

NUECES ESTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

**Natural Resource Center, Room 1003
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX**

**DRAFT
Agenda**

1. Welcome/Introductions.....Chair, NEAC
2. Status Report-Rincon Bayou Diversion Project...C. of Corpus Christi
3. Matters Related to the Agreed Order.....All
4. Comments/Questions on NEAC Matters.....Hugh Vickers, L.
Corpus Christi Land/Home owners
5. SB 3, Environmental Flows Background.....Chair, et.al.
6. NEAC and Expanded NEAC.....Chair
7. Consideration of NEAC Membership.....All
8. Other Business.....All
9. Adjourn

NUECES ESTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 25, 2008
Natural Resource Center
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome/Introductions: The meeting of the Nueces Estuary Advisory Council (NEAC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Following brief announcements, participants were asked to introduce themselves and identify their affiliation. Participants were asked to review the agenda topics and order of consideration. No changes were made.
2. Status Report-Rincon Bayou Diversion Project: Representatives for the City of Corpus Christi provided an update on the construction and operation of the Nueces River diversion and pipeline facility constructed at the Calallen pool located adjacent to Hwy 37. Actual construction of the pipeline was completed in 2007, and the City has contracted with an environmental and engineering firm to assess the capabilities of the diversion facility, review the environmental aspects of the diversion and prepare a set of recommendations for optimizing the diversion of available water. The assessment is on-going and should be completed by this summer. A question was raised concerning the pipeline discharge point and its proximity to the Nueces River tidal reach. It was suggested that discharge from the pipe might flow in reverse instead of through the Delta as designed. The City representatives indicated this issue had been brought to their attention and would be investigated by their consultant. Once completed, the diversion operating recommendations will be presented to the NEAC for consideration and approval.
3. Matters Related to the Agreed Order: Representatives for the City of Corpus Christi contacted TCEQ staff regarding a water use reporting requirement of the Agency's watermaster program. After discussions with the South Texas Watermaster, all parties agreed to the reporting requirements for permits held by the City, Nueces River Authority, and the City of Three Rivers. In addition, parties agreed reporting of the environmental flows described in the Commission issued order dated 1995, as amended in 2001, would be exempted from any reporting requirements. There was some discussion with regard to the timing of pass-through flows accumulated during each month, but no changes were made to the current reservoir system operational guidelines.
4. Comments/Questions on NEAC Matters: Mr. Hugh Vickers, who represents the Save Lake Corpus Christi group, raised the issue of invasive species occurring in Lake Corpus Christi. Mr. Vickers indicated over the past few years, there has been a proliferation of Water Hyacinth growth in the backwater and slough areas.

Representatives for the City of Corpus Christi indicated they had been made aware of the problem and had arranged a meeting with experts for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to discuss the issue.

5. **SB 3; Environmental Flows Background (to include agenda items 6. and 7.):**
Mr. Bruce Moulton, NEAC Chair, provided an overview of the NEAC and summary of the provisions contained in Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) with regard to the establishment of the basin and bay area stakeholders committees for the first seven basin studies. SB 3 included a section which provided for the NEAC to serve as the Stakeholder Committee, which also included a provision for adding new members to meet the criteria and committee makeup contained in the bill. Following a nomination process and review of candidates prior to the meeting, existing NEAC members agreed to a list of nominees and contacted those individuals regarding their willingness to participate. A final list of recommendations was developed. Following a discussion of the list, by consensus, all recommended individuals were approved for membership on the expanded NEAC. To distinguish between the original NEAC and the expanded committee, it was suggested the expanded group be called the Nueces/Baffin Bay Area Stakeholders Committee. The charges laid out in SB 3, along with the projected time lines, were discussed and a subcommittee was established to review the tasks listed for the Expert Science Team to be created. Additional, committee members were asked to identify any experts that should be considered for the science team.
8. **Other Business:** No other business was discussed. The next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee was tentatively set for the week of May 27-30, in Uvalde, TX.
9. **Adjourn:** The Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.