



**Minutes of the  
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
October 9, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm in the San Antonio River Authority's Boardroom, 100 East Guenther Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

**Committee Members Present:**

Olga Lizcano, Co-Chair	Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelman
Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair	Jude Valdez, UTSA
Roberto Hinkson, San Antonio Conservation Society	Joanne Walsh, Downtown Residents Association
Theodore Ozuna, Donaldson Terrace NA	

**Elected Officials Present:**

Mr. Roberto G. Rodriguez, San Antonio River Authority Board Director, District 2  
Mr. Hector R. Morales, San Antonio River Authority Board Director, Member-At -Large

**Staff and Members of the Public Present:**

Rudy R. Farias, SARA	Shiva Sandrana, Bexar County
Jeff Tyler, SARA	Cosima Colvin
Gloria Rivera Rodriguez, SARA	Garri Dryden
Rosanne Hughes, SARA	Jerry Geyer
Linda Whitaker, SARA	Rosemary Geyer
Brice Moczygamba, Pape Dawson	Charlotte Kahl
Joseph Ortega, Pape Dawson	Mark Judson, Union Stockyards
Andy Rodriguez, Kell Muñoz	Steve Gonzales, Cobb Fendley
Steve Tillotson, Kell Muñoz	Tony Cantu, San Antonio River Oversight Committee (SAROC)
David Garza, City of San Antonio (COSA)	

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome**

Mr. Robert Ramirez welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He introduced and thanked SARA Board Member District 2, Mr. Roberto G. Rodriguez and SARA Board Member-At -Large, Mr. Hector R. Morales for attending and for their support.

Mr. Ramirez also introduced Ms. Cosima Colvin, member of the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board, City of San Antonio, District One.

Mr. Ramirez asked if there were any first time visitors to the meeting. The following visitors introduced themselves:

Mr. Shiva Sandrana, Bexar County Public Works;

Mr. Tony Cantu, also on the San Antonio River Oversight Committee, Museum Reach, member for 13 years;  
Mr. David Garza, City of San Antonio, City Manager's office.

Mrs. Olga Lizcano thanked everyone for attending and commented that it would be an interesting meeting.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending. He gave special thanks to Mr. Brice Moczygemba and Mr. Joseph Ortega of Pape-Dawson Engineers, and Mr. Steve Tillotson of Kell Muñoz.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for August 14, 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.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Feasibility Study Update**

Mr. Ramirez skipped this item and moved on to Item 4 because Mr. Danny Allen, USACE, was unavailable via teleconference.

Mr. Ramirez asked if Item 3 would be carried forward since Danny wasn't there.

Mr. Farias said it would be.

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

Mr. Brice Moczygemba introduced himself as the Principal in Charge of the Project and introduced Mr. Joseph Ortega of Pape-Dawson Engineers. He thanked the Committee for letting the Pape-Dawson, Kell Muñoz team speak and handed out the project schedule.

Mr. Moczygemba reported that the contract and notice to proceed had been executed on 9-10-12. A desk-top geotechnical report by Raba Kistner had been completed. Work on Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was underway and the endangered species investigation was wrapping up. The team is also identifying utilities, inspecting wall sections within the Creek, as well as inspecting and rating all bridge structures. A desk-top property survey is being completed and will identify all existing channel ROW based on tax records/maps and researching existing parcels adjacent to the project. The survey will be used to create the existing conditions hydraulics model. The data collection and structural reports will be compiled into a report.

In addition to these items, the team is working on obtaining a permit as required by the antiquities code. Before the team can legally go out to the site and do an evaluation of the existing channel, cultural resources, and the antiquities, a permit must be received from the State of Texas, Texas Historical Commission (THC). Once the permit is approved, the archaeologist will conduct field surveys in November.

During December, following the archaeological cultural resources survey, the Archaeological Cultural Resources Report for the State will be compiled. One of the key factors is to identify, in a conservative manner, a grand plan which incorporates activities that may or may not happen, depending on costs and public input. Incorporating as much into the plan as possible is essential in order to avoid going back to the State for additional reviews.

When the THC gives the final approval and an understanding of what can and cannot be done to the creek is established, the Kell Muñoz team will further refine the draft report and produce draft design concepts. Stakeholder meetings will be conducted as well as cost estimating which will be discussed with the WCROC in February. Also, in February there will be a go/no go discussion with SARA staff and the Executive Committee, followed by a presentation to Bexar County Commissioners Court on March 12.

Mr. Moczygemba discussed meeting with key stakeholder groups (the San Pedro Creek Subcommittee, staff at Bexar County, Staff at COSA) for their input. The consultant team will report back on any fatal flaws before the preliminary engineering report is finished, give the update from the THC, provide a ball-park budget, and show the concepts. Upon receiving all input, the consultant team will continue forward with final renderings for the project, a very detailed cost estimate and also put together a detailed report which will come later in the summer.

Mr. Brice Moczygemba asked if anyone had a specific question.

Mr. Ramirez asked the committee if they had any questions. He thanked Mr. Moczygemba for the general overview and said they look forward to periodic updates. Mr. Ramirez asked if there were any questions from any of the audience members.

Ms. Charlotte Kahl asked how will the public be notified of the October and February meetings.

Mr. Moczygemba answered that he believed it's through the Westside Creeks website.

Mr. Farias stated that people who signed up during the Conceptual Plan Development Phase to be part of the San Pedro Creek subcommittee are included within the database and an email can be sent to those individuals.

Ms. Kahl asked if it will be only to the San Pedro Creek database and not to the entire Westside Creeks database.

Ms. Gloria Rivera Rodriguez said she would suggest sending an email to everyone in the Westside Creeks database if it is OK with the committee.

Mr. Ramirez said it was ok with the committee. He also would like the notice to go out to anyone who has ever signed up on the mailing list. The more people that are involved the better.

Mr. Moczygemba introduced Mr. Joseph Ortega, Project Manager with Pape-Dawson and Mr. Steve Tillotson with Kell Muñoz who is the lead architect on the project. He also introduced Ms. Andi Rodriguez, Urban Planner, with Kell Muñoz.

Mr. Ramirez asked if there were any other questions from the audience or from the committee.

Mr. Ramirez asked Mr. Moczygemba another question regarding THC's go/no go decision. Mr. Steve Tillotson answered the goal is to determine if there is an adverse effect on anything that THC deems to be potentially eligible for historic designation. If there is a potential impact on a historic designation, THC would recommend a particular mitigation process.

Mr. Moczygemba clarified the go/no go decision. He said it is not the THC but SARA and Bexar County that would make the decision. The consultant team will present the data to Commissioners Court to ultimately decide whether or not they should continue with the scope based upon THC determination. Continuing would include finalizing the renderings, final cost and preliminary engineering report.

Mr. Ramirez wanted a clarification that if it's a no go that would mean this particular version of the approach to San Pedro Creek would be a no go, but it would not mean that there would be no further development of the San Pedro Creek along that stretch.

Mr. Moczygemba answered that was correct. He said he didn't feel there is going to be a no go but they just want to present their findings. He said a go/no go may not be the correct term but the consultant team wants to present the findings so that overall decisions can be made.

Mr. Rodriguez asked Mr. Moczygemba when they will go before Commissioners Court.

Mr. Moczygemba answered that it will be on March 12.

Mr. Ramirez asked Mr. Moczygemba if the gantt chart will be made available to the public.

Mr. Joseph Ortega answered yes it could be.

Mr. Ramirez asked to what extent would there be transparency to the general public so they can keep up with calendars, gantt charts, pert charts, milestones.

Mr. Ortega said the project team hasn't had that particular discussion but indicated the project team would discuss how to make the information available to the public.

Mr. Ramirez said they would like to make all that they can available to the public. If they don't access it that is their decision but it won't be because it's not available.

Mr. Ortega replied that he didn't know if that information will be posted on the website or how that will work. He said they are going to talk about it.

Mr. Ramirez said they have had issues with updates to the website too and there probably have been reasons for that but it would help a lot if it is kept current. He asked if anyone had anything else.

Dr. Jude Valdez asked if he knew of any issues concerning any structures of historical value that might come before this committee for possible exclusion in the list.

Mr. Steve Tillotson said that a good portion of San Pedro Creek is channelized and a lot of it with stone walls which were in place before World War II. According to a statutory requirement, any structure older than 50 years is potentially eligible for historic designation and required to go through the process. The consultant team will need to work out an understanding with THC on what they deem historic which may or may not need to be designated and protected.

Mr. Ramirez asked if there were any other questions or comments. He thanked Mr. Tillotson from Kell Muñoz and Mr. Moczygemba and Mr. Ortega from Pape-Dawson.

Mr. Ramirez introduced Mr. Jerry Geyer and Mrs. Rosemary Geyer. He said Mr. Geyer has dedicated time, effort and money and attends the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee meetings along with his wife and has graciously consented to serve as one of the co-chairs for the San Pedro Creek sub-committee. The other co-chair has not been filled yet.

Mr. Ramirez called on Ms. Cosima Colvin who asked what was the northern most point of San Pedro Creek which is included in this project.

Mr. Ramirez answered that it is Fox Tech high school and that the project extends down to South Alamo.

Mr. Ramirez turned the balance of the agenda over to Mrs. Olga Lizcano.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update on Design Services for Elmendorf Lake Park and Westside Creeks Hike and Bike Trail Improvements**

Mrs. Olga Lizcano introduced Mr. Farias.

Mr. Rudy Farias provided a quick update stating the solicitation for proposals began on September 7 and the proposals were due yesterday at 3:00 pm. Eight submissions had been received and would be evaluated. Based upon the evaluations, three to four consultants would be invited to an interview. Following interviews, the team will make a decision and negotiate an agreement during the months of November and December. The goal is to have an agreement in place to kick-off the project shortly into the New Year.

Mr. Ramirez asked if the scope of this contract coming up includes Elmendorf Lake and the hike and bike trails, and does it include all four creeks.

Mr. Farias answered yes.

Mr. Ramirez asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Farias or the Committee. He asked if the general public had any questions or comments concerning Elmendorf Lake.

Ms. Joanne Walsh asked if this is both design and construction.

Mr. Jeff Tyler said it was for design.

After reading the minutes from the last meeting, Ms. Walsh said the question was asked and the answer was both and asked if there was a separate component.

Mr. Tyler said it would be construction based services by the design firm so they will continue to offer their services through construction and the actual construction will be another solicitation once design is complete.

Mr. Ramirez asked about the extent of the design which Mr. Tyler answered full design.

Mr. Ramirez asked if it was just the waterway.

Mr. Tyler said the hike and bike trails and the park are to be designed to 100%. However, construction would have to be phased over time as funding becomes available since the current funding level is not at 100% for construction.

Mr. Ramirez said he was confused along with the public whether they are talking about amenities and recreation or the waterway. For example the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are not particularly concerned about what happens outside the creek banks, just the waterway.

Mr. Tyler responded that the trails follow the waterway but the park itself includes all the amenities within the park.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez asked Mr. Farias if the walking trails north of West Commerce will connect to that trail and continue on south.

Mr. Farias answered yes.

Dr. Jude Valdez asked how much money is allocated for this project.

Mr. Farias said the total for design and construction is \$15.1 million which includes the improvements at Elmendorf Lake Park as well as the hike and bike trails.

Dr. Valdez asked if it is just for the consultant price.

Mr. Farias answered that they don't have a cost yet for the consultant. Mr. Tyler answered that will be part of the contract negotiation between November and December and they are expecting somewhere around 10% of the \$15.1 million for consultant design costs.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez asked Mr. Farias if they are planning to have another public meeting in the area to inform them about these changes since it is a very active community.

Mr. Farias answered that they were planning on having design charettes during the first part of 2013. Mr. Farias reminded the Committee of work done earlier to develop cost estimates for Elmendorf Lake. The estimates included a conceptual park plan which will serve as a starting point when the design charettes are held.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez thanked him.

Ms. Colvin asked about the funding sources for the \$15 million. Mr. Farias said it's a combination of Linear Creekway funds, bond funds, and general fund.

Mrs. Olga Lizcano, co-chair acknowledged Ms. Charlotte Kahl.

Ms. Kahl asked for clarification on the charette design meetings and public meetings.

Mr. Tyler explained that at this point the charettes are intended for the amenities pertaining to the park, while the public meetings are for the linear trails because they are spread out geographically.

Ms. Kahl asked if the charette for Elmendorf Lake Park and the public meeting will both be scheduled for the January and February time frame.

Mr. Tyler answered they will be early in the year between January and March, 2013.

Mrs. Lizcano asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Jerry Geyer said with all of the numerous and various projects underway and on the books and with all of the various entities involved and as the USACE shows us graphically what they are doing, would it be possibly to create a timeline of some sort or notation to show where all these projects feed into each other. In the interest of transparency everyone should understand that there is no duplication or a conflict of efforts. He requested that SARA work on this.

Mrs. Lizcano thanked Mr. Geyer and asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none Mrs. Lizcano moved to Item 6.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Citizens to be Heard**

Mrs. Lizcano asked if there was anyone who wanted to be heard on any particular item pertaining to these projects. Hearing none, Mrs. Lizcano moved to Item 7.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Miscellaneous Items**

Mr. Farias explained that Mr. Danny Allen was going to provide a briefing regarding the aquatic, avian, and vegetation studies and how these studies feed into a model to produce results for the draft report. This draft report is scheduled to come out in December and presented at subsequent public meetings where the community will have the opportunity to review and offer their input.

Mrs. Lizcano asked if the report will be available at the subcommittee and Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee meeting.

Mr. Farias explained that there would be a briefing to the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee as well as two public meetings following a similar format as the two previous USACE public meetings at the Guadalupe Theatre and Peacock Center.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

Mrs. Lizcano moved on to Item 8, Next Meeting which will be Tuesday, December 11, at SARA at 6:00 PM. She asked if there were any items to be discussed.

Mr. Ramirez expressed to Mr. Rudy Farias and Ms. Gloria Rodriguez concerns he had about the same Committee members being consistently absent from the oversight committee meetings. He had contacted some of the entities involved to see if they would be attending and they responded that they would or planned to attend the meeting tonight but were again absent. He asked if the committee could contact the entities that were not present to find out if they plan on attending future meeting.

Mr. Ramirez said it had been noted tonight that the project is accelerating. He said these are exciting times - San Pedro Creek, Elmendorf Lake, Martinez and Alazan. We are going to rev up new committees as well and we need direction from the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee. He expressed concern that the same six, seven and eight people making the decisions and that this narrows the input from the committee.

Mr. Rodriguez addressed the co-chair saying he had spoken with some of the members and two of the members were out of town. He suggested writing a letter signed by both co-chairs stating the members were missed and needed, especially at this time with the momentum of the project accelerating. He said he was electrified and wants all the committee members excited about the progress of the project too. He thanked the members of the committee mentioning he had spoken with Mr. Hinkman of UTSA and some others, expressing his appreciation for their efforts and support. He felt good that they still believed in the same vision for all these years.

Mr. Ramirez said they appreciate the ones attending the meeting today and reported that some of the committee members who were not there are regular attendees. He stated that he was talking about those who have not attended a meeting for several months. He said if they needed to replace entities that it would be fine but hoped they would not have to. He thanked Ms. Gloria Rodriguez and Mr. Rudy Farias.

Mr. Rodriguez had a comment under miscellaneous items. He reported the City of San Antonio was performing routine maintenance on the northern part of Alazan Creek. He thanked the City and said he appreciated their efforts.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Adjourn**

Since there were no other comments or statements, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.