

San Antonio River Authority Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

April 10th, 2026. 11:00am-1:00pm (Q3) Meeting Notes

San Antonio River Authority Boardroom (600 E. Euclid Avenue, San Antonio TX, 78212)

EAC Attendees:	Absent EAC Attendees:
Joedy Yglesias (JY)	Heather Hansen
Mary Lozano (ML)	Connie Waters
Dr. Janis Bush (Virtual) (JB)	James Dodson
Glynis Strause (GS)	Mary Lozano
Dr. John Hooker (JH)	Annalisa Peace
Christopher Fullerton (CF)	
Peter Hernandez (PH)	San Antonio River Authority Staff Attendees:
Robert Kosub (RK)	Steve Metzler (SM)
Carl Clapsaddle (Virtual) (CC)	Rebecca Reeves (RR)
Allan Berger (AB)	Brian Mast (BM)
Connie Waters (Virtual) (CW)	Samantha Villaneuva (SV)
	Shaun Donovan (SD)
Citizens to be heard:	Salem De La Luna (SDLL)
Mary Micheal Z (MZ)	Aysha Darilek (AD)
Kyle Honnerlaw (KH)	Mitch Magruder (MM)
Andrea Montalvo (AM)	Minna Paul (MP)
Victoria Gomez (VG)	Nicole Marshall (NM)
Josiah Hamilton (JH)	Rebecca Klug (RK)
Robert Gonzales (RG)	
Leslie Mispadden (LM)	
Clint Carter (CC)	
Daren Johnston (DJ)	
Karen Smith (KS)	

1. Welcome

- Welcome Glynis H. Strause, new EAC Co-Chair
- Comments by EAC Co-Chairs
- Introduction and welcome of CRP Steering Committee

2. Clean Rivers Program Update of the Upper Medina River Watershed

Clint Carter, Field Operations Manager

Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District

Post Presentation topics discussed:

CF: With the changing conditions and more extreme precipitation events, is that changing your method of managing the lake? Will it have to be dredged as it rapidly accumulates more sediment?

CC: It's changing rapidly. We're seeing a change in species composition. It's a low sediment level in Medina Lake. And it's a leaky lake, losing water through seepage into the aquifer and irrigation. It's highly dependent on adequate rainfall.

PH: I know you covered the river, but what about the ground water? Are you seeing that drop also?

CC: I didn't want to be too depressing, but it's not looking good. We are seeing similar trends in our groundwater. We have two primary aquifers that feed that region—the Middle Trinity and the Lower Trinity. Middle Trinity sees some recharge through rivers and rainfall, but there is still a significant decline over the past 10/20 years—which is very alarming, but I think what might be more alarming is the Lower Trinity which doesn't receive the same type of recharge. If you look at some of the hydrographs for the Lower Trinity, you'll see what looks to be some recharge, but all that is are the pumps being shut off in the winter. It has a stairstep effect, where year after year it's not recovering to the same level. That trends been going on for a long time, but most significantly since 2019.

PH: And the biggest source of drainage is...? Farming?

CC: It's human demand. And population continues to increase. Our demand is increasing, but our supply is headed in the other direction.

JH: How many years of above average rainfall would we need, do you estimate, before water levels return?

CC: That's a great question. I can try my best to give my perspective; it will be oversimplified. For the Lower Trinity it's tricky, you might want to speak to a hydrogeologist because there's not a lot of lateral movement. For Medina Lake, anything below 20" of rain annually, we lose the lake just like that. Anything above 40", we get it back. But of course, when you're analyzing rainfall, there's different types of rainfall and you need the right kind of rain to fall in the right place and at the right time.

GS: What's 'right'?

CC: We're looking at timing, magnitude, intensity, and duration. Basically, if we could get a soft, steady rain for months and months that would certainly help.

GS: So, praying for a hurricane is not the right thing to do? [joke]

CC: It helps temporarily, but it quickly diminishes. You don't want too much, too fast.

GS: I live a mile from the Nueces River, what is your collaboration with the Nueces River Authority?

CC: We have a wonderful collaboration that primarily focuses on the Clean Rivers Program.

JB: I think we need to move on.

3. **Watershed Protection Plan Overview and Update**

Mary Michael Zahed, Program Specialist
Texas Water Resources Institute

Post Presentation topics discussed:

No post presentation topics discussed.

4. **Coordinated Monitoring in the San Antonio River Basin**

Mitch Magruder, Aquatic Biologist
San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

CF: Are you expecting any changes in grant funding due to recent policy changes?

MM: Great question, and one that I may not be equipped to answer. Rebecca?

RR: The next cycle we do not anticipate additional funds from the Clean Rivers Program.

PH: Back on slide two, is Texas Stream Team data included?

MM: No, just the entities listed on the screen.

CF: Whether it's stream gauges or sampling and collections, do extended low flow conditions or extreme precipitation events impact the implementation of your methodologies?

MM: Sometimes with extreme values the gauges can be trickier to reference; however, those are in very extreme conditions and are watched closely. And with extended precipitation, those typically capture those high flow events very well. As far as field collection goes, it comes down to safety; we might not be able to get flow for the site if the conditions are unsafe.

JY: Just curious, you said you were adding Rodriguez—why?

GS: Is the population in that area increasing?

MM: Yes, a lot of these areas are seeing an increase in population. So, we're trying to be strategic.

JB: Thank you.

5. **Clean Rivers Program Overview and Update**

Rebecca Reeves, Senior Environmental Scientist
San Antonio River Authority

Post Presentation topics discussed:

PH: Going back to the mothing, there is a nocturnal insect tracking and education group now because of that [in reference to the Basin Bioblitz]. The next one is at Trueheart Nature Ranch Park on the 25th [of April].

PH: Out of the 53 sites, do they include the Texas Stream Team sites?

RR: No.

PH: Is that data used?

RR: Yes, I use it for the Basin Summary Report. Usually, we see the same thing they do.

CF: I was looking on the website, there are CRP [Clean Rivers Program] reports from 2020, how far back does it go?

RR: We were involved in it from the start--in 1991. I think the first Basin Summary Report was from 96'.

PH: What's the 'kill zone' for dissolved oxygen?

RR: 3 mg/L.

CF: Not to be a downer, but I'm thinking about some of the reports I've seen. I know the CRP is a state program, are there any tailored programs for ephemeral rivers in Texas if conditions don't improve?

RR: I don't know if there are any programs. I can tell you that the [San Antonio] River Authority has a separate program on storm water and it's different. We're using that for modeling, and we're modeling for water quality. That might be something we need to look at, write it down and send it to me.

5. Proposed Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Consideration

Q4: July 17th, 2026

Q1: TBD

Q2: TBD

Q3: TBD