

**From:** Sarah Baker <sarah@sosalliance.org>  
**To:** <RLGulley@AG.TAMU.EDU>  
**CC:** Bill Bunch <bill@sosalliance.org>, Annalisa Peace <annalisa@aquiferguard...>  
**Date:** 3/3/2008 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** nominations for EA RIP Steering Committee

Dear Mr. Gulley and members of the EA RIP Steering Committee,

Save Our Springs Alliance, Inc. nominates Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, to the Steering Committee of the EA RIP as a conservation/environmental representative. Dianne is extremely qualified to fill this spot, having worked on issues related to San Marcos River and Springs for many years.

Save Our Springs is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization based in Austin and working to protect the creeks and springs of the Edwards Aquifer. We have worked with Dianne on many Aquifer issues and recommend her for her thorough, informed and dedicated work on water conservation and biodiversity issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this nomination, please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Baker  
Save Our Springs Alliance  
Austin, Texas  
(512) 477-2320  
sarah@sosalliance.org



**Texas Rivers Protection Association**

444 Pecan Park Dr. San Marcos, TX 78666  
 Phone: 512-392-6171; Fax 512-392-5007  
 e-mail: goynes@centurytel.net  
 www.txrivers.org

Officers:

Tom Goynes, President  
 San Marcos, 512-392-6171  
 e-mail: Goynes@centurytel.net

David Reichert, Vice-president  
 San Antonio, 210-545-0548

Leslie Redwine, Secretary  
 New Braunfels, 830-626-8047

Duane TeGrotenhuis, Treas.  
 Martindale, 512-353-3946

Board of Directors:

Gay Culbertson  
 College Station, 979-693-6630

Kathleen Cusick  
 Spring Branch, 830-885-5324

Steve Daniel  
 College Station, 979-846-4649

David Davenport  
 New Braunfels, 830-609-3038

Rich Grayson  
 Dallas, 214-827-0144

Ed Lowe  
 Dallas, 214-826-8815

Eric McGhee  
 Spring, 281-757-2192

Anne Olden  
 Houston, 713-864-0205

Ginger Turner  
 Austin, 512-459-5742

Fred Zagst  
 Marble Falls, 830-693-1054

Charles Zucker  
 Austin, 512-328-8153

Dear Dr. Gulley,

The Texas Rivers Protection Association is proud to nominate Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, to the Steering Committee of the EARIP, as a representative for conservation/environmental concerns.

The TRPA is a statewide river conservation group dedicated to protecting the flow and natural beauty of Texas Rivers. We have approximately 500 individual members along with many club memberships and affiliates representing canoe clubs and canoe racing organizations throughout Texas. Several thousand paddlers and landowners from every region of the state are affiliated with our organization.

Our organization has had a long love affair with the San Marcos River, hosting many clean ups and meetings on and near that river, and it is our belief that the San Marcos River Foundation is doing a great job protecting it and looking out for its health.

We believe that Ms Wassenich of the San Marcos River Foundation is the obvious choice for this position.

Thank you,

Tom Goynes,  
 President

**From:** "Dave Collins" <collindave@hughes.net>  
**To:** <RLGulley@AG.TAMU.EDU>  
**Date:** 3/3/2008 10:03 AM  
**Subject:** Nominations for EA RIP Steering Committee

Dear Mr. Gulley and members of the EA RIP Steering Committee,

Preserve Our Water submits this nomination of Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, to the Steering Committee of the EA RIP as a conservation/environmental representative. Dianne is extremely qualified to fill this spot, having worked on issues related to San Marcos River and Springs for many years.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this nomination.

Sincerely,

Dave Collins  
President, Preserve Our Water, Inc.  
830-868-9055  
[www.preserveourwater.org](http://www.preserveourwater.org)

**From:** "Loyd Cortez" <loydcortez@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <RLGulley@AG.TAMU.EDU>  
**CC:** "Hector Gonzalez" <Hjgonzalez@aol.com>, "Annalisa Peace" <annalisa@aquif...>  
**Date:** 3/3/2008 2:32 PM  
**Subject:** RIP SA Citizens Representative Nominations

Dear Mr. Gulley and members of the EA RIP Steering Committee,

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club submits this nomination of Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, to the Steering Committee of the EA RIP as a conservation/environmental representative. Dianne is extremely qualified to fill this spot, having worked on issues related to San Marcos River and Springs for many years.

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club also requests that The San Antonio Area League of Women Voters (SA LWV) be nominated to represent the citizens of San Antonio and San Antonio ratepayers in a seat to be added to the EA RIP Steering Committee. The SA LWV has been very active in water issues for the past 25 years. We trust that any SA LWV representative chosen will be fair minded, conscientious, well informed, and representative of the diverse population of the City of San Antonio and surrounding areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this nomination and our request to nominate a representative for the citizens of San Antonio.

Sincerely,

Loyd Cortez  
Executive Committee  
Alamo Group of the Sierra Club  
loydcortez@earthlink.net

**From:** "STOWITTS-TRAINA, VIRGINIA" <vstowitts@mail.accd.edu>  
**To:** <RLGulley@AG.TAMU.EDU>  
**Date:** 3/3/2008 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Nominations for EA RIP Steering Committee

As of December 15, 2007 my email address, gstowitt@accd.edu will no longer be valid. Please send all communications to my new email address vstowitts@mail.accd.edu

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From:  
Sent: None  
To: RLGulley@AG.TAMU.EDU  
Subject: RE: Nominations for EA RIP Steering Committee

Dear Mr. Gulley and members of the EA RIP Steering Committee,

The San Antonio Area League of Women Voters submits this nomination of Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, to the Steering Committee of the EA RIP as a conservation/environmental representative. Dianne is extremely qualified to fill this spot, having worked on issues related to San Marcos River and Springs for many years.

The San Antonio Area League of Women Voters (SA LWV) also requests that our organization be nominated to represent the citizens of San Antonio and San Antonio ratepayers in a seat to be added to the EA RIP Steering Committee. The SA LWV has been very active in water issues for the past 25 years. We were chosen to nominate the Citizen Representative for the Region L Planning Group at the inception of that group, and trust that any SA LWV representative chosen will be fair minded, conscientious, well informed, and representative of the diverse population of the City of San Antonio and surrounding areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this nomination and our request to nominate a representative for the citizens of San Antonio.

Sincerely,

Ginny Stowitts Traina

President

San Antonio Area League of Women Voters

RIP Steering Committee Nomination for Conservation Organization:  
San Marcos River Foundation, Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director

SMRF is the appropriate conservation group for the conservation seat being considered by the RIP Steering committee, since SMRF's mission is to protect the San Marcos River, which flows from the San Marcos Springs and depends on the Edwards Aquifer. Though the San Marcos Springs are important in the RIP process, San Marcos currently only has an alternate seat on the RIP Steering Committee, and that one represents pumping or consumptive interests. SMRF has followed the RIP closely, with many SMRF board members participating in the training sessions and meetings. Wassenich participated in many of the RIP subcommittee meetings in recent months, and has attended all the general RIP meetings since it began. The board of SMRF is currently considering signing the MOA. (Since three new SMRF board members were just elected Feb. 2, the decision is still underway, with the board reviewing the document for discussion at their next meeting.)

The San Marcos River Foundation is a 23 year old conservation organization, dedicated to preserving the flow, natural beauty and purity of the San Marcos River and its watershed (which certainly includes the Edwards Aquifer) and estuaries. The organization has spent many years working on point source pollution very successfully, and is now focused on flow issues. SMRF is known for using scientific information to guide its projects and decisions, and then persevering until the regulatory agency listens to the science. For instance in the 1990's studies were commissioned by SMRF to pinpoint the type of nutrient (phosphorus) and the source of the nutrient causing serious algal mats on the river downstream of San Marcos. This technical work, and subsequent educational work and advocacy at permit hearings, helped clean up the upper river to a state so clear that old timers downstream recalled the 1940's as the last time they saw the river so clear. This early scientific work on phosphorus has been an effective example for permitting of wastewater treatment plants in other central Texas hill country communities.

Subsequently, SMRF assisted the lake groups in alerting authorities to the need to clean up algae problems in the Guadalupe Basin occurring during dry periods, and helped other central Texas groups to work on water quality testing in their streams. SMRF funds the supplies and test kits for over a decade now, for Texas Watch volunteers who test the San Marcos River all the way to Prairie Lea in one of the largest river monitor volunteer groups in Texas. SMRF participated in the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Program over the past two years, with SMRF Executive Director Wassenich serving on the Steering Committee of that group currently, in an effort to find voluntary ways that rural and urban communities in the 400 square mile watershed could work together to clean up the nutrient and bacterial contamination in the creek. The Watershed Plan is now complete, in an effort to prevent the creek from becoming a Section 303d listed stream segment. The new Plan has already resulted in grant funding to help clean up Plum Creek, and much more public understanding of the ways that everyone can help water quality.

SMRF coordinates volunteers to assist in exotic plant removal from the San Marcos River every month, year round, and also with studies done in the river, when needed. It sponsors river cleanups, distributes educational information, and tries to protect endangered species in the river via education in newsletters and the media. SMRF participates in hundreds of meetings per year and submits public comments, to represent the interests of citizens who care about the health of the river, the aquifer, and endangered species. Wassenich frequently speaks to university classes and civic groups about river and aquifer issues, both in central Texas and the Gulf Coast area, where spring flows from the Edwards are important to the health of bays and estuaries.

SMRF was a young organization, just getting established and holding river cleanups and other educational events when the first Edwards Aquifer legislation was originally drafted, so it was not directly involved in that effort. It did, however, help the San Marcos area understand in the early 90's that it must accept stringent water conservation efforts and build expensive water treatment facilities so that water sources other than the aquifer could be utilized by that community, in order

to protect springflow. Now that SMRF is more established, with a strong record and more members, SMRF has become very involved in educating the public about water conservation, pumping rules, and aquifer functions. Additionally, SMRF has focused its work in the last 8 years on making sure that Texas has a plan for instream flows and freshwater inflows in this region, and in other river basins.

SMRF is a member of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, which offices in San Antonio and has over 40 member groups allied to work on aquifer protection, across the entire length of the aquifer region. If SMRF is the conservation organization chosen for this position on the Steering Committee, and is allowed to choose an alternate, it will be GEAA. GEAA is also naturally suited to the RIP work, since protecting the aquifer is part of their mission statement as well.

SMRF operates on dues and donations from individuals, civic groups, and businesses, plus grants. It has a small endowment fund, raised with donations from individuals and civic groups, which generates a small amount of interest income that can be spent on projects. People designate SMRF as the recipient of memorial donations when a family member passes away, which goes into the endowment fund, and SMRF plants trees along the river in their memory. SMRF membership was only from the San Marcos area in its early years (1980's), but it now has members across Texas. It works closely with conservation groups in the Edwards Region.

SMRF is a participating organization in Earth Share of Texas, and Wassenich is 2008-09 Chair of the governing board of Earth Share of Texas (EST). EST raises money through offering workplace giving (payroll donations) at state and federal agencies all over Texas, and some cities, counties, and school districts, as well as many corporations and businesses, large and small. EST raises money for 70 leading local, state, national and international environmental/conservation organizations working to preserve and protect our natural resources and human health, and was formed by those groups to be its workplace fundraising arm.

Wassenich and her husband have been members of SMRF since it formed, and she acted as the volunteer clerical help and events coordinator for the group for many years. She has lived in the San Marcos area for 28 years. Her husband was on the SMRF board for six years in the 90's. Later she was elected to the SMRF board and then served as its President. SMRF is governed by a 9 member volunteer board. She resigned from the board, and applied for the job of Executive Director when SMRF was ready to hire a staff person, and was hired as Executive Director in April 2002.

Support letters for this nomination are coming from Preserve Lake Dunlap Association, AGUA, Texas Rivers Protection Association, and Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, all conservation group that have large memberships in the Edwards region, and other parts of Texas as well.



**From:** "Jacaman, Kerim" <kjacaman@bexar.org>  
**To:** <RLGulley@ag.tamu.edu>  
**CC:** "Aceves, Joe" <jaceves@bexar.org>  
**Date:** 3/3/2008 2:20 PM  
**Subject:** Nominations for Additional EARIP Steering Committee members

Dr. Gulley,

On behalf of Joe Aceves (EARIP Steering Committee), Bexar County is in support on the following three (3) additional EARIP Steering Committee members:

1. Jim Bower (City of Garden Ridge): Representing Edwards Aquifer Authority initial regular permit issued to a small municipality (population under 50,000) located east of San Antonio;
2. Kirk Patterson: Representing Edwards Aquifer region municipal ratepayers/general public;
3. Con Mims (Nueces River Authority): Representing Nueces River Authority

Bexar County anticipates that the above 3 nominations will individually nominate themselves and the County is in support of the nominations.

Thank you,

Kerim Y. Jacaman, CFM

Infrastructure Services Coordinator

Bexar County

Infrastructure Services Department

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