



**CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL
February 18, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Attended	Excused	Absent
	Rachel Cywinski	
Suzanne de Leon		
Mary M. Dennis		
Yongli Gao		
Javier Garcia		
Steven Garcia		
Cullen Jones		
Melinda Lechuga		
Monika Maeckle		
Yulanee McKnight		
	Denise Ojeda	
William Ramos II		
Garland Scott		
	Matthew Scott	
Mitchell Sowards		
Robert Sheldon		
	Carla Walker	
Robert Werner		
Guest	Staff	Staff
Mr. Jack Finger	Gregg Eckhardt	Darren Thompson
Ms. Ellen Berky	Dan Crowley	Anne Hayden
	Daniel Smith-Salgado	Isabel Walters
		Steven Siebert

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sheldon at 6:00 pm.

Citizens to be Heard:

Mr. Jack Finger

Presentation and Briefing: Mitchell Lake Update – Mr. Gregg Eckhardt

The presentation was provided.

Ms. Maeckle asked where does the water come into Mitchell Lake.

Mr. Eckhardt replied right now the only water the gets into Mitchell Lake is storm water runoff. SAWS also send water to Mitchell Lake from the Leon Creek treatment plant.

Mayor Werner commented this is a historical problem. It is not that the water is bad, it is that Mitchell Lake is bad. It is Mitchell Lake that needs to be cleaned.

Ms. Maeckle asked Mayor Werner if Mitchell Lake is a man-made lake.

Mr. Eckhardt replied yes.

Mr. Sheldon inquired if the bull rushes take nutrients out of the water and then are the bull rushes harvested to get the nutrients completely out of the water.

Mr. Eckhardt answered this is a good question. The nutrients need to be removed from the system somehow. In a wetland project in Dallas, the rushes are burned.

Mr. Jones asked if the Army Corp of Engineers will be responsible for maintaining their wetlands and then SAWS will be responsible for maintaining their wetlands.

Mr. Crowley replied SAWS and the Army Corp are in discussions on this topic. What the Army Corp is envisioning is that they will built it and then turn the wetlands over to SAWS. Our wetland would not be just wetlands. It would be more like a park-ish area and SAWS is not in the park business. SAWS core business is water and wastewater service. SAWS would want some other entity to manage it if it were to become a park.

Mr. Sowards asked the schedule shows this will be completed by 2024. When will SAWS acquire all the land? At what point will SAWS own all the land to follow the schedule?

Mr. Crowley replied we are working on that process now.

Mr. Garland Scott asked what the funding source is.

Mr. Crowley replied the wastewater fund. SAWS has to address the wastewater legacy SAWS inherited, the entire project is about a \$67 million project.

Creating the Next SAWS Community Committee – Chair Robert Sheldon

The presentation was provided.

Mayor De Leon asked how citizens are notified now about CAP meetings.

Chair Sheldon replied the agenda is on the SAWS website.

Mr. Siebert added the CAP agendas are posted with the City of San Antonio, posted on saws.org.

Mayor De Leon followed up by stating one would have to know about the meeting.

Mr. Siebert replied yes, a person would have to know about the meeting. Going back to 2016, CAP members started having discussions on ways to bring more public into the meeting via Facebook live or live stream meetings etc.

Mr. Ramos asked what do other utilities do for public committees. How do they structure their committees? Is there something to model?

Mr. Hayden replied SAWS is hosting other water and wastewater utilities and we are looking at how utilities communicate and interact with customers.

CAP Member Discussion on Sunset of Citizens Advisory Panel and Next Steps

Chair Sheldon commented this topic was covered under the previous agenda item.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Sheldon asked if there were any questions, changes, or motions to the November 2019 meeting minutes.

Mayor Dennis motioned to approve the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Mayor de Leon.

Dr. Gao identified a typographical error.

The minutes were approved as amended.

Water Resources Report (Steven Siebert):

Edwards Aquifer Level J-17 Index Well

- The J-17 index well February 18th was at 673.7'
- January CAP meeting reading was 672.1'
- The 10-day average is 673.2
- The monthly February average is 669.3'
- This is 4.4' above the historical average

H₂Oaks Activities

- ASR storage was 180,617 acre-feet as of February 17th
- SAWS is currently:
 - Recovering 2.9 mgd from ASR up the western pipeline
 - Producing 2.5 mgd from Local Carrizo to send up the west pipeline
 - Producing 5.0 mgd from the brackish groundwater plant
 - Recharging 15.3 mgd from the eastern pipeline into ASR

2019 Precipitation Totals

- San Antonio received 0.98 inches of rain month to date through February 17th
- This is 0.07" below normal month-to-date
- San Antonio's year to date rainfall is 2.85"
- Year to date, precipitation is 0.01 inches below normal
- Normal YTD precipitation is 2.86 inches
- Average rainfall in San Antonio is 32.27 inches

Year	Total Annual	Percent of
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	Precipitation (Inches)	Annual Total
2019	22.01	68
2018	41.20	127
2017	27.33	84
2016	43.92	136
2015	44.22	137

Upcoming Events

- SAWS Spring Bloom
 - Saturday March 14, 2020
9:00am-1:00pm
SAWS HQ
 - Xeriscape plant give-away:
 - Having a Sage moment
 - Shade: Scarlet or tropical Salvia: *Salvia coccinea*
 - Sun: New Mystic Spires: *Salvia longispicata x farinacea*

- CAP 2020 Field Trips
 - Saturday April 18, 2020: The Clouse Water Recycling Center
 - Meet at SAWS Tower 2 at 8:30am
 - Return to SAWS by 12:30pm
 - Wear closed toes shoes for walking on paved and natural surfaces
 - Bus will have a wheelchair lift

 - Saturday June 27, 2020 Agua Vista Station – Vista Ridge Integration Stone Oak
 - Meet at SAWS Tower 2 at 8:30am
 - Return to SAWS by 12:30pm
 - Wear closed toes shoes for walking on paved and natural surfaces
 - Bus will have a wheelchair lift

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
6:00pm

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.