

Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

4th Meeting – Agenda
April 8, 2009
Dallas, TX

Frontiers of Flight Museum
3911 Lemmon Ave.,
Dallas, Texas 75209

MINUTES

Call meeting to order

Chairman Espey called the meeting to order. The minutes from the March 11, 2009 meeting were presented and members approved the minutes unanimously.

Legislative Update

Cory Horan, TCEQ, gave an overview of legislative initiatives discussed at the Trinity/San Jacinto Stakeholder meeting. He also gave an overview of SB 2317 (Sen. Averitt) and SB 2328 (Sen. Hegar), which directly relate to SB3 timelines and activities.

SAC Update

Bob Brandes, SAC liaison, gave an update of SAC activities. He first mentioned the guidance document “Geographic Extent of Instream Flow Recommendations.” This is the 2nd guidance document developed and released to by the SAC to the BBESTS. He indicated that the SAC is continuing to work on HEFR modifications. A summary of HEFR modifications was distributed as a handout. He also discussed other guidance documents the SAC is working on, including the Bay and Estuary guidance and biological and water quality/nutrient overlays to HEFR.

HEFR Developments

Dan Opdyke, TPWD, gave some additional details regarding the HEFR modifications and outlined the process for future modifications. He indicated that there might be another HEFR workshop to be held in June to further refine HEFR modifications based on user input.

Briefing of Sabine BBEST efforts

Joe Trungale and Cory Horan gave an update of the Sabine BBEST activities. Mr. Trungale explained the work the Sabine BBEST intends to contract out, including the Hydrological analysis and the Ecological summarization of existing literature. Drafts of the Ecological scopes of work were distributed as examples of work they intend to have done to meet their goals.

Geographic Scope & Extent of IF Recommendations

Kathy Alexander gave an overview of the SAC guidance document entitled: “Geographic Scope of Instream Flow Recommendations.”

BRA HEFR App. System Operation Permit

Phil Price, Brazos River Authority (BRA), gave a presentation concerning how the HEFR method is being used in the Brazos River Basin.

Instream Flows vs. Freshwater Inflows

Dan Opdyke gave a presentation which explored the feasibility of comparing instream flow recommendations to freshwater inflow recommendations. This presentation covers some of the material to be included in Appendix A of the SAC B&E Guidance document currently in development.

Inflow-Pattern Approach to Estuary Evaluation

Norman Johns, National Wildlife Federation, gave a presentation discussing the major scientific approaches to estuary inflow evaluation.

Region H Planning Study

Mike Reedy gave his presentation on the results of the Region H Water Planning Group environmental flows study.

Discussion of Topics covered by B&E Subcommittee

Vice Chairman Jim Lester began a discussion of the B&E Subcommittee which met on the evening of April 7, 2009. The subcommittee discussed several items, including indicator species, localized or system-wide modeling, and how to tie physical characteristics to biological indicators, however no consensus was reached. Concepts of work to be performed will be prepared by members for discussion at the next meeting.

Chairman Espey stated that the Instream Flows Subcommittee would work on recommendations on stations and period of record to be used in the next step of HEFR analysis and its overlays.

Public Input

Glenda Callaway, Trinity/San Jacinto Stakeholder member, notified the group of the Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows Group (GBFIG) meeting to be held on April 29, 2009.

Adjourn