



**Westside Creeks Restoration  
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
San Antonio River Authority  
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.  
Virtual: GoToMeetings  
August 20, 2024 - 6 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair  
Skye Curd, Co-Chair  
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe  
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,  
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.  
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home SA  
Charles Blank, River Aid SA  
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos  
Genealogical Society  
Brooke Vasquez, SAISD

Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman  
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.  
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com  
Brianna Salas, OLLU  
Melinda Gonzalez, Prosper West  
Patricia Seidenberger, SA Conservation  
Society  
Charles Oisten, Woodlawn Lake  
Neighborhood Association

**Staff and Public Present**

Lourdes Galvan, RA Board Member  
Derek Boese, RA  
Rebecca Krug, RA  
Brian Mast, RA  
Kendall Hayes, RA  
J.R. Garza  
Reb Lopez-De La O  
Robert Gonzales

Father John Suenram  
Humberto Saldana  
Roberto Rodriguez  
Zia Burns  
Lindsey Carnett  
Micky Clemmons  
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc.

**I. Welcome**

Co-Chair Robert Ramirez called the WCROC meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call – Kendall Hayes, RA**

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

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 2024**

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Calendar Items – Kendall Hayes, RA**

Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint slide (slide 5). Ms. Hayes noted that the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee will be on September 17 and will have that changed on the record.

**V. General Manager Update – Derek Boese**

Mr. Boese provided the updates on different items (slides 7, 8, and 9 respectively).

Slide 7: Regarding Westside Creeks shirts, please reach out to Ms. Hayes to get your shirts, if you have not yet done so.

Slide 8: RA staff briefed all County elected officials and the County manager on the Bexar County Creeks and Trails (BCCT) Program, as the Westside Creeks has been considered part of the program. The County generally agrees that WSC is a project outside of the BCCT funding consideration. Mr. Boese further described that he believes the WSC will be funded and is not concerned. Mr. Boese paused for questions. Mr. Velasquez commented that there is a balance between financing projects and fulfilling the needs and requests of the citizens. Mr. Boese agrees that it is very important to continue to advocate for projects within the program. He also stated that he feels that if construction has begun by 2027, then the project will be funded and completed. The County is supportive of the WSC project.

Slide 9: Mr. Boese spoke on the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, a bill that has passed both the House and Senate. He further stated that the RA is still working with the delegation to get the supportive language in the final bill, which includes a full restoration of the Martinez Creek.

Dr. Platt asked if it would be helpful to contact our representatives. Mr. Mast said the Senate has been asked to set aside their language and use the House language, the Senate has been very supportive. Mr. Lopez asked if there is a change in administration, could the funding be affected. Mr. Mast stated that the amount is fully appropriated, but increased costs may require additional funding later.

## **VI. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA**

Ms. Krug provided updates on the project (slides 12-16 respectively).

Slide 12: Ms. Krug is providing an update on the Ecosystem Restoration Design project. Currently, RA staff is looking forward to receiving approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with all the additional work including the recreational “betterments” as requested from the community input process, by the end of the month. The Cultural Resources fieldwork is also anticipated to be completed by the end of August. In June we talked about the Martinez Trail Extension from the Cincinnati Trailhead to Farias Park and identified potential design challenges and potential real estate required. RA staff had a meeting with City and County staff and RA recommendations are under review by our local partners, as well as under review by the USACE.

Slide 13: Continuing with the design update, real estate is a big part of this project. Much of the required property is currently owned/controlled by several agencies in the local area. RA staff is in the process of working with the entities that hold the properties within the project boundaries. The RA is required to certify to USACE before the end of the design phase, that all the property required has been acquired. Again, RA staff has been working with local agencies for their property and includes any land use agreements with the agencies and utilities. Ms. Krug further described that this process is different from the San Antonio Chanel Improvements Project (SACIP) construction project, as there was not a requirement to “own” but merely to have easement agreements for the required property; with the Ecosystem Restoration Project USACE requires that the RA own the land outright.

Slide 14: Ms. Krug announced that the Railroad bridges are now outside of the project boundaries. This eliminates the need for real estate acquisition, which saves project time and money. Co-Chair Ramirez asked if the same situation pertains to the bridge in the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. Mr. Boese answered that the RA is moving forward with Union Pacific, and he hopes the bridge replacement will happen in December. Mr. Boese also reiterated there will be significant cost and time savings on the Westside Creeks project. Ms. Krug stated that ongoing coordination continues with the Texas Department of Transportation for project lands. Co-Chair

Curd asked if some of the efficiencies had already been constructed. Ms. Krug responded that yes those trails did exist as they had been constructed as part of a previous City project.

Slide 15: Ms. Krug stated that the project is on target to complete the 65% design in September 2024. The USACE is accessing future schedule impacts for real estate. Public information sessions are being targeted for early October. Staff will bring back the actual dates, times, and locations of the public information sessions to the WCROC.

The RA project team has attended several community events on the Westside, sharing information on updates on the project and notifying them that postcards were forthcoming announcing the upcoming public input meetings slated for October. The events attended include the SACA Barrio Block Party and the Say Si temporary art exhibit for Xicanx Month. Ms. Galvan encourages everyone to attend the Say Si art exhibit.

Slide 16: Update on the Apache Creek Remediation: Ms. Krug stated that 100% plans are currently under review and working with the City of San Antonio on a Task Order for construction funding; with the construction solicitation anticipated in November 2024, and construction should begin Summer 2025.

## **VII. Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem Naming Update, Nadia Canales, City of San Antonio Public Works**

Co-Chair Ramirez spoke the substantial efforts done by Roberto Rodriguez on the Westside Creeks, and the WCROC's desire to pay tribute to him, by naming the project after him. On behalf of the City of San Antonio's Public Works Department, Ms. Canales addressed the WCROC and provided an update on the naming process. She invited the WCROC to the upcoming Public Hearing hosted by City of San Antonio on Thursday, September 5, at the Westside Family YMCA; encourages members to get the word out so as many people as possible attend. Physical attendance is strongly encouraged but noted that all forms of communications from citizens of San Antonio to provide their opinion and comments to this issue, including accessing the City's website, emails, phone calls, and regular mail. Ms. Canales provided a printed brochure that had been distributed in the community, that provides all the information about the naming and where to send comments, in the event they're unable to attend in person: [SASpeakUp.com/WestsideCreeks](https://SASpeakUp.com/WestsideCreeks). Upon receiving all the community input, City staff will take it to City Council for formal adoption.

## **VIII. USACE Cultural Resources Survey Update, Zia Burns, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Ms. Burns' update included that both the archaeological and architectural surveys have been completed for the majority of the parcels, over 100 parcels. Moreover, Ms. Burns states that USACE continues coordination, consultation and engagement with impacted communities in accordance with Section 106, with additional opportunities for engagement in early October on intermediate design (65%); and then in Summer 2025 for the final design public comment period. And finally, Ms. Burns stated that she anticipates the draft report being completed early 2025, which will include the additional parcels as suggested by the RA around Martinez Creek.

Ms. Burns invited Co-Chair Ramirez to be a member of the consulting parties; Mr. Ramirez asked that the WCROC be part of the committee. Mr. Mast inquired if the USACE required a letter be submitted; and Ms. Burns stated that yes, a letter should be submitted.

## **IX. Citizens to Be Heard**

J.R. Garza is a San Antonio native and a Vietnam veteran; here to serve the public; appreciates the work and interest the RA is doing to keep San Antonio beautiful. He applauds the efforts of the RA and Texas Parks and Wildlife in using natural filtration systems to maintain a balanced ecosystem, he appreciates the information shared on the Nextdoor application and would like to see more information shared on the natural filtration systems available and in use.

Father John Suenram, Little Flower Basilica, was introduced to the members and gave a brief statement of appreciation for the efforts of the RA to restore the creeks.

Ms. Lopez-De La O, president of the Martinez Creek Neighborhood Association, wants the Association to be represented on WCROC and is grateful for the work that has been done.

## **X. Miscellaneous Items**

Co-Chair Curd announced that she will be stepping down from the committee. Co-Chair Ramirez thanked Co-Chair Curd for all her work. Ms. Galvan also thanked Co-Chair Curd. Ms. Valdez-Hernandez gave thanks and well wishes to Co-Chair Curd in her next chapter.

Co-Chair Ramirez talked about Lincoln Courts Bridge and would like to note that he believes it should be restored and/or changed into a new inviting bridge that celebrates the neighboring community. Co-Chair Ramirez stated that a letter was drafted, but multiple parties are interested in changing the bridge. Mr. Mast reiterated that there is much interest in working together with the community and wanted to share more information once the letter is finalized. At the invitation of Co-Chair Ramirez, Mr. Velasquez made some comments about times in which the community was segregated, and now is working to desegregate. Mr. Saldana was invited to add comments, he did so and spoke of a Lincoln Heights master plan. He assisted in the distribution of a questionnaire to its residents, the findings were that there is a need for community improvement including items such as bus stops, sidewalks, and flood zones. Ms. Galvan stated that she agrees that it's a bridge that requires beautification as it has been since the 70s. Mr. Velasquez made a statement of gratitude to the members for their sustained interest in the community.

## **XI. Adjourn**

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

# Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting – August 2024

August 20, 2024 · 5:44 PM · ID: 923819877

Chat

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:10 PM

Thank you for joining us online. We ask that our online participants please sign in here:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/a0yFT3rQzk>

Skye Curd sent a chat · 6:37 PM

Can we attend virtually?

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:37 PM

The COSA website for the Sept 5 public hearing:  
<https://www.saspeakup.com/westsidecreeks>

Skye Curd sent a chat · 6:37 PM

Thanks

Skye Curd sent a chat · 6:57 PM

Thank you so much!