

San Antonio River Authority Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

October 17th, 2025. 11:00am-1:00pm (Q1) 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
James Dodson (Virtual) (JD)	Connie Waters
Dr. Janis Bush (JB)	Glynis Strause
Annalisa Peace (AP)	Christopher Fullerton
Mary Lozano (ML)	Dr. John Hooker
Heather Hansen (HH)	
Peter Hernandez (Virtual) (PH)	
Robert Kosub (RK)	
	San Antonio River Authority Staff Attendees:
	Rebecca Reeves (RR)
	Brian Mast (BM)
Citizens to be heard:	Samantha Villaneuva (SV)
Mary Micheal Z (MZ)	Salem De La Luna (SD)
Rachel Cywinski (RC)	Aysha Darilek (AD)
	Steve Metzler (SM)
	David Hernandez (DH)

1. Welcome

- Comments by EAC co-chairs Dr. Janis Bush and James Dodson
- Introduction of committee members, new committee member Robert Kosub, River Authority staff, and other attendees

2. San Antonio River Authority’s Strategic Plan for 2025-2030

Steve Metzler, Director Water Resources, San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

JY: Are we involved in any way with the San Antonio Bike Share program? Their footprint used to be large, but recently it has been shrinking to just around the missions. Having it available from the Pearl to Mission Espada was very beneficial. It helped me show people the city.

SM: I don’t know about that company specifically, but our recreation team host bike tours free to the public.

BM: We have engaged with them in the past. They were subsidized by the city budget and there were some growing pains. They are now separate from the city, so that might be why there is such a reduction in their reach. They are the most popular at the missions, which is why they are most abundant there.

HH: Who did you talk with at Wilson County?

BM: We met with the County Judge, all four Commissioners, as well as the Flood Plain Administrator. Regarding real estate, for the West Side Creek project we're trying to acquire 125 parcels of land from the city. They are a product of the channelization that occurred in the 60's and 70's with the [Army] Corp of Engineers. The parcels are divided between us and the city, for the ecosystem restoration project to go through, we need to own all of the parcels.

SM: Yes, it is a requirement for the Army Corp of Engineers. When we say 'parcel' it can mean anything from a 3' by 4' corner clip to something more substantial. But unfortunately, they all must have the same level of scrutiny.

PH: Are the parcels all government owned or private?

BM: All the parcels we're acquiring are publicly owned. There are a couple of parcels owned by San Antonio Independent School District and one or two by Opportunity Homes, which is San Antonio Housing Authority, and the rest of owned by the City of San Antonio.

PH: And that's all the way to Wilson and Goliad?

BM: I'm sorry, I'm referring to the West Side Creeks project [in Bexar County].

PH: I heard they're planning a swimming pool, that's good to hear.

SM: Not a swimming pool, but a swimming event to demonstrate the cleanliness and that the river is safe, clean, and enjoyable.

PH: That's still a stretch goal, good.

3. Water Resources Collaboration Tool and Key Collaborations

David Hernandez, Senior Scientist, Data Management and Analysis, San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

JB: I just want to compliment you on what a great job you guys are doing. This is amazing.

MM: Did you say anyone can edit it?

DH: Anyone internally can edit it.

PH: You have an urban rookery tracking study, how do you know if it's successful?

DH: Part of the project is to develop success metrics. Rebecca, do you know any more about that?

RR: No, I do not. In our team, Alicia, Shaun, and Salem have worked on it along with external partners.

DH: One of our objectives in this collaboration is to gain experience about the process and how they conduct their studies.

PH: Thank you.

4. San Antonio River Authority Partnership Highlights

Brian Mast, Deputy Director, Government Affairs, San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

JB: Thank you so much. This points out how many partnerships there are.

5. Community Volunteer Engagement

Samantha Villanueva, Engagement Coordinator, San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

JD: Where and when? [In reference to a volunteer camping excursion happening at Goliad State Park]

SV: For Goliad?

JD: Yes.

SV: We will be going on Thursday the 23rd. Let me know if you'd like to go and I will send you the information.

PH: I took a screenshot of Brooke's picture and will show her. We are at the Texas Master Naturalist conference at Texas A&M.

SV: Tell her hi and that I love her.

6. Proposed Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Consideration

Q2: January 23rd, 2026

Q3: April 10th, 2026

Q4: July 17th, 2026

JB: Is there anything else the committee would like to discuss? Do we need thoughts for future topics?

RR: We are good for now, we have a list of topics that we are working through, I do want to mention that we will probably have a short presentation of metals next time. We are considering possibly reducing the number of metals that we currently analyze so that we are only doing the ones that TCEQ does through the Clean Rivers Program. Resources can be tight; we want to make sure we gather information that can be used. We want to look at metals that have a standard.

JB: So, we might discuss this next time?

RR: Yes. Nothing is in stone; we just wanted to bring it to your attention.

PH: You're using state standards? Are we comparing that to federal standards?

RR: We're following state standards from TCEQ, but several of those are based on EPA standards.