



**Westside Creeks Restoration  
Oversight Committee (WCROC) Meeting  
San Antonio River Authority  
In-person: 100 E. Guenther St.  
Virtual: GoToMeetings  
November 19, 2024 - 6 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair  
Ana Sandoval, Co-Chair  
Mary Ann Valdez-Hernandez,  
Historic Westside Residents Assoc.  
Rick Hernandez, Los Bexareños  
Genealogical Society

Reb Lopez, Martinez Creek NA  
Athena Santos, River Aid San Antonio  
Abel Ramirez, SA Wheelman  
William Buhrman, St. Mary's Univ.  
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com  
Maia Woodall, Student At-Large

**Staff and Public Present**

Lourdes Galvan, RA Board Member  
Derek Boese, RA  
Brian Mast, RA  
Rebecca Krug, RA  
Kendall Hayes, RA  
Kathleen Rubin, RA  
Christina M. Castaño, Ximenes & Assoc

Robert Gonzales  
John Watson  
Roberto Rodriguez  
William Troy  
Micky Clemmons  
Padeepa Venigalla  
Mark Liberatore

**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 not met.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 2024 and September 2024**

The meeting minutes were tabled for a later meeting as a quorum was not met.

**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**

Mr. Boese updated different items (slides 7-11 respectively).

Slide 7 - 8: The River Authority, RA, hosted a series of events to share the 65 percent design with the public. The attendance was as follows: Apache & San Pedro Creek Presentations (Maestro Center) had 27 attendees; Alazán and Martinez Creek Presentations (Alazán Apache Courts) had 30 attendees and the third meeting which addressed all the creeks (Bazan Branch Library) had 17 attendees. Generally, the meetings were well attended and staff received positive input on the plans

Slide 9: Feedback cards had similar themes: connections to streets and neighborhoods, maintaining ADA accessibility, trees planted along trails, shade for benches and sitting areas, and

recreational amenities including bicycle racks. Lourdes Galvan asked for further insight from Mr. Boese. He answered that he felt the feedback from the community is on point concerning the project, and it is well received. There is a concern with public safety on trails, namely at the Alazán Apache meeting. Ms. Galvan thanked the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for being present at the meetings.

Slide 10: Mr. Boese provided an update on the RA's Supplemental Oral History Project. Interviews are kicking off in January 2025 and will be held at the Avenida Guadalupe. Assured the WCROC still has time to provide input to the interviewee list, names are to be provided to Ms. Hayes. Brian Mast stated that outreach will start as soon as contact information is provided. There is a list of approximately 25-30 people to be interviewed thus far. The list was internally developed and open to suggestions from committee members.

Slide 11: Mr. Boese provided an update on the City Council Agenda item for the official naming of the Roberto Rodriguez Westside Creeks Ecosystem, as it is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024. Ms. Galvan suggested RA staff keep close communication with the City to ensure actual plaques and other proper historical references are intertwined into the City's public-facing information including website, printed materials, etc. The project does include signage which should be published towards the end of the project, at 100 percent design.

Slide 12: RA members thanked all those involved in the meetings for getting information out into the community and for successful public information sessions.

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

Ms. Krug provided updates on the project (slides 13-17 respectively).

Slide 14: Ms. Krug provided an update on the Ecosystem Restoration Design Activity. She stated that the design team is working towards the 90 percent design. Additionally, she noted that the additional betterments are still awaiting approval from USACE. Additional features include pedestrian bridges, vehicular and pedestrian trailheads, and other recreational features that can be viewed on the website. WCROC members are encouraged to visit the website to review the revised map provided by the design team at the 65% design milestone.

Slide 15: Ms. Krug provided an update on design activity for the Martinez Trail Extension to Farias Park. She noted that USACE provided comments on the new design of this project. Most of their recommendations will be included as additional work/betterments, once approved. RA staff is currently working on contracting with professional real estate appraisers, surveyors, etc. for the acquisition of additional required real estate for the project.

Slide 16: Ms. Krug noted that public sessions for the 90 percent design are slated to occur in the Spring 2025 timeframe.

Slide 17: Ms. Krug provided an update on the Apache Creek Remediation, the local project in partnership with the City of San Antonio (CoSA) that is locally funded, separate from the federal project on Apache Creek. This locally funded remediation project must be completed before the beginning of the federal project. RA staff continues to coordinate with CoSA to ensure this project is kept on schedule and within budget.

Slide 18: Clarification was asked for concerning the Martinez Trail Extension and which recommendations would be considered. Ms. Krug stated that the RA recommended some

betterments to USACE, but had to revisit areas of conflict to stay within the footprint of the project. The funds for additional recreation and betterments will be shared locally with Bexar County.

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

John Watson, a member of the Jefferson Neighborhood Association, commented that the open house at Bazan Library was very well done. He inquired if there will be lighting on the trails. Mr. Mast explained that lighting is not included in USACE restoration project trails but there is the opportunity for lighting in areas adjacent to the trails, similar to the Mission Reach. Neighborhoods are closer to the trails and Mr. Mast feels there will be enough lighting from them to help the lighting along the trail. Co-Chair Ramirez mentioned that there is “adopt a trail” stewardship and community involvement that would help with safety concerns in the area.

Kamala Platt commented that the “adopt a trail” is a good idea, and inquired if this is something the RA staff has planned. Currently, the Texas Department of Transportation has “adopt a highway” and she hopes the RA will implement similar involvement for the trails. Reb Lopez stated that the City has similar programs like the one on Martinez Creek, near her neighborhood, where they utilize the City’s “adopt a park” and a group of people can submit applications for helping to maintain a section of the creek or parks.

Ms. Lopez, as a new member to WCROC, requested a more thorough explanation of why lighting is not allowed. Mr. Mast thoroughly explained that it’s not allowed for USACE related projects, specifically because ambient lighting is contrary to ecosystem restoration. Mr. Boese encouraged neighborhood associations to reach out to respective City Council members to request additional Park Police patrol.

Co-chair Sandoval suggested that there should be more education on why lighting is not part of the project. Mr. Mast explained that on the Mission Reach project, there was a strong educational component on lighting, and Mr. Boese added that RA staff does anticipate this being needed on the new projects.

Additionally, Co-chair Sandoval suggested RA staff begin to do more outreach to the neighborhoods for public education presentations on the project. RA staff have been educating and will continue educating the community as requested. Organizations and interested communities can request a presentation on the restoration project on the RA website [here](https://www.sariverauthority.org/education/presentations/): <https://www.sariverauthority.org/education/presentations/>

## **VIII. Miscellaneous Items**

Co-Chair Ramirez questioned if the meeting minutes could be approved, but due to there not being a quorum, the minutes were tabled until January 2025.

Co-Chair Ramirez inquired if the RA had been involved with the new baseball stadium downtown, as the proposed location of the new Missions Stadium is on the banks of the new downtown culture park. Mr. Boese stated that yes, the RA has been included in the discussions and issued a statement of support for the project. Furthermore, Mr. Boese suggested that RA staff have a seat at the table as planning ensues.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

# Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting – November 2024

November 19, 2024 · 5:48 PM · ID: 248186789

## Chat

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:01 PM

We will begin shortly. If you have not already, please sign in here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GNDXuLj7Qt>

**Kendall Hayes** sent a chat · 6:28 PM

Thank you for joining us. If you have not done so already or are interested in providing a public comment during the next item, please sign in here: <https://forms.office.com/r/GNDXuLj7Qt>