



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.
Virtual: GoToMeetings
February 17, 2026 - 6 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Rita Maria Contreras Avery
Bexar Audubon Society
Austin Kelm, Martinez Creek NA
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.
Chloe Lash, OLLU
Mark Kusey, SA Conservation Society
Rebeca Canizales, Prosper West
Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD

Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,
Historic Westside RA
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexarenos Genealogical
Maia Woodall, Student At-Large
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman Association
Dr. Kamala Platt, Texas Tejanos
Michael Lopez, Opportunity Home
Charles Blank, River Aid SA
Michael Rodriguez, UTSA
Erwin DeLuna, United SA Pow Wow Inc

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.
Robert Gonzales
John Watson, Jefferson NA

I. Welcome

Co-Chair Robert Ramirez 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 – January 2026

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 provided updates on slides 7 and 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 was signed by President. The westside creek did not receive any funds in the new appropriations bill, but the RA did receive \$100,000 (80/20 match) for Woodlawn Lake. Water Quality Improvements for Woodlawn Lake – \$100,000: 80% Federal dollars and 20% local dollars were in the approved Bill.

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. RA leadership will be in Washington DC with the annual SA-DC trip and will ensure appropriate meetings are set with key decision makers and educate them on this initiative.

VI. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA

Ms. Krug provided updates on the slides 11-13, respectively.

Slide 11: Ms. Krug provided an update on real estate coordination effort. Coordination efforts are with the following organizations: 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 – staff is targeting the Board’s approval to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in February. CoSA coordination and canvassing continues, with a follow-up meeting to occur soon.

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 backfilling and seeding has occurred in the area. Substantial completion walk-through will occur on Friday, February 20, 2026. The goal of this project is to receive approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Slide 13: 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 on Sample Operational Plan for Sub-Committees, Committee Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Ramirez provided a summary of the process taken to date of the development of the sub-committees, slides 15, 16 and 17 respectively.

Slide 16: Co-Chair Ramirez went over the current sub-committee members acknowledged to date and asked if anyone had been missed and/or would like to volunteer. Rosters were updated accordingly. Both Dr. Platt (Texas Tejanos), Rita Maria Contreras (Bexar Audubon) and Charles Blank (River Aid) were added to the “art subcommittee.” Additional volunteers to the Security and Safety Subcommittee: Abel Ramirez (SA Wheelman), Mary Ann (Historic Westside), Austin Kelm (Martinez Creek), Rebecca Canizales (Prosper West), Chloe Lash (OLLU) and Anna Alicia Romero (SAISD). Additional volunteers for the Infrastructure and Accessibility subcommittee were: Austin Kelm (Martinez Creek NA), Charles Blank (River Aid SA), Dr. Platt (Texas Tejanos), Robert Ramirez (Co-Chair), Mike Lopez (Opportunity Home), John Watson (Jefferson NA), Rebecca Canizales (Prosper West).

Slide 17 & 18: Co-Chair Ramirez went over the “sample operational plan”, and reiterated that this is just a sample, and the sub-committees can make amendments to it, and make it their own.

Co-Chair Ramirez reminds the WCROC that this process is running simultaneously to the westside creeks ecosystem restoration. He also acknowledges that the WCROC will have another round of public meetings, which have not yet been scheduled. Additionally, the March 2026 WCROC meeting will be the first meeting of the subcommittees after regular WCROC meeting business is complete. Ramirez stated that although the subcommittees are informal, they should also provide guidance on how the RA should proceed forward to carry the ball forward to completion of funding of identified projects.

VIII. Citizens to Be Heard

None.

IX. Miscellaneous Items

Austin Kelm (Martinez Creek) asked that SARA work with Google Maps to get San Pedro Creek properly on their map.

Mr. Mast provided an update on the Roberto Rodriguez Ecosystem Restoration: RA staff is meeting with City of San Antonio staff to decide where a formal acknowledgement should be placed, and they may also have funding for the signage.

X. Adjourn

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

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February 17, 2026 · 5:30 PM · ID: 280370557

Chat

Charles Blank - River Aid San Antonio sent a chat · 7:00 PM

Charles Blank for Public Art

DRAFT