



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.
Virtual: GoToMeetings
June 17, 2025 - 6 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Ana Sandoval, Co-Chair
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.
Charles Blank, River Aid San Antonio
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe
Reb Lopez, Martinez Creek NA
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com
Patricia Seidenberger, San Antonio
Conservation Society

Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelmen
Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.
Adam Bynum, OLLU
Maia Woodall, Student At-Large
Charles Oisten, Woodlawn Lake NA
Rebeca Canizales, Prosper West
Erwin DeLuna, United SA Pow Wow Inc
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos
Genealogical Society

Staff and Public Present

Lourdes Galvan, RA Board Member
Brian Mast, RA
Rebecca Krug, RA
Kendall Hayes, RA
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc

John Watson
Mark Liberatore
Robert Gonzales
Roberto Rodriguez
Roxy Eguia

I. Welcome

Co-Chair Ana Sandoval called the WCROC meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Kendall Hayes, RA

Ms. Hayes called the WCROC roll. The committee members who were present, either in person or online, are listed above. A quorum was met.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 2025

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Calendar Items – Kendall Hayes, RA

Slides 5: Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint. Notably, there will not be a July meeting of the WCROC.

V. General Manager Update – Brian Mast, RA

Mr. Mast provided updates on the slides 7-10, respectively.

Slide 7: RA staff together with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) held the Governance meeting on May 29th with the acting commander. Discussion continued on the implementation of Alternative 7 and the RA's 1043(b) application.

Slide 8: Together with City Council District 7, Parks and Public Works, the RA submitted a federal grant application for Woodlawn Lake Stormwater Improvements. The local match would be from both in-kind, and funds from both the RA and the City of San Antonio. The timeline for distribution of funds is dependent on the passage of Congress' FY 26 Appropriations bill.

Slide 9: Legislative updates included an update on the Senate Bill 7 enabling legislation and other provisions relating to the administration of the Texas Water Fund and the House Joint Resolution 7 which is the funding.

Slide 10: Mr. Mast provided an update on the recent rainstorm event in San Antonio. Beitel Creek, on June 12, 2025, was a 10-year storm event, however, upstream areas around Comanche Lookout Park experienced a 100-year storm event between 2 and 6 am. The RA, in coordination with the City and County, is putting together a report that summarizes the storm events. The conversation ensued about seeking state funding for flood control infrastructure needs in the San Antonio region.

VI. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA

Ms. Krug provided updates on the slides 13-17, respectively.

Slide 13: Ms. Krug provided an update on the design activity for the WSC ER. She provided an update on the timeline. San Pedro, Apache and Alazan creeks are slated to be concluded in Summer 2026. Due to the Martinez Creek getting approval for full restoration, this creek requires additional design, which set back the timeline for this creek. Notably, even though the timeline is pushed back, the design will include the full restoration of Martinez Creek in Spring 2027.

Slide 14: Additional work/Betterment updates include the pedestrian bridges. Currently the team is evaluating design options to replace existing low water crossings at San Pedro/Apache and Apache/Alazan Confluences.

Slide 15: Real estate coordination acquisitions continue. Ms. Krug mentioned updates with the following local agencies – the Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio Independent School District, Opportunity Home and City of San Antonio.

Slide 16: Updates on the local Apache Creek Soil Remediation project. The update informed the committee that contract negotiations are underway with Summit Environmental Services LLC, while construction is anticipated to begin late June/July 2025. Ms. Krug reminded the committee that the local project must be complete before the start of the federal Apache Creek ecosystem restoration. A timeline for construction will be developed and will be shared with the adjacent communities.

VII. Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities: Updates to Reflect Current Practices, Robert Ramirez

Slide 19 **Action Item:** Co-Chair Ramirez provided an overview of the proposed changes to the "Guidelines and Responsibilities" (he noted all members were provided a copy of the proposed changes prior to the meeting). Mr. Ramirez inquired if there were any questions or discussion needed. Mr. Velasquez motioned to accept the proposed amendments as submitted, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Platt. Ms. Hayes counted on-line votes, total votes were 18, no objections and the motion passed.

Co-Chair Ramirez asked RA staff to post the updates to the WCROC webpage.

VIII. Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities – Discussion of Potential Additional Updates, Robert Ramirez

Slide 20: Co-Chair Ramirez stated that since the committee members were already in the process of reviewing the Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities, he laid out the discussion of this agenda item in three parts:

1. Asked the WCROC to provide any ideas of “topics” that should be considered for amendments; and in August the committee would consider “proposals for amendments” to such areas.
2. In August, the Co-Chairs along with RA staff would entertain all the proposals submitted from the WCROC members.
3. Additionally in August, the Co-Chairs will decide how to proceed with the consideration of the proposed amendments. This would be dependent on the number and complexity of the proposed amendments. Consideration would be given to the review and approval steps in the process required for each proposed amendment, whether it be at future WCROC meetings or a special meeting(s), such as a Saturday work session.

Co-Chair Ramirez then called for any topic areas to be raised at this time. Following were topic areas raised:

- Co-Chair Ramirez suggested membership and absences and implications for excessive absences.
- Ms. Romero suggested the discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the members with relation as “ambassadors” as it relates to education components of the WCROC. Co-Chair Sandoval suggested that dissemination of information is already part of the responsibilities but suggested perhaps an outreach plan to include Bond-related items.
 - Dr. Platt suggested that additional education be established for K-12.
- Dr. Platt suggested that perhaps committee membership should include environmental justice interest groups.
- Mr. Velasquez suggested a discussion on increased federal lobbying efforts for WCROC members.

Co-Chair Sandoval asked for clarification on the homework for committee members for August. Co-Chair Ramirez requested committee members to come to the August meeting with prepared suggested language for adoption, and any background on the topic area needed. At the August meeting, the WCROC can establish whether a Saturday workshop should be held to finalize the potential amendments/additions.

Mr. Buhrman inquired if it is anticipated that the WCROC will outlive the restoration project itself. Co-Chair Ramirez stated that he anticipates the committee to be working through the duration of the completion of the full westside creek restoration, which is now anticipated through 2031.

VIII. Citizens to Be Heard

John Watson, Jefferson Neighborhood Association. Thanks Ms. Kendall Hayes for her excellent presentation to the Jefferson NA. Mr. Watson requests the graffiti along the San Pedro Creek (Alazan Creek Greenway – approaching the San Pedro Cultural Arts trail) on private property outdoor fencing be cleaned up. Additionally, he asked that the bicycle rack at the RA be moved a few feet away from the flower bed to enable it to be easier to use.

VIII. Miscellaneous Items

Ms. Galvan provided an update on the communications with the Councilwoman from District 5 regarding cleanliness and maintenance issues on the westside creeks. The Councilwoman promised to work with City staff to coordinate clean-up efforts on the creeks and work with RA staff. Ms. Galvan additionally followed up with the Councilwoman naming and educational signage on the creek way, especially calling out Roberto Rodriguez Ecosystem Restoration Project. Councilwoman Castillo did state that she will investigate funding. Ms. Galvan additionally spoke with the Councilwoman about providing a “shade” option for the Guadalupe Plaza, and Mr. Velasquez will be included in that coordination effort. Ms. Romero and Dr. Platt suggested that the City’s Parks mowing schedule be coordinated with the native plants and flowers versus the high-grass and invasive weeds. Again, Dr. Platt, Mr. Velasquez and Ms. Lopez reiterated the importance of educating the community and our City partners about the ecosystem.

IX. Adjourn

Co-Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting

June 17, 2025 · 5:47 PM · ID: 311872869

Chat

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:02 PM

Hello! Thank you for joining the June meeting of the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee. We will begin shortly. Please sign-in using this link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h2h212qgbJ>

Adam Bynum - OLLU sent a chat · 6:04 PM

I'm here, I just can't figure out my mic

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:09 PM

Thank you for joining the June meeting of the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee. Please sign-in using this link. The form is your opportunity to indicate if you would like to make a public comment at the end of the meeting.
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h2h212qgbJ>

Bill Buhrman sent a chat · 6:21 PM

Very thoughtfully reported. Thank you for those details.

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:26 PM

Thank you, Bill.

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:27 PM

For those of you joining us online, please sign-in using this link. The form is your opportunity to indicate if you would like to make a public comment at the end of the meeting.
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h2h212qgbJ>