



**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
June 12, 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
Abigail Kinnison, Beacon Hill NA
Theodore Ozuna, Donaldson Terrace NA
Ashley Hernandez, Woodlawn Lake NA
Roberto Hinkson, San Antonio Conservation
Jude Valdez, UTSA

Olga Lizcano, Co-Chair
Lourdes Galvan, West Chamber of Commerce
Joanne Walsh, Downtown Residents
Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelman
Ray Flores, Westside Development Corporation

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

Suzanne Scott, SARA
Danny Allen, USACE
Fred Blumberg, Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS
Kerim Jacaman, Bexar County
Elizabeth Yanez, Brown & Gay Engineering
Rosemary Geyer
Betty Bueché, Bexar County.
Dr. Gary Dryden
Henry Rodriguez, LULAC
Brice Moczygemba, Pape-Dawson

Rudy R. Farias, SARA
Brian Mast, SARA
John Butchkosky, TX Alliance for Human Needs
Dr. Garri Dryen
Sonia Jimenez, Ximenez and Associates
Jerry Geyer
Dorian French, Brown & Gay Engineering
Jeremy Hanzith, AECOM
Arturo Villarreal

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chair Olga Lizcano thanked attendees for coming and explained that Mr. Roberto Rodríguez would not present for the meeting. Mr. Ramirez reminded all present to add their name and contact info to the sign in sheets.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for April 10, 2012

The minutes were approved as submitted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Briefing on Elmendorf Lake Improvements Public Meeting – June 19, 2012

Rudy Farias explained that in April of 2012, the City of San Antonio's bond election passed and contingent on that passing was SARA's interlocal agreement with COSA to manage the Elmendorf Lake park improvements as well as the hike and bike trails. SARA's board approved the agreement in May and City Council approved in June 2012. Mr. Farias explained that the public meeting on the Lake improvements would be at Our Lady of the Lake University on June 19, 2012. The presentation would be similar to the one Fred Blumberg gave in April 2012. That presentation provided information on the flood mitigation, water quality, and the concept plan for Elmendorf Lake. He emphasized that the plan was still a concept and the public still had an opportunity to comment on it.

Gloria Rodriguez then shared the outreach that was done to inform the public about the upcoming meeting. This included mailing over 3,100 invitations to the residents within one mile of the lake, sent emails to over 250 people that have provided their contact information at other Elmendorf Lake public meetings plus emailed it to the WCROC outreach list of over 350 people, there are also two electronic traffic signs with the meeting information and printed ads in La Prensa as well as a news release going out to all television, print and radio outlets. Ms. Lizcano asked if the notices were bilingual and Ms. Rodriguez stated that the notice in La Prensa would be in both English and Spanish.

Before continuing into the next agenda item, Ms. Lizcano made an announcement to the committee and guests that the SARA family unexpectedly lost a long-time employee, Mike Gonzales. She asked if anyone had questions to contact Mr. Farias. On behalf of the committee, she expressed condolences to Mr. Gonzales' family and friends.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Update on San Pedro Creek Preliminary Engineering Report

Russell Persyn presented an update on San Pedro Creek through the downtown area. SARA entered into an agreement with Bexar County to look at San Pedro Creek for restoration opportunities. He shared with the committee the scope of work and process that was done to select the firm to manage the project. He explained that the project limits were the San Pedro tunnel inlet to approximately S. Alamo St. The chosen firm, Pape-Dawson Munoz, will be looking at opportunities to add water during low flow periods. Preliminary work will also include identifying historic, pre-historic, or any culturally sensitive areas and how they could potentially affect the project. Russell introduced Betty Bueché from Bexar County that will be heavily involved in the project. Suzanne Scott explained that Ms. Bueché's knowledge of the history of San Pedro Creek will benefit the project moving forward. Mr. Persyn estimates approximately one year to work through the preliminary design and assured the WCROC that the report team would come back to make frequent updates.

Lourdes Galvan asked that of the three finalists, only one company gets the bid for the preliminary report project. She also asked for the amount of the contract. Mr. Persyn said that was not known at this time and that all finalists were chosen based on qualifications. After they are chosen, there is a process to determine the scope and the fee of the project. He also

explained that even though the County is the lead on the project, COSA is aware and involved in the project as well as they are the ones that do the operations and maintenance of this section of San Pedro Creek.

Mr. Ramirez expressed excitement on this as a flagship project for the WSC. He asked if there were non-technical people on the selection committee to choose the qualifying firm. Mr. Persyn explained that even though it is an engineering report, there were engineers and non-engineers on the selection committee. Mr. Ramirez had questions on the cultural and historical aspects of the project which Ms. Bueché was able to answer.

Ms. Lizcano suggested having the San Pedro sub-committee reconvene while the San Pedro Creek Preliminary Engineering Report is in progress so that they may provide public input. She also recommends Jerry Geyer as a lead on the San Pedro Creek sub-committee. Ms. Kinnison asked if Casa Navarro could be included as a member of the WCROC committee. Mr. Ramirez recommended approaching the SARA board to review the WCROC member list.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study Update

Danny Allen, USACE, gave the presentation. Ms. Galvan asked how this study was different than the concept plan that the committee had worked on for the past 3 years. Mr. Ramirez explained that the USACE feasibility study was more specifically focusing on ecosystem restoration and determining what's of national significance, and is restoration feasible.

Of national significance are the migratory patterns of birds. Bexar County is located within the Central Flyway Zone for these birds flying to South America or making South Texas home for the winter. The feasibility study is on schedule, with an anticipated draft report scheduled for public review in December 2012/January 2013.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Citizens to Be Heard

Jerry Geyer thanked the co-chairs for supporting the suggestion for Casa Navarro to be on the WCROC. He mentioned there was a Pape Dawson-Downtown transportation study currently taking place. He explained that this transformation was of West Commerce Street into the Cultural Zone within the Market Square area. He invited the committee and public to the June 23rd celebration at Casa Navarro where Jesse Trevino will unveil a tile historical depiction of Casa Navarro in the early years.

Sonia Jimenez gave a brief description of Basura Bash and its location. She explained that there were 15 tributaries and 2065 volunteers that participate in the annual event. In July, Basura Bash will be working with SARA on locating 5 more tributaries for the next event scheduled for February 23, 2012. Planning meetings start in September. Mr. Ramirez asked if there was more than one event a year because the tributaries and river often need cleaning after rainfalls. Ms. Jimenez said that she would like to create more than one event a year as the goal for the 20th anniversary. Ray Flores asked about recyclable items that were picked up during Basura Bash. Ms. Jimenez referred him to the Basura Bash website for the correct number of recycled materials collected at the events.

Ray Flores then shared that there was a Girl Scout Westside Leadership Center representing multiple counties. He also announced a business expansion of Amigo Foods near Hwy 151.

Lourdes Galvan asked if the La Ofrenda monument is still included in the Elmendorf Lake Improvement Plan. Mr. Blumberg replied yes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Next Meeting

Mr. Ramirez announced that the next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2012 and the meeting was adjourned.