

Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay  
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team  
3rd Meeting - Minutes  
March 11, 2009  
Austin, TX

**Lower Colorado River Authority  
Redbud Conference Center, Room 225  
3601 Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78703**

**Minutes**

**BBEST Members Present:**

Bill Espey (Chair), Jim Lester (Vice-Chair), Richard Browning, David Buzan, Woody Frossard, George Guillen, Robert McFarlane, Alan Plummer, Antonietta Quigg, Sammy Ray, Tony Smith, Joe Trungale, Mike Turco, Bob Brandes (SAC Liaison), Bob Huston (SAC Chair)

Copies of all the presentations made during this meeting will be available on the BBEST's website which can be found at the following location:

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_supply/water\\_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html)

**Organizational Discussion, Business Review, and Available SAC Guidance**

Bill Espey, BBEST Chair, called the meeting to order and began the meeting with organizational discussion. Cory Horan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), asked the members to review the February 11, 2009 meeting minutes and to let him know of any changes to be made.

Ruben Solis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), commented that the budget plan for the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) has not yet been approved by the Environmental Flows Advisory Group. Mr. Horan informed the BBEST that budget & reimbursement forms are available online.

Dr. Espey stated that the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held on March 4, 2009. Bob Brandes, SAC liaison for the BBEST, updated the group on the events of the March meeting and on the progress being made on guidance documents to be delivered to the BBEST.

**LCRA/SAWS Water Project - Instream Flow Study and Matagorda Bay Health Evaluation**

Leah Manning, Lower Colorado River Authority, introduced two studies conducted by LCRA and SAWS concerning instream flow and bay health and provided a CD of information concerning the studies. Bryan Cook, LCRA, gave two presentations titled "Matagorda Bay Health Evaluation" and "Colorado River - Aquatic Habitat Studies". The presentations were followed by questions, comments, and discussion by meeting attendees.

## **USGS Gage Data Discussion**

Mike Turco, BBEST member, gave a presentation "Streamflow Data Information" and provided a handout "Recent Improvements to the U.S. Geological Survey Stream gaging Program". He directed members to the USGS Water Watch website for additional information:

<http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=real&r=tx&w=map>.

## **HEFR Workshop Update**

The BBEST received an update on the events at the February HEFR Workshop. Dan Opdyke, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), summarized workshop activities, conclusions, and modifications to be made to HEFR by various BBEST and SAC members. Joe Trungale, BBEST member, spoke of his work on the base flow separation modification for HEFR.

BBEST members Robert McFarlane and Sammy Ray voiced their concerns about focusing on the hydrology rather than biology when recommending instream flow requirements. Their comments were followed by discussion amongst the BBEST members.

## **Discussion of Available Instream Flow Information and Example Application**

Joe Trungale distributed a handout and presented a presentation providing an example of the application of instream flow information.

## **Review and Future Initiatives**

Dr. Espey distributed a handout "Request for Qualifications # 580-09-20090303" and asked whether BBEST members would support similar work for the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin BBEST, totaling ~\$50,000. The group decided not to issue a Request for Qualifications and would instead use BBEST and SAC members as resources to complete the work.

Dr. Espey also distributed a handout that proposed the BBEST being split into two subcommittees, one focused on instream flows and the other on bay and estuaries. BBEST members accepted the subcommittees and remarked that Mike Turco should be assigned to the instream flows subcommittee. Bill Espey was named the chair of the Instream Flows subcommittee and Jim Lester was appointed chair of the Bays and Estuaries subcommittee.

**The next Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay BBEST meeting** is scheduled for April 8, 2009 at Dallas, Texas.

Tentative agenda items:

- Norman Johns presentation on bays and estuaries.
- Tony Smith will discuss his work.
- Mike Reedy will discuss his work.
- Presentation on Brazos River Authority HEFR Application.
- Discussion on Geographic Scope deliverable from SAC
- Discussion on topics covered at Instream and Bays and Estuaries subcommittee meetings.

**Public Input**

Norman Johns commented on the origins of Senate Bill 3 and made remarks concerning the focus of biology when making instream flow requirements.