

## EAC FY 2018/2019 Q4 Meeting Minutes

### Introduction

**Richard Reed (RR)** indicated that it was his last meeting as Co – Chair

### **Budget Presentation –Jennifer Skiver (JS)**

(RR) Where do the Capital Improvements funds come from?

(JS) There are many funding sources, but the majority is from Bexar County

(RR) Where does the 9% Bexar County contribution come from?

(JS) That is provided by Bexar County, as it is what Bexar County expected in terms of growth

(RR) The funding percentages from previous years is actual, not projected?

(JS) Yes

(RR) Limited term employees go into what departments?

(JS) Environmental Sciences, and GIS

(RR) I'd love to see those numbers grow

(RR) Are there no LID Development Incentives budgeted for FY 2021?

(JS) We're doing some heavy front – end investments, but no increase in funding is expected

(RR) Has LID Rebate project funding from FY 2019 been expended?

(JS) I don't know, but if not, the unused funds get carried forward

**Steven Schauer (SS)** – LID Rebate project funds allocated are not paid until projects are complete and confirmed to conform to LID Rebate criteria

(RR) Will LID Incentives increase?

(SS) Optimally, and possibly, but there is a balance of considerations, given that there is a limited amount of funding overall.

(RR) What's the size of funding?

(SS) Maximum \$15,000, maximum of \$100,000

**Deepti Kharod (DK)** Does CoSA match our funds, or, how does that work?

(SS) No, that's our program and fund

(DK) What's that Bond / LID Match?

(SS) We are looking at adding money to the city's Broadway project bond. To help insure that CoSA includes LID into the \$97 million Broadway project, we're putting some money into it.

**Annalisa Peace (AP)** Is grant funding being sought?

(SS) Yes, where appropriate

**Ecosystem Restoration Project –Raine Tanner (RT), and Aarin Teague (AT)**

(RR) Is the project designed for restoration, or recreation?

(RT) Parks will be included

(RR) Is there money for walking trails included?

(RT) That's correct

(RR) The Army Corps of Engineers is to present in August, followed by public review, correct?

(RT) Yes, public input will be incorporated

(RR) PR for that public meeting will be essential

(SS) We will be promoting that meeting

(AT) Multiple sources of outreach will be employed

(RR) I can provide contacts if necessary

(SS) We can provide outreach materials to you

(RR) I'll be out of reach, but Rolly Wood can distribute the information if necessary

(RR) Meifi Moore as well

**Joedy Yglesias (JY)** Neighborhood association to have a quorum? How many are needed for quorum?

(RR) I think probably 50% or so

(RR) Meifi Moore is critical to have included in this project

(AP) Will Arundo be removed?

(AT) That is being explored at this point

(JY) TPWD has a free Arundo removal initiative

(AT) That would be very helpful

(RR) Matt Wallace is a key person at Lake Flato for "Spirit Reach"

(AP) Could Debbie Reed from my team attend the meetings?

(AT) Absolutely

(RR) This will be more than an exclusively natural restoration

(AT) The funds that are specifically tied to this are from the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) section 206, and are explicitly tied to aquatic habitat restoration, which means the funds cannot be used purely for recreation, flood control is a no - no. However, in working with the Corps and with CoSA, we want to make sure that the project acknowledges that there is a human interaction with the river here, and modifying those interactions as a method of restoration.

(RR) Focused fishing will be narrowed to places where people have access to the bank for fishing?

(AT) That's one of the options we're looking at with the Corps. We're only at the feasibility study at this point.

(RR) Aquatic restoration is not only below the waterline.

(AT) Absolutely, think of the project as stabilizing the structure of the stream, then once stabilized, going out into the banks to use the vegetation and the habitats to protect the structure of the stream. Once those are solidified, we have a stable riparian corridor, and we're able to introduce habitat elements within the aquatic environment, or, even better, they develop on their own.

(RR) What will pedestrian access look like? Asphalt removal, and things like that?

(AT) One of the requirements by the CoSA Parks dept. is that park users are still able to access the river for recreation opportunities. That type of focused fishing access, focused pedestrian use. If trails are a little distance from the river, there will be areas where the vegetation will obscure their view of the river, but there will also be areas where the vegetation is managed so that users will be able to access, see, and interact with the river. Those are all concepts right now. We are very excited about those ideas, but they have to "cost - out".

(RR) Will Avenue A be removed?

(AT) Several ideas have been floated for that. The Corps will have to review for cost, impact, etc., and then we will have to consult and coordinate with a number of different partners.

(RR) Money exists for removal?

(AT) If it does cost out, the Corps will need to provide funding, but there could be a match from the partners as well. There would have to be a conversation as for where the funds will come from.

(RR) We're talking about Section 206 funds, but as far as we know at this time, we don't know how much? The budget hasn't been created?

(AT) There's an upper limit of \$10 Million on the government side. I don't think that is the limiting factor here. I think we need to be realistic here in terms of the fact that there's a limited amount of local funds available.

### **Water Quality Dashboard – Michelle Garza (MG)**

(RR) What are the blue and the red line?

(MG) One is rainfall, and one is E.coli

(RR) I'm struck by the lack of correlation between rainfall and E. coli levels in some places.

Charles Lorea (CL) – in some instances it could be wildlife, or different rainfall levels

(JY) In some instances it could be steady rainfall, whereas the initial part of a rainfall event is where the E.coli will wash off

(RR) E. coli has a limited life span outside the body

(AT) There's a body of research regarding how E. coli can survive - E. coli is capable of going dormant, and then re-growing extensively

(RR) Can rainfall be incorporated into this?

(MG) That is something that we're exploring at this time

(AP) Does each monitoring station have flow?

(MG) No, not every station has flow

(RR) I'm struck by the lack of correlation between rainfall and E. coli levels in some places.

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(JY) Isn't San Pedro Creek Culture Park flow artificial?

(SS) There is tunnel recirculation, in addition to (currently) spring flow, so yes, some flow is artificial

(JY) Are these photos standard, or is this a web cam?

(MG) These are standard photos, taken by our crews

(JY) I was out at San Pedro Creek Culture Park recently and saw some signage indicating that the flow ad been turned off.

(SS) Yes, since the plaza allows for secondary contact recreation (wading), anytime we get high (E.coli) numbers, we shut it off. The team then is out there every day collecting samples, until the levels come down to a point that would allow for secondary contact recreation.

(AT) That is consistent with the standard protocols for any public beach.

(MG) As soon as 2016 water quality data is available from TCEQ, we will format it, and integrate it into our viewers

(RR) 2016 Data from TCEQ is just now being released?

(CL) It is currently at the EPA, waiting for approval, it has been adopted by the TCEQ, but it can't be used for any regulatory purposes until it is approved by the EPA.

(DK) When you put the 2016 data up, will the 2012 data go away, or...?

(MG) We'll have the 2012 data no matter what

### **Water Quality Basin Comparison - Charles Lorea (CL)**

(RR) San Antonio is the second largest city in Texas, and has a river that originates within its borders. It seems that development would be a critical contributor to our Basin Health

(CL) Yes sir

**James Dodson (JD)** What is the most common reason for impairment regarding fish consumption?

(CL) Mercury, dioxin, and PCB's

(DK) "Fish community impairment" means what?

(CL) Diversity, number, and composition of the fish population

(RR) It's notable that Bays and Estuaries are over 30% impaired

(RR) How does Chloride get in the water?

(CL) There are numerous causes, but the most common cause is as a by - product of wastewater treatment

(JY) What does chloride impairment result in?

(CL) Macro invertebrate scarcity, and the effects on mussels are currently being studied

(RR)

### **Basin Report Card Presentation – Steven Schauer (SS)**

(JD) How does restoration fall under the word "safe"?

(SS) We were trying to figure out where to put that one, and "safe" ended up being the best option

(JD) On the Seadrift Paddling Trail, hyacinth is so thick, it's unpassable

(JD) Can the EAC get a copy of your PPT as well as the Chesapeake Bay Report Card?

(SS) Yes, we will distribute them to the group

(JY) What's the first place downriver that meets the contact recreation standard?

(SS)

(JD) *(If swimming were to be allowed)* Lifeguards would need to be made available

(SS) We're exploring that as well

(AP) How deep is the River?

(SS) Mostly pretty shallow - it would be wading

**Discussion Regarding the (DRAFT) San Antonio River Authority Position Paper Regarding Climate Resiliency - Richard Reed (RR)**

(JY) (With River Authority permission) I shared it with Board Members of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, and we thought it was easy to read, and a great statement, thumbs up.

(RR) This is a careful line we're walking regarding Climate Change and the ability to deal with Climate Change

(RR) There is also a bit of language that I find inaccurate. (Reads passage) Climate is not *event* based, the *events* may be *climate* based. I wonder if this places the focus too specifically on cases, and not long – term environmental change.

(RR) (*The focus should be on*) the ability to deal with the *increasing number* of severe weather events

(JD) There's variability in the system, maybe it's getting more variable. Climate is looking *long – term*. I was at a conference on Climate Change 40 years ago in Washington, DC. They were seeking consensus, and after two days, they went around the room, and they couldn't reach consensus on anything other than, there's variability in the system.

(DK) I also thought it was easy to read, and I appreciated just seeing that the past 20 years, and some of the major events that the paper did describe, because sometimes those things fade (from memory), as time fades

(AP) Maybe we could include an emphasis on the multi – benefits of the abundance of work we are doing

(SS) Perfect, we'll emphasize that

(JD) There has been five droughts of record, sequentially, since the 1950's

**Discussion Regarding River Authority Staff Recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding EAC Membership for FY 19 / 20 – Steven Schauer (SS)**

(RR) I'm stepping down as Chair, is Maggie Hunt staying on?

(SS) No, both Maggie and Truett are stepping down

(JD) I would like to give notice that I would like to see if I could be replaced at some point

(SS) Sure, do you have any recommendations?

(JD) I have an old friend who lives on the San Antonio River, on the old town site of Riverdale. He's a Texas Master Naturalist, and used to be the Deputy General Manager of the San Patricio Municipal Water District, worked for the San Jacinto River Authority, and did all of their water quality work, and things like that. He'd be an excellent candidate, if he'd agree to it.

(SS) Okay. What we'd be looking for, as opposed to someone from the Goliad area, would be someone to represent Bays and Estuaries. If you have any recommendations in that area...

(JD) Okay, I can look for somebody

(SS) It's always great to make connection with citizens invested in the river. We definitely would love to get the contact info for the gentleman you mentioned, though

