

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

5th Meeting – Agenda  
May 13, 2009  
Houston, TX

**University of Houston, Clear Lake**  
**2700 Bay Area Blvd.**  
**Houston, Texas 77058**

**MINUTES**

**SAC Update**

Bob Brandes, SAC liaison, gave an update of SAC activities, including an update of the SAC budget and availability of money for use by the BBESTs. He discussed the HEFR modification work group activities, with the most recent version of the HEFR guidance document being April 20, 2009. He mentioned a potential HEFR workshop once BBEST members have had a chance to work with the model in order that users can provide feedback on their use and results. The SAC is still working on other overlay reports and several should be issued early June, including the Bay and Estuary Inflow report.

**Legislative Update**

Cory Horan, TCEQ, gave an update of SB 2317 which would alter deadline dates for SB3 activities if passed.

**Budget Update**

BBEST Chairman Espey gave an update of the BBEST budget direction received from TWDB, and the use of the \$100,000 allocated to the BBEST for items to be contracted. He relayed that the BBEST should decide on the work to be done, develop scopes of work and associated costs, and do so in a generic way that does not specify who will do the work and the TWDB will work with the BBEST on how best to accomplish those tasks.

**Literature Reviews**

Tim Osting, Espey Consultants, and George Guillen, U of H – Clear Lake and BBEST member, gave overviews of the approaches they are using to complete the literature review currently under contract with the TCEQ.

The BBEST discussed how best to use the additional SAC money to supplement these literature review efforts and agreed that the money would be best spent by extracting and summarizing pertinent information related to environmental flows from the documents discovered under the literature review efforts.

**Geographic Scope & Extents**

Member Tony Smith gave an update of the work the instream subcommittee has done on establishing the geographic extent of the basins and the various filter methodologies they've looked at in order to define the gages used to define geographic extent, however, no

recommendations have been made at this time. The subcommittee will be meeting again on May 29<sup>th</sup> to further explore options and define recommendations to the group.

### **Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflow Study Salinity Zonation Approach**

Member Tony Smith presented his proposal to develop a freshwater inflow regime utilizing a salinity zonation approach, a study he has worked on in conjunction with SAC member George Ward, and how to relate freshwater inflows to a sound ecological environment.

### **Oyster Analysis**

Member Bob McFarlane gave a presentation discussing using an alternative approach to using Oysters as a potential indicator species to measure a sound ecological environment. He discussed oyster CPUE compared to salinity and freshwater inflows.

### **Discussion on B&E Proposals**

Vice Chair Jim Lester began a discussion of the proposals submitted by members of the Bay and Estuary subcommittee on the different approaches used to establish a freshwater inflow regime. Authors of the proposal gave brief overviews of their proposals. The group decided that the proposals needed to be refined to include budgets and deliverables; thereafter they would be redistributed to the BBEST for ranking by individual members.

### **Public Input**

Glenda Callaway, member of the Trinity/San Jacinto/Galveston Bay Stakeholder Committee, encouraged the group to continue to work together and strive for consensus on the BBEST tasks as they develop environmental flow recommendations.

Norman Johns, National Wildlife Federation, mentioned that he is continuing to work on his write up of NWF's recommendations for an inflow pattern approach to environmental flows recommendations.

### **Adjourn**