



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.
Virtual: GoToMeetings
May 21, 2024 - 6 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Skye Curd, Co-Chair
Rita Maria Contreras,
Bexar Audubon Society
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home SA

Athena Santos, River Aid SA
Rick Hernandez, SA Conservation Society
Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com

Staff and Public Present

Lourdes Galvan, RA Board Member
Derek Boese, RA
Rebecca Krug, RA
Brian Mast, RA
Kendall Hayes, RA
Amy Zola, RA
Margarita Saldano, RA
Reuben Bazan, RA
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc.
Amanda De La O
Bernard Sanchez

Butch Williams
Clint Chapman
David Brodbeck
J.R. Garza
Mark Liberatore
Mary Rodriguez
Micky Clemmons
Natalie Guerrero
Roberto Rodriguez
Stephen Avery

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 – April 2024

This item was tabled until the next meeting when there was a quorum present as a quorum was not met for this meeting. Co-Chair Ramirez provided some edits to the Draft April 2024 Minutes.

IV. Calendar Items – Kendall Hayes, RA

Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint slide (slide 5). Co-Chair Ramirez noted that the WCROC will not be meeting in July 2024 in consideration of summer break.

V. General Manager Update – Derek Boese

Mr. Boese provided the updates on different items (slides 7 and 8 respectively). First, Mr. Boese provided an update on the Oral History Project, stating the RA is working with their agency of record, Talk Strategy, to conduct this project with Brian Mast as the project lead. Lourdes Galvan

encouraged Mr. Mast to contact both Lanier High School and Fox Tech's alumni associations for input into the Oral History Project. Kamala Platt stated she may be sending names to Mr. Mast for the project. Second, the RA has been very active in the community, presenting information to the public. Mr. Boese invited the WCROC to encourage any of their organizations or other members of the community to reach out to the RA, utilizing a QR code, to request a presentation at their upcoming meetings. These presentations can be tailored to address specific RA projects as requested. Community presentations can be requested on the RA website here: <https://www.sariverauthority.org/education/presentations/>.

Co-Chair Skye Curd stated the Community Drum Circle event the RA recently hosted at San Pedro Creek Culture Park was a very successful event, as she has received positive feedback from different community members, and thanked RA staff for that event.

Co-Chair Ramirez encouraged the WCROC to spread the word to advocate for the project.

VI. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA

Ms. Krug provided updates on the project (slides 11, 12, and 13 respectively).

Regarding the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project, the team is still working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the responses for information from the design team. The USACE continues to review the request for betterments/additional work. Subsurface utility engineering work, Level B, field work is completed. Meanwhile, the USACE-led cultural resources survey is in progress, including the additional targeted field investigations with metal detection.

Ms. Krug proceeded to provide a schedule update on the restoration project. The 65 percent design submittal was expected to happen in June; however, the design team requested an extension. The extension was approved and now the 65 percent design is expected to be submitted in September 2024, and the public information sessions are targeted to occur at the end of September.

Next, Ms. Krug provided an update on the Apache Creek Remediation Project. Ms. Krug stated that the 90 percent plans are in review, which includes the remediation and extraction of the contaminated soil and reconstruction of the embankment. Plans are being finalized this summer; construction solicitation is anticipated in November 2024, and construction is anticipated to begin summer 2025. Ms. Krug noted that this project must be completed before beginning the Apache Creek Restoration project. Athena Santos inquired if the non-native grasses that are in the Martinez Creek area will be removed. Ms. Krug replied that all the non-native/invasive grasses, plants and seeds will be removed prior to construction. Dr. Platt inquired about the City of San Antonio's mowing schedule; she has noticed that the mowing is occurring when the flowers are blooming, and the timing of mowing negates the opportunity for seeds to remain. This likely impacts the invasive plants and requested this issue be part of the record. Ms. Krug replied that the RA is aware the City maintains their own schedule for mowing. She further stated that after the construction of the project, the RA would like to maintain the project area much as they do for the Mission Reach. The final decision as to who will maintain the project is still in discussion.

VII. Update on Official Designation of the Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem, Robert Ramirez, Committee Co-Chair

Co-Chair Ramirez provided an update to the process (slide 16), stating there have been significant developments related to the WCROC's request to have the project officially designated as the "Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem." A letter has been signed by the Co-

Chairs of the WCROC and will be sent to the City of San Antonio's City Clerk for consideration and referral to the City's Public Works Department. Both Co-Chairs asked that RA staff ensure the WCROC be notified when the public meeting is to occur, so committee members and other supporters can attend to show their support for this item to be carried forward and eventually adopted by the City Council. Mr. Mast stated he will make sure the WCROC members are notified of the date this item will go before City Council. Ms. Galvan expressed her gratitude to Councilwoman Teri Castillo's office for steady communications to push this forward. Ms. Galvan encouraged that both the Councilwoman and County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez be invited to attend a public event hosted by the RA in the fall, to acknowledge the new name designation after the City Council vote. Roberto Rodriguez was in the audience and stood up to make a few comments: he thanked Ms. Galvan for her work on the name designation, and acknowledged his wife, Maria Rodriguez, for her support of his work for many years.

VIII. Citizens to Be Heard

J.R. Garza: thanked the WCROC and the RA for their work on the waterways, as he has visually seen the progress in the waterways and is very supportive of the ecosystem restoration. Second, he recommended that the Arneson River Theatre have a military logo recognizing that San Antonio is "Military City USA"; and a shading element for the patrons be placed at the theater.

IX. Miscellaneous Items

Co-Chair Ramirez referred to last month's presentation from USACE on the cultural resources report, specifically the public involvement component. USACE stated the public involvement plan was included in the programmatic agreement. Co-Chair Ramirez requested that RA staff distribute the programmatic agreement and share it with the WCROC; as he believes it should be made available to the public. Co-Chair Ramirez further asked that this request be included as part of the record. Co-Chair Ramirez requested a list from RA staff of the fifteen consulting parties listed under the regulations as cultural resources. Co-Chair Ramirez stated he will continue to monitor the progress of this item.

Co-Chair Ramirez thanked Christina Castaño, Ximenes & Associates, for the detailed minutes for the WCROC, and provided two edits for last month's meeting minutes. The edits requested are to item VII: correcting the name of the "American Indians of Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions" and changing the word from "process" to "precious". These changes have been made to the draft minutes for their approval at the June meeting.

X. Adjourn

Co-Chair Curd stated the next meeting will be June 18, at 6 p.m. She adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee – April 2024

May 21, 2024 · 5:50 PM · ID: 853255853

Chat

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:02 PM

Good evening! For those of you joining us online, we kindly ask that you sign-in using this form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/BZTwfq4PaZ>

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:07 PM

Good evening! For those of you joining us online, we kindly ask that you sign-in using this form:
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Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:16 PM

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Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:33 PM

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