



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.
Virtual: GoToMeetings
August 19, 2025 - 6 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.
Charles Blank, River Aid San Antonio
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com
Mark Kusey, San Antonio Conservation
Rita Maria Contreras Avery, Bexar Audobon
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelmen

Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.
Adam Bynum, OLLU
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home
Rebeca Canizales, Prosper West
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos Genealogical
Michael Rodriguez, UTSA
Austin Kelm, Martinez Creek NA

Staff and Public Present

Derek Boese, RA
Brian Mast, RA
Rebecca Krug, RA
Kendall Hayes, RA
Nicole Marshall, RA
Margarita Saldana, RA
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc

John Watson
Josh Bunting
Mickey Clemmons
Paul Castro
Richard Torres
Rick Shaw
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. The committee members who were present, either in person or online, are listed above. A quorum was met.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 2025

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Calendar Items – Kendall Hayes, RA

Slide 5: Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint. She highlighted that the WCROC did not meet in July 2025, for usual summer break.

V. General Manager Update – Derek Boese, RA

Mr. Boese provided updates on the slides 7-9, respectively.

Slide 7: RA continues to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to clarify the cost-share plan for the full restoration of Martinez Creek and determine if there is a need for additional legislation. At this time, the RA does not believe additional legislative work is required,

but states that staff and the Federal Delegation are prepared to work on this, should the need arise.

Slide 8 and 9: Due to the tragic events on June 12th and tragic events on the Guadalupe River on July 4th, the RA and partners at Bexar County and CoSA took the opportunity to make things better. Together with Bexar County, the RA quickly put a proposal together for a new upgraded flood warning system – the “best in class”, known as the NextGen Flood Warning System. The proposal was approved by the County who committed \$21 million for the new/upgraded flood warning system and infrastructure improvements (gauges, sensors and instream gauges). The agreement is for the RA to take over the full system operations and maintenance upon completion. The RA is working to see if there is an opportunity to get additional funding through the current special State Legislative session. Dialogue regarding processes and procedures during an emergency event ensued; as well as a conversation on potential improvements to Beitel Creek; and locations of the current two-hundred (200) gauges in Bexar County’s waterways.

Committee members Platt and Valdez-Hernandez inquired about how today’s current flood warning system works. Mr. Boese explained how the process works within the County’s Emergency Management System, stating it’s a multi-pronged approach, and it needs continuous improvement.

VI. Review of Oral History Supplemental Effort, Kendall Hayes, RA

Ms. Hayes provided an update on this project. She requested that since there has been a very low turn-out to participate in this project, she highly encouraged the committee to participate at minimum and to encourage other community members to participate as well. The closing date for interviews for this project is September 30, 2025, however, the form will remain on-line so community members can still submit their historic stories. Mr. Velasquez clarified that the RA staff has stepped up to the request of the WCROC to conduct this project, and unfortunately there has been low participation.

VII. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA

Ms. Krug provided updates on the slides 16-22, respectively.

Slide 16: Ms. Krug provided an update on the design activity for the WSC ER. She provided an update on the timeline, noting that they’re currently working towards 75% design for the San Pedro, Apache, Alazan Creeks; and working towards 45% design for Martinez Creek. Martinez is behind because it now includes additional work and betterments. Full restoration for Martinez includes a pilot channel with in-stream structures and five (5) acres of wetland.

Slide 17: This slide covers additional Design Activity Update by design elements for each of the four creeks.

Slide 18: The update included real estate coordination acquisitions. Ms. Krug mentioned updates with the following local agencies – the Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), Opportunity Home and City of San Antonio. She noted that SAISD coordination is on hold, pending appraisals. The RA is continuing research and amendments to consider HUD requirements and working closely with Opportunity Home on the offer.

Slide 19: This slide covered a schedule update on design activity. Ms. Krug highlighted that this image is to demonstrate that all four creeks were in the design phase together, but construction is to be phased through adaptive management. She highlights that at this time the USACE is the

federal sponsor through the construction adaptive management phase, and the RA is going through a process to request local administration of the construction contract based on successful experience through the Mission Reach project. She stressed that the goal is that the project will be handed over to the RA to own and operate in perpetuity.

Slide 20 and 21: Ms. Krug showed the updated “tentative” design schedule. She denotes San Pedro, Apache and Alazan are on the same schedule completing at the end of 2026, while Martinez’s full restoration is at the end of 2027. She denotes the construction timeline is contingent on real estate acquisitions and procurement.

Slide 22: Regarding the local project that the RA is managing for the City of San Antonio, Ms. Krug provided an update on the soil remediation of the Apache Creek Remediation. Current work is being done by Summit Environmental Services LLC, and mobilization and excavation work is slated to begin by the end of August. Ms. Krug additionally reminds the committee that the local project must be completed prior to the start of the federal Apache ecosystem restoration. Mr. Mast stated that he will be putting up signage along the trail areas where the construction will take place to advise the community of the updates and contact information for any questions during the process. Committee members inquired about any schedule adjustments that had been made and requested that the construction signs should include information about the oral history project.

VIII. Review of Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities Proposals, Committee Co-Chairs

Slide 25 – Co-Chair Ramirez noted that this is a “Discussion Item” only at this time. Committee members were welcomed to share their proposed amendments to the Guidelines & Responsibilities, and the merits of the proposals would be discussed accordingly. Should the WCROC share interest in the proposal, it will be considered at a later WCROC meeting.

Co-Chair Ramirez also noted that one proposal was submitted in advance for consideration by Dr. Platt. Dr. Platt discussed her proposed amendment (below) on regarding membership.

Following are items that were brought up by Committee members:

- On the “Membership”, Dr. Platt suggests amending column heading to include/add “Environmental Justice” to the “Environmental”
- Ms. Romero provided that although a subcommittee did not meet, she noted that some committee members had expressed the following: expanding opportunities for WCROC members to participate as ambassadors for the project. Co-Chair Ramirez asked for a statement representing the proposed amendment. Ms. Romero suggested the following proposal: expanding opportunities for committee members to be utilized as educational ambassadors, to include RA events such as at ribbon cuttings. Mr. Velasquez added that he suggested committee members can also be utilized as “national” ambassadors at the federal level, including that any travel expenses were to be handled by the sponsoring agency/organization not the RA.
- Co-Chair Ramirez reminded committee members that tonight the committee is just giving initial notice of the ideas; and stressed that when they make a recommended amendment, he encourages them to formulate a statement for the motion.
- Co-Chair Ramirez proposed an amendment to the procedures dealing with chronically absent members. He stated that currently after three (3) consecutive absences, the procedure starts kicking in, but the removal of the member does not begin until the sixth (6th) absence. He recommends shortening that time, where the procedure begins after the second (2nd) unexcused absence. Mr. Velasquez asked that it be clarified to include primary members, alternates or even proxies to represent the organization. The first

opportunity for the committee to vote for removal would be at the fourth (4th) “chronic absence” meeting that the member is absent from. The committee can vote and make a recommendation to the RA Board for removal of that member; and ask for a new member to be established to represent the agency/organization. Ramirez cites that the committee can only make a recommendation to the RA Board, and it is their decision to consider the WCROC’s recommendation.

- Co-Chair Ramirez – noted that the amendment regarding the “Quorum” had already been added two meetings prior.

Co-Chair Ramirez summarized that the committee now has three (3) proposals on the table for consideration. Co-Chair Ramirez will meet with RA staff to discuss how each item can be addressed; and discuss a timeline for addressing each. It is likely that only one amendment will be voted on per meeting, noting it will be an agenda item for discussion and require official voting.

IX. Review of Project Public Comments, RA & Committee Co-Chairs

This item was tabled at the request of Co-Chair Sandoval prior to the meeting, due to her absence.

X. Citizens to Be Heard

John Watson, Jefferson Neighborhood Association. Thanked the RA for keeping the creek safe and clean. Mr. Watson requested a second (2nd) midblock crossing with a traffic signal at Cesar Chavez between Flores and Stark Street. Second, asks that cycle track signage be more visible near the HEB on Flores, since there is a small part that does not continue at El Paso/Cesar Chavez at street level.

XI. Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Velasquez invites all to participate in the ***Fiesta Patrias*** in September at the Market Square for the ***Diez y Seis de Septiembre*** celebrations. He further welcomes all to march in the parade at 10:00 am on September 13th (beginning at the corner of Brazos and Guadalupe Street).

Co-Chair Ramirez reminds committee members to sign-up for a slot for the oral history project.

XII. Adjourn

Co-Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting

August 19, 2025 · 5:54 PM · ID: 255584101

Chat

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:00 PM

Thank you for joining us for the August Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting. We will begin shortly. Please sign in using this form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/qJE4p3xeG0>

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:09 PM

Welcome to the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting. Please sign in using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/qJE4p3xeG0>

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:56 PM

Thank you to those who have signed in. As a reminder, for members of the public who would like to speak during our upcoming Citizens to be Heard item, you will need to complete the form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qJE4p3xeG0>