



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.
Virtual: GoToMeetings
June 18, 2024 - 6 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Skye Curd, Co-Chair
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe
Benjamin Coronado, Beacon Hill NA
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.
Wilson Harpe, Opportunity Home SA

Charles Blank, River Aid SA
Rick Hernandez, SA Conservation Society
Anna Alicia Romero, SAISD
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman
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
Nicole Marshall, RA
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc.

Amanda De La O
Austin Kelm
Ellie Badger
J.R. Garza
Mark Liberatore
Reb Lopez
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. The quorum was met.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 2024 & May 2024

Both sets of meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Calendar Items – Kendall Hayes, RA

Ms. Hayes provided an overview of all items on the related PowerPoint slide (slide 5). Ms. Hayes reminded the committee that there will not be meeting in July 2024 in consideration of summer break. Mr. Ramirez noted that in August 20, 2024 meeting, RA staff will provide date(s) and location(s) for the upcoming public input meeting; and requested staff to provide an update on the “Cultural Resources project” as well.

V. General Manager Update – Derek Boese

Mr. Boese provided the updates on different items (slides 7 and 8 respectively). Prior to speaking to the formal business at hand, Mr. Boese alerted the WCROC that reminders are going out to all staff as they work outside in the heat; and reminds the WCROC to take proper precautions with the sun and heat as well.

Slide 7: Regarding the Zarzamora Creek Trail Connection, Alderete Park to Tierra del Sol Park, Mr. Boese updated the WCROC that the 60% design is currently under review; and 100% design is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2024. Upon completion, RA staff will present final design to the public.

Slide 8: 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](#).

VI. Project Status Update, Rebecca Krug, RA

Ms. Krug provided updates on the project (slides 11-15 respectively).

Regarding the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project design, 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, which should be complete in July 2024.

Ms. Krug provided an update on the real estate acquisitions for the project. USACE mandates the RA to own the property where betterments will occur. Through research, RA staff has identified all the potentially affected property owners, some are public, and some are private. RA staff has begun working with public owned property owners. Additionally, federal and state agencies include the Union Pacific Railroad and Texas Department of Transportation, as some of the bridges go over the creeks. There are several different property owners and RA staff have been working communications with most, which include both public and private entities.

Ms. Krug provided an update on the design activities related to the Martinez Trail Extension to Farias Park. Updates include coordination with the City of San Antonio and other public and private sector partners to create a cohesive alignment. Currently, alignment options are under review. Some of the considerations pending approval by USACE for design include creek crossings versus at-grade crossings; and pedestrian bridges that have been requested by the community. Ms. Krug ended her comments by relaying that additional real estate may be needed for comprehensive connections to existing infrastructure for the pedestrian bridges and parks.

The 65% design had been rescheduled to be completed by September 2024. USACE is assessing future schedule impacts. Once the 65% design is complete, public information sessions will be scheduled; dates and locations are forthcoming.

Ms. Krug provided an update on the Apache Creek Remediation. She stated that 100% design is anticipated in early July 2024, with construction solicitation estimated to occur in November 2024. Ms. Krug noted that the remediation must be completed before the restoration project begins.

Opened it for questions:

Co-Chair Ramirez: asked for clarification from Ms. Krug if the cultural resources field work estimate completion at the end of July, is that a preliminary completion or just a halfway point in the study. Ms. Krug said it would be the initial assessment. He also commented about the “public involvement section” when USACE made their presentation to the WCROC, they volunteered the entire Programmatic Agreement. Since then, Mr. Ramirez has been reviewing the agreement, he inquired if every committee member had a copy of the agreement or if it was accessible online.

Mr. Mast said he'd make hardcopies for each member that would like them while they're still seeking permission from USACE to post it online. Mr. Ramirez then explained that if committee members review it, then questions can be directed to USACE in August.

Co-Chair Curd: asked a question regarding the remediation process. Ms. Krug explained that the soil would be analyzed, and a decision made on how to properly dispose of it. It is the contractors' responsibility to coordinate with the landfill. After excavation and removal, there will be resampling to ensure all contamination was caught. The contractors will then fill with clean fill, regrade and revegetate the area. Ms. Hernandez asked again about the schedule of the remediation process, Ms. Krug explained it would occur in May of 2025. Ms. Curd asked if there would be any road closures; Ms. Krug explained there is one road closure and explained the plan for moving cars through the area (as referenced on slide 15).

J.R. Garza – commander for veterans: held a ceremony at the corner of Colorado and Commerce Street. A historical preservation group was present and informed Mr. Garza that the Alazan Apache Creek was part of a historical preservation site; it was the location where the troops that attacked the Alamo were amassed. Ms. Galvan asked Mr. Garza for clarification of the location and thanked him for this information.

Bridge servicing the Lincoln Court: Mr. Gabriel Velasquez wanted to ensure awareness that the development of the bridge at Lincoln Courts was reinforcing segregation. He said on behalf of the community, he wants the importance of the bridge that crosses the creek to be prioritized. He wants a new bridge built to “remediate” the social injustice, in the same spirit of the bridge near Elmendorf Lake. Ms. Krug asked for clarification of his question. Mr. Velasquez asked for the replacement of the bridge as was previously voiced by community members. Mr. Mast said that it has been submitted to USACE as a betterment that we would like to see with the project, but it's still being researched and there is not yet a final answer. Mr. Velasquez requested the WCROC submit a letter highlighting the request, including the historical and anthropological significance. Co-chair Ramirez said they'd like to submit a letter per the historical research study; Mr. Mast said if it is the pleasure of the co-chairs, a letter can be written explaining the request; but did assure that it was submitted with the full list of betterments from the community. Mr. Mast stated that the staff is in agreement, as it is an antiquated bridge and understands the request. Co-chair Curd said she recalled that they also saw it on the tour; and noticed it needs to be updated. Conversation ensued regarding the cultural and historical significance of replacing the bridge. All agreed that a letter should be written to USACE highlighting the betterment of new bridge construction. A vote is not required. Co-chairs agree that a letter will be written.

VIII. Citizens to Be Heard

None.

IX. Miscellaneous Items

Co-chair Ramirez requested an update on the Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem Project naming process. Mr. Mast said the city clerk did receive the request and it's going to be put in the queue for City Council in late August or September 2024. Ms. Lourdes Galvan asked Mr. Mast to notify the WCROC when it will be on the City Council agenda to enable committee members to make plans and attend the meeting to show support for the issue. Also, Ms. Galvan stated that after the approval of the naming, she requests a celebration/ribbon cutting event at the creek.

X. Adjourn

Co-Chair Curd stated the next meeting will be August 20, at 6 p.m. She adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting – June 2024

June 18, 2024 · 5:56 PM · ID: 345905701

Chat

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:06 PM

Hello everyone! Thank you for joining us tonight. Please sign-in using this form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Z33cZJGNxm>

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:14 PM

Hello everyone! Thank you for joining us tonight. Please sign in using our online form. If you would like to make a public comment this evening, we need you to state this on the form.
<https://forms.office.com/r/Z33cZJGNxm>

Reb sent a chat · 6:18 PM

Two creek crossings would be ideal. Thank you for the update. Look forward to Martinez Creek NA staying looped in

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:21 PM

Thank you, Reb.

Kendall Hayes sent a chat · 6:27 PM

If you are a member of the public and would like to make a comment, please complete this form. <https://forms.office.com/r/Z33cZJGNxm>