

Environmental Advisory Committee

FY 2020 - 2021 Q4 Mtg. Notes

7/23/2021

Virtual Meeting

Bexar County

| EAC Attendees: | EAC Absent: |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wilfred Korth | Jason Katscmorak |
| Deepti Kharod | Stephan Lucke |
| Glynis Strause | David Reichart |
| Heather Hansen | Bree Jameson |
| James Dodson | Joe Baker |
| Annalisa Peace | Connie Waters |
| Janis Bush | San Antonio River Authority staff attendees: |
| | Charles Lorea |
| | Jennifer Crocker |
| | Kevin Boeck |
| | Peter Pierson |
| | Sheeba Thomas |
| | Steven Schauer |
| | Jeanette Gonzalez |
| | Garrett Phillips |
| | Chris Vaughn |

1. Welcome

Wilfred Korth (WK) called the meeting order. **Deepti Kharod (DK)** started introduction, followed by committee members, guests, and San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) staff.

2. Approval of July 23, 2021 Minutes

WK calls for approval of minutes.

Janis Bush (JB) made motion to approve the minutes, **DK** seconded motion; **WK** calls for vote, minutes approved by consensus.

3. Clean River Program (CRP) Update – Charles Lorea (CL)

DK in chat Chuck...can you pls explain what fringe benefits includes? (maybe some examples). Also, what are 1-2 examples of indirect costs?

CL San Antonio River Authority benefits are capped at 38%.

Amy Zola (AZ) For grants, the fringe benefits are associated with the hours applied to a staff person's base salary such as healthcare costs.

Heather Hansen (HH) in chat Please remind me why SARA and partners do more biological monitoring in our watersheds than other areas in the state?

CL One of the reasons is because our management sees the relationship between water quality and aquatic community as valuable. Aquatic monitoring is labor intensive and not a lot of River Authorities have the dynamics to do so and the River Authority supports the effort.

4. **Broadway Project – Sheeba Thomas (ST) & Garrett Phillips (GP)**

Annalisa Peace (AP) Request for presentation to share with neighborhood. Sheeba agreed. Regarding the drainage project at the intersection of Broadway & Cunningham, is there a BMP that cleans the water in that area where it drains.

ST Requested to get back to **AP** with an answer to verify location.

DK (in chat) Sheeba, can you pls help us understand what a bioretention feature replacing the current landscaping would look like?

ST Referred to Garrett for photo of BMP.

SS (in chat) Cunningham is several blocks south of Mulberry, which I believe takes it out of the project bounds being discussed by Sheeba today. I believe that stormwater drains under Broadway and Ave. B into the channel that runs along the east side of the golf course and eventually drains directly into the river where the river goes under 281/37. I'm not aware of BMPs at that location to treat the stormwater coming down Broadway/Cunningham at that location, but we'll look further into and report back to the EAC with an answer.

ST (in chat) Annalisa, I quickly checked the draft plans and saw that there are BMPs planned on either sides of Cunningham along Broadway, however, it does not taking in water from Cunningham.

ST Pulled up photo of BMP at cross section of Broadway and explained the image of bioretention project to answer Deepti's question.

HH Once the BMPs are in place, will there be publicity so that people in the general city will understand the project once it's completed to show the public of what's there and how it works?

GP It is certainly something we'll want to use to as an example to educate the public, developers, and new staff at the city. Right now, we offer tours of green infrastructure completed projects and this project will be included to highlight in the future.

SS We've already started highlighting the support of this project. We will do a heavy amount of promotion about it once it's completed. For now, we're already letting the public know the River Authority is putting forth financial and staff support to move these projects along, and this one specifically.

AP I have a comment about the new ACCD office campus. The neighborhood commented and we met with architects. They installed raingardens with depressions and planting but they put curbs all around without any curb cuts so there isn't a way for the water to get into to the raingardens. I think if you're calculating volumes to coming off the campus, you might want to work with them to get the curb cuts in and would reduce volume.

ST Requested to talk to Annalisa after the meeting.

5. Winter Weather Impact on Native & Invasive species – Peter Pierson (PP)

HH Have you seen more poison ivy this year than normal? We're seeing it more and with the mention of an extra reproductive cycle, makes me wonder if it's flourishing.

PP That brings up a good point because a lot of plant material is flourishing. Poison ivy is native and growing quite prolifically. One of the things we didn't expect during the cold snap, is the effect on guinea grass, an invasive species. We thought the cold would be a great advantage and knock the grass way back, but now with such mild temperatures and so much rainfall, everything is responding really strongly. The guinea grass has made an incredible recovery from that process and it looks like poison ivy and other plant material are doing the same thing and growing quite a bit than they normally would this year.

6. Trash Outreach Creative Update – Steven Schauer (SS)

DK in chat That's helpful focus on nuance!

AP in chat very nice!

HH in chat really cool! and gets more eyes on it daily than a billboard

DK in chat I agree, Heather and Annalisa! I also appreciate the research on what works in each area in terms of advertising.

HH in chat I do like having "my" SARA billboard at an intersection I regularly pass on my drives in Wilson County - US Hwy 181 & FM 775

DK in chat It's also a good contrast to have something that looks "cute" juxtaposed with the trash.

CV in chat Steven, have you thought about dirty on one side of the bus and clean on the other?

JB in chat I think it is going to be a great campaign.

7. Water Quality and Green Infrastructure Program – Amy Zola (AZ)

DK Amy - those slides with the impervious cover modeling maps were powerful!

AP Compliment to the River Authority board. I work with a lot of River Authorities and SARA is the most effective and sophisticated at green infrastructure. Keep up that great work!

8. Discuss the San Antonio River Authority's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget – Kevin Boeck (KB)

9. Future meeting dates and items for future consideration

WK Discussion of FY 21/22 meetings.

Jeanette Gonzalez (JG) Presented three options to committee including all virtual which has seen best attendance, in-person meetings, and an option for three virtual meetings and one in-person meeting to rotate between counties.

James Dodson (JD) Agreed with continuation of virtual meeting with once a year in person to maintain personal contact occasionally.

HH Agreed with James.

JB Mentioned virtual allows for more participation and agrees with the decision.

WK Took a vote and all agree on three virtual meeting and one in person meeting. Next meeting will be Friday, September 17.

SS Question to committee regarding location of in person meeting.

JD Invitation to host meeting in Victoria or Seadrift as an option with next day, 9/18, a clean up event for those interested.

SS From staff perspective, it is feasible.

DK Asked about meeting location.

JD Meeting can be help along shoreline in Victoria or Seadrift.

WK Suggestion to use the new Port O'Connor Public Library. Asked members that live in San Antonio of their preference in attending an out of town meeting.

JD One of the reasons for the suggestion is because the San Antonio River Authority has been very involved in a lot of the work we do at the coast. This is an opportunity to highlight the partnership and see the projects first hand.

SS We will follow up with James and the co-chairs to solidify details.

AP Presentation request for solar panels and the concerns with leeching metals into the ground overtime.

SS We will examine that first to see if we have enough information to provide on that subject.

JD Since the meeting will be held at the coast, request for item regarding status of freshwater inflows, management and acquisition of freshwater inflows from the bay system, water markets and dedication of water rights.

DK Request for update from education team in December.

AP Update on the SA River Basin Flood Planning Group

WK Adjourned meeting at 11:15 am