

11/03/2008 Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Stakeholder (BBAS) Committee Meeting

Nacogdoches Public Library and Recreation Center, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Jerry Clark (Chair), Robert Stroder (Vice-Chair), David Alford, Joe Arnold, Keith Bonds, Greg Carter, Ken Dickson, Bruce Drury, Walter Glenn, Kathleen Jackson, Rodney Newman, Jerry Nichols, Fr. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L., Jody Puckett, Kelley Holcomb, David Roemer, Monty Shank, Dick Sherron, Bob Staton, Jeanie Turk

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Jerry Clark called the meeting to order. Mr. Clark then requested introductions of the committee members and other attendees.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the August 21, 2008 meeting.

Discussion and Agreement on Agenda

The draft agenda was proposed to committee; the committee approved the agenda with no changes.

Public Comment

Myron Hess, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), gave an overview of an informational binder, prepared by the NWF and its partners in the Texas Living Waters Project and presented to the committee members, which included materials to support the environmental flows process. The binder includes information on establishing the BBEST and consensus building.

Discussion and Selection of Basin & Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Nominees

Chairman Clark opened this discussion by clarifying the statute as it relates to Agency (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality TCEQ, and Texas Water Development Board) staff serving on the BBEST. He noted that the statute allows for agency staff can serve as non-voting members of the BBEST but were also required to provide support to the BBEST. The committee agreed that Agency staff would not be considered for the BBEST, but would request one point of contact for each agency to coordinate support of the BBEST.

Members then gave brief discussions of the background and qualification of each BBEST nominee in order to familiarize members' nominees with the Committee as a whole.

LUNCH BREAK

Report on Funding for the Basin & Bay Expert Science Teams

Barney Austin, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), an overview of funding for the BBESTs. He noted that the legislature appropriated \$350,000 to support the activities of the BBESTs for state fiscal year (FY) 2009, to be administered by the TWDB. The \$350,000 should be split between the two established BBESTs, with \$175,000 available to the Sabine/Neches/Sabine Lake BBEST through the end of FY 2009 (August 31, 2009). He clarified that this money was only available for FY 2009 and that the TWDB had submitted a request to the Legislative Budget Board for future funding of the BBESTs. This money can be used for time and travel reimbursement for the BBEST members, administrative support, and can also be set aside for contracts for needed expertise. He noted that each BBEST will need to prepare their own budget for submission to the TWDB and clarified that no funding had been made available for the Basin & Bay Area Stakeholder Committee tasks.

Discussion and Selection of Basin & Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Nominees

Members then continued the discussion and selection of BBEST nominees. The committee unanimously agreed to set the size of the BBEST at eleven members.

The following nominees were unanimously approved by the committee to serve on the BBEST:

Gary Graham	Jack McCullough
Scott Hall	David Parkhill
Richard Harrel	Jack Tatum
Rex Hunt	Samuel Vaugh
Roger Kelley	Kirk Winemiller
Matthew McBroom	

Meeting was adjourned

Future meeting dates to be determined