

**FINAL - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025**

Agenda Amended 10-22-25

AGENDA - AMENDED

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Watershed Advisory Committee: Hank Crippen, Paul Sanchez-Navarro, Aleta Meyer, Erin Silva, Brad Baker, David Marks, and Alexander Morvant

City Staff: Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Coordinator, Katie Johnson; Assistant City Engineer, Carly Farmer; Assistant Capital Project Manager, Claudia O'Connell; Deputy City Secretary, Natalie Baker

A) WAC Member and City Staff Introduction

Committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief statement about their background. At this time, the Deputy City Secretary, Natalie Baker, introduced herself and explained committee guidelines and explained who the members could go to for questions or support.

B) Elect Committee Vice-Chair position

Committee member Brad Baker made a motion to elect Alexander Morvant as the Vice Chair, and committee member Erin Silva, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2024 for the Watershed Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee Chair, Hank Crippen, made a call to approve the minutes from the 2024 Watershed Advisory Committee meeting. Committee member, Aleta Meyers made a motion for approval, and committee member Paul Sanchez-Navarro seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

This time is for citizens to address the Committee on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Committee action at this time.

At this time, there was no citizen's communication.

5. STAFF REPORT

A) Presentation of Drainage Area Master Plan

Assistant City Engineer, Carly Farmer, along with three members of Freese and Nichols, Blaine Laechelin, Kimberley Patak, and Carlos Reyes gave a presentation on the Drainage Area Master Plan, highlighting eight project sites, intended to minimize flooding impacts on the city. These sites were determined based on past flooding events and areas of risk. Multiple committee members asked about the date of the maps shown in the presentation. Farmer replied that the maps ranged in age, with some of the oldest maps being made from 2003 and the newest model made in 2019. The next steps of this master drainage plan is to talk with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive updated floodplain maps and discuss what else the City of New Braunfels needed to do before beginning projects. Farmer and her Freese and Nichols colleagues, emphasized that there was no funding for these projects currently, however, there could be available funds in the next bond cycle. Committee member, Aleta Meyers, asked if the models included structures, such as houses. Farmer replied that the models show a detailed look into water movement in stream beds, and more of an average for the structures in the floodplain around it. For example, the model will show an average of how much grass or concrete is in neighborhoods close to the stream beds. Committee Chair, Hank Crippen, asked if there was funding for property owners who are in the 100 year flood plain. Farmer stated that there is a heavy focus on flood insurance and that the City of New Braunfels is a member of the national flood program and also participate in the Community Rating System that benefits residents by providing cheaper flood insurance if the city meets certain requirements.

B) Presentation of Watershed Program Updates

Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast, gave a presentation that summarized the River and Watershed Division as well as the Watershed Program. These programs included MS4, the Watershed Protection Plan, and the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan.

Quast discussed the importance of these programs to ensure the quality of our rivers and watersheds and the species that live there. Committee member, David Marks, asked how City staff could tell if ordinances (like the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance) and other programs were working to keep river bacteria down. Quast stated that bacteria levels ebb and flow and that other river stakeholders, such as the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, test water monthly for bacteria levels at 12 locations within New Braunfels. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, stated that drought conditions also have an effect on bacteria levels in bodies of water.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Summary of Deer Survey

Updates on Drainage Master Plans and Watershed Projects

Committee member Paul Sanchez-Navarro suggested a meeting in February 2026

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:51 P.M.

By: _____
Hank Crippen, CHAIR