

Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 October 1, 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/txenvironmentalflowssc.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/txenvironmentalflowssc.html)

**Update on ongoing literature reviews**

**15 min\***

**TCEQ**

Mr. Cory Horan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), gave an update on the literature review work that the TCEQ has contracted and reviewed the Scope of Work and examples of deliverables from each contractor. These documents will be available on the SAC web page at the link listed at the beginning of these minutes.

Mr. Horan told the SAC that the first quarterly report from the contractors is due to the TECQ on December 15, 2008. The members asked if he had any information regarding the amount of information the contractors have found broken down by the categories outlined in Objective 1.2 of the Scope of Work. Mr. Horan said he did not yet have this information from the contractors but that he would be able to provide an update regarding this topic at the next SAC meeting.

Ms. Kellye Rila told the SAC that the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (BBASC) selected their Bay and Basin Expert Science Team (BBEST). The TCEQ is working with the Chair of the Sabine BBASC to notify the BBEST committee-elect members. Ms. Rila listed the nominees who were selected for the BBEST:

Gary Graham  
Scott Hall  
Richard Harrell  
Rex Hunt  
J. Roger Kelly  
Matthew McBroom

Jack McCollough  
David Parkhill  
Jack Tatum  
Sam Vaugh  
Kirk Winemiller

No date has been set for an initial Sabine BBEST meeting.

The Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay BBASC is scheduled to meet on November 13, 2008 to select their BBEST.

**Discussion of previous Science Advisory 1.5 to 2 hrs TWDB**

**Comments/Galveston Bay**

**Tech. Subcommittee activities**

Mr. Ruben Solis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), presented information regarding actions taken by the previous Science Advisory Committee. He made two presentations: *Policy Decisions Required for Application of the State Methodology*, and *Discussion of Previous SAC Comments and Galveston Bay Technical Subcommittee Activities*. He also handed out. 9.3 POLICY DECISIONS THAT MUST BE MADE TO APPLY THE METHODOLOGY, an excerpt from *Freshwater Inflows to Texas Bays and Estuaries: Ecological Relationships and Methods for Dertermination for Needs*. TWDB and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). 1994. This document, as well as his presentations, will be available on the SAC web site at the link listed at the beginning of the minutes.

During this presentation, the SAC discussed how they could best formulate guidance for the Bay and Basin Expert Science Teams (BBESTs) regarding policy / management decisions versus science decisions in the process to determine environmental flow regimes.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Bob Brandes, Ms. Mary Kelly, and Dr. Paul Montagna will put together information regarding this topic for the December SAC meeting.

**Sediment transport issues 0.5 hrs Heitmuller**

Mr. Frank Heitmuller, SAC committee member, presented information regarding sediment transport. He handed out a memo, INCORPORATION OF SEDIMENT TRANSPORT ESTIMATES AND MODELS INTO FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BASIN AND BAY EXPERT SCIENCE TEAMS AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEES, and made a presentation showing *Examples of Sediment Transport Issues for Texas Senate Bill 3*. These documents will be available on the SAC web page at the link listed at the beginning of these minutes.

ACTION ITEM: For the December SAC meeting, Mr. Heitmuller will put the information he presented into the form of a recommendation or of guidance for the BBESTs.

**LUNCH BREAK 30 min ~~45 min~~**

**Using hydrology data to define environmental flow recommendations 1.0 to 1.5 hrs TPWD**

Ms. Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, and Mr. Dan Opdyke, TPWD, presented information about using hydrological information to define environmental flow recommendations. Ms.

Loeffler spoke about *Instream Flow Assessment Tools and Considerations* and handed out two documents in addition to her slides. She gave the SAC members a copy of TABLE 6-3, SUMMARY OF INSTREAM FLOW ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THEIR APPLICATION, and the article, ECOLOGICAL LIMITS OF HYDROLOGIC ALTERATION ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS FOR REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT. These documents will be available on the SAC web page at the link listed at the beginning of these minutes.

Mr. Opdyke presented *Decision Points Relevant to using Hydrology Data to Quantify Environmental Flow Recommendations*. He also gave the SAC members a copy his DRAFT paper of the same name. These documents will be available on the SAC web page at the link listed at the beginning of these minutes.

The SAC asked Mr. Opdyke to prepare a paper for the next SAC meeting that includes more specific details regarding the methodology that he discussed during his presentation. Chairman Huston said that he will work with Mr. Opdyke regarding the specifics of what should be included in the paper.

#### **Hydrologic/environmental flows**

**45 min**

**Ward/Brandes**

The SAC decided to forego this agenda items since many of the topics that would have been covered were discussed earlier in the meeting.

#### **Public comments**

Mr. Barney Austin, TWDB, relayed to the SAC that the TWDB has electronic daily data on suspended sediment from 1964 through 1989 for 35 sites around the state. This information was compiled using the Texas Sampler Method. The TWDB also has information from 1938 forward that is not in an electronic format.

Mr. Heitmuller will talk with the TWDB to determine what, if any, information can be incorporated into his document that he is preparing for the BBESTs.

Mr. Austin also said that the SAC's budget is moving through the administrative process and that the budget should be available to reimburse SAC members in the next three to four weeks.

Mr. Tony Smith commented regarding the policy / management versus science discussion. He added that another issue to consider is that more than one river can contribute to a bay system and how to break apart combined inflow might be another policy / management consideration.

Mr. Norman Johns spoke about overbanking and gave an example of work being done on the Savannah River. He also said that the Index of Hydraulic Alteration can be used to derive more than just what the results are today.

Chairman Huston reminded the members about the Caddo Lake Symposium on December 2 through 4.

The SAC set their next meeting for December 5, 2008 at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Time to be determined.

The agenda items will be:

- A discussion about policy / management versus science decisions
- A discussion to frame the deliverable list to the BBEST, including form, content, and timing. Included in this agenda item will be a discussion about:
  - Mr. Heitmuller's sediment transport document;
  - Mr. Opdyke's presentation; and,
  - special studies.
- A preliminary discussion about the scope of which waters of the state should have an environmental flow regime.

**Adjourn**

**\* Time allocations are estimates only**