preliminary Engineering Report Development

Rudy Farias, SARA, provided an update on the solicitation of a Request for Qualifications for a preliminary engineering report on San Pedro Creek. The RFQ has been advertised. Mr. Farias reviewed the project limits and the preliminary work required within the proposed scope of work. The deadline for RFQ responses is April 27, 2012 with the goal to have a consultant selected by May 18, 2012.

Jerry Geyer asked the committee to consider a recommendation to SARA staff, that if a selection committee is formed a representative from the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee or San Pedro Creek Subcommittee serve on the selection committee. Mr. Farias stated Bexar County is fully funding the project and he would share the request for a stakeholder representative on the selection committee with Bexar County staff.

Mr. Geyer also asked if next time an update is given on the Elmendorf Lake and Apache Creek please include information on the management and review process; who all is involved besides SARA and Bexar County and what can we learn from this process that we can use on the other stream segments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Miscellaneous Items

Ms. Lizcano reminded those present the City of San Antonio's 2012 Bond Election will be on Saturday, May 12, 2012.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:34 pm.

Approved by Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee at a meeting held on June 12, 2012.

OLGA LIZCANO, CO-CHAIR

ROBERT RAMIREZ, CO-CHAIR