



**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
June 10, 2014**

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

Committee Members Present:

Olga Lizcano, Co-Chair	Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelman	Evelynn Mitchell, St. Mary's University
Erwin DeLuna, United San Antonio Pow-Wow, Inc.	Skye Curd, West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Cary Guffey, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU)	Al Salgado, University of Texas at San Antonio
Ashley Hernandez, Woodlawn Lake NA	Theodore Ozuna, Donaldson Terrace NA
Rita Sanchez, Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association	Joanne Walsh, Downtown Residents Association
Janet Dietel, San Antonio Conservation Society	Roy Pachecano, Westside Development Corporation

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

Lourdes Galvan, SARA Board Member	Gloria Rivera Rodriguez, SARA
Rudy R. Farias, SARA	Tomas Guadiano, Westend Hope in Action
Linda Whitaker, SARA	Jerry Geyer, San Pedro Creek Subcommittee Co-Chair
Jeff Tyler, SARA	Rosemary Geyer
Suzanne Scott, SARA	Marilyn Bradley, Five Points
David D. Garza, COSA	Martha Banda, Metropolitan Health District
Bridget Hinze, SARA	Stella De La Garza, San Antonio Conservation Society
Luis Alday	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chairs Robert Ramirez and Olga Lizcano called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Janet Dietel with the San Antonio Conservation Society announced her term on the Committee will be ending this month and Stella De La Garza will be her replacement. Ms. Lizcano reported that Roberto Rodriguez will not be attending the meeting due to family matters.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for April 8, 2014

The minutes were approved with the following correction to Item 5. The statement regarding the near completion of the San Pedro and Apache Linear Creekway Trails was corrected to specify the completion of the design phase.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Presentation and Discussion on Westside Creeks Linear Creekway Trails and Elmendorf Lake Park

Walter Heard of the Terra Design Group made the presentation.

Trail 1A – Martinez & Alazan Creeks

An Open House was held on December 9, 2013. The ninety-five percent construction documents were completed in December 2013 and the final construction documents are scheduled to be completed June 2014.

Trails 1B – Apache and San Pedro Creeks

The Open House was held on April 3, 2014, and the ninety-five percent construction documents were completed March 2014. The final construction documents are to be completed in June 2014.

Elmendorf Lake Park

The ninety-five percent construction documents are to be completed June 2014 and the final construction documents are to be completed by July 28, 2014. The final Open House is yet to be scheduled. There were discussions concerning parking availability at the park, park lighting, and public art. Jeff Tyler shared with the Committee that the exhibits in Mr. Heard’s presentation can also be found at www.westsidecreeks.com under the Trail System. Rudy Farias said he will be sending an email soliciting volunteers to participate in a small workgroup to review the signs in the plans.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Update on San Pedro Creek Improvements Project.

Jerry Geyer announced the next monthly San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting is June 12. Mr. Geyer said fifteen organizations are represented on the Subcommittee and these members are currently seeking alternates. Mr. Geyer said the project has a project logo and gave the website address for the project: www.spcproject.org.

Mr. Geyer said the key goal for this project is to connect communities. Mr. Geyer handed out a timeline and said the plan is to be in construction by 2017 with some aspect of the project complete by the 300th anniversary of San Antonio in the spring of 2018. Another project goal is to contain the floodplain within the creek channel.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study.

Rudy Farias distributed a copy of a memorandum signed by Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The memorandum seeks approval from the

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and to have the report submitted to the Office of Management and Budget to secure funding for the construction of the Westside Creeks ecosystem restoration. The earliest funding could be programmed into the federal budget is Fiscal Year 2016, which begins in October 1, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Old Business – Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Farias followed-up on the Committee's Roles and Responsibilities questions from the previous meeting in April. Mr. Farias researched the San Antonio River Authority Board of Director's meeting minutes and noted the following milestones related to the creation of the Committee and the Committee's roles and responsibilities:

- December 2005 – SARA Board approved the creation of the Westside Creek Restoration Oversight Committee to ensure the development of a concept plan for restoring the Westside Creeks was inclusive in reflecting the ideas of the residents and businesses along the creeks. The Oversight Committee's aim is to generate interest, advocacy and synergy for a common vision through the public involvement process and providing input into the Concept Plan and providing public oversight on the projects.
- April and June 2008 – In April, SARA Board appointed the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee co-chairs and in June, approved the stakeholders on the Oversight Committee.

Activities that have occurred since the inception of the Oversight Committee

- November 2009 – The Oversight Committee reviewed plans for a park to be developed along the Apache/Zarzamora Creeks. The improvements totaled \$700,000 and were planned to be built in two separate phases occurring years apart; Phase I totaled \$400,000 and phase II totaled \$300,000. To construct the park in a single phase, the Oversight Committee requested that the SARA Board consider providing financial assistance to construct the park in a single phase to showcase the potential of a linear creekway trail along the Westside Creeks. The SARA Board supported the recommendation and provided financial assistance to the project with a ten year payback period.
- June 2011 – With the support of the Oversight Committee, the SARA Board approved the adoption of the Westside Creeks Restoration Concept Plan. The plan has been the catalyst for the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project, Westside Creeks Linear Creekway Trails Project, and Elmendorf Lake Park Improvements Project.
- December 2011 - SARA Board entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Bexar County to conduct a feasibility study on San Pedro Creek. The Cooperative Agreement specifically stated that the "County authorizes the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee to provide citizen oversight in an advisory capacity on the development of Phase I."
- March 2012 – SARA Board entered into a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The Oversight Committee provided citizen oversight/input and helped guide the study, advocating for full restoration of all four creeks.

- May 2012 - The SARA Board entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of San Antonio for the Elmendorf Lake Park and the Westside Creeks Linear Creekway Trails Projects. The Interlocal Agreement specifies, "SARA will continue to coordinate these projects in the context of the larger Westside Creeks Restoration Project with community stakeholders, specifically the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee."
- January 2014 - SARA entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Bexar County to design the San Pedro Creeks improvements. The agreement states, "County authorizes the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee and its San Pedro Creek Subcommittee to provide citizen oversight in an advisory capacity on development of the project."

Mr. Farias said the purpose of the Oversight Committee, as stated in the proposed guidelines, is to ensure that the concept design and associated projects reflect the ideas and input of the residents and businesses in the vicinity of Westside Creeks as well as those community-wide stakeholder groups with interest in the restoration and enhancement of the creeks.

As discussed at the Committee Workshop held at St. Mary's University, the responsibilities proposed in the guidelines are in-line with what the Oversight Committee has been doing, which includes attending and participating in public meetings to provide input, having regular oversight committee meetings, reviewing and advising SARA staff on the public involvement plan and the stakeholder list, and advising on planning concepts and designs.

Mr. Farias said the Roles and Responsibilities document is intended for new Committee members to provide guidance on how the Oversight Committee operates.

Mr. Ramirez asked if there was a motion to approve the Roles and Responsibilities document discussed by the Committee at the workshop held at St. Mary's University. Erwin DeLuna made a motion to pass the document with a request to include Mr. Farias' presentation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mitchell and the motion passed.

SARA Board member Lourdes Galvan acknowledged the work of the Committee and indicated the main goal of the Committee is to ensure that Westside Creek projects are done for the good and welfare of our city and community.

Suzanne Scott said the Roles and Responsibilities document is a good thing to have to ensure everyone is on the same page. Ms. Scott said the Oversight Committee has been extremely effective in its advisory role. For example, they have been instrumental in the following milestones:

- Linear Trails Program
- San Pedro Creek
- Bexar County Bond issue for Elmendorf Lake Park
- Corps of Engineers Report
- Westside Creeks pilot project

Mr. DeLuna suggested sending a copy of this Responsibility Document and Mr. Farias' presentation to the Committee Members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Citizens to be Heard

There were none.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Miscellaneous Items

Ms. Lizcano emphasized the need to seek alternates to represent each organization on the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Ms. Lizcano announced the next meeting will be Tuesday, August 12, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Adjourn

Since there were no other comments or statements, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.