



**Westside Creeks Restoration  
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
San Antonio River Authority  
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.  
Virtual: GoToMeetings  
January 20, 2026 - 6 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair  
Ana Sandoval, Co-Chair  
Rita Maria Contreras Avery, Bexar  
Audubon Society  
Austin Kelm, Martinez Creek NA  
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.  
Adam Bynum, OLLU

Mark Kusey, SA Conservation Society  
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos Genealogical  
Maia Woodall, Student At-Large  
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman Association  
Dr. Kamala Platt, Texas Tejanos  
Hector Martinez, Opportunity Home  
Charles Blank, River Aid SA  
Michael Rodriguez, UTSA

**Staff and Public Present**

Lourdes Galvan, RA Board  
Derek Boese, RA  
Brian Mast, RA

Noah Fuentes, RA  
Rebecca Krug, RA  
Christina M. Castaño, CM Castaño Assocs.

**I. Welcome**

Co-Chair Ana Sandoval called the WCROC meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call** – Noah Fuentes, RA

Mr. Fuentes 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** – November 2025

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**IV. Calendar Items** – Noah Fuentes, RA

Slide 5: Mr. Fuentes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint slide.

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

Mr. Boese introduced Mr. Mast to provide the update for slide 7 and then covered slide 8 respectively.

Slide 7: Mr. Mast provided an update on the partnership with Congressman Castro's office for Water Quality Improvements for Woodlawn Lake – \$100,000: 80% Federal dollars and 20% local dollars. The Appropriations Bill passed Senate on 1/15/26 and is expected to be signed by President soon. Once the Bill is approved, staff will notify the committee and will hold a press event at Woodlawn Lake.

Additionally, Mr. Mast explained that he is drafting a letter of support for a cost-share of 65%-35% for the local "Martinez Creek" and requested the WCROC committee to support this effort. Co-

Chairs agreed to endorse the letter. Additionally, Mr. Kelm of Martinez Creek NA stated that the Martinez Creek NA would also sign a letter of support for this initiative.

Slide 8: Mr. Boese provided an update on the progress on 1043(b) application – local construction lead (Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program). New Implementation Guidance was issued November 2025, RA reviewed the guidance and submitted the application to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on Friday, January 9, 2026. USACE has 90 days to respond.

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

Ms. Krug provided updates on the slides 11-14, respectively.

Slide 11: Ms. Krug provided an update on real estate coordination efforts with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), Opportunity Home and the City of San Antonio (CoSA). All acquisitions are moving forward with targeted completion of Summer 2026. As mentioned last month, TxDOT supports the CoSA acquisition in TxDOT right of way, and it is subject to USACE approval. SAISD is negotiating the purchase agreement. Opportunity Home – targeting the Board’s approval to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in February. CoSA Coordination continues

Slide 12: Ms. Krug proceeded to provide an update on the Apache Creek Remediation project. The construction team completed the excavation process mid-December; the next steps include backfilling the area with clean soil and vegetation. Substantial completion walk-through will occur in early February 2026.

Slide 13 & 14: Ms. Krug showed photos of the area and construction site in progress. In closing, once all the field work is done, reports will be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for review and approval.

#### **VII. Discussion and Appropriate Action Proposed Amendment to Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities, “Meeting Protocol”, Committee Co-Chairs**

Co-Chair Ramirez provided a summary of the proposed amendment, and the process taken to date regarding chronically absent members. Furthermore, Co-Chair Ramirez motioned to pass the amendment, Co-Chair Sandoval seconded the motion. Co-Chair Ramirez asked for a vote with a show of hands of those present in person and online. The count is twelve (12) in favor, no opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed. RA staff will amend the Meeting Protocol.

#### **VIII. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Establish Subcommittees for Additional Improvements, Committee Co-Chairs**

Co-Chair Sandoval stated that this issue brings forward the community’s input, concerns and desires for the westside creeks. At previous WCROC meetings the input was reviewed and a suggestion was made that because the issues are vast it would behoove the committee to identify the issues and establish subcommittees to address them. At the October 2025 WCROC meeting, the following seven (7) were the topics identified: 1) Vehicular Trailheads, 2) Security, 3) Public Art, 4) Public Transportation, 5) Dog Parks, 6) Nuisance Flooding and Additional Flood Control, and 7) Community Education. In consideration of the topics (see Attachment A), the following three (3) are the recommended consolidated subcommittees: 1) Security and Safety; 2) Public Art; and 3) Infrastructure and Accessibility (includes Public Transportation, Vehicular Trailheads, Nuisance Flooding and Additional Flood Control). It was identified that Community Education will

be pursued by the entire WCROC. All committee members are asked to consider the three proposed subcommittees and to self-nominate/volunteer for those subcommittees they are interested in participating on by notification to Mr. Fuentes within the next two weeks.

In summary:

- A. Following are the three subcommittees WCROC members are asked to consider to volunteer on, and notify Mr. Fuentes within the next two weeks:
  - Security and Safety
  - Public Art
  - Infrastructure and Accessibility
- B. At the February 2026 WCROC, the subcommittees will be established
- C. The subcommittees may utilize the RA's office space for all meetings
- D. Co-Chairs will be ex-officio members of each subcommittee and attempt to be at each meeting.
- E. Each subcommittee is asked to establish a chair.
- F. Co-Chair Sandoval reiterated that the goal of the subcommittees is to derive a prioritized list of potential capital projects and identify potential funding sources of each. Each subcommittee would bring recommendations back to the full WCROC for consideration and strategize on obtaining funding streams.
  - Co-Chair Ramirez stated that it could be advantageous to invite the public to participate in the prioritization of such projects.
- G. Volunteers self-identified at the meeting for subcommittees are listed here:
  - 1) Dr. Kamala Platt, Texas Tejanos:
    - a. Nuisance Flooding and Additional Flood Control
    - b. Infrastructure and Accessibility
  - 2) Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos Genealogical:
    - a. Public Art
  - 3) Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman Association:
    - a. Security and Safety
  - 4) Rita Maria Contreras Avery, Bexar Audubon Society:
    - a. Public Art
  - 5) Charles Blank, River Aid San Antonio:
    - a. Infrastructure and Accessibility
  - 6) Austin Kelm, Martinez Creek NA:
    - a. Infrastructure and Accessibility

In closing:

- Mr. Ramirez stated that this process runs parallel to the westside creeks ecosystem restoration project.
- Ms. Galvan asked the Public Art committee to consider a piece that pays homage to Roberto Rodriguez.
- Dr. Platt recommended the Mayor be advised of the WCROC and the new subcommittee's upcoming work.

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

None.

## **X. Miscellaneous Items**

Co-Chair Ramirez mentioned that during the Citizens to Be Heard portion of the January 2026 meeting, Mr. Richard Garay asked if there had been any responses to the letter sent by AIT to the USACE. Mr. Mast stated that there has not been a specific response to that letter and would follow up with USACE. Mr. Mast further noted that typically USACE would not respond back to letters, however, would incorporate in the report. Ramirez noted that a copy of the letter was attached to the minutes.

**XI. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

DRAFT

# Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting

January 20, 2026 · 5:15 PM · ID: 209333661

## Chat

**Charles Blank - River Aid San Antonio** sent a chat · 6:36 PM

Aye - River Aid San Antonio

**Austin Kelm - Martinez Creek NA** sent a chat · 6:36 PM

Aye

**Bill Buhrman** sent a chat · 6:36 PM

Aye

**Hector Martinez - Opportunity Home** sent a chat · 6:37 PM

Yes

**Austin Kelm - Martinez Creek NA** sent a chat · 6:40 PM

How do we access this pamphlet online?

**Austin Kelm - Martinez Creek NA** sent a chat · 6:40 PM

Or is the powerpoint slide identical?

**Noah Fuentes** sent a chat · 6:41 PM

Yes, it is an identical document.

**Noah Fuentes** sent a chat · 6:43 PM

nfuentes@sariverauthority.org

**Austin Kelm - Martinez Creek NA** sent a chat · 6:56 PM

Martinez Creek - Preference would be Infrastructure and then Security

**Charles Blank - River Aid San Antonio** sent a chat · 6:57 PM

I'll volunteer for the Infrastructure and Accessibility Sub-Committee. Noah I'll follow up in email as well!

**Noah Fuentes** sent a chat · 6:58 PM

These comments have been captured, thank you.

**Michael Rodriguez** sent a chat · 7:10 PM

Thank you



### Proposed Subcommittee Structure

During the October meeting, seven subcommittee topics were identified and discussed based on considerations raised during public comments. After further review and consultation, these topics are recommended to be consolidated into three distinct subcommittees for clarity, efficiency, and alignment.

#### Original Subcommittee Topics Identified:

- Vehicular Trailheads
- Security
- Public Art
- Public Transportation
- Dog Parks (*significant discussion noted regarding concerns with locating dog parks near the creeks' watershed*)
- Nuisance Flooding and Additional Flood Control
- Community Education (*Proposed during group discussion*)

#### Recommended Consolidated Subcommittees:

##### 1. Security and Safety

- Security
  - Requests for increased Park Police presence
  - Requests for lighting along the trails

##### 2. Public Art

- Public Art
  - Requests for public art installations along the trails

##### 3. Infrastructure and Accessibility

- Public Transportation
  - Requests for public transportation access to the trail system
- Vehicular Trailheads
  - Requests for vehicular access to trailheads, including parking spaces
- Nuisance Flooding and Additional Flood Control
  - Street flooding concerns and requests for additional flood control improvements