

## Environmental Advisory Committee

FY 2019 – 2020 Q4 Mtg. Notes

06/26/2020

San Antonio River Authority Boardroom/Virtual Meeting

Bexar County

<b>EAC Attendees:</b>	<b>EAC Absent:</b>
Wilfred Korth – Co-chair	Glynis Strause
Joedy Yglesias – Co-chair	Jason Katcmorak
Joe Baker	
Ginger Coleman	<b>San Antonio River Authority staff Attendees:</b>
Deepti Kharod	Charles Lorea
Annalisa Peace	Steven Schauer
Richard Reed	Jeanette Gonzalez
Connie Waters	Aarin Teague
Janis Bush	Shannon Tollison
James Dodson	Mike Martinez
David Reichert	
	<b>Other Attendees:</b>
	Brian Koch TCEQ
	Kelly Rodibaugh TCEQ
	Chris Loft TCEQ

### 1. Welcome

**Wilfred Korth (WK)** begins, **Steven Schauer (SS)** introduces committee members & guests

### 2. Approval of December 6, 2020 Minute

**(WK)** calls for approval of December 6, 2020 minutes

**Annalisa Peace (AP)** made motion to approve the minutes, **Richard Reed (RR)** seconded motion; **WK** asks if there is any discussion – there is no discussion. **WK** calls for vote, minutes approved by consensus

### 3. CRP Basin Highlight Report Summary Presentation – Charles Lorea (CL)

**Joedy Yglesias (JY):** Question regarding apple snails. What can the public do when they see apple snail egg clusters?

**(CL)** Please contact San Antonio River Authority staff to report sightings.

**(SS)** Question came in through gotomeeting chat about a request for photo of apple snail egg clusters. SS will send picture of apple snails egg cluster with meeting notes.

**(SS)** Gave ECP update with grand opening targeted for 9/26 with planned COVID adjustments

No other questions

**4. (a) Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Presentation – Brian Koch (BK)**

**Deepti Kharod (DK)** Is it a requirement or optional to sign up WQMP for crop or size>?

**BK** No, it is not required. Some are doing conservation practices and the benefits outweigh the challenges

**Janis Bush (JB)** Request to get students involved in UTSA Environmental Science & Ecology Dept in conservation biology course and restoration course. Requested BK to give presentation to UTSA classes

**BK** Offered to connect with JB via email – BK email address is: bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov

No other questions

**4. (b) Water quality as a function of land use presentation – Aarin Teague (AT)**

**Richard Reed (RR)** Inquired about the study of the San Antonio River at Brackenridge Park

**AT** Update to be available mid fall with funding to follow

**RR** Request to be updated

No other questions

**5. Bacteria Source Tracking – Shannon Tollison (ST)**

**WK** Hypothetically, if I'm understanding this correctly, you can have a high E Coli reading from a river sample & a beach sample. And with bacteroid testing you can potentially have a low level in the river system and a high level in the beach system making the river open for recreation.

**ST** Potentially, yes.

**RR** What does PCR stand for?

**Mike Martinez (ESD LAB) (MM)** It is an older technology but modified to use in what we're using now. It essentially takes small bit of DNA, put into a reaction chamber and adding the right chemical reagents, it amplifies the small fragment of DNA up to millions of millions of copies set by a time limit. This is used in large applications for clinical diagnostics. In our case, we're looking at specific human markers and amplifying it.

**RR** The second question has to do with costs. \$400 is a lot but if you can drop it down to \$30 by doing 2 tests, makes a big difference. In what cases will you do multiple tests and in what cases would you only do one. Does it mean subsequent tests from the same site or a variety of tests over multiple sites?

**ST** Responds with example: An approach may be over one site for a potential sewer leak with high E Coli levels that can't be tracked. In that situation it would be a single sample. However, there are opportunities if the site or source is unknown, for example if it's underwater. We can potentially test multiple sites with subsequent testing to determine if its stronger in one point or another then identify the location of the point source pollution. Essentially other organizations that are doing bacteria source tracking set up a package deal. One sample costs one amount, but as you add more samples the price point is reduced back a little bit.

No other questions

## **6. San Antonio River Authority's Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget – Steven Schauer**

<https://www.sariverauthority.org/budgets>

**RR** interest in Brackenridge Park Project and discussion of pushing the River Walk hike/bike trail to Blue Hole. What does the collaboration look like?

**SS** River Authority looking at restoration of river through the park in coordination with the City and Brackenridge Park Conservancy. The shorelines are degraded over decades of use, River Authority to introduce green infrastructure to support stormwater. Potential trail extension to Blue Hole component is not associated directly with Brackenridge Park Project. Community discussions & vision includes future hike & bike trail under Hildebrandt onto University of Incarnate Word campus with connections to Olmos Park. Support was generated earlier in the year with Bexar County but are currently paused due to COVID-19 budget restraints. River Authority is still actively trying to get this section done.

**RR** would be wonderful!

**Annalisa Pierce (AP)** Broadway project, planning phase/status?

**SS** Update Alamo Heights project is still in early stages. Clarification of which part she was referring to in presentation: Alamo Heights/New Braunfels area. City is moving forward with Broadway bonding projects closer to downtown. We are involved in those projects to introduce green infrastructure. High profile project in the community including bus traffic vs bike lanes and green infrastructure. City currently dealing with COVID-19 budget issues so this project, while still moving forward, has lost some of its high profile.

**AP** On New ACCD campus. Campus takes a lot of drainage. Parking area structures and no curb cuts to allow water to go in.

**SS** Moving forward into new fiscal year with larger outreach efforts to the general public to encourage public to join in calls for sustainability and green infrastructure to be more widely used throughout the community.

**AP** Happy to help make connections with 21 Neighborhood Association

**SS** Absolutely. Look forward to helping amplify each other's messages into the future.

## **7. Future meeting dates and items for future consideration**

**WK** All agreed on next meeting being scheduled for Sept 25, 2020 in Wilson county depending on COVID-19 updates. Requested topics for next meeting. No responses.

**SS** Happy to take comments/suggestions for next meeting between now and August timeframe for ideas.

**WK** Ended meeting 3:13 pm