



**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
April 8, 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:

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| Olga Lizcano, Co-Chair | Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair |
| Skye Curd, West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce | Evelynn Mitchell, St. Mary's University |
| Erwin DeLuna, United San Antonio Pow-Wow, Inc. | Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelman |
| Cary Guffey, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) | Roberto Rodriguez, Texas Tejano.com |
| Názirite Rubén Pérez, Prospect Hill Neighborhood Assoc. | Jude Valdez, University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Ashley Hernandez, Woodlawn Lake NA | Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe |
| Patti Radle, SAISD | Eduardo Hinojosa, Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society |

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

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| Lourdes Galvan, SARA Board Member | Gloria Rivera Rodriguez, SARA |
| Rudy R. Farias, SARA | Tomas Guadiano |
| Jesse De los Santos | Jerry Geyer |
| Tammy McNarie, SAWS | Rosemary Geyer |
| Jeff Habey, SAWS | Marilyn Bradley |
| Steve Clouse, SAWS | Sonia Jimenez |
| Linda Ximenes, Ximenes & Associates | Martha Banda, Metropolitan Health District |
| Charlotte Kahl, Old Spanish Trail | Kerim Jacaman |
| Theresa Gold, Bexar County Historical Commission | David D. Garza, COSA |
| Tony Canez, Bexar County | Suzanne Scott, SARA |
| Rhett Smith | Keta La Grange LULAC |
| Linda Whitaker, SARA | Chuck Bayne, West End Hope |

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chair Robert Ramirez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Ramirez introduced new committee member Názirite Rubén Pérez representing Prospect Hill. New attendee Martha Banda, a resident of the west side and an employee of the Metropolitan

Health District, was introduced. Other new attendees were Tammy McNarie and Jeff Habey with SAWS.

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

The minutes were approved with the following supplement to Item 5: Update and Discussion on Elmendorf Lake Park and Westside Creeks Hike and Bike Trails. Mr. Ramirez stated the stewardship of the park would entail a team effort involving the neighborhood, residents, law enforcement, city, and county and should not be misunderstood to imply that the burden is shifted entirely to the neighborhood.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Presentation on the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reduction Program

Jeff Habey and Steve Clouse, SAWS, presented on the Consent Decree settlement negotiated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The presentation highlighted issues leading up to the Consent Decree and the measures SAWS is taking to come into compliance. The Consent Decree spans a ten to twelve year period during which time the wastewater collection system will be assessed. Following the assessment, problematic wastewater infrastructure will be prioritized and scheduled for repair or replacement. Mr. Habey acknowledged the Westside Creeks Restoration Project and the United States Army Corps of Engineers recommendation for restoration improvements along Martinez Creek. During the question and answer session, Mr. Habey reiterated SAWS is going through a systematic process of evaluating the entire collection system and the conditions of the lines within all creeks has to be considered. SAWS committed to continued collaboration with SARA. Suzanne Scott said there will be a report covering past and future water quality monitoring of West Side Creeks at a future meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Discussion and Action Regarding Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Linda Ximenes distributed a document titled *Guidelines and Responsibilities* which was drafted by staff and edited based upon committee member input received at the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee workshop held at St. Mary's University on March 22, 2014. Ms. Ximenes said the document is being presented to the Committee for consideration as a procedural document. Concerns were expressed that this procedural document might put constraints on the Committee which has been operating very successfully. Points were made that this type of document gives direction and provides guidelines for the Committee, especially new committee members, and does not put limitations on the Committee as long as the Committee is operating within their scope of purpose.

Mr. Velasquez made a motion to vote on the committee representation aspect of the document and not adopt the entire document as a whole. The motion was seconded. Erwin DeLuna opposed the motion. Mr. Velasquez withdrew his motion. Mr. DeLuna moved to accept the document as presented. Motion was seconded. The motion did not pass.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Status Report on Active Projects Along the Westside Creeks: San Pedro Creek, Elmendorf Lake Park and Westside Creeks Hike and Bike, and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study

Jerry Geyer gave the status report on the San Pedro Creek Project. The kickoff meeting was held March 28, 2014. The consultant teams were introduced and Suzanne Scott gave an overview of the project. The San Pedro Creek Sub-committee meeting will be April 10, 2014, 8:30 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority. They will also be reviewing their committee guidelines.

Rudy Farias gave the status report on the Elmendorf Lake Park. The goal is to have the design at 95% by June followed by an open house to share the designs with the community. Final design, 100%, would be completed in July. After design, construction packages will be assembled, advertised, and permits will be sought from the Corps of Engineers and the City of San Antonio for construction. A ground breaking is anticipated for September 16, 2014, with a construction completion date of January 2016.

San Pedro and Apache linear creekway trails are near completion. The architect and consultant team, with the committee's feedback, are in the process of researching what is feasible for the retaining walls knowing they need to be functional as well as aesthetically pleasing. They will also have to go through Corps permitting. Construction on the trail is anticipated for November 2014, and will take approximately a year to construct.

The Alazan and Martinez creekway trails had their open house a few months ago. The 100% complete design is due later this month. They anticipate construction to begin in September 2014 and be completed by June 2015.

Mr. Farias also gave a report on the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study. The Senior Leaders meeting was held in Washington D.C. on March 7. Suzanne Scott presented to the Corps of Engineers Headquarters staff, along with staff from the Corps of Engineers Division and District offices. A verbal confirmation from Headquarters was received noting the Director's Report would be approved; however they are working on edits to the report. After the approval of the Director's Report, the next step would be to work with the Assistant Secretary of the Army and the Office of Management and Budget to have the project funded. The earliest funds could be appropriated would be in fiscal year 2016, which begins October 1, 2015. After the Director's Report is signed efforts to have the project budgeted begin. The amount to be recommended through restoration is \$67.5 million. Mr. Farias answered questions.

There was discussion concerning the low attendance at the Apache Creek meeting and ideas discussed on getting more of the community to attend. A suggestion was made to send neighborhood churches the meeting invitations to announce or distribute to the community. Another suggestion was personal phone calls to community members. The personal contact gets people to meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his appreciation to the Committee, the new members for their commitment, and looked forward to growing stronger together.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. Lizcano announced the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Adjourn

Since there were no other comments or statements, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.