

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay  
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee  
Wednesday, July 1, 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.

**Legislative Update**

Members discussed legislation filed, bills passed, and bills not passed. No bills relating to environmental flows were passed.

**Update on BBEST Activities**

Bill Espey, chair of the committee's BBEST, gave a general overview of the BBEST's activities to date along with BBEST members Richard Browning and vice-chair Jim Lester. A clarification to the deadlines for the BBEST environmental flow recommendations was made. The correct deadline is December 1, 2009, and not November 1, 2009 as previously believed. The BBEST members discussed the scopes of work that were being developed to support the BBEST activities. Vice Chair Jim Lester discussed the BBESTs proposed salinity zonation approach to recommending freshwater inflow regimes.

**Subcommittee Update on Facilitation Services**

BBASC member Ken Kramer gave an update on the subcommittee activities exploring the potential use of a professional facilitator in deliberations over the BBEST recommendations and subsequent work plan to be developed. The main issues with procurement of facilitation services are 1) funding and 2) who would administer the contract. He noted that he was seeking outside grant funding but asked BBASC members to let him know if they could contribute dollars to support facilitation services.

**Environmental Resources within the Bay/Basin to Protect**

John Botros, TPWD, gave an overview of the biological diversity within the Trinity and San Jacinto River systems, noting that there are 113 fish species within the Trinity Basin and 91 fish species within the San Jacinto Basin. He gave specific details about species of interest and how flow and depth affect their habitat and distribution. Additionally, he discussed the mussel and benthic macroinvertebrate communities within the basins. He also gave an overview of riparian zones and their benefits to the aquatic community. He summarized by explaining how all these elements and various flow regimes can be incorporated into the definition of a sound ecological environment.

Bill Balboa, TPWD, gave a presentation on the species diversity and the economic value of organisms in the Galveston Bay Ecosystem. He discussed the economics of both the commercial fishery and the recreational fishery within the system, explaining that the commercial fishery in Galveston Bay produces 6.1 millions pounds per year with an estimated economic impact of \$25 million and the recreational fishery produces an estimated economic impact of \$1.8 billion dollars. He went on to explain the value and services provided by coastal ecosystem including wetlands and oyster reefs, and the issues and threats to the system. Lance Robinson, TPWD, concluded with a discussion of the economic and environmental impacts caused by Hurricane Ike, noting that estimates show it will cost \$340 million to replace what was lost.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

### **Agenda Topics for Next Committee Meeting**

The next meeting of the BBASC is scheduled for September 2, 2009, following the Region H Water Planning Group meeting. Potential agenda items include:

- Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction presentation
- Facilitation Subcommittee Update
- Overviews of the SAC guidance documents

### **Adjourn**