



**Minutes of the
Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
December 13, 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	Abigail Kinnison, Beacon Hill N.A.
Abel Ramirez, San Antonio Wheelmen	Ray Flores, Westside Development Corporation
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe	Santiago Garcia, Westside Development Corporation
Dr. David Estes, Our Lady of the Lake University	Ashley Hernandez, Student Representative
Rod Radle, San Antonio Alternative Housing	Roberto Hinkson, San Antonio Conservation Society
Erwin De Luna, United San Antonio Pow-Wow	

Staff and Members of the Public Present:

Roberto G. Rodríguez, San Antonio River Authority Board Director, Bexar County District 2	
Hector R. Morales, San Antonio River Authority Board Director, Bexar County At-Large	
Názirite Rubén Pérez, San Antonio River Authority Board Director, Bexar County District 1	
Suzanne Scott, SARA	Rudy R. Farias, SARA
Betty Bueche, Bexar County	Brian Mast, SARA
Oscar Cervantes, Bexar County	Gloria Rodriguez, SARA
Kerim Jacaman, Bexar County	Erin Newberry, SARA
Tami Norton, Baker	Narciso Cano
Linda Hardberger, Green Spaces Alliance	Chuck Bayne
Dr. Gary Dryden	Jim Boenig
John Espinosa	Lisa White, Jacobs
Jerry Geyer	Rosemary Geyer
Bruce Cole	Sonia Jimenez, Ximenes and Associates

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome

Co-Chair Robert Ramirez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

Mr. Ramirez introduced and welcomed the San Antonio River Authority Board Directors in attendance, Director Roberto G. Rodríguez, Bexar County District 2, Director Hector R. Morales, Bexar County At-Large, and Director Názirite Rubén Pérez, Bexar County District 1.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes for September 13, 2011

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: Briefing on Elmendorf Lake Concept

Rudy Farias, SARA, provided an overview on efforts regarding Elmendorf Lake, which was identified as Apache Creek 1 in the Westside Creeks Restoration Project Conceptual Plan. Building upon previous studies, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Our Lady of the Lake University and SARA have worked together to build upon the vision for Elmendorf Lake.

The City of San Antonio expressed an interest in Elmendorf Lake becoming a destination, a community catalyst, providing more recreational amenities and connections such as trail systems, as well as taking advantage of transit opportunities. The City also wanted to address water quality improvements within the lake. Bexar County was interested in flood protection and water quality Best Management Practices (BMP's). Our Lady of the Lake University was interested in connecting to Elmendorf Lake as well as the greater Westside Community. The University would like to see improved aesthetics and facilities, enhanced security for the student body and visitors, a gateway from Commerce Street and they would like to take advantage of the environmental education opportunities at Elmendorf Lake. SARA was interested in stream restoration, flood protection, improved water quality as well as creating a destination that can be enjoyed by citizens and visitors.

Mr. Farias reviewed the Elmendorf Lake Park Vision and pointed out potential key amenities, such as a marina, outdoor amphitheater, aquatics center, educational facility, etc. and discussed potential funding sources.

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

Ms. Nova Robbins, US Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update on the Westside Creeks (WSC) National Pilot Study. Ms. Robbins provided an update on actions taken towards Decision Point 1 and the goal of advancing the study along the Corps of Engineers Authorization Track which entails both a Federal Interest as well as a USACE Interest. The USACE must identify significant resources within the study area, as well as those resources' national significance. For the Westside Creeks, the significant resources include improving the aquatic and riparian habitats, migratory birds, and amphibians and reptiles. Of national significance would be the migratory patterns of birds flying to South Texas for the winter or passing through on their way to Central and South America. At this time, the Corps is waiting for the official approval on Decision Point 1 and to move forward on the Authorization Track with USACE Interest.

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

Mr. Farias provided an update on the four bond committees; Parks Committee, Drainage Committee, Streets, Bridges, and Sidewalks Committee, and Facilities and Community Initiatives Committee. The Parks Bond Committee and Drainage Committee both contained projects that benefit the Westside Creeks.

Tentatively, it is projected that the Bond Committees will present recommendations to City Council on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. City Council will vote on a final list of approved projects on Thursday, January 12. At the Thursday, February 16, 2012, City Council will adopt an ordinance calling for a Saturday, May 12, 2012 Bond Program election. (All dates are tentative.)

Abigail Kinnison shared her experience as a District 1 citizen appointee to the Parks Bond Committee.

Mr. Rodríguez stated he was disappointed at the decision to provide less funding to Elmendorf Lake and Rosedale Park. Mr. Rodríguez asked Mr. Farias if funding may come from other sources. Mr. Farias stated unless the recommendation is changed at City Council, the Committee recommendations would stand.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: City of San Antonio Proposition 2 (2010) Linear Creekway Trails Update

Mr. Farias reminded the Committee that the City has identified areas along the Westside Creeks where hike and bike trails will be constructed from funds collected from the voter approved Proposition 2 (2010). These areas include:

- Apache Creek – Commerce Street to 24th Street;
- Apache Creek – renovation of existing 5’ path from 19th Street to just past Trinity Street;
- San Pedro/Apache Creeks – from upstream of Brazos Street to the Confluence with the San Antonio River;
- Alazan Creek – from the Woodlawn Lake casting pond to Lombrano Street;
- Martinez Creek – from Fredericksburg Road to Cincinnati; and
- An undesignated dollar amount to leverage with future City or County projects.

In total the funding is \$10,116,980 million.

SARA is currently developing a Cooperative Agreement to manage the design and construction of these projects. The projects will involve input from the Oversight Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Rodríguez recognized Jim Boenig and thanked him for his service on the Westside Creeks.

Mr. Farias briefed on efforts involving Bexar County to fund a Phase 1 feasibility study for San Pedro Creek from the tunnel inlet to Alamo Street. Phase 1 would consist of a 35% design, refined cost estimates, and tunnel recirculation.

Jerry Geyer, with Casa Navarro, provided information regarding bringing recycled water to the urban stretch of San Pedro Creek to augment flows during low periods and urged that discussions with SAWS begin immediately to secure an amount of reuse water for San Pedro Creek.

Ms. Sonia Jimenez, representing Basura Bash, solicited volunteers for Basura Bash on February 25, 2012. If there is an interest, contact Ms. Jimenez or go to the website, www.basurabash.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:02 pm.

Approved by Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee at a meeting held on February 7, 2012.