

# Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Austin, Texas

## Meeting Minutes

### **Call meeting to order**

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) approved the meeting minutes from the September 3, 2008 SAC meeting.

A copy of all the presentations made during this meeting will be available on the TCEQ's Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee web page at

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_supply/water\\_rights/eflows/txenvironmentalflowssac.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/txenvironmentalflowssac.html)

### **Caddo Lake presentation**

### **Intro by Frank Heitmuller**

Mr. Frank Heitmuller introduced the four speakers who presented information regarding instream flow activities at Caddo Lake.

Mr. Rick Lowerre, President of the Caddo Lake Institute, presented background information related to the basin. He also issued an invitation for the Caddo Lake Symposium to be held in Jefferson, Texas on December 2, 2008 through December 4, 2008. He said that the event would feature tours and meetings. The web site for the Caddo Lake Institute is at [www.CaddoLakeInstitute.us](http://www.CaddoLakeInstitute.us) Mr. Lowerre also handed out information relating to Caddo Lake. A copy of these handouts will be available on the TCEQ's Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee web page at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_supply/water\\_rights/eflows/txenvironmentalflowssac.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/txenvironmentalflowssac.html)

Mr. Ryan Smith, with the Nature Conservancy, presented background information regarding the process used at Caddo Lake and about the partnership with the Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Joe Trungale presented information regarding the nuts and bolts of how a sustainable river project is applied in Texas.

Mr. Bruce Moring, with the United States Geologic Service (USGS), presented information regarding flow prescriptions.

## Senate Bill 2 / Senate Bill 3 Interface

TCEQ, TPWD, TWDB

## Gathering information for the Bay and Basin Expert Science Team (BBEST)

TCEQ, TPWD, TWDB

The groups discussed these two agenda items at the same time.

Mr. Dan Opdyke, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), made a presentation about Quantifying Environmental Flow Components Using IHA. Mr. Todd Chenoweth, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Mr. Barney Austin, Texas Water Development Board, and Ms. Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, spoke about how Senate Bill (SB) 2 and SB 3 can work together.

Mr. Chenoweth spoke about TCEQ's contracts for literature reviews for the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay and for the Trinity and San Jancinto Rivers and Galveston Bay. Chairman Huston asked if the TCEQ could speak with their contractors about having deliverables on these contracts before the August 2009 contract due date. Mr. Chenoweth agreed that the TCEQ would talk with their contractors about working within a tighter timeframe so that the Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams (BBEST) would be able to use this information when formulating their recommendations, and to report back to the SAC at its next meeting.

The SAC also discussed encouraging interaction between the BBEST and the contractors conducting the literature review.

Mr. Chenoweth also went over the draft reference web page for the BBEST, and invited comments from SAC members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Individual SAC members should send any comments that they have on the draft reference web page to Ms. Kathy Ramirez at [kramirez@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:kramirez@tceq.state.tx.us)

At their next meeting, the SAC will continue their discussion on communicating information to the BBESTs. To facilitate that discussion, the TCEQ staff will send to the SAC: 1) a one page example of the literature review final work product; 2) the completed Sabine literature review; and, 3) the current scopes of work for the literature review contracts.

## Ideas for Special Studies

**Bob Brandes**

Dr. Bob Brandes presented his ideas for special studies. He said that the objective of these studies is to develop useful information for the BBESTs in their deliberations for their environmental flow recommendations. He suggested two ideas for special studies:

- Developing IHA results for the Sabine and the Trinity, and
- Bay and estuary inflow recommendations.

The SAC decided that special studies will be an ongoing topic at future meetings.

## **Discussion of SAC Mission and Budget**

**Bob Huston**

Chairman Huston incorporated the comments from the last meeting into the work plan document.

Chairman Huston discussed the changes he made to the budget. The committee voted to submit the budget to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group.

The committee discussed the assignment of liaisons to the BBEST groups. Chairman Huston will formulate a process to make the decision regarding liaisons to the BBEST and invited members to express their interest in serving.

## **Develop Agenda for next meeting (Wednesday, November 5, 2008)**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2008. It will be an all day meeting and will be hosted by the Texas Water Development Board. Barney Austin will get a room for the meeting.

Chairman Huston will send a draft of the November agenda with suggested times for each item to the members. The items the members discussed for potential inclusion on the November agenda include:

- IHA or other techniques for how to use the framework for SB 2 in SB 3. This agenda item could include information about how key decisions are made, high pulse methodology, and parameter ranges.

Dan Opdyke, TPWD, will send the committee members a list of "thorny decisions" regarding the model that he presented during this SAC meeting. He will send this to the committee prior to the November meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Mary Kelly and Dr. Paul Jensen will meet with agency staff to help develop a presentation for this.

- Hydrology / Consistency in the hydrologic backdrop that the BBEST will work with. Bob Brandies and George Ward will take the lead on this item.
- Literature searches / Communicating information to the BBESTs.
- Study ideas: recent activities regarding Galveston Bay.

Dr. Montagna made a request that presenters bring a minimum of 9 printed copies of their presentations to the SAC meeting.

The committee also proposed that the December meeting be a half day meeting and that it be moved from the first Wednesday in December so that it does not conflict with the Caddo Lake Symposium.

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