San Antonio River Authority Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

July 18th, 2025. 11:00am-1:00pm (Q4) Meeting Notes

San Antonio River Authority Boardroom (100 E. Guenther St, San Antonio TX, 78204)

EAC Attendees:	**Absent EAC Attendees:**
Joedy Yglesias **(JY)**	Carl Clapsaddle
Glynis Strause (virtual) **(GS)**	Connie Waters
Dr. Janis Bush **(JB)**	
Annalisa Peace **(AP)**	**San Antonio River Authority Staff Attendees:**
Christopher Fullerton **(CF)**	Rebecca Reeves **(RR)**
Heather Hansen **(HH)**	Brian Mast **(BM)**
Dr. John Hooker **(JH)**	Samantha Villaneuva **(SV)**
Peter Hernandez **(PH)**	Salem De La Luna **(SD)**
Mary Lozano **(ML)**	Sheeba Thomas **(ST)**
James Dodson (Virtual) **(JD)**	Alicia Ramsey **(AR)**
	Mikel Wilkins **(MW)**
Citizens to be heard:	
Mary Michael Zahed **(MZ)**	
Jennifer Stommel (Virtual) **(JS)**	
Rachel Cywinski **(RC)**	
Robert Kosub **(RK)**	
Jorge Salazar **(JS)**	

1. **Welcome**
    - Comments by EAC co-chairs Dr. Janis Bush and James Dodson
    - Introductions of committee members, River Authority staff, and other attendees

2. **Stormwater Sampling in the San Antonio River Basin**
   Alicia Ramsey, Watershed Ecologist II, San Antonio River Authority

   Post Presentation topics discussed:

   AP: how do you maintain features?

   AR: We have a different team that maintains sites and landscapes.

   GS: Where is the E. coli coming from?

   AR: Depends on where you are looking at, there is a dashboard on our website that identifies sources in our basin. Mostly comes from animals.

   JS: How do you select sites?

AR: Outside of primary flood plains, so equipment can reach the stream yet still function properly without being clogged by debris.

JS: Do you select sites based off construction and environmental disturbance?

AR: Our team focuses more on natural areas.

JB: How do you coordinate site selection with USGS or other agencies?

AR: I am not aware of other agencies conducting stormwater sampling, we do coordinate with people in the site's area or have our sites located near USGS sites for flow.

CF: Are you noticing pollution leeching from storm debris into the watershed?

AR: We are limited in how long we can sample, I'm not sure we have this data. We sample for 3-5 days after a rain event. We are looking for data to return to baseline.

JH: Is it common for E. coli level trends to not correlate with peak water levels?

AR: I cannot say at this time.

3. **Development of Tools for Stormwater Quality Management**
   Dr. Sheeba Thomas, Lead Technical Engineer, San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

AP: This work is incredibly important. Would you be able to make your presentation available online?

MP: All the presentations for our meetings are uploaded to our website after the meeting.

AP: How do you keep updating the models?

ST: It is an intensive process that takes 5-7 years. We periodically revisit all the watersheds used for modeling. We simulate present and future conditions.

CF: To follow up on that last question, as you update models, are you seeing consistent trends?

ST: No, we have newer, better data and different conditions that make completely different models every time.

GS: You use the word "development" a lot, are you referring to housing or commercial development?

ST: Yes, anything that creates impervious cover.

GS: Do you have any authority to prevent these impacts?

BM: We don't have regulatory authority. Along specific areas, we do have requirements for consultation. We do also coordinate with the City of San Antonio.

HH: Do you stay informed about development?

BM: Coordination is only required within those areas, but we try to be as informed as possible and establish relationships with developers.

GS: But you can't stop a project?

BM: No, but we try to work collaboratively with developers.

AP: Are you noticing different trends or conditions and do you report them?

MW: In my presentation we will answer your question.

4. **Understanding Nature Based Solutions Role in Flood Mitigation, Environmental Uplift, and Community Enhancement**
   Mikel Wilkins, Senior Engineer, San Antonio River Authority

   Post Presentation topics discussed:

   AP: Texas Water Development Board is doing technical guide for nature-based solutions, do you give input on that?

   MW: Yes, soon the nature conservancy will be coming down here and we will make a video.

   GS: How will new legislation on water impact SARA?

   BM: All investment in water is appreciated. 50% voted on will be drinking water, the other 50% will be flood infrastructure, wastewater management, etc. How it will be allocated in November is yet to be determined. There they be discussions during the special legislative session as well.

   MW: We also find creative ways to find funding, such as data technology companies trying to incorporate nature-based solutions.

5. **Proposed Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Consideration**

   Q1: October 17th, 2025
   Q2: January 23rd, 2026
   Q3: April 10th, 2026

Q4: July 17th, 2026

JY: Can we reconsider the January meeting date since it will be a holiday weekend.
MP: Can we move the meeting to the fourth Friday of January 1/24?
JY: Yes.
MP: One of our meetings will be a tour of our lab and one will be in the Southern Basin; we will reach out when the details are determined. We also appreciate your feedback and questions.
JB: Next meeting, I would like to know how SARA works with other entities and how the collaborative efforts work.
JY: I wanted to thank the SARF for all the work they do for the community. I encourage all EAC Members to attend their events.
MP: We work very closely with SARF, and they are able to fund so many of our events, we are so grateful for their partnership.
JY: Listen to SARA's Instagram post about the river soundscapes.
MP: We call them basin meditations.
RR: I would like to mention that SARA is part of a team that monitors past Goliad, we lost a sampling site and would like to find a new one South of Goliad. If you know anyone that has property in that area and is interested in participating, please let me know.
GS: In Goliad?
RR: South of Goliad.