

Shoal Creek Steering Committee Meeting 07/25/2023

Attendees:

Ivey Kaiser- SCC staff + committee member
Mateo Scoggins- WPD staff + committee member
Andrew Claaman- WPD staff
Holland Jones- committee member*
Kasey Faust- committee member*
Jenna Walker- Meadows center*
Daniel Kavelman- SCC staff
Linda McCoy- committee member*
Sandra Arismendez- Meadows center*
Heather Robinson- TCEQ
Kelly Strickler- WPD staff + committee member
Chris Randazzo- committee member*
Nick Boysen- committee member + Pease Park Conservancy*
Maria Darr- SCC staff
Sierra DaSilva- SCC staff

*=meeting attendance counted as 1hr in-kind contribution. SCC staff, WPD staff, and TCEQ staff attendance not counted as in-kind contribution.

New Staff Member to Shoal Creek Conservancy, Daniel Kavelman

Approve Minutes

- Quorum not quite met

Shopping cart corral

- Trash in creeks study in 2021
 - Found over 500 shopping carts in creeks around Austin
- Bringing in 50 volunteers to collect shopping carts throughout Shoal Creek
- HEB and Randles have volunteered to take back carts
- All unusable or unclaimed carts will go to Austin Resource Recovery

TCEQ Grant Fund

- Next cycle is 2025-2027
- \$474,000 Federal Grant for a three year period
- Match of \$316,000 from other sources
- Grant application includes current and planned rain gardens and riparian buffer zones
 - Will add 10,000 sq ft of riparian buffer zones
 - Add three more rain gardens in 2024

- The grant will fund the construction and maintenance of these restoration projects
- In order to support the work SCC will hire a Workday Coordinator
 - Not contingent on funding, but may be limited in duration by funding

Environmental Integrity Index

- Changes to monitoring
- Water data collection began in 1994
- 1996-2008
 - 3yr rotating basis
 - 50 watersheds
 - 150 sites
- 2009-2022
 - 2yr
 - 50
 - 150
- Testing and Data Collection
 - Quarterly
 - Nitrates
 - Ammonia
 - E. coli
 - Turbidity
 - Total Suspended Solids
 - pH
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - Conductivity
 - Temperature
 - Annually
 - Sediment samples
 - Aquatic life samples
 - Physical descriptions and measurements
 - Averaged into 6 subindices
 - Water Quality
 - Aquatic life
 - Habitat Quality
 - Recreation
 - Sediment Quality
 - Water Chemistry
- Wanted to stop focusing on describing outcomes
- Want to connect solutions with drivers and move toward desired destination

Drivers include

- Hydrology

- Geomorphology
- Hydraulics

Will include a network of 3000 sample sites throughout Austin

- Will be installed and operational in fall of 2023

Automated stormwater samplers will record samples from storm water

- Data outside of expected range will be used to calibrate or decide on future actions