

Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.
TCEQ offices, Building F, Room 2210
Austin, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

Approval of meeting minutes

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) approved the meeting minutes from the August 13, 2008 SAC meeting.

Discussion and agreement on agenda

The SAC modified the order of the agenda as reflected in these meeting minutes.

Agency Presentations (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)

SB2/Texas Instream Flows Program activities

Kevin Mayes, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Wendy Gordon, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and Mark Wentzel, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), presented information about SB 2 and Instream Flow Program activities from all three agencies. As part of her presentation Wendy handed the committee members a copy of the brochure, *Sound Science for Healthy Texas Rivers*. A copy of this brochure 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

Bay & Estuaries Methodology and activities

Chris Loft, TCEQ, presented information about the Lyons Method

Default methodology for developing instream flows

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, Ruben S. Solis, TWDB, and Bruce Moulton, TCEQ presented information about Freshwater Inflows Methodology and Activities and Environmental Flows and Water Rights Permitting.

Discussion of SAC mission

The SAC discussed the "strawman document" developed by Robert Huston and offered suggestions for changes to the documents. Chairman Huston will revise the document based on the suggested changes.

Mary Kelly suggested that the SAC committee members offer names of scientists to assist the bay and basin stakeholders committees as they work to put together their Bay and Basin Expert Science Team (BBEST). The committee agreed that this was a good idea and asked for the dates of the bay and basin area stakeholder meetings. The next meeting of the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee is October 2,

2008. The next meeting of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee is October 6, 2008.

ACTION ITEM: Individual SAC members should send names of scientists to Todd Chenoweth and TCEQ will get the names to the bay and basin stakeholder committees.

Report from Budget Subcommittee and discussion regarding SAC proposed budget

Chairman Huston presented the draft budget that the SAC Budget Subcommittee developed. The SAC discussed changes to the document based on input from the TWDB. Chairman Huston summarized the modifications to the budget and received the okay from the SAC to work with the subcommittee to revise the budget and submit it for approval.

Public comments

Audience members asked for copies of the presentations and handouts and for the presentations to be posted to the web page. The TCEQ agreed to post the presentations on the web page and all the agencies agreed to provide copies of their handouts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is set for October 1, 2008 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The TPWD will host the meeting. Discussion items for the next agenda include: the interplay of SB 2 and SB 3; special studies recommendations; the gathering and dissemination of information for the BBESTs; and a discussion of the revised strawman document. Additionally, the next meeting will include a presentation regarding Caddo Lake.

Chairman Huston informed members about the Caddo Lake Symposium on December 2 – 4, 2008. He said that he would distribute information to the SAC members.

Mary Kelly said she would send around a copy of a paper on Ecological Limits of Hydrological Alteration (ELOHA) to the SAC members.

The November meeting is set for November 5, 2008 to be hosted by the TWDB.