River Reach
the COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER of the SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

Winter 2015

SARA Watershed Wise Rebates & School Grants
Environmental Flows Validation Project
Working Together To Keep Our River Clean
Vision
Inspiring Actions for Healthy Creeks and Rivers

Mission
Protect and Enhance Our Creeks and Rivers Through Service, Leadership and Expertise

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Goals of the Watershed

By Rudy Farias, Finance Project and Planning Supervisor

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has established a vision of inspiring actions for healthy creeks and rivers. To support this vision, SARA established four annual objectives within the goals of watershed health and safety, community appreciation and recreation and watershed solutions. Below is a summary of SARA’s goals and the status of the objectives:

Watershed Health and Safety
- Development of bacteria source tracking capabilities
- Obtain accreditation for metals in sediments testing from the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Institute

In July, SARA ordered the instrumentation necessary for tracking bacteria sources and by August, it was received by SARA’s Laboratory. Over the course of the second and third quarters SARA’s environmental scientists plan to run samples to determine if human versus non-human bacteria is present. While instrumentation is being installed and tested, SARA’s staff will apply for The NELAC Institute accreditation for testing metals in sediment. With these increased capabilities, SARA will seek solutions aimed at improving the watershed’s health and safety.

Community Appreciation and Recreation
- Increase attendance and park programming at SARA Nature Parks
- Improve and expand SARA parks and paddling trail infrastructure

To meet the goal of community appreciation and recreation, SARA established a pilot camping program at the John William Helton-San Antonio River Nature Park located in Wilson County. SARA’s Labor Day Weekend Campout brought together 70+ campers to enjoy the outdoors. The park has many amenities: hiking, paddling, fishing, picnic tables, as well as an addition of a pavilion, restrooms and a playground, expected later this year.

Watershed Solution
- Increase community awareness for Low Impact Development and Natural Channel Design principles
- Implement agricultural and wildlife water quality best management practices

Recently, our Watershed Engineering team presented at Goliad City Council to encourage Low Impact Development ordinances in the future. Through the adoption of these practices, as well as other Green Infrastructure best management practices, these solutions will aid in improving water quality and stormwater management.

By achieving these objectives, together we will inspire actions for healthy creeks and rivers.

Employee Highlight

By Kim Garcia, IGCR Technician

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) is delighted to introduce you to Clint Marzec, Art Direction Coordinator, within the Intergovernmental and Community Relations Department. Clint is responsible for all of SARA’s graphic design and sign production.

Clint’s days are always busy and no day is ever the same as the last. With requests that range from graphic creations of signs, banners, postcards, brochures, newsletters, posters and flyers to the development of reports, promotional materials and educational components. Clint’s work helps to support every department in the agency.

Clint is a graduate of Churchill High School in San Antonio and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communication Design from Southwest Texas State University (now known as Texas State University) in San Marcos. Before beginning his 6 year career at SARA, Clint has worked for ad agencies, a network security firm, t-shirt shop and sign shop. Through these experiences, Clint was provided valuable graphic design knowledge and skills that have helped to bring SARA professional designs.

“Clint produces excellent, award-winning graphic designs,” said Steven Schauer, SARA’s Manager of External Communications. “Additionally, Clint is the consummate team player, always looking for ways to help the department and others throughout SARA.”

Outside of work, Clint enjoys spending time with his children and fiancé Christina. When he is not busy planning for his upcoming Star Wars themed wedding, he is busy working on his Star Wars costumes and giving back to his local community. In December 2014, Clint joined the 501st Legion, an international, all volunteer, Star Wars costuming club that focuses on giving back to the community. With 8,000 members worldwide, the Legion hosts events throughout the year to raise money for charities, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, with 100% of the donations going back to charity. Legion members, such as Clint, also take great pride in the creation of their handmade, screen accurate costumes which they occasionally wear to visit with children at local children’s hospitals.

Clint, thank you for being the force that awakens all of SARA’s graphic designs!
The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) started promoting Low Impact Development (LID) in fiscal year 2010/11. Our stream monitoring data had revealed that spikes in stormwater runoff resulted in pollutant load spikes. LID—which treats and prevents first flush pollutants from washing off hard surfaces into our streams—offers a solution.

Since 2011, SARA’s LID efforts have centered largely upon providing opportunities for the region’s engineering and design professionals to learn more about LID features and how they function. Providing training and workshops, developing a LID design manual and hosting a professional LID design competition are among the projects SARA has funded.

Through these efforts, we have heard first hand from developers, engineers, architects and landscape architects that time is money.

We get it. Learning a new way to assess and design sites takes time. Thus, as reported in the SARA Watershed Wise Rebates and School Grants Story you will find on page 6, SARA is funding $350,000 in LID rebates this fiscal year. Rebates will be calculated based on the estimated unit volume cost of the LID features.

Applications will be ranked based on the percent of treated stormwater runoff. Since we want the community to realize they are seeing LID stormwater infrastructure in action, proposed informational signage and visibility of the LID feature will also factor into ranking.

The first round of applications will be due December of 2015.

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By Hector R. Morales, SARA Board Member, Bexar County At-Large

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) bids farewell to two long-serving members of the Board of Directors who retired in November; Thomas G. Weaver, who represented Bexar County, District 4 and Terry E. Baiamonte, who represented Goliad County.

Tom was first elected to the board in January 1997, and reelected in 2003 and 2009. During his 18-year tenure, Tom served on seven different committees and held multiple officer positions including a term as the Board of Directors Chair. Tom was instrumental in ensuring the successful operation and maintenance of the Museum Reach and Mission Reach to safeguard the valued natural and community resource of the San Antonio River. His leadership helped to extend the effectiveness of wastewater services to communities within Bexar County to ensure that the quality of these services continues to meet the current and future needs of a growing population. Tom was a strong advocate for advancing SARA’s technical leadership on floodplain mapping, modeling and partnering efforts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Terry was first elected to the board in February, 2003, followed by reelection in 2009. During her 12-year tenure, Terry served on four committees and held multiple officer positions including a term as the Board of Directors Vice-chair. Terry was instrumental in the enhancement of recreational developments in Goliad by championing the Canoe Trail Goliad and the creation of Branch Nature Park that links Goliad’s historic courthouse square to the San Antonio River. She promoted the advancement of SARA’s scientific capabilities and knowledge of the interconnected ecosystems of the basin ensuring that SARA actively protect the quality and quantity of water in the river, aquifers, bay and estuaries. Terry advanced the growth of SARA’s partnership with the City of Goliad, Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District and the Goliad Water Supply Corporation.

Tom and Terry are well-respected and greatly appreciated by the team at SARA for their dedication to public service, collaboration, responsiveness, fiscal efficiency and their encouragement and development of staff. Please join us in thanking them for their service.
Now Operational: Compost & Recycling Facility

By Jim Doersam, Senior Engineer

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) owns and operates six municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that generate approximately 10,000 tons of waste biosolids, the residuals that remain after the treatment process, annually. Until recently the waste had been disposed in a permitted municipal solid waste landfill, but when properly treated biosolids have beneficial properties as a soil conditioner and fertilizer.

In 2012, SARA released a request for proposal to convert a 52 acre site adjacent to the Martinez II WWTP, located approximately 13 miles east of San Antonio, to a new composting operation. Texas Landfill Management, LLC, (TLM) responded with a proposal to design, construct and operate a new combined composting and recycling center. The contract was approved and executed in January 2014. Design, permitting and construction activities required an additional 16 months and the composting operation began in April 2015.

The new 30-year agreement allows for the following activities:

- Organics composting facility to process yard trimmings, biosolids, food waste and other acceptable organics
- Future biosolids heat-drying operation to produce pelletized fertilizer products
- A “Garden-Ville” store to sell compost, organic soils, mulch and other organic gardening supplies back to the local wholesale/retail market
- Tree farm that utilizes compost and reuse water produced from the Martinez II WWTP
- A recyclables transfer station to receive curbside recycled materials (metals, glass, paper, plastics, etc.) to be transferred to TLM’s materials recycling facility near Austin, Texas
- A portable toilet waste processing operation
- Metals recovery and recycling
- Construction and demolition debris recovery and recycling
- Tire recycling
- Other recycling activities as approved by SARA

In addition to monthly lease revenue and reduced disposal costs, SARA benefits through receiving royalties from tipping revenues, compost sales, sales of reuse water, commercial wastewater service and laboratory analysis income. Also, TLM is providing SARA with complimentary compost and native trees for use on its many parks, trails or administrative offices. The new program has the potential to offset most, if not all, of SARA’s past sludge disposal costs.

Final construction of new buildings is currently underway including: a new Garden-Ville Store, bagging facility and operations center. These structures are scheduled to be complete in early 2016, just in time for home owners to purchase their gardening products for the upcoming 2016 spring and summer season. This new facility has effectively converted a past disposal problem into a long-term asset that benefits SARA, TLM and the general public.
What do rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, cisterns and porous pavement all have in common? They are all stormwater runoff Best Management Practices, (BMPs) also known as Low Impact Development (LID) features. LID is a sustainable land planning and engineering design approach to manage stormwater runoff as close as possible to the source. One focus of LID is to improve stream water quality by filtering and/or holding first flush pollutants.

These pollutants come from:

- air (pollen and dust)
- vehicles (oils, gas, and rubber)
- roads and parking lots (oil, gas, rubber, and dust)
- lawns (herbicides, pesticides and bacteria)

The pollutants then wash off of impervious surfaces and flow into our storm drains and into to our creeks and rivers. LID manages stormwater as close to the source as possible with the added benefit of treating it as a resource rather than a nuisance.

LID design features are used to:

- Slow It Down • Spread It Out • Soak It In
- Use on-site or mimic natural drainage features
- Reduce overall imperviousness
- Polish stormwater for quality

SARA has funded two projects to encourage implementation of LID throughout the San Antonio River Watershed. One is the Watershed Wise Rebate Program and the other is the Watershed Wise Grant Program for school campuses.

**Watershed Wise Rebate Program**

The purpose of the Watershed Wise Rebate Program is to provide funds for LID projects as well as incentivize government, developers and designers to design and construct stormwater BMPs. A $350,000 budget is available to fund rebates in new or retrofit projects in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. To qualify, stormwater BMPs must be designed according to guidelines in the San Antonio River Basin Low Impact Development Technical Manual, which can be found at [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org). Applications will be accepted from designers, developers or government and they can include commercial, multi-use residential, right of way or neighborhood common space (home owner association (HOA) or neighborhood association). Award limits are set at a minimum of $15,000 and maximum of $100,000 per project. The first applications are due in March of 2016.

LID is not a new way to manage stormwater, but it is relatively new to San Antonio. A rebate program incentivizes developers and government employees to become familiar with LID.
The Watershed Wise Grant Program

SARA’s Watershed Wise Grant Program provides an incentive for K-12 public schools to learn and teach their students about campus drainage including non-point source pollution, localized flooding, erosion and how to address these issues utilizing green infrastructure solutions. The grant provides funds to build stormwater runoff capture features on a school grounds within Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties.

The $22,000 one-time grant funds design, construction and installation of rain gardens, cisterns and/or bioswales, or a combination of the three. In addition, SARA’s educators provide in-class, hands-on, TEKS aligned presentations on green infrastructure solutions. Innovation in blending classroom and field components is encouraged, such as cisterns feeding pollinator or vegetable gardens. SARA education staff engages students with an interactive scale model of the San Antonio River Watershed explaining how non-point source pollution moves from the land to the river. Students then imagine themselves as watershed engineers as they explore their own campus for sources of runoff and explore ways to reduce runoff on their campus.

In 2015, the first schools to be awarded funding from the Watershed Wise Grant Program were Ferdinand Herff Elementary and Floresville South Elementary.

Even during the application process, students got involved. Herff Elementary students took part in percolation tests to determine the best placement of their rain garden. Students will contribute to the operation and maintenance of the system through their garden club as an ongoing educational tool. The addition of a cistern will allow garden club members to use the additional stormwater as a resource rather than experiencing it as a flood nuisance.

Floresville South Elementary students also took part in the predesign rain garden percolation testing and proposing their ideal site. Students will use their rain garden as an educational tool, and the school, with the help of their Little Sprouts Gardening Club, will do its part as a steward of the San Antonio River.

The 2015-2016 Pre-Qualification Application is available on our website at www.sara-tx.org and is due in December 2015. Finalists will be notified in January of 2016.
One of the San Antonio River Authority’s (SARA) missions is to protect and enhance our creeks and rivers through our expertise and leadership. We believe this mission extends to the health and viability of San Antonio Bay which receives freshwater inflows from the San Antonio River watershed. One state program we participate in is the Texas environmental flows program that sets flow standards for our rivers designed to support a sound ecological environment. These flow standards are used to determine water availability for new water rights appropriations. An integral part of the environmental flows program is adaptive management, which calls on the stakeholders and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to validate or refine implemented flow standards.

In support of validating or refining the flow standards adopted by TCEQ, the 83rd and 84th Texas Legislatures appropriated funds to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to commission environmental flows studies to advance the best available environmental flows science and support future reviews of the current flow standards. SARA along with project partners were awarded TWDB funds to conduct a 15 month study to begin to test whether the present flow standards are adequate to protect the ecology of the rivers, bays and estuaries.

Through the study, the team validated the pulse flow standards for the San Antonio River are adequate to protect the riparian zones along the banks of the river. The adequacy of the pulse flow standards for the San Antonio River was the result of SARA, with our State agency partners, previously investing in and leading instream flow research within the State of Texas. SARA believes investing in the expansion of the scientific information available advances our collective knowledge and understanding of the functions of the interconnected ecosystems of our environment. This belief in investing in scientific research provides our communities the best available science which can then be overlaid with political and economic considerations to develop balanced natural resource policy. In this case, SARA’s early investment led to TCEQ adopting pulse flow standards for the San Antonio River that are protective of an ecologically sound riparian environment.

**South Texas Natives**

**Black and Yellow Garden Spider – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus***

By Minna Paul, Education Coordinator

As a young child brimming with excitement and wonder about the natural world, I recall watching a tiny spider painstakingly weave its large, intricate web. I also remember watching with glee when a fly unwittingly flew into its trap as the spider rushed to devour it. The delicate, artistic web that this little engineer of the natural world builds and the clever hunting tactics it applies to capture prey all happen with such magical precision.

This black and yellow gem you may find residing in your garden is an utterly harmless arachnid called, the Garden Spider. Considering that this spider is tiny and powerless, the size and bright color are meant to scare away predators. Its two-foot wide web, found in a sunny part of a garden, is strategically placed to catch the maximum insect traffic. Fascinatingly, the conspicuous central zigzag pattern of its web is actually meant to keep birds from flying into it. For dinner each night, the spider enjoys its favorite meal of moths, flies, wasps, bees and mosquitoes as well as its web that is then rebuilt in the morning.

Laying over 1,000 eggs, the female keeps the eggs in a papery sac on the web until little spiderlings move out on their own. Lizards love these little spider snacks while hummingbirds try stealing mama spider’s web silk to line their own nests. Fancy that!

This beautiful spider represents a key ecological link in the food web thriving along the banks of the San Antonio River. Now that you have been introduced to this colorful native, we hope you will be able to overcome the unfounded fear, and come to love and respect this silent, essential component of the bio-diversity found on the San Antonio River Watershed. Surely, it is imperative for us to acknowledge that this is their land, too!
Environmental Flows Validation Project

By Rebecca Reeves, Environmental Sciences Superintendent and Brian Mast, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist

In August 2012, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted environmental flow standards designed to support a sound ecological environment in the Guadalupe-San Antonio and Mission-Aransas rivers. These flow standards are used by TCEQ in determining water availability while considering new water rights applications.

After the 83rd Texas Legislature appropriated funds to advance environmental flows science, the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (GSA-BBASC) worked with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to request proposals from the scientific community. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA), partnering with BIO-WEST, Inc., Texas State and Baylor Universities, proposed an Environmental Flows Validation Project which was selected by the GSA-BBASC to move forward.

The Environmental Flows Validation Project focused on identifying ecological responses of aquatic and riparian communities that could be associated with pulse flows and high flows due to rainfall. The responses of the aquatic and riparian communities could then be used to develop methodology for testing the TCEQ’s flow standards. To start the project, two workshops with environmental flow experts from academia, government and private sector scientists were held. The project team and experts identified ecological responses that were thought to be dependent on flow pulses.

To test the expert identified responses, the team sampled aquatic and riparian communities. As one can imagine, scientific sampling in rivers and creeks is largely dependent upon the flow and weather conditions Mother Nature provides. Due to the weather and flow conditions during the study period, it was determined that additional sampling would be necessary to develop statistically significant data to correlate aquatic organism responses to pulse flows.

In addition to main river channel sampling, the team examined oxbow lakes for fish communities and connectivity to the river systems. Oxbow lakes act as nurseries for numerous river fish species and are important for maintaining aquatic communities. Periodically connecting to the river is necessary for the aquatic communities in both the oxbow and the river. The team determined the current TCEQ pulse flow standards were sufficient to connect most of the oxbow lakes tested to their respective rivers.

Lastly, the validation project studied whether the pulse flow standards were supportive of healthy riparian zones. The riparian study work, completed by SARA and the State agencies for the instream flow program, led the GSA-BBASC, and ultimately, the TCEQ to adopt pulse flow standards for the San Antonio River that can support healthy riparian zones. The validation study however found that pulse flow standards in other areas of the Guadalupe-San Antonio watershed may not support healthy riparian zones.

SARA seeks to continue the Environmental Flows Validation Study in coordination with the GSA-BBASC, TWDB and our other project partners to advance our knowledge of our rivers and bays thereby informing future water policy decisions.
**East Meets West**

*By Steve Graham, Assistant General Manager and Steven Schauer, Manager of External Communications*

The San Antonio River is truly admired around the world. Evidence of this is seen by the frequency of presentations given by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to domestic and foreign visitors who wish to learn from our experiences. Recently, the San Antonio River once again took center stage at International River Conferences as the City of San Antonio asked SARA to represent the city at the 2015 World Canals Cities Tourism Forum in Yangzhou, China on September 28-30 and at the Mizbering World Conference in Osaka, Japan on October 9-11.

San Antonio and Yangzhou have been building a relationship for several years through cultural and technical exchanges that focus on river management and development of our respective tourism industries. Both cities recently received World Heritage Site Designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their unique cultural resources.

During the Canals Forum, Steve Graham, SARA’s Assistant General Manager, had conversations about how to protect and preserve our very important World Heritage Designation of five Spanish colonial era missions and a rancho. Recent work to restore the San Antonio River and to visually and architecturally reconnect it back to the missions was an important component of the designation. Graham also discussed the economic value of the designation at the forum pointing to a recent study that estimated the World Heritage Site economic impact over the next 10 years to be over $100 million and 1,000 jobs.

The Mizbering World Conference was held so Osaka could learn from the success of other cities while seeking to further develop its multiple waterfronts. Steven Schauer, SARA’s Manager of External Communications, presented the opening keynote address at the conference. His remarks were about the history of the San Antonio River Walk, its rise to an internationally recognized tourist destination, the recent additions of the Museum and Mission Reach sections and how the River Walk is protected and promoted. Schauer and the other international speakers from Paris and Bangkok joined in round table discussions on the opening night and second day of the conference. While in Japan, Schauer also presented information about the River Walk at Kobe University and he met with representatives of Kumamoto, which is San Antonio’s Sister City in Japan. The meeting with Kumamoto was to strengthen the Sister City relationship and provide assistance to Kumamoto staff who are in the initial planning stages to improve use of the Shirakawa River.

Schauer has also presented at the 2010 Global Experiences in River Clean-Up and Basin Management Conference in New Delhi, India, 2012 World River Forum in Deagu, South Korea and 2012 World Canals Conference & World Canal Cities Expo in Yangzhou, China.

**Bacterial Source Tracking**

*By Hillary Halderman, Water Quality Scientist*

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Regional Environmental Laboratory prides itself on staying on top of cutting edge science to better protect and enhance our creeks and rivers. Over the last two years, the scientists here at SARA have been researching innovative approaches to improving the ever present issue of bacterial loading in our watershed. The outcome of this intensive research was bacterial source tracking.

Bacterial source tracking (BST) is a newly emerging science in environmental laboratories across the nation. BST combines DNA extraction techniques with quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) technology to determine the source of the bacteria found in an environmental water sample.

The premise behind BST is to take a closer look inside the genetic makeup of the bacteria that exists in fecal matter. In order to do this, SARA’s environmental scientists break the process up into two phases. The initial phase is called “DNA extraction.” During this phase, the sample is vacuum filtered, disposing of the liquid and keeping the cellular matter on the filter. A buffer solution, created to split open the cells, is then introduced to the cellular matter to extract the DNA. Phase two utilizes the extracted DNA as a template which binds with small segments of DNA that match a target sequence and confirm presence of the target organism. For this example the target organism is human fecal matter. If present, our known human DNA segment will bind to the target sequence in the DNA extracted from our environmental sample. When this occurs, the DNA segment gives off fluorescence picked up by the qPCR instrument confirming the presence of human fecal bacteria.

SARA’s goal is to use this new methodology to discriminate among possible sources of fecal contamination in the San Antonio River Watershed and create best management practices to decrease the bacterial loads.
When it rains in South Texas, it is welcomed as a sign of relief and nourishment, especially during drought conditions. Unfortunately, the rain also brings an unwanted consequence that affects the entire San Antonio River Watershed from its headwaters in Bexar County all the way south to Goliad County and the San Antonio Bay.

Not only is trash an eyesore most of us experience when visiting and recreating in the parks and trails along the San Antonio River, it is also harmful to the quality of life of the wildlife and plant species that thrive along the banks of the river. It is difficult to pinpoint where it originates from as any loose trash from various sources such as homes, businesses, parks and other open spaces drains directly to the river during rain events.

As part of SARA’s mission to protect and enhance our creeks and rivers through service, leadership and experience, the agency includes trash removal as part of their efforts to protect and preserve the quality of life of the San Antonio River Watershed. As of fall 2015, more than 149,000 pounds of trash have been collected between the Mission Reach segment of the San Antonio River Walk and portions of the SASPAMCO Paddling Trail which spans from southern Bexar County into Wilson County. This trash has been collected in a joint effort between SARA’s Watershed & Park Operations staff and volunteers from our Watershed Wise Warriors volunteer program which was launched in 2014.

The Watershed Wise Warriors volunteer program is open to residents of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties and as of fall 2015 more than 400 participants have registered. The program was developed to recruit those who, like SARA, share a passion for sustaining and enriching life in the San Antonio River Watershed. Watershed Wise Warriors serve as community defenders of the flora and fauna of the waterways giving of their time and energy to advance the sustainability of the watershed.

Every month, our warriors have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities such as trash cleanups, ecosystem restoration and education opportunities throughout the San Antonio River Watershed that are organized by SARA and community partners. Watershed Wise Warrior volunteer activities are typically scheduled to last between two to four hours and most take place during weekends.

Interested in becoming a Watershed Wise Warrior or know someone who would like to?
Visit the “What You Can Do” page at www.sara-tx.org to learn more and register.
Tenured Board Members Retire; New Members Elected

By Suzanne Scott, General Manager

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) is unique among Texas River Authorities for many reasons, but one of the lesser known characteristics is that we are governed by an elected board of directors where most River Authorities have appointed boards. The board is comprised of 12 members; six from Bexar County and two each from Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. Every two years SARA’s Board has staggered elections with different seats up for election. Each elected director serves a six year term. The SARA Board establishes policies that are then executed by the management organization under the direction of a General Manager appointed by the Board.

As you have read earlier in this River Reach two of SARA’s long serving Directors retired from the Board. Terry Baiamonte of Goliad and Tom Weaver of Bexar County District 4 served for 12 and 18 years respectively. During their time on the Board, Terry and Tom oversaw the creation of the Goliad Paddling Trail, Branch River Park in Goliad, the Museum Reach, Mission Reach and significant advancements in SARA’s technical and scientific services to the San Antonio River Basin. Their passion for the San Antonio River Watershed and their leadership throughout their tenure charted a course for SARA’s innovative watershed management. Following the November election cycle, we are pleased to welcome Alicia Lott Cowley of Goliad and Jim Campbell of Bexar County District 4 to the SARA Board. Mrs. Cowley brings experience in conservation projects through the Goliad Farm Bureau and the Goliad County Wildlife Management Association to the Board of Directors. Mr. Campbell’s career in governmental relations and communications with the US Congress, Texas Legislature, the City of San Antonio and now in the private sector brings considerable public affairs experience to the Board.

SARA also welcomes back John Flieller of Wilson County, Mike Lackey of Bexar County District 3, and H.B “Trip” Ruckman, III of Karnes County. Mike and John are entering their second full six year terms while Trip is embarking on his history-making fifth term. SARA enjoys the dedication of an engaged and knowledgeable board who share a passion for effective and efficient services that produce results and improvement in the management of the resources of the San Antonio River Basin.

For more information on the SARA Board of Directors please visit our website at www.sara-tx.org.