

**Urban Waters – San Antonio  
Partnership Meeting Notes  
March 19, 2015**

Adele Cardenas (EPA) discussed Urban Waters partnerships in EPA Region 6 she has responsibility for. These include the Lake Pontchartrain Area, New Orleans; Middle Rio Grande, Albuquerque; and San Antonio River Basin/Bexar County, San Antonio. Ms. Cardenas stated that Houston and Corpus Christi has expressed interest in joining the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Program and that the EPA was discussing development of a roadmap to share with interested communities.

Ms. Cardenas talked about the San Antonio partnership still being in the process of developing the structure of the partnership's meetings and compared the New Orleans location, which is a mature program that has developed various subcommittees in addition to the primary partnership meetings, and the New Mexico location, which is still growing and determining a structure. The New Mexico location is working on designing their meetings along thematic lines (Environmental, Economic Development, etc).

Ms. Cardenas stated that the San Antonio location's workplan was a living document that could be used as a strategic plan as it includes goals and can be looked at to measure how the location is progressing. Ms. Cardenas stated that part of the purposed of the meetings was to discuss difficulties and attempt to identify ways to address those difficulties. Ms. Cardenas gave an example of her discussion with an Army Corps of Engineers' representative in regards to a pending agreement related to the Olmos Creek restoration project.

The group discussed the involvement of the Department of Defense (DOD) in relation to the San Antonio Linear Creekway project near Fort Sam Houston. The following items were mentioned:

- The DOD is not a member of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) leadership has been briefed on the local Urban Waters partnership
- JBSA/DOD has many steps they need to follow and are therefore slow to respond and act
- There is a potential source of funds through 'fallout' monies, availability of these funds normally determined in June
- JBSA leadership has stated that water resources are very important to the military and continued operation of bases
- P4 meeting scheduled in April, Lisa Alonzo stated she would check if UW partnership individuals could be included

Ms. Cardenas suggested the partnership could attempt to directly engage with DOD or discuss internally first to find an issue that would engage DOD and bring them to the table. Mr. Ross (COSA-Parks and Recreation) stated DOD would be good to include because they would likely be interested in habitat and environmental issues. Ms. Nixon-Mendez (COSA-Planning & Community Development) stated DOD would also be interested in encroachment issues.

The group discussed EastPoint Low Impact Development (LID). Mr. Graham (SARA) stated there was a need for \$800,000 for the drainage component of LID in the Wheatley area and asked whether there were any grants available due to the social justice component. HUD Representative stated the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has various requests with HUD, some of which had been approved and others still pending. HUD Rep. indicated that whenever HUD reviews construction projects they consider drainage issues but that he was unclear about the potential drainage issues in the larger area. Alberto Solorzano (HUD) was recommended as the first point of contact for EastPoint questions. Other funding sources were discussed, including:

- Ms. Cardenas suggested analyzing the funds available through HUD and then determining what the specific need, also suggested Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) as a potential source of funds for infrastructure. Ms. Cardenas stated that the City could review the CDBG plan and the potential to modify the plan if appropriate. Ms. Cardenas additionally suggested the partnership meet with the Texas Water Development Board commissioner after the State Legislative Session ends to discuss potential partnerships
- Ms. Cardenas discussed upcoming funding from the Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration for LID. This funding would be available through TxDOT
- TIGER grants. The City is currently in discussion with partners on projects to submit for this grant opportunity
- EPA Urban Waters small grants. NGO's could apply for demonstration projects
- Banks and Private institutions

Partnership group discussed Ambassador's for the San Antonio location. Information on VISTA volunteer through Promise Zone designation was still unavailable. The application for a CDC Fellow through the Metropolitan Health Department has been submitted and is expected to be available in June.

Mr. Ross presented an update on the Linear Creekways and Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. Specific greenways have not been targeted, if sales tax initiative is approved by voters and analysis will be done on which greenways/connectors to develop.

Mr. Farias (SARA) presented an update on the San Pedro Creek project. 40% design of project will be presented to Bexar County Commissioner's Court on April 7. Goal is to have project fully designed by February 2016, with construction beginning May 2016.

Mr. Peche (SAWS) presented an update on the SAWS desalination project.