

Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST)
January 15, 2009
Galveston, TX
Texas A&M Galveston
Sea Aggie Center, Room 601

Meeting Minutes

BBEST Members Present:

William Espey (Chair), Jim Lester (Vice-Chair), Richard Browning, David Buzan, Woody Frossard, George Guillen, Robert McFarlane, Mike Reedy, Alan Plummer, Antonietta Quigg, Sammy Ray, Tony Smith, Joe Trungale, Mike Turco, Robert Brandes (SAC Liaison)

Agency staff present:

TCEQ – Kellye Rila, Cory Horan, Chris Loft, Mike Chadwick

TPWD – Cindy Loeffler, Lynne Hamlin

TWDB – Ruben Solis, Nolan Raphelt

Call to Order

Chairman Espey called the meeting to order and asked the members and the audience to introduce themselves.

Organizational/Ground Rules Discussion

Members agreed that the best way to communicate between meetings was through e-mail.

Cory Horan, TCEQ, gave an overview of current literature reviews being conducted by the TCEQ for the Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins. Bibliographies of documents discovered related to the development environmental flow regimes will be distributed to the group via e-mail. Members can review the bibliographies and if there is a particular document that members would like to see, requests can be sent to Cory Horan and the TCEQ will attempt to make those documents available electronically for the group's use. It is suggested that members submit requests for documents within two weeks of the date the bibliographies are sent out in order to allow time to obtain the documents prior to the next meeting.

Public Input: The group discussed when to allow public input and how long. Per statute, meetings of the BBEST must be open to the public where reasonably practicable. It was decided that public input would be allowed at the end of each meeting and each would be limited to a 3 minute limit. Additional public input beyond the 3 minute limit can be submitted to the BBEST in writing through Cory Horan, TCEQ.

Recurring Meetings: The members discussed setting a recurring date for monthly meetings. Members agreed to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at various locations and times.

Alternates: The group discussed whether to allow alternates and decided that BBEST members will designate an alternate who will attend meetings when the primary is unable, but alternates would not have voting authority.

Quorum: Members discussed and agreed that two thirds of the BBEST members present would constitute quorum, and this would apply to voting situations. If a member is not present at a meeting when a vote occurs, that member may request the item be reconsidered at a later meeting.

Consensus: The group discussed consensus, and what is allowed by statute which states: "Each BBEST shall develop environmental flow analyses and a recommended environmental flow... through a collaborative process designed to achieve a consensus." The group agreed to strive to achieve consensus of BBEST members present, but are not bound to consensus if the group reaches an impasse. If the BBEST reaches an impasse on an issue, decisions will be made by majority vote.

Bob Brandes, SAC liaison to this BBEST group, gave an overview of SAC activities and available SAC guidance. The SAC will begin to disseminate some of the items discussed after the February 4, 2009 SAC meeting.

Budget and Schedule Discussion

The group reviewed the Guidance on Budget and Compensation for the BBESTs, produced by the Water Development Board. Jim Lester gave an overview of the draft budget which he prepared. Mr. Lester asked for feedback from members on what has been prepared in order to refine the budget.

Presentations: all presentations are available on the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Environmental Flows website:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html

- **Joe Trungale** gave an overview of the environmental flows process ongoing in the Cypress River basin.
- **David Buzan** gave a presentation on work performed regarding freshwater inflows to the Trinity-San Jacinto estuary.
- **Robert McFarlane** gave a presentation entitled Missing: A Graph, a Model, and a Proof of Concept.
- **L. James Lester** gave a presentation discussing an alternative approach to addressing freshwater inflow management.
- **Sammy Ray** gave a presentation discussing freshwater inflows and their relation to Galveston Bay system oyster reefs.

Public Input

Public input was taken from Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation and Glenda Callaway, Ekistics Corporation and member of the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee. Both complimented and encouraged the group. Ms. Callaway requested the BBEST carefully consider the geographic extent of the group's analysis, in order that the recommendations don't average out findings across the bays and estuaries.

Develop agenda for next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 11, 2009, from 9:30 – 4:30. It was suggested that the meeting be held in the North Houston area, location TBD.

Proposed Presentations by:

- George Guillen
- Antonietta Quigg
- Richard Browning

TPWD - HEFR
TWDB – Appropriate Models
LCRA/SAWS

Adjourn