

Environmental Advisory Committee

FY 2020 - 2021 Q1 Mtg. Notes

9/25/2020

Virtual Meeting

Bexar County

| EAC Attendees: | EAC Absent: |
|--------------------------|---|
| Wilfred Korth – Co-chair | Glynis Strause |
| Jason Katcmorak | David Reichert |
| Joe Baker | Joedy Yglesias – Co-chair |
| Deepti Kharod | |
| Heather Hansen | |
| Annalisa Peace | |
| Stephan Lucke | San Antonio River Authority staff attendees: |
| Connie Waters | Charles Lorea |
| Janis Bush | Steven Schauer |
| James Dodson | Karen Bishop |
| | Caitlin Heller |
| | Joshua Spencer |
| | Chris Vaughn |
| | Jeanette Gonzalez |
| | Peter Pierson |

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of June 26, 2020 Minute

(WK) calls for approval of June 26, 2020 minutes

Janis Bush (JB) made motion to approve the minutes, **Deepti Kharod (DK)** seconded motion; **WK** asks if there is any discussion – there is no discussion. **WK** calls for vote, minutes approved by consensus

3. **SS announced new co-chair update and introduction of new members;** each attendee gave brief intro of themselves

4. **CRP Basin Update – Charles Lorea (CL)**

JB (chat) The internships are great for our students! Nice Presentation

DK (chat) Thanks, Chuck! Crisp and thorough – as always!

5. **Invasive Species Mitigation: Aquatic Species – Chris Vaughn (CV)**

DK Can you talk a little bit about the permit. I just don't know a whole lot about this stuff. Is it because they are not being disposed of properly that people need to have a permit to be able to handle the adults.

CV That is exactly right. There are very few species in Texas that Texas Parks & Wildlife goes to the extent that they have with the apple snail. The Blue Tilapia is another one. You don't have to have a permit to handle it, but you have to take special precautions if you are going to handle it. It's a fairly new invader to TX and wanted to cover their bases and restrict it all together and work on how to handle it in the future. They're

DK Do the eggs also require a permit?

CV They do not require a permit. Anybody can go out and scrape apple snail eggs. There are some do's and don'ts on how to scrape them and what not to do. The video will point this out and educate the River Warriors group and potentially extend the invite to the General Public

SS We can share it with this group when it's produced. We're doing some filming for it today and by the end of October we'll have it ready to show our volunteer group, the River Warriors, to recruit and educate help to deal with this. We'll share that video with this committee as well and recruit y'all to help if you're interested.

CL Just to add a little more, our contractors that we have on board are collecting every other week through about mid November. We really suspect, and hope, the cold weather will have a great impact on them. It would be nice if it wiped them out, but just to be prepared we're also looking into traps and baits. Next week's meeting will be to discuss these traps and be prepared for the long haul.

DK (chat) That was informative, Chris – thanks. The images were really helpful, too.

6. Invasive Species Mitigation: Riparian Species – Peter Pierson (PP)

No questions

7. New Goal Leaders Introductions – Joshua Spencer (JS), Caitlin Heller (CH)

No questions

8. San Antonio River Basin Report Card

Heather Hansen (HH) Is that website live now? Can we go look at it?

SS No, that's a behind the scenes website. It will likely go live on Oct 22nd. The link will be sent out to this group to review and ask questions.

JB I just want to say it's very impressive work and I love the idea of the report card and working with the folks at Chesapeake Bay cause they've done some great work up there. Great partnership.

SS Thanks Janis.

DK On one of the slides, you mentioned that there would be qualitative data as well. What types of things do you have in mind for that.

SS The qualitative data is that section I went through line by line where we explained other relevant things that happened over the last 12 months that we didn't measure.

DK That was incredible! The amount of work and the breadth of information that's available.

SS Thank you. Our hope is that in the long run, citizens such as yourself find value in this and use it to share with others to perpetuate change at the grassroots level. In the what you can do recommendations, we point out to let your elected officials what your opinions are on this

subject. We ask the citizens to speak up and let us know. Not just for River Authority to know, but to let the elected officials know that the citizens want this. We want this report card to serve as a tool to amplify your voices, encouraging a healthier development of our basin.

9. Sustainable Infrastructure – Karen Bishop (KB)

WK Is the LID manual something that can be emailed or is it a hard copy

KB I can take down the names of anybody interested in a copy and is interested in doing LID. We do have a limited supply, but if you have folks in Wilson County who can use that Wilfred, let me know and I'll get it to you.

WK Absolutely, I'd like to share it with our City Council members and get them on board.

KB Excellent, and we can come down and make presentation. I'll email you to get your address.

WK Sounds great.

DK When is the new application out, I want to talk to the university about that.

KB You're talking about the rebates, and we will begin taking applications October of this year.

We will keep the application process open for a month. Jeanette will be posting that on our website. Jeanette, any guidance on exactly where to go for that information?

JG The information will be posted within the Sustainability Learning Module on our website. There will be a Rebate tab on the left side when it goes live. I can also send additional information via email.

DK Great, thank you.

Joe Baker (JB2) – chat message read by SS If a project is approved for a rebate, is the rebate amount applied as a credit toward the portion of the property taxes paid to SARA?

KB No, they're not

SS The rebate is paid back to the entity that applied for the rebate upon going through the process and proving that they implemented what they had worked with our staff to implement.

JB Great work Karen. Lots of work to improve our community.

KB Any other questions?

10. Future meeting dates and items for future consideration

SS All agreed on next meeting being scheduled for December 11, 2020. Requested topics for next meeting.

HH I would like a presentation about the priority watershed areas

Stephan Lucke (SL) Interested in the relationship between any local agriculture organizations and water usage. I know there aren't a ton of farms in SA, but for example how Mission San Juan uses acequias. What is going on with agriculture and the waterways of SA.

SS Thanks Stephan we can talk about water rights and how they are divided in our basin. It would include ag and provide the different uses.

WK Something I'm interested in. I've noticed several communities are doing COVID tracking through their wastewater plants and I'd like a better understanding on how that is working

SS We're actually collaborating with UTSA on that for a study how our wastewater systems are providing samples. Deepti will be presenting to our board in October on that. By December we can give the presentation to EAC with updates.

WK Any other topics?

DK (in chat) appreciate the updates on the apple snails

Connie Waters (CW) I noticed in Karen's report priority LID areas specific to site modeling. Do you have updates on that.

SS Combine HH's suggestion with CW to one presentation.

SS We will seek your thoughts and input on new things you'd like us to consider working on going into the future in December.

WK Ended meeting 11:57 am