

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 11/3/2008

8/21/2008 Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Stakeholder (BBAS) Committee Meeting

Sabine River Authority, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Arnold, Christopher Bean, Keith Bonds, W. Greg Carter, P.E., Jerry Clark, Ken Dickson, Bruce Drury, Walter Glenn, Kathleen Jackson, Chester Moore, Rodney Newman, Jerry Nichols, Fr. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L., Jody Puckett, Kelley Holcomb, David Roemer, Monty Shank, Dick Sherron, Bob Staton, Robert Stroder, Jeanie Turk

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Cory Horan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), called the meeting to order and introduced Representative Mike Hamilton, co-chair of the Environment Flows Advisory Group, who gave some introductory remarks and thanked members for attending. Mr. Horan then requested introductions of the committee members and audience.

Discussion and agreement on Agenda

The agenda, as drafted by TCEQ, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) [agencies] was proposed to committee; the committee approved the agenda.

Overview of the SB3 Process & Role of the BBAS

Todd Chenoweth, TCEQ, presented a brief history of the environmental flows process in Texas and discussed the charges of the BBAS as provided for by SB3.

Nomination and Election of Committee Chair

Cory Horan then asked if the committee was prepared to nominate a chair. Jerry Clark was nominated and confirmed by unanimous vote. Robert Stroder was nominated as vice chair and confirmed by unanimous vote. The committee agreed that additional officers could be discussed at a later date.

Report on travel and per diem expenses

Ruben Solis, TWDB, discussed funds appropriated to the board for Texas Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and Bay and Basin Expert Science Teams (BBEST) expenses. He stated that no funds were available for the BBAS. At the request of members, TWDB will be providing additional clarification on amounts, use and limitations on funds for the BBEST at a later date.

Ground Rules for the Committee

Chairman Clark initiated discussion of committee ground rules.

Public Input: Members agreed that BBAS meetings should be open to the public, with transparency as key to the process. TCEQ stated it could provide a website for the BBAS

in order to inform the public by posting meeting dates, agendas, and meeting minutes. Members requested that TCEQ provide this service and the committee approved the proposal unanimously. Members discussed how to take public input at the meetings and the committee agreed to allow public input at the beginning of future meetings, subject to a 3-5 minute time limit.

Alternates/Proxy vote: The committee discussed the matter of how to proceed when a member is unable to attend future BBAS meetings. Members agreed that if a member is unable to attend, that another person on the committee could serve as a proxy provided the committee chair was notified of the proxy before the meeting. Chairman Clark stated that this would be a good starting point but the matter was subject to discussion and revision at a later date.

Quorum: The committee discussed rules for quorum and agreed that two-thirds of committee members present were adequate for quorum and that proxies were to be included when determining quorum.

Overview of Environmental Flows

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, provided an overview of the Environmental Flows activities in Texas, including background on bays and estuaries studies, environmental flow considerations in water rights permitting, and development of environmental flow regimes. The presentation also included a history of SB2 and the Texas Instream Flow Program (TIFP).

Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams

The committee discussed BBEST nominee qualifications, appropriate size of the BBEST, and the process for nominating BBEST members. TCEQ stated that it could provide a standard form for BBEST nominations and compile and provide to the committee copies of the submitted nominee forms with pertinent information which would include nominee background and qualifications. Members requested TCEQ send nomination form and a point of contact to which the forms can be sent. TCEQ will provide.

Members asked the agencies for contact information on agencies' and river authority staff involved with the Texas Instream Flow Program (TIFP) so that they may be considered for nomination.

The committee agreed to discuss BBEST nominees at the next meeting.

Set Next Meeting

The committee discussed and approved that the next meeting of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay BBAS Committee will be held on October 8, 2008, at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the City of Nacogdoches Library and Recreation Center, 1112 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Meeting was adjourned.