

City of New Braunfels, Texas

*550 Landa St.
New Braunfels, TX 78130*



Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026

4:00 PM

City Hall- Tejas Room

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee: Dick Hillyer, Shane Wolf, Justin Loehr, Mark Conlan, Tanya Pence, Brad Bechtol, Destin Singleton

City of New Braunfels: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Coordinator, Katie Strackbein; Director of Public Works, Greg Malatek; Director of Parks and Recreation, Ken Wilson; Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney; Assistant City Manager, Jared Werner; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; Police Lieutenant, David Cantu; Patrol Lieutenant, Brian Onofre, Councilperson District 5, Mary Ann Labowski

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A call to approve the minutes from the November 2025 River Advisory Committee meeting was made by Committee Chair Dick Hillyer. Committee member, Shane Wolf made a motion to approve and committee member Mark Conlan seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2025 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[Minutes 11.18.25](#)

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.

There was no Citizens' Communication at this meeting.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Appoint Positions for 2026: Chair and Vice Chair

A new Chair and Vice Chair were up for nomination. Committee member, Tanya Pence nominated Shane Wolf to be Chair and committee member Mark Conlan seconded. The nomination was

approved unanimously making Wolf the new River Advisory Committee Chair for 2026. Mr. Wolf called for Vice Chair nominations. Committee member Justin Loehr nominated Mark Conlan. Committee member Destin Singleton seconded and the nomination was approved unanimously making Mark Conlan the new River Advisory Committee Vice Chair.

River Advisory Committee Charge

Since there were new members to the River Advisory Committee, the River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, reviewed the River Advisory Committee's charge from when the committee was first established by City Council explaining the duties in which the committee are responsible for discussing and evaluating.

6. STAFF REPORT

Presentation of New Braunfels Utilities Water

New Braunfels Utilities' (NBU) Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Kelso, gave an informative presentation on current drought conditions and water availability in New Braunfels and specifically explained why NBU has not entered into Stage 3. The presentation highlighted that NBU is one of only 72 community-owned not for profit public power utilities in Texas, serving 42,988 water customers, 38,456 wastewater customers, and 60,22 electric customers within Comal and Guadalupe Counties. Kelso stated that NBU is required to provide water service to all customers within its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN). A key point to Kelso's presentation was to explain that New Braunfels is not running out of water, although claims on social media say other wise. Kelso stated that NBU has worked closely with Arcadis, working on a 50 year plan. NBU currently remains at Stage 2, balancing stewardship and customer freedom. Kelso reported that 50% of water usage in New Braunfels comes from irrigation and outdoor watering, although it is on the decline with customers moving towards xeriscaping. Committee member, Destin Singleton, asked if commercial businesses were under the same restrictions as residential. Kelso replied that commercial and residential customers are treated the same with higher expectations for commercial businesses. Kelso described that NBU wants to help their customers, for instance helping them set their irrigation timers. They also send

out letters to customers that have overused. Kelso mentioned that the customers that overuse actually help subsidize the rates to keep them lower for other customers. River Advisory Committee Vice Chair, Mark Conlan, gave a concluding statement saying that the information presented was appreciated and having the communication and transparency on an important topic is great.

2026 River Pre-Season Update

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, gave a presentation covering a recap of the 2025 river season and what to expect for the upcoming 2026 season. Noteworthy incidents that had effects on revenue were the two river closures in June and July and the fallout from the devastating flood events in surrounding counties. Although highlights on the 2025 river season were the completion of the Last Public Exit Improvements, an increase in compliance with the Disposable Container Ordinance, and the Free Life Jacket Program continued to see positive feedback. In addition, the closure of the Faust St. Right of Way (ROW) saw a decline in calls for service and litter. Committee member, Dick Hillyer, asked if residents were still upset or talking about the ROW closure. Niles replied that she hasn't heard of any complaints since the closure and that it is a completely different environment. Staff expectations for 2026 include longer average float times, continuing to see many first-time guests, a large turnout for Independence Day weekend, and less congestion at the Last Public Exit due to the underwater landing and the private exit at Texas Tubes. Niles reviewed the 7 paid river parking lots that are available to guests, stating that New Braunfels residents (within the City limits) can apply for a parking permit through Interstate Parking to park for free at 6 out of the 7 paid parking lots. Niles also stated that a new life jacket station was added to Cypress Bend Park - now expanding the Free Life Jacket Program to the Guadalupe River. Niles concluded the presentation with noting that the 10th Annual Dos Rios Watershed Cleanup will be on October 10th, 2026.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Review and consider River Management Fee and Parking Fees

8. ADJOURNMENT

This regular meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

By: _____
Shane Wolf, CHAIR