



**Westside Creeks Restoration  
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
San Antonio River Authority  
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.  
Virtual: GoToMeetings  
March 19, 2024 - 6 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair  
Jerry Lockey, Beacon Hill NA  
Rita Maria Contreras,  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,  
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.  
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home SA

Charles Blank, River Aid SA  
Rick Hernandez, SA Conservation Society  
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman  
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.  
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com  
Erwin De Luna, United SA Pow Wow

**Staff and Public Present**

Derek Boese, RA General Manager  
Rebecca Krug, RA  
Brian Mast, RA  
Kendall Hayes, RA  
Reuben Bazan, RA  
Margarita Saldana, RA  
Nicole Marshall, RA  
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc.  
Amanda De La O

Bernard Sanchez  
Chris G.  
Clay Church  
Elsa Cantu  
Lindsey Hollin  
Micky Clemmons  
Reb Lopez  
Robert Gonzales

**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 not met.

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

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

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

Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint slide (slide 5).

**V. Review of Engagement at UTSA Event: Beyond Greenways, Skye Curd, Committee Co-Chair**

In the absence of Ms. Curd, Ms. Krug provided an overview of the engagement effort. RA staff and Co-Chair Skye Curd sat on the UTSA student panel of planners, representing the Westside Creeks Restoration project. While on the panel, Ms. Curd spoke of how investment into an underutilized natural resource, a park in this case, can make a significant difference in the community, sharing that she witnessed how the Elmendorf Lake Park is now being utilized by the community and has sparked revitalization. Ms. Curd related this to the Westside Creeks

Restoration Project, noting that when the creeks are restored, the community will utilize the amenities, which will help revitalize the area and help to minimize problems such as crime. The event was hosted at Confluence Park and well attended by UTSA students in-person and virtually.

Co-Chair Ramirez stated that he was pleased committee members and RA staff are out in the community talking about the project and being good ambassadors for it. He reiterated that goodwill in the community is needed as the project continues to move forward.

Ms. Krug also spoke about the media coverage of the restoration of the Westside Creeks in the *SA Report*.

#### **VI. General Manager Update – Derek Boese, RA**

Mr. Boese introduced the 2024 Fiesta medals, one celebrating the native freshwater mussels present in the San Antonio River, the other was the San Pedro Creek Culture Park medal reflecting the native crawfish present in the creek and the crawfish art piece at the park's El Paso Street trailhead.

Mr. Boese referred to the comment made by a member of the public at the February 2024 WCROC meeting, about the underground spring on the Westside. Staff did research and found that the spring referred to is under Cassiano Park, which is a City of SA Park, and is not within the boundaries of the Westside Creeks project. RA staff has spoken with the City Parks and Recreation Department and shared the contact information of the member of the public who was interested in the underground spring.

Regarding the Federal legislation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the RA is actively working with the San Antonio delegation to get language into the Water Resources Development Act 2024, that will provide Congressional direction to USACE for the additional work on Martinez Creek to get full restoration. RA staff continues to work with USACE through their change control process for the cost estimate and associated funding. This is an on-going discussion and process until completion of the project.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Co-Chair Ramirez asked for an update on the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. Mr. Boese stated that it is slated to open in October. The main focus continues to be the collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad.

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

Ms. Krug provided an update referring to the associated PowerPoint slides. First, regarding the design activity, Ms. Krug noted that the Geotech borings are complete and are currently under review by USACE, as are the requests for Betterments/additional work. Currently the Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) field work is underway. Per the discussion last month regarding the Cultural Resources Survey, RA staff invited USACE to the next WCROC meeting to provide an overview of the requirements and overall process. USACE will attend the April 2024 WCROC meeting virtually.

Ms. Krug provided a summary of the project schedule, noting all four creeks' design work is underway simultaneously, slated to conclude Winter 2025. San Pedro and Apache phased construction timelines, are slated for completion Winter 2027, and are approximately two years ahead of Alazan and Martinez Creeks for construction.

Additionally, she provided an update on the Apache Creek Remediation project, stating that it is being worked on prior to the restoration beginning on the creek. RA will be soliciting contractors to bid on the work in November 2024. Construction is still on target to begin Spring 2025.

Co-Chair Ramirez opened the floor up to questions. Member of the public, Bernard Sanchez, inquired if the site is where the fires used to happen. Ms. Krug did respond that yes, it is at the site of a historical incinerator. Committee member Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez inquired about the locations of the photos in the PowerPoint; Ms. Krug provided context for the location and direction of each photo.

#### **VIII. Citizens to Be Heard**

None.

#### **IX. Miscellaneous Items**

Co-Chair Ramirez, on behalf of Lourdes Galvan, provided an update on the ongoing process of naming of The Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem through the City of San Antonio. Ms. Galvan has met with Councilwoman Terri Castillo over the last month, and they have shared information including the biography of Mr. Rodriguez. The next steps include a meeting to outline key next steps to formalize the naming of The Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem.

Committee member Jerry Lockey asked for an update on the status of the Martinez Creek construction. Brian Mast provided a response, that included RA staff's effort to work with the federal legislative delegation to seek additional funds to complete the full restoration of Martinez Creek, noting that the bill could be passed in late Summer 2024.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

# Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee – March 2024

March 19, 2024 · 5:50 PM · ID: 516523461

## Chat

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:07 PM

Thank you to those who have joined us online. We ask that our online participants sign in virtually using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/xNy6Dtf7GP>

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:14 PM

Thank you to those who have joined us online. We ask that our online participants sign in virtually using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/xNy6Dtf7GP>

**Kamala Platt** sent a chat · 6:22 PM

Apologies for being late. I had another earlier meeting so had to meet online and then found out my desktop is too old now to get GoTo Meeting so I had to switch to the laptop...

sent a chat · 6:23 PM

Can we please have a representative from SARA to come do a presentation at our Martinez Creek Neighborhood Association meeting? We have tried to reach out via email and haven't heard back,

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:25 PM

Hi Kamala, I have you marked as present.

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:25 PM

Reb, please sign in using this form if you have not already, and I will follow up with you <https://forms.office.com/r/xNy6Dtf7GP>