

Freshwater Inflow Work Group Conference Call, May 7, 2010

Participants: Bryan Cook, Cathy Wakefield, Melissa Romigh, David Bradsby, Lynne Hamlin, David Buzan

Action items in bold

Gather information that helps describe whether or not East Matagorda, Matagorda, and Lavaca bays can be considered "sound ecological environments".

Soliciting Expert Opinion

- ❖ Cathy –
 - Leslie Hartman, TPWD ecosystem leader for Matagorda, Lavaca and East Matagorda Bay,
 - Bill Balboa, former TPWD ecosystem leader for Matagorda, Lavaca and East Matagorda Bay
 - Local commercial fisherman
 - Jim Dailey (retired TPWD ecosystem leader and Colorado/Lavaca stakeholder)
 - James Arnold (commercial fisherman)
 - Raymond Cox, fishing guide
- ❖ Bryan –
 - Bob Huston and Ed Oborny, key developers of the Matagorda Bay Health Evaluation
 - **Will contact Buddy Trevig, commercial fisherman**
- ❖ Melissa –
 - Texas Department of State Health Services Port Lavaca
- ❖ David Bradsby –
 - Norman Boyd, TPWD ecosystem leader for San Antonio Bay and Port Lavaca resident
 - Jan Culbertson, TPWD Coastal Fisheries oyster expert
 - **Will contact Mark Fisher, TPWD Coastal Fisheries Science Director**
- ❖ Dave
 - Paul Montagna, professor, Harte Research Institute
 - Jamie Schubert, TPWD Coastal Fisheries, coastal vegetation expert
 - Woody Woodrow, USFWS coastal ecosystem expert

Literature and Data Review

- ❖ Bryan - Reviewing 2006 LCRA Freshwater Inflow Needs study and 2008 Matagorda Bay Health Evaluation report
- ❖ **Buzan –**
 - **Will review the TCEQ's water quality assessment for the bays and tidal waters**
 - **Will compile historical freshwater inflow recommendations for Lavaca Bay**
- ❖ **Cathy – will look at the environmental flows literature review for information**

Identify a tentative list of ecological indicators for each bay. Done while soliciting expert opinion.

- ❖ **Bryan will compile a list of possible ecological indicators from target species in the LCRA 2006 freshwater inflow needs study and from Matagorda Bay Health Evaluation measures**

Freshwater Inflow workgroup May 7, 2010 meeting notes, consensus points and action items

Discuss whether or not there is an instream flow component (other than subsistence, base, pulse, and overbank flows) that we should consider asking the Hydrology team to determine for the stream locations just upstream of the bays.

- Melissa – Need to incorporate a time lag between freshwater inflow and ecosystem response
- Dave – Consider a major flood at a lower frequency of occurrence, ex. once every 10 yrs, that eliminates oyster parasites and predators

Compile the historical freshwater inflow recommendations for each of the three bay systems and identify the basis for each of the recommendations.

- ❖ Buzan – contacted Ruben Solis, TWDB, and received information that the TWDB has not conducted freshwater inflow analysis for East Matagorda Bay at this time
- ❖ **Buzan –Lavaca Bay**
- ❖ **Bryan Matagorda Bay**

Consensus point: Should have a meeting in the vicinity of the Matagorda Bay where local experts are invited to provide input as to ecological condition of bays, indicators, and freshwater inflow needs

Action item: Request BBEST support to use BBEST budget for meeting

Consensus point: There has been a lot of freshwater inflow analysis done for Matagorda Bay and this work should be utilized to the extent possible in developing freshwater inflow regimes