

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee
and Expert Science Team

Thursday, December 18, 2008
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
San Jacinto River Authority Offices
Conroe, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC): Danny Vance - Chair, John Bartos – Vice Chair, Lloyd Behm, Glenda L. Callaway, Lori Gernhardt, Jace Houston, Kathy Jones, Ken Kramer, Ted Long, Terry McKenzie (Alternate for Terry Anderson) Tom Michel, Ramon Miguez, Paul Nelson, Michael Rickman (Alternate for Jim Parks), Edward Seidensticker, Adam Sinclair, Pudge Willcox, Tracy Woody

Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST): Richard Browning, David Buzan, Bill Espey, Woody Frossard, George Guillen, Jim Lester, Robert McFarlane, Mike Reedy, Alan Plummer, Sammy Ray, Tony Smith, Joe Trungale, Mike Turco.

The agenda, approved minutes, presentations and handouts from this meeting will be available on the TCEQ's Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Stakeholder (BBAS) Committee web page at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html

Call to Order/Welcome and Introduction

Danny Vance, Chair of the Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay BBASC, called the meeting to order. Committee members from the BBASC and BBEST introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The BBASC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2008 BBASC meeting.

Public Comments

Danny Vance opened the meeting to public comments. No comments were made by the public.

Discussion of BBEST Objectives and Approach

Danny Vance addressed the BBEST team, advising them to schedule an organizational meeting in order to get the process moving forward as there are time constraints to be considered in the BBEST charge. Mr. Vance commented that the BBEST's final recommendation is due November 2009.

BBEST Budget Overview: Texas Water Development Board

Ruben Solis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), presented a handout "BBEST - compensation for time and reimbursement of travel expenses" providing an overview of funds available for the BBEST. The BBEST must submit a budget to Barney Austin with the TWDB for approval. Mr. Solis noted that the FY08-09 funds are for work that must be completed by August 31, 2009. Any work occurring after that date would be included in the FY2010 budget. He instructed the members to keep track of their time and expenses until the FY08-09 budget is approved so that they may be reimbursed. Gayla Ray will be the TWDB/BBEST liaison for fiscal management.

Comments from Bob Huston, Chair of the Science Advisory Committee

Chairman Huston, SAC, presented a handout that included a brief synopsis of the charges and responsibilities of the SAC provided for by S.B. 3 and described the SAC's working timeframe. The document also discusses the relationship between the SAC and the BBESTs. He encouraged the BBEST to draft a similar document. He also stated that the statute mandates the BBEST to consider the best available science in developing their environmental flow recommendations, but in doing so the recommendations need to be in a form which allow for practical implementation in real world scenarios.

Chairman Huston discussed reading recommendations for the group which can be found on the Texas Environmental Science Advisory Committee's website. Chairman Huston also announced that Bob Brandes would be the SAC's primary liaison with the BBEST and Mary Kelly would be the secondary liaison.

Regions C & H Water Planning Group Updates

Thomas Gooch, Freese and Nichols, Inc. and consultant to the Region C Water Planning Group (WPG), gave an update on Region C WPG status and activities.

Mike Reedy, consultant to the Region H Water Planning Group and BBEST member, gave an update on Region H WPG status and activities.

Consideration and Replacement of Committee Member Jeff Taylor

Danny Vance announced the resignation of Jeff Taylor from the BBASC. Jun Chang was nominated to take Mr. Taylor's place. The nomination was confirmed unanimously by the BBASC.

Public Comment

Danny Vance opened the meeting to public comments.

Norman Johns, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), introduced himself to the group and thanked members for their active participation in this important endeavor.

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, thanked the BBEST for taking part in the S.B. 3 process and emphasized TPWD's support of the BBEST. Kellye Rila, TCEQ, introduced herself to the group and remarked that the TCEQ will support the BBEST as well. Mrs. Rila also commented that Cory Horan would be the primary liaison between the BBEST and TCEQ.

Glenda Callaway announced that the Galveston Bay Estuary Program will hold its Ninth Biennial State of the Bay Symposium on January 12th – 14th, 2009.

Ms. Callaway also inquired what the next step would be for the BBEST. Danny Vance suggested that the BBEST organize their next meeting. Bill Espey suggested the BBEST members present hold a brief caucus after the meeting adjourns.

Agenda for Next Meeting

The next BBASC meeting was tentatively scheduled on March 5th, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the San Jacinto River Authority Offices located in Conroe, Texas. A firm date will be set after the BBEST has an opportunity to meet.

Items that may be included at the next meeting:

- Discussion on how to process BBEST's recommendations.
- Discussion of potential facilitation services for consideration of the BBEST recommendations.
- A report on proposed legislation from the 81st session of the Texas Legislature.

Meeting Adjourned

BBEST Caucus

The BBEST caucused to schedule their next meeting and elect a chair and vice-chair. No date was finalized; Cory Horan will work with the BBEST to help set a date and location as soon as possible. William H. Espey was nominated as chair and L. James Lester as vice-chair of the BBEST. The nominations were confirmed unanimously by other members and Mr. Espey and Mr. Lester accepted the positions.