



**Westside Creeks Restoration  
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
San Antonio River Authority  
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.  
Virtual: GoToMeetings  
March 18, 2025 - 6 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair  
Ana Sandoval, Co-Chair  
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe  
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,  
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.  
Austin Kelm, Martinez Creek Neighborhood  
Association  
Charles Blank, River Aid San Antonio  
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman

Rita Maria Contreras Avery, Bexar  
Audubon Society  
Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD  
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.  
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com  
Maia Woodall, Student At-Large  
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home  
Rebeca Canizales, Prosper West  
Patricia Seidenberger, San Antonio  
Conservation Society

**Staff and Public Present**

Derek Boese, RA  
Brian Mast, RA  
Rebecca Krug, RA  
Kendall Hayes, RA  
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc  
Bianca Peralra Garza  
Bill Troy  
John Watson

Chris Martinez  
JR Garza  
Eddie Gutierrez  
Micky Clemmons  
Rachel Cywinski  
Terence Ruane  
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. A quorum was met.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 2025**

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

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

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

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

Slide 7: Mr. Boese reminded the committee that on April 27, 2025, the RA's Fiesta event is being held at Acequia Park. An event flyer with detailed event information will be sent to committee members. Additionally, all committee members received both 2025 Fiesta medals – the RA and San Pedro Creek's.

Slide 8: Mr. Boese provided an update on the RA's Supplemental Oral History Project. Interviews will begin next week, and announced more appointments are available. RA staff has conducted a lot of outreach to get interviews scheduled; while there are also links online to provide commentary and schedule an interview appointment. Mr. Ramirez reminded the attendees that this oral history project is very important to capture and document the history of the westside creeks. Committee members were encouraged to contact staff if they would like to contribute commentary to the project. Mr. Mast explained that the intent of the information and stories gathered to help inform the historical interpretive panels and have it in the RA archives that are housed at UTSA.

Slide 9: Provided an update on the meetings held in Washington DC as the RA staff went on the annual SA to DC trip in early March 2025; several meetings were held including the federal delegation and federal agencies, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to talk about the Westside Creeks Project, and implementation of Alternative 7 with Martinez Creek, and also our 1043(b) application; the opportunity that allows for the RA to project manage the construction phase.. More information on the USACE's decision on 1043(b) application is anticipated this summer. In closing Mr. Boese mentioned that there is a lot of uncertainty at the federal level, but the project is still moving forward with design; and as design is complete the RA will seek additional funds for construction. Co-Chair Ramirez thanked RA staff for their work at the federal level.

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

Ms. Krug provided updates on the project (slides 12-17, respectively).

Slide 12: Ms. Krug provided an update on the Ecosystem Restoration Design Activity. She stated that the design team is working towards the 90% design; and updates to the schedule are still pending approved by USACE. The approval letter for additional features and betterments to include pedestrian bridges, vehicular and pedestrian trailheads, and other recreational features was received by USACE in early January, the RA is still awaiting their approval. Staff hopes to have more updates to the timeline to share with the committee by next meeting. Ms. Krug provided an update on the full restoration of the Martinez creek; even though we met the 65% milestone, it did not include the pilot channel with instream structures and five acres of wetlands authorized in WRDA 2024, so the design was re-sent to approximately 15%. Even though the design for Martinez is reset, staff anticipates the overall timeline to be minimally impacted.

Slide 13: Ms. Krug provided an update to the additional work and the betterments. She stated that the USACE is amending the design team scope to add the additional features to the project; the RA is finalizing those for submittal to the USACE so they will have it included in their scope of the final design. The update on the Cultural Resources Survey, there was a small additional field effort to gather additional data for the Martinez trail extension to modify the trail alignment. The field work was completed and the survey is being completed soon.

Slide 14: Ms. Krug noted updates on the real estate acquisitions that included the Texas Department of Transportation's (TXDOT) extensive title research is complete. This information will greatly inform the design for the pilot channel excavation; it identified alternatives to acquiring the railroad property/bridges and will enable a quicker timeframe than originally anticipated. The RA will continue to closely coordinate with TxDOT for easement acquisitions.

Slide 15: Ms. Krug mentioned that they've worked on some parcels owned by SAISD and Opportunity Home. The RA will continue to consider staging spaces for the construction; and will

be working toward acquiring temporary construction easements; whereby most will be with public entities such as the City of San Antonio.

Slide 16: The RA will begin coordinating with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS); where there are seven (7) utility crossings on Alazán creek. Therefore, sanitary and/or water lines will need to be relocated before construction begins. And finally, additional field work entails RA staff completing the vegetation studies that include identifying the City's mitigation trees in the project area, so they can be protected or moved during construction.

Slide 17: Ms. Krug provided an update on the local City of San Antonio project – the Apache Creek Remediation Update. She mentioned that the RA received six bids on the project, and the lowest bid received was in line with staff estimate. Construction is on track to begin this summer and should be wrapped up by the end of this year.

## **VII. Citizens to Be Heard**

J. R. Garza thanked the WCROC members for their work on the project. Has been researching “snail eradication” and potentially adding natural fresh water “clams” for the filtration system in our waterways. Thanked the volunteers that installed the trash traps, as it's a valuable program. The annual Basura Bash did pick up trash near I-10. There is some talk about doing away with the Texas Parks and Wildlife department within the state legislature; and he stated that he does not agree that it should be done away with.

John Watson, a member of the Jefferson Neighborhood Association and an avid cyclist, provided comments. When construction begins, he asks that the RA overcommunicate with the users of the system especially as many users utilize the system to get to work; suggested a URL. Additionally, asked that the language utilized to the community is easy to understand. Lastly, during construction, if parts of the greenway need to be closed, he asked that the time be minimized because there are not many safe alternatives at street level; and several people use the trails to get to work and school.

Rachel Cywinski is a resident between Salado Creek and the SA River. She commends the RA for not having single use disposable goods for the RA activities. She continued to express the importance of not utilizing single use disposable goods.

## **VIII. Miscellaneous Items**

Committee members Dr. Platt, Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Romero, all inquired about the State legislative items. RA staff provided information to the members and continue to monitor related bills as they approach the legislative session.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

# Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting – March 2025

March 18, 2025 · 5:54 PM · ID: 260452277

Chat

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:13 PM

Thank you for joining us for this month's Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee. Please sign in using this link here to ensure you are on the email list for future communications and sign up for public comment later in the agenda <https://forms.office.com/r/fJN0Avg32T>

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:32 PM

Thank you for joining us this evening. The following agenda item will be Citizens to be Heard. If you are interested in providing a public comment or receiving future project communications, please sign in using this link <https://forms.office.com/r/fJN0Avg32T>