

Environmental Advisory Committee

FY 2021 - 2022 Q4 Meeting Notes

6/10/2022

Virtual Meeting

Bexar County

EAC Attendees:	EAC Absent:
Wilfred Korth	Joe Baker
Annalisa Peace	Stephen Lucke
Glynis Strause	Bree Jameson
James Dodson	Joedy Yglesias
Heather Hansen	Janis Bush
Connie Waters	San Antonio River Authority staff attendees:
Deepti Kharod	Ronnie Hernandez
Jason Katcsmorak	Lee Marlowe
	Kendall Hayes
	Rebecca Reeves
	Shaun Donovan
	Steve Graham
	Meera Keshav
	Kevin Boeck

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of March 18, 2022, Minutes

WK calls for approval of minutes.

Annalisa Peace (AP) made motion to approve the minutes, **Heather Hansen (HH)** seconded motion; **WK** calls for vote, minutes approved by consensus.

3. Clean Rivers Program Update – Rebecca Reeves (RR)

No questions were offered.

4. Environmental Investigations – Ronnie Hernandez (RR)

AP asked when laying pipelines, do we do so like San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS)?

RH explained yes, the agency does. Real estate staff sends out designs and schematics. The River Authority does have a process for that.

5. Regional Flood Planning Group – Kendall Hayes (KH)

No questions were offered.

6. Mission Reach Avian Study Update – Lee Marlow (LM)

WK asked has the River Authority provided assistance to nearby landowners adjacent to the project in redoing their property to add to the project benefit?

LM answered not that she was aware of as far as a focused effort. In general, the agency promotes using native landscaping.

7. Discuss the San Antonio River Authority's FY 22/23 Budget – Kevin Boeck (KB)

Dr. Deepti Kharod (DK) – For Nature Based Parks, what is the timeline to decide which park is first?

KB – The subject will be discussed at the strategic planning session.

DK – The reason it was asked is the International Play Association is looking for parks that are looking for hands on help when they hold their conference. It was suggested that Kristen Hansen (Watershed & Park Operations Senior Manager) might be best to reach out to do discuss further.

8. Westside Creeks Project Update – Meera Keshav (MK)

Shaun Donovan (SD) Commented that Environmental Sciences Department (ESD) did their initial instream survey, including fish and habitat survey, to study pre-construction data, so that there is a baseline understanding of conditions prior to development and compare to after the construction.

LM – Commented that the agency is planning for surveys in August and avian studies will be under contract and vegetation survey will be in house.

9. Future meeting dates and items for future consideration – WK and DK

DK shared that this is her last meeting and that she will miss the EAC group. **WK** expressed appreciation for **DK** participation. **Steve Graham** echoed appreciation for **DK** and the **EAC**. **JG** noted the next meeting currently set to be in person for **September 16, 2022**, and is currently set to coincide with the San Antonio Bay Partnership shoreline clean up. Will be sending out more information about accommodations but wanted to confirm that the members agree on the date and making the trip to the bay. James Dobson will act as a host. The location is out of Port O'Connor. If members do not have a kayak or boat, they will be willing to pair them with someone. Finish with everyone at noon and have lunch. Bring significant others. Perhaps look at other projects in the vicinity on Saturday (the next day). Due to the investment, want to solidify interest. May not have a virtual option for the meeting, depending on the venue for the meeting. **HH** confirmed interest. **SG** noted using a poll for attendance interest. **JG** invited leadership to stay after the meeting to discuss the next meeting further.

Future considerations – are there any updates Wilson County Parks to share? If not, it is okay.

Meeting adjourned 10:49