

**NUECES ESTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**June 28, 2007, 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Agenda**

1. Welcome/Introductions.....Chair, NEAC
2. Status Report-Rincon Bayou Diversion Project...C. of Corpus Christi
3. Allison Effluent Diversion Demonstration Proj...C. of Corpus Christi
4. Digital Elevation Model.....CBBEP
5. Lake Corpus Christi Home/landowners.....Hugh Vickers
6. Legislative Update-SB3.....Chair, et.al.
7. Other Business.....All
8. Adjourn.

**NUECES ESTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes**

**June 28, 2007**

**Natural Resources Center, Room 1003**

**Corpus Christi, TX**

NEAC Attendees: Bruce Moulton, TCEQ  
Ray Allen, CBBEP  
Tom Calnan, GLO  
Paul Carangelo, Port of CC  
R.L. Bowers, CBBF  
Edward Buskey, UTMSI  
Jennifer Smith-Engle, TAMUCC  
Carola Serrato, STWA  
Pat Suter, Sierra Club  
James Tolan, TPWD  
Hugh Vickers, Citizen, City of Mathis

Alternate Attendees: Con Mims, NRA  
Max Castaneda, City of CC  
Don Roach, SPMWD

Also Attending: John Adams, Jim Gibeaut, Jace Tunnell, Tom Utter, Danny Ybarra, Mollie McIver, Tom Ballou, Egon Weber, Sara Ussery, Erin Hill, Paul Montagna, Ron Massey, and Marcia Hackett.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Bruce Moulton (NEAC Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and proceeded with introductions of those in attendance. A list of NEAC members and contact information was circulated for updates. Prior to discussions for the first agenda item, Mr. Tom Utter, representing the City of Corpus Christi, requested time to provide a brief overview of Senate Bill 3 sections relevant to the NEAC, as passed in the recent TX Legislative session. Section 11.02362 of SB3, relating to Development of Environmental Flow Regime Recommendations, included subparagraph (r) which provided for the NEAC to "...continue in full force and effect and shall act as and perform the duties of the basin and bay area stakeholders committee under this section." Mr. Utter indicated the legislative intent provided the current NEAC (and membership) would remain in place and any additional members for specific stakeholder interests would be added as necessary.

2. Status Report-Rincon Bayou Diversion Project

Mr. Danny Ybarra (City of CC) provided an update for the pipeline portion of the Rincon Bayou Diversion Project. All construction activities have been completed, and the City has been conducting tests of the pumps to ensure all facilities are working properly. The City is reviewing the current operating guidelines for the

surface water operations and is seeking comments/ recommendations on how best to incorporate the pipeline operations into the overall management of their surface water supplies. The Rincon Bayou Technical Working Group established by the City at the recommendation of the NEAC, has assisted with the development of the monitoring program for the Nueces Delta and has offered to assist the City with developing the water management strategies for incorporating the pipeline diversion. The work group will be meeting July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00a.m. at the City's Water Office.

3. Allison Effluent Diversion Demonstration Project

Mr. Ybarra also provided an update for the Allison diversion project. The project continues to divert up to 2MGD into an area of constructed wetlands located in the Nueces Delta. There has been an issue with ammonia concentrations and the City has attempted to address the issue by operational changes when concentrations have exceeded a specified level. There continues to be unresolved issues with the permit renewal for the Allison treatment facility. Representatives for the City are continuing to work with TCEQ and EPA staff to resolve those matters. In the mean time, they will continue to operate the facility in accordance with their old permit. Ms. Marcia Hackett (Corps), indicated that part of the Corps' ongoing environmental feasibility study will include an assessment of the effects the effluent discharge is having on the health and productivity of the Delta. She gave no timeline for completion of that assessment. Dr. Buskey (UTMSI) announced the publication of a special issue of "Contributions in Marine Science", which will focus on "The Response of Nueces Marsh Ecosystem to Wastewater from the Allison Effluent Diversion Demonstration Project (EDDP)". The issue will include 8 original papers and should be published prior to the end of 2007.

4. Digital Elevation Model

Dr. Jim Gibeaut (UT-BEG) presented an overview of the on-going survey of the Nueces Delta, which will provide an updated baseline map of surface elevations. The study includes a combination of ground-truthing surveys and aerial imagery using laser scanning technology called LIDAR. The information will be used to improve tracking of tidal and flood flows through the Delta and to assess opportunities for improving the circulation patterns within the Delta.

5. Lake Corpus Christi Home/Landowners

Mr. Hugh Vickers (Lake CC Homeowner and representative for the City of Mathis), requested time on the agenda to ask several questions which had been posed at past public meetings in the Mathis area. Mr. Vickers was seeking information which he could pass along to the citizens of Mathis and residents of the Lake Corpus Christi area. Many of the questions focused on the Mary Rhodes pipeline that brings water from Lake Texana to the City. City representatives answered questions regarding size of the pipeline, capacity, operation, and cost. Mr. Vickers asked about the size (areal extent) of the Delta and the location of the diversion points for the Rincon Bayou Diversion Project. Mr. Vickers also brought in samples of pondweed that have sprung up in Lake CC and asked if anyone could identify the plants. Discussion turned to the possibility of developing a fact sheet that could be available for anyone

interested in the water management plan and operation of the reservoir system under the current Agreed Order.

6. Legislative Update-SB3

Mr. Bruce Moulton (NEAC Chair) provided a brief overview of the environmental flows portion of SB3 and implications for future NEAC activities. Based on information provided by the City of CC representatives and other sources, it was the intent of the legislation to keep the NEAC intact and add any additional interests that would comport with the legislation as written. With that in mind, the attendees reviewed the recommended committee members contained in SB3 and compared that with the current NEAC membership. There were several interest groups that members felt should be added to the membership. In addition the areal extent of the NEAC interest would need to be expanded to include representation for Baffin Bay and the headwaters for the river basins draining into the Nueces Estuary. Mr. Con Mims (NRA) commented that, since most of the NEAC efforts to date have concentrated on the basin below the reservoir system, future efforts for the group would need to focus on instream flow requirements above the system and that it would be very important to include (add) NEAC representation from the upper basin. **The NEAC agreed to form an internal workgroup to develop a list of potential new members and to prepare a draft scope of work for charges contained in the legislation.**

7. Other business

There was no other business discussed at the meeting.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:00p.m.