

**Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)
Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee**

FY 2022-2023 Q4 Meeting Notes

June 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ConocoPhillips, Eagle Ford Kenedy Office, 3778 CR 344, Kenedy, TX 782119

Virtual option available

EAC Attendees:	EAC Absent:
Wilfred Korth (virtual)	
Janis Bush	Joe Baker
Glynis Strause	James Dodson
Connie Waters	Joedy Yglesias
Heather Hansen	Bree Jameson
Jason Katcsmorak	
Stephen Lucke (virtual, part time)	
John Hooker (virtual)	
Annalisa Peace (virtual)	
	San Antonio River Authority staff attendees:
Citizens to Be Heard	Steve Graham
None	Carrie Merson
	Rebecca Reeves (virtual)
	Katy Brought (virtual)
	Shaun Donovan
	Chris Vaughn
	Peter Pierson (virtual)
	Jennifer Crocker

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of March 17, 2023, Q3 Minutes

WK calls for approval of minutes. **Heather Hansen** motioned to approve the minutes, motion was seconded; **WK** calls for vote, and minutes approved by consensus.

3. Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget Overview

Jennifer Crocker, Deputy Director, Finance & Administration

Post-presentation topics discussed:

Discussed the Sheridan office remodeling, which is currently in design phase. Also discussed the Escondido Creek Parkway traffic/attendance of the park, and shared that it appeared to be a

high volume of traffic.

4. Citizen Science Volunteer Programming

Carrie Merson, Education and Engagement Officer

Post-presentation topics discussed:

Discussed the potential identification of a new approach to gathering crowd source litter information and data, since Litterati application is no longer available for our use. University of Incarnate Word found Litterati to be motivational to the students. Proposed working with universities to build a similar app, because it is important to learn the sources of litter to make a difference. Discussed the appreciate of the City Nature Challenge being expanded to include the southern basin counties. Discussed the potential for doing the Texas Stream Team in schools, including in the southern basin.

5. Re-wilding Efforts through the San Antonio River Authority

- a. Otilia Dam - Shaun Donovan, Environmental Sciences Department Manager
- b. Freshwater Mussel Reintroduction Program - Chris Vaughn, Supervisor Watershed Monitoring
- c. Mission Reach Ecosystem Updates - Peter Pierson, Natural Resources Management Specialist
- d. Creek Restoration - Dr. Aarin Teague, Manager of Engineering Design & Construction

Post-presentation topics discussed:

Discussed water-rights around the Dam, and that San Antonio Water Systems owns those water-rights. Discussed modifications to the dam area that recognizes the people, planet, and profit triple bottom line, potentially incorporating recreation features that also help the environment.

Discussed the consumption of freshwater mussels historically, but people currently don't consume them. Staff doesn't recommend it.

Discussed that the number of species (wildlife and plant) found on the Mission Reach ecosystem is numerous and surprising. Then number of birds and species was 4-fold beyond the expectations. Success is through adaptive management, and because the system is continuously changing system, we must work WITH the project, not control the project. Therefore, want to establish a philosophy around the management of this unique project. Dr. Bush did a study beginning in 1981 along the river, which could add to our historical ecological data.

Discussed "Beaver Dams" volunteer effort at the agency that help stabilize watershed.

Discussed that no seeding was done on the featured engineering projects, given TPWD requirements, but the nature was allowed to "to its job" with great success. Connie Waters shared that a project along Sulphur Creek that was successful in controlling erosion through the Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)/ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program.

Requested an abbreviated version of the Basin Summary Report so that members can take it to others to discuss, and it was shared that Executive Summary might be helpful for that objective.

6. Future meeting dates and items for future consideration.

Discussed next meeting date and location. Q4 meeting will be calendared for September 21, 2023, with tentative times of 10am-noon. Meeting location will be held somewhere in Bexar County. Co-chairs are invited to San Antonio River Authority Board meeting August 7 to share out their perspectives of the EAC.

Discussed future topics to consider for the Q1 FY 23-24 meeting including: Cibolo Creek Modeling and Mission Reach Tour.

Re-proposing a mixer-type activity for members to get to know each other to bolster an even more engaged and involved atmosphere. Could occur before or after a meeting, or on a separate date. Proposed that the members have an opportunity to interact with the education models and games.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19pm.