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**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
July 20, 2011**

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

Abigail Kinnison, Beacon Hill N.A.

Ted Ozuna, Donaldson Terrace N.A.

Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe

Dr. David Estes, Our Lady of the Lake University

Dr. Jude Valdez, UTSA

Ray Flores, Westside Development Corporation

Santiago Garcia, Westside Development Corporation

Lourdes Galvan, Westside Chamber of Commerce

Rod Radle, San Antonio Alternative Housing

Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelmen

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

Paul Elizondo, Bexar County Commission,
Precinct 2

Kerim Jacaman, Bexar County

Frank Leal

William Long

Henrietta LaGrange

Dorian French

Angela Hartsell, Green Spaces Alliance

Dr. Gary Dryden

Narcisco Cano

Steven Evans, Linda Pace Foundation

Aisa Jose

Roberto G. Rodríguez, San Antonio River Authority
Board Director, District 2

Suzanne Scott, SARA

Rudy R. Farias, SARA

Albert Vega, SARA

Gloria Rivera Rodriguez, SARA

Erin Newberry, SARA

Rosemary Geyer

Ernest Bromley, Alameda Theater

Jerry Geyer

Jacque Thompson

Charrisa Kelly, US Army Corps of Engineers

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chairs Olga Lizcano and Robert Ramirez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Ramirez introduced new Committee members, Dr. David Estes, Our Lady of the Lake University and Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe.

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Ms. Lizcano introduced San Antonio River Authority Board Directors, Roberto G. Rodríguez and Hector Morales and San Antonio River Authority General Manager, Suzanne Scott and welcomed them to the meeting. Ms. Lizcano also introduced and welcomed, Bexar County Commission, Precinct 2, Paul Elizondo.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for April 19th, 2011

Ms. Lizcano presented the minutes to the Committee and asked if there were any corrections. As there were none, Mr. Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. There were no objections and the minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: City of San Antonio Linear Trails Update

Rudy Farias, SARA, informed the Committee that the Linear Creekways Advisory Board met on June 28, 2011. Mr. Farias attended the meeting and reported that the Advisory Board received a briefing from Parks Department staff on their recommendations for allocating the Proposition 2 funds. Of the \$45 million in Proposition 2 funds, the recommendation for Westside Creeks was \$6.2 million to construct approximately 6.25 miles of linear trails along the creeks. The Advisory Board will consider the recommendation and will take action at their August 2011 meeting.

Mr. Ramirez asked Mr. Farias if the WCROC should draft a letter endorsing the funding and staff recommendation of \$6.2 million for trails on the four creeks. Rod Radle asked Roberto Rodríguez, SARA Board Director, if he agreed that \$6.2 million would be enough money for the project. Director Rodríguez stated he was not satisfied with the recommendation. Director Rodríguez said as a member of the City of San Antonio's Linear Creekways Advisory Board, the City is spending \$1 million per mile of liner trail. There are roughly 14 miles of Westside Creeks, minus the one mile of trail constructed by San Antonio Alternative Housing. That would equate to roughly \$13 million. For the time being, Director Rodríguez said he would go along with the recommendation but felt additional funds would be forth coming.

County Commissioner Paul Elizondo recommended that the Committee seek adequate funds to complete the project. He also discussed the possibilities of Bexar County working jointly with the City of San Antonio.

The motion was made to reflect a letter acknowledging the initial recommendation of \$6.2 million, but requesting an increase to \$10 million. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Mr. Farias will draft a letter for the co-chairs' signature, to the Linear Creeks Advisory Board, requesting \$10 million. Mr. Farias will also send out an email to Committee members detailing the date, time and location of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study Update

Ms. Charissa Kelly, US Army Corps of Engineers, provided a presentation and update on the Westside Creeks (WSC) National Pilot Study. Ms. Kelly gave the committee an update on the new planning paradigm that will be used for the Westside Creeks. Ms. Kelly detailed the planning decision tree, the paradigm decision points and the timeline of the WSC Pilot Study. Ms. Kelly also explained the role of the US Army Corps of Engineers and public involvement, as well as the role of the WCROC.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: City of San Antonio 2012 Bond Election

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Mr. Rudy Farias discussed that one of the Concept Plan's action items (Action Item 2) is to develop public agency funding and partnership agreements. Proposition 2 will fund only linear trails, the 2012 Bond Program scheduled for May 2012 could support the restoration, flood control and other recreational aspects of the plan. The 2012 bond program is proposed to be \$596 million divided into four propositions; Proposition 1 is streets, bridges and sidewalks; Proposition 2 is drainage; Proposition 3 is parks and Proposition 4 is municipal facilities. Mayor Julian Castro has appointed tri-chairs to oversee the 2012 Bond Program. The city staff is using professional judgment to come up with projects and using a model to score and rank the projects. Once the list of projects has been created, a bond committee will review and provide their recommendations with citizen input. The Bond Committee will finalize and present the projects to City Council for consideration. City Council will take action on those recommendations and present them for the May 2012 election.

Mr. Farias explained that the Phase 1A Projects recommended in the Concept Plan total \$60 million. He suggested Committee members work with their City Council representatives and civic groups to prioritize the projects on the Westside and engage in the process. There will be an overall City Council appointed bond committee, as well as four individual subcommittees representing each proposition.

At this time, Mr. Farias asked Mr. Ray Flores, Westside Development Corporation, to provide an update on the Westside Economic Development Summits being hosted by the Westside Development Corporation in coordination with the City of San Antonio and the Mayor's office. Mr. Flores explained there would be a series of summits aimed at identifying potential economic development opportunities within the Westside. The second summit, held at Frank Garrett Center on June 18, 2011, sought to identify priority corridors and projects. The top priority corridors were: 1) 24th Street at Commerce; 2) Buena Vista and Commerce; 3) General McMullen; 4) Frio Street; and 5) 36th Street. The top projects were: 1) Westside Creeks Enhancements; 2) Westside Corridor Projects along Guadalupe, Commerce, and Buena Vista; 3) housing revitalization; 4) creation of a UTSA and Market Square gateway; 5) Union Stockyards; 6) Las Palmas Enhancements; 7) 36th Street Redevelopment; 8) VIA Bus Rapid Transit; 9) Westside Parks Development; and 10) Westside Education and Training Center Site Improvement. Mr. Flores also urged the Committee members to work with their Councilmembers and become involved in the 2012 Bond Program process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding ROC Meeting Schedule

Mr. Farias asked the Committee if meetings should continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month or every other month, as needed. The Committee agreed the second Tuesday of every other month will remain as the meeting day, and the next meeting will be in September.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Miscellaneous Items

Suzanne Scott, General Manager of SARA, asked for clarification on an earlier discussion within the Linear Trails Update. It was suggested a second letter be drafted inviting the Mayor, Councilmembers whose districts encompass the creeks, Commissioner Elizondo, and Board Director Rodríguez to meet and discuss implementation of the Westside Creeks project.

Henrietta LaGrange stated she attends the Linear Creek Advisory Board Meetings, as well as the SARA Board Meetings, and last year citizens were asked to support Proposition 2, which states the 1/8 sales tax would support Westside Creeks. Proposition 2 passed, but asked why Westside Creeks was not being fully funded by the Proposition. Ms. LaGrange provided a copy of a document she shared with the City of San Antonio and asked it be included in the record. The document was titled, "Mis-Leading Voters."

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Director Rodríguez stated the Westside Creeks project is a project of love and he is very excited to see the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working with SARA on the project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:05 pm.

Approved by Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee at a meeting held on September 13th, 2011.

OLGA LIZCANO, CO-CHAIR

ROBERT RAMIREZ, CO-CHAIR