

San Antonio River Commission Board Meeting
March 25th, 2008
Municipal Plaza Room "C"

Members Present: A. J. Rodriguez, *Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*
David Straus, *Business Category*
Julian Trevino, *Chairman*
Lisa Wong, *Rosario's Restaurant*
Linda B. Burke, *Community Category*

Staff Present: Penny Postoak Ferguson, *Assistant City Manager*; Steve Whitworth, *City Attorney's Office*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Colleen Swain, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Ann McGlone, *HDRC*; Lisa Lopez, *Boards and Commissions Coordinator City Clerk's Office*

Others Present: Steve Clouse, *Vice President of Production & Treatment SAWS*;
Mike Martinez, *SAHCC*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trevino at 9:24 am

David Straus asked for point of personal privilege to give information on a phone call he received from Johnnie Bachusky, a reporter from the Red Deer Express Newspaper in Red Deer Alberta, Canada (a city of 85,000 people). He and a photographer will make an informal visit to the River Walk on May 7th -11th. David Straus will send him information on the River Walk.

Minutes from the March 25th, 2008 meeting were approved. (*Linda Billa Burke motioned, A. J. Rodriguez-second*)

Briefing and Presentation on River Water Quality Memo (Draft Memo Attached)

Penny Postoak Ferguson

River Quality Report will be presented to council at the B Session on April 9th.

Highlights of the report:

The River Water Quality Work Group has been in place since June 2006 and consists of City Staff, SAWS, SARA and Bexar County.

3 Main Goals:

Bacteriological water Quality: have not met this goal yet, but have initiatives in place to address it.

Chemical composition: Currently meeting

Clarity: Currently meeting. TAC is defining more in detail as to how we want it to look and what the options are.

Executive Summary:

Linda Burke asked where debris from Lady Eco is deposited and Colleen Swain answered that the debris gets deposited into dump trucks at the Marina.

A disinfection process will be located at the zoo to address bacteriological issues. Sample testing will be done at the Zoo to test the water after moving the hippos. SARA, SAWS, & City are working together to education operators on river and at street level.

Amigos and City are using reclaimed water for power washing sidewalks.

River Water Quality Updates: Storm Water and Public Works are looking at best management practices, will be assisting TAC with clarity issues. A consultant will be looking at sediment removal options to help with clarity.

River Walk Capital Improvements Master Plan: A consultant is looking at capital improvements in the river loop and mostly looking at sidewalks.

No action taken.

Briefing on Technical Advisory Committee: River Water Quality and Clarity
Linda Billa Burke

Water clarity has to be in 3 definitions because you have to have water clarity over the natural part of the river and in the man made part of the river. It will look different. How close do you want it related and how clear you want to see to the bottom needs to be answered soon so we can move on. The whole river itself from top to bottom is not all natural. The TAC needs to come to some agreement on what water clarity and quality look like and what we think it should be. Linda requested that we have someone come by and brief the River Commission on the biological piece of the river as to what has to be in the river.

Chairman Trevino asked Linda how she wanted to proceed. Linda answered that we need to create a definition as to what clarity is.

A. J. Rodriguez mentioned that it wasn't uniform throughout the river.

Penny stated that boat traffic impacts clarity. As we look at sediment removal options with the consultant they can help with guidance on options.

Steve Clause, Vice President of the Production & Treatment with SAWS gave a presentation on the Sampling Results from the 2008 River Draining.

Two issues:

- a. Find out what the sediment layer is, how deep and how much it's contributing to the turbidity.
- b. How to address the boats.

Boats need force and will have some turbulence but modifications could be made to the boats in the future to minimize the turbulence to try to get it to where it's a horizontal turbulence and not so much going down to the bottom kicking up the debris.

We need to find a way to manage the sediment overall. Since most of the green color is a reflection of what is on the bottom.

Penny mentioned that the Technical Advisory Committee and the consultant will help with the sediment reduction initiatives along with modification of the boat propeller system.

Chairman Trevino asked Linda if we are any closer to getting a definition.

Linda replied that Aaryn sent an email asking the TAC to respond to what they think clarity is.

A. J. asked Penny what the bacteriological water quality issues are and Penny answered that some of the things the TAC is doing to address issues, the zoo project, best management practices and education.

Penny asked Steve Clouse what we could do to impact the bacteria. Steve Clouse answered that controlling the bats under the bridge was a big step and once the zoo project system is operational it will be an overnight improvement to the bacteria water quality.

A. J. Rodriguez asked Steve what was the single most item affecting the clarity. Steve answered that the single most item affecting the clarity was the boats.

2008 Sampling Results Presentation: (Power Point attached)

We have outfalls discharging in the river and no single entity was responsible to monitor them. Some are above the water line and some are below the water line that no one sees. Smoke testing in 2008 was positive (smoke is applied to discharge pipes, smoke then comes out where pipe originates)

- In 2007, 49 samples were taken from outfalls.
- In 2008, an additional 18 outfalls were tested.
- SAWS is currently developing photo ID's in order to match the outfalls for reference.
- The 2007 numbering* system is not sequential from upstream to downstream.*
- The absence of a sample DOES NOT mean sample point is not discharging.
- Slide 7, BOD=174/195 will have to be tracked in the future, which is the location past Crockett Street.

There are only two points that are consistently high throughout the testing. But the overall testing is a reduction from last year.

Steve would recommend putting a plug or balloon to stop the outfalls in question, in order to determine who is contributing to the illegal outfalls. Although Public Works does not have the necessary equipment to add plugs or balloons. Erwin will coordinate with Downtown Operations in order to see if this can be done and the cost for the procedure.

An assessment needs to be conducted in order to analyze what buildings are contributing to the illegal flow.

E. Coli: 126 stream standard and storm water is impacting from a bacterial perspective.

BOD: Biochemical Oxygen Demand (what's going into the river that's actually stealing the air that fish and other organisms need to breath).

Two points were high in the sampling: 174 & 195. Actual value for 174 (634) is 3 times worse than what we would expect to see in raw sewage going into a waste water treatment plant from a BOD perspective.

NH₃-N: Ammonia Nutrients

The more nutrients you have in the river the more out ward growth you'll get in the river. Ammonia in a high concentration (above 4 milligrams per liter) can stop reproduction in fish and 8 milligrams per liter can kill fish in the receiving stream. .25 is standard. Waste water treatment plant will typically produce .2 or less. Steve would expect to see .5 or below in the river overall.

FOG: Fats, oils and greases:

Standard is 10 or less. One point was significant: 174 - raw sewage coming into the waste treatment plant.

TSS: Total Suspended Solids

195 (actual value of 5150) - extremely muddy to the point where you can pick up and feel solids, lab triple checked. Raw sewage coming into a waste water treatment plant would be about 300 TSS

Chairman Trevino asked when the projected date is for completion of the zoo project. Penny answered that part of the process is getting a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The preliminary phase is through June 2008 (data collection and development of design documents to 60% level of completion). Design is scheduled for July-September of 2008 pending permit approval. The permit process may be a factor in delaying the design phase. If all goes well with the permit, we are looking at June 2009.

No action taken.

Briefing related to the Chair and Vice-Chair Mission and Vision Meeting (Memo Attached) Chairman Julian Trevino

Main points resulting from meeting:

- a. One Voice of River: River Commission would be the clearing house. Linda Burke would like to make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Manager that we create a department that focuses on the river that all report to because there are so many different agencies involved. Chairman Trevino asked to set a meeting to explore this idea.
- b. What the Commission will be reviewing
- c. Economic Impacts to businesses along river: Trey mentioned that the Commission does not regulate the river walk, but there may be things that encourage the type of business you want.
- d. Suggested language changes: suggested we remove the words "attractive" and "whenever practical" from guiding principle #4. We need to preserve regardless of whether it's attractive/practical. Ann McGlone stated that chapter 35 article 6 determines whether something is feasible or practical.

#5: Trey's interpretation of putting language in the vision statement as suggested by the boards and commissions at meeting. The River Commission does not have to keep it in. Chairman Trevino suggested Darryl have an opportunity to contribute at the next meeting.

- e. Quarterly meetings with Boards and Commissions

Next Steps:

Look at proposed guiding principle #5 and think about the water clarity issue.
Send an email to Darryl regarding these issues and place on agenda for next month.

No action taken.

Briefing and Possible Action on Proposed River Commission policy regarding the inclusion of items on Commission agenda, Chairman Julian Trevino

This policy is a result of the meeting with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of boards and commissions and is a first draft of guidelines.

Linda Burke suggested including in the guidelines reviewing what a commission wants us to review.

A. J. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the item with amended item that Linda Burke mentioned about being able to put on, from other commissions, different things on our agenda as approved by the chair. Linda Burke – second. All were in favor.

Lori Houston:

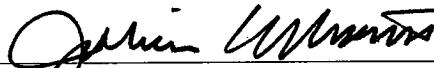
Ceremonial item on Friday at 9:30 at Espada Park

Kay Bailey Hutchison and Ciro Rodriguez will present a \$9.8 million check for the Mission Reach Project.

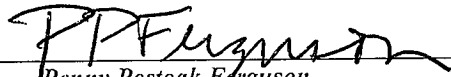
Chairman Trevino adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Julian H. Trevino, Chairperson



Penny Postoak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager
City Manager's Office