

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee
Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.
San Jacinto River Authority Offices
Conroe, Texas

Minutes

Call to order and Approval of meeting minutes

Chairman Vance called the meeting to order and asked for introductions from BBASC members. Members approved the minutes unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time

Update on BBEST Activities

Bill Espey, BBEST Chair, gave an update of BBEST activities and discussions from their most recent meeting and discussed items to be discussed at the next meeting of the BBEST.

Legislative Update

Ken Kramer discussed the details and status of SB 2317, filed by Averitt, explaining that the bill would push the SB3 implementation schedule back as well as transfer the authority to appoint Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committees and Science Advisory Committee members. He also mentioned a rider attached to SB1, House version, which specifically appropriated \$525,000 in FY 2010 & FY 2011 to be used for reimbursement and expenses by the science committees for environmental flows implementation.

Subcommittee Update on Facilitation Services

Chairman Vance initiated a discussion on the findings of the facilitation services subcommittee. Ken Kramer, subcommittee member, discussed likely costs and level of effort required for facilitation services. He indicated that the likely costs of facilitation services would be \$25,000 - \$30,000 and that if the BBASC were to request these services it would be necessary to find a source of funding. He indicated that the Meadows Foundation has shown some past interest in water issues in Texas and they might be a potential source, but other prospects may be necessary. He volunteered to check into funding options and report on his findings at the next meeting. The group discussed the timing for facilitation services and agreed that at this point, as the group is in a fact finding mode, facilitation services may not be necessary. But when BBEST recommendations are finalized and submitted to the BBASC, facilitation services would be beneficial at that point. The group agreed to discuss funding options through individual BBASC members at the next meeting.

LCRA study presentation

Bob Brandes, SAC Liaison to the Trinity/San Jacinto/Galveston Bay BBEST, gave an overview of the LCRA/SAWS Water Project and implementation of the bay inflow criteria. He explained that the process involved incorporating criteria into the Water Availability Model, and in doing so each flow regime is associated with time intervals which tell how to know when to release water

from the Highland Lakes in order to achieve each flow regime. A copy of this presentation is available online at the Trinity/San Jacinto/Galveston Bay E-Flows website located at: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html.

Overview of Water Rights in the Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins

Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, gave an overview of water rights within both the Trinity and San Jacinto basins. She indicated that in the Trinity Basin there are 626 water rights that authorize ~4.7 million acre-feet for diversion, and 130 water rights that authorize ~680,000 acre-feet in the San Jacinto Basin. She presented maps showing diversion points for each authorization in both basins. She broke down the types of use authorized in each basin, with municipal being the primary use. The maps also showed where no water is available for appropriation and how often *some* water is available for appropriation. Chairman Vance noted that water rights in the Trinity basin are complex because of the priority date for Lake Livingston. It was noted that base flows in the Trinity River are increasing annually and there was a discussion of interbasin transfers (IBTs) and the fact that IBTs don't usually have instream flow requirements, but do have accountability plans.

Strategies for Implementation

- **Water Permitting**
- **Reservoir Operations**

Members began an open discussion of reservoir operations, including specific examples of recent releases and the reasons for sustained releases. It was discussed that records of pass through water in both basins is maintained. Members discussed implementation strategies utilized in the LCRA/SAWS water project and how they might be applied in other basins.

Public Comment

Pris Weeks gave an update of the recently held Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows Group (GBFIG) meeting.

Agenda Topics for Next Committee Meeting

Suggested items for future agendas discussed included:

- Funding for facilitation services
- BBEST Update
- Legislative Update
- Ecology/Resources in the San Jacinto and Trinity Basins

The next meeting date is scheduled for July 1, 2009, to follow the Region H WPG meeting. Meeting location will remain at the SJRA facilities in Conroe and will begin at 1:30.