

Colorado-Lavaca Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

July 21, 2010 8:30am-2:30pm

Action Items and Consensus Decision Points

The CLBBEST met July 21, 2010 at LCRA in Austin. All members were present.

Consensus Decision:

The group adopted the minutes of the June 2, 2010 meeting.

Consensus Decision: Budget

Steve Watters will be reimbursed for meeting time including previous meetings. The budget will be updated to reflect Steve's time.

Consensus Decision: Sound Ecological Environment

Dave Buzan led a discussion on the definition of sound ecological environment. The team concluded that a local/site based approach of evaluating ecological health will be appropriate, and that ecological soundness is relative to a particular local. For example, the soundness of the Llano River is determined differently than Matagorda Bay. The team agreed that sound environment can be better defined after we go through the review of biology, water quality, geomorphology, and riparian zone ecology for each site.

Consensus Decision: Riparian Framework

Riparian subgroup members: Melissa, Cathy, Dave, Kathy

Melissa Romigh led the discussion on the Riparian Framework. The team reached consensus on a portion of the framework (#4, a,b, g, h, and i), determining a reach level analysis was appropriate. It was recommended that site specific data collection and inundation analysis be included in the workplan. The BBEST authorized the riparian subgroup –(members) to conduct a 4 hour meeting in August to discuss methodology and determine the time allocation necessary to complete a reach level analysis at 28 gaging locations.

Consensus Decision: Fish Framework

Fish subgroup members: Thom, Joe, Bryan, Okla, Melissa, Dave, Cathy

Dr. Thom Hardy led the discussion on the fish framework. Dr. Hardy has been working with Dr. Tim Bonner at Tx State University developing a focal fish list for the Guadalupe-San Antonio BBEST. This work serves as a template for development of a focal fish/species list for drainages in the Colorado and Lavaca Rivers. The team approved a fisheries subgroup to host a 4 hour meeting in late August or early September to discuss focal fish species. Participants are expected to bring fisheries data and other information that can inform this process. The subgroup will determine the time allocation needed to finish the focal fish section of the report.

Action Item: Stream Cross Sections

Stream cross sections are useful to link fish suitability data to hydrology. Nolan with TWDB offered to collect cross sections if needed. Bryan Cook will determine locations and availability of cross section data collected by LCRA and serve as the point of contact for data from other entities during prior to the focal fish meeting.

Consensus Decision: Water Quality

Subgroup members: Steve, Okla, Bryan

Steve Watters led the discussion on the Water Quality framework. The team approved the water quality subgroup to host a 4 hour meeting in August to finalize parameters and approach and estimate the resource needs to conduct a water quality assessment at the 28 gaging locations.

Consensus Decision: Geomorphology Framework

Nolan with the TWDB led the geomorphology framework discussion. The framework has three key components: I. Establish Existing Conditions, II Establish Future Conditions, III Development of the Geomorphology Overlay. The team agreed to review and comment on the draft framework and reached consensus that the TWDB conduct item I, Establish Existing Conditions.

The team formed a subgroup to discuss item II, Establish Future Conditions. Group members Joe, Kirk, Richard, Bryan, Nolan, Dave, Kathy will develop options for future flow scenarios. Item III will be completed pending input from the future condition work.

Consensus Decision: Hydrology

Subgroup members: Joe, Richard, Kirk, Thom

Joe Trungale presented a hydrology framework example for the Colorado River at Columbus. The assessment provides overview information and various descriptions and plots of the data. This would be used as a template for the other gages. Kirk Kennedy discussed a gage fact sheet, which contains key information such as period of record, major influences, flow statistics. The team supported the approach and suggested that the narrative summary should be applied at the subbasin level and fact sheets for each discipline (hydrology, fisheries, water quality, riparian) would be developed at the site specific level.

Consensus Decision: Meeting Dates

The next meeting will occur:

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 8:30am-2:30pm

Meeting will be held at LCRA Redbud Center, Room 108