

Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Texas Water Development Board
Stephen F. Austin Bldg., Room 170
Austin, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) approved the meeting minutes from the January 7, 2009 SAC meeting.

Liaison reports on BBEST meetings

Fred Manhart and Bob Brandes

Fred Manhart, SAC member, spoke of the events at the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay BBEST meeting held on January 26, 2009. The next Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay BBEST meeting will be on February 20, 2009 at the Trinity River Authority's Lake Livingston Project offices in Livingston, TX. Bob Brandes, SAC member, summarized the events of the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay BBEST meeting held on January 15, 2009. The next Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay BBEST meeting will be on February 11, 2009 at the Lone Star College in The Woodlands, TX.

Mr. Manhart stated that the BBEST is eager to receive guidance documents from the SAC. Bob Huston, SAC Chairman, responded that it is the SAC's top priority to deliver guidance documents to the BBESTs as soon as possible.

ACTION ITEM: Cory Horan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), will email the agendas for the next BBEST meetings to the BBEST groups and the SAC as they are completed.

Budget Update

Barney Austin, TWDB

Barney Austin updated the SAC on funding for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. He reminded SAC members to submit their invoices to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as soon as possible. Mr. Austin also remarked that the TWDB has received the budget plans from the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay BBEST and Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay BBEST. The budget plans will be submitted to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG) for review and comments in the next week.

Todd Chenoweth, TCEQ, commented that TCEQ does not have the funding available to perform literature review work in the next SB3 group of priority basins (Colorado/Lavaca and Guadalupe/San Antonio) for the upcoming fiscal year. The SAC discussed whether they should consider funding the literature review work for the upcoming fiscal year.

ACTION ITEM: TCEQ will draft a statement of work based on the literature reviews currently in progress and submit this document to the TWDB. SAC and the state agencies will consider at the March 4, 2009 meeting how to handle the funding issue for literature review concerning the Colorado/Lavaca and Guadalupe/San Antonio basins.

Discuss expanded draft of B&E memo

Mary Kelly/Bob Brandes

Bob Brandes and Paul Montagna, SAC members, guided the SAC through the latest draft of the Bay and Estuaries deliverable. The SAC commented on revisions that could be made to the document. The SAC discussed how to incorporate pieces of the "Component Data Sets, Analyses and Models from the Freshwater Inflows State Methodology" document prepared by Ruben Solis (TWDB) into the B&E deliverable.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Brandes will revise the B&E deliverable, identify missing pieces to the document, assign those missing pieces to other SAC members, and complete a rough draft of the document in the next few weeks.

Presentation on Mouth of Guadalupe River HEFR results

Mark Wentzel, TPWD

Mark Wentzel, TPWD, presented the PowerPoint presentation "Instream Flows vs. Freshwater Inflows".

Consider Hydrology Methods (HEFR) Draft for release to BBEST

SAC

The SAC discussed final revisions to be made to the Hydrology Methods deliverable "Use of Hydrologic Data in the Development of Instream Flow Recommendations for the Environmental Flows Allocation Process" and the memo to accompany the document "Transmittal to Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams". The SAC and the state agencies discussed scheduling a technical workshop for the Hydrology-based Environmental Flow Regime (HEFR) method.

ACTION ITEM: Dan Opdyke, TPWD, and Chairman Huston will make changes to the Hydrology Methods deliverable and transmittal memo, respectively, and distribute these documents to the SAC by February 6, 2009. The SAC will review these changes and provide comments by noon on February 9, 2009 to Chairman Huston, so as to present the Hydrology Methods deliverable to the BBEST's prior to their February meetings. A HEFR workshop is tentatively scheduled for February 24, 2009 at Espey Consultants, Inc. in Austin, Texas.

Geographic Extent of Instream Flow Regime

Todd Chenoweth, TCEQ

Todd Chenoweth and Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, described revisions made to the "Geographic Scope of Instream Flow Recommendations" deliverable. The SAC and state agencies discussed further revisions to be made to the document.

ACTION ITEM: TCEQ will revise the geographic scope deliverable and meet with the other state agencies for additional feedback. A draft of the revised deliverable will be submitted to the SAC for review and final comment as soon as possible. The SAC will consider release of the final document at its March meeting.

Progress Reports (overlays to Hydrology Analyses)

Sediment Loading**Frank Heitmuller**

Frank Heitmuller, SAC member, briefed the SAC on revisions made to his "Fluvial Sediment Transport" document. The SAC recommended changes to the document.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Heitmuller will revise the sediment loading overlay.

Water Quality/Nutrients**Paul Jensen**

Paul Jensen, SAC member, briefly discussed "Nutrient and Water Quality Overlay on Hydrology-based Instream Flow Recommendations".

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Jensen will continue to revise the water quality/nutrients overlay.

Biology**Jim Wiersema**

Discussion of the biology overlay was postponed to the March meeting.

Presentation on recent Caddo Lake Flow Standard recommendations**Joe Trungale**

The presentation was delayed until the next SAC meeting.

Public Comments

Myron Hess commented on content for the geographic scope deliverable.

Next Meeting (Schedule and Agenda)

The next SAC meeting is schedule for 9:30 AM, March 4, 2009 at TCEQ.

Tentative agenda items:

- Presentation on regional water planning in the Trinity Basin (Region H).
- Presentation by Sabine River Authority on environmental flows analysis on Sabine Lake.
- Presentation by Joe Trungale on recent Caddo Lake Flow Standard recommendations.
- Presentation on Brazos River Authority systems operation permit.
- Continued discussion of geographic scope deliverable.
- Continued discussion of bays and estuaries deliverable.
- Update on overlays to hydrology analyses.
- Statement of works for additional literature review work.

Meeting Adjourned