Call to order and Approval of meeting minutes from July 15, 2009
Chairman Huston called the meeting to order. Members approved the minutes from the July 15, 2009 meeting unanimously.

Liaison reports on BBEST meetings
SAC vice chair Bob Brandes gave an update on the Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST activities. He discussed the technical approach the Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST was taking to develop environmental flow regimes and the scopes of work to be performed under contract to assist the Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST with their mandate. He also noted the next meeting of this BBEST would be held on August 13, 2009, with an all day workshop of the BBEST’s bays and estuaries subcommittee to be held the following day. SAC members agreed that certain members should participate in the workshop.

Scott Hall, vice chair of the Sabine/Neches gave a brief update of the work being performed under contract for the Sabine/Neches BBEST, noting that preliminary results had been received for the hydrology scope of work and a contractor had been selected to perform the “drill down” tasks for the instream and bay and estuary portions of the basin. Norman Johns, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), mentioned that the NWF would be performing a study looking at the salinity sensitive clam Rangia cuneata, along with salinity modeling to support the work of the Sabine/Neches BBEST. It was noted that their next meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2009, to be held in Austin.

Budget Update and FY 2010/11 budget
Ruben Solis, TWDB, gave an overview of the current SAC budget and expenditures, noting that the SAC was well within their budget. He discussed the budget for the upcoming biennium, mentioning that TWDB has been working with the SAC and BBESTs to develop a base line draft budget that would allocate all dollars equally among the BBESTs. In discussing the draft budget it was noted that there will be overlap of different BBEST groups being that will be formed for other basins. The SAC discussed expectations of the BBESTs activities after their recommendations were submitted to their respective BBASCs and noted that there would likely be increased interaction between the BBESTs and their BBASCs during that period. The SAC unanimously agreed to submit the draft budget to the TWDB for approval.

Chairman Huston asked if the tier 2 basin stakeholder groups from SB3, the Colorado/Lavaca and the Guadalupe/San Antonio, had been established. Todd Chenoweth, TCEQ, noted that the nomination period for these two groups was closed, but the groups had not yet been selected by the Environmental Flows Advisory Group.

Digital Library Initiatives
Dr. David Maidment, Center for Research in Water Resources (CRWR) at the University of Texas, gave a presentation outlining the Texas Water Digital Library. He stated that the Texas Digital Library is a multi-university consortium providing the digital infrastructure to support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas. Currently there are 18 Texas Universities participating in the program. He gave an overview of the DSpace software on which the library is based and walked the group through some examples of how the library can be searched and utilized. He briefly outlined the history of the Digital Library project, noting that the current phase was to deploy the library for usage and to begin planning strategies for future funding and increased partnership with additional universities in the project. He concluded by stating that the Texas Water Digital Library could be a repository for information relevant to the development of environmental flow regimes in Texas and that some relevant information currently resides in the library.

**Finalize Biological Overlay working draft**

SAC member Jim Wiersema gave an update of the work to develop the Biological Overlay guidance document. He outlined the history of the instream biological work group and the key staff involved with the writing of the draft document. He explained that the document provides the background of the approach to apply the biological component in the development of environmental flow regimes, outlined the steps necessary to obtain relevant data, and how to organize that data geospatially. The SAC members discussed aspects of the document while staff, primarily Kevin Mayes from TPWD and Kathy Alexander from TCEQ, answered questions and responded to comments from the members while explaining the development process for each section of the document. The authors agreed to address all comments and suggestions made during the group’s discussion and provide a redline/strikeout version to the SAC within two weeks, by August 19, 2009. The SAC will then review the latest version and provide final comments by August 24, 2009 with the intent of having a final “working draft” ready for distribution by the end of the month.

**Status report on Water Quality Overlay**

SAC member Paul Jensen gave a status report on the subcommittee developing the Water Quality Overlay guidance document. An abbreviated outline of the proposed document was distributed and members discussed how the key components to be addressed in the guidance document. Members discussed areas of concern including how to address an impaired segment of the waterway, the potential overlap with established water quality standards and the 7Q2, and what to do if the recommended flow regime is significantly different from the existing flow regime. Jensen, along with the other contributors to the document, agreed to address the comments and concerns that were discussed and provide a draft version of the document for review and discussion at the next SAC meeting.

**Hydrology Workgroup activity**

SAC vice chair Bob Brandes gave an update of the hydrology workgroup activities since the last meeting. He noted that the Sabine/Neches BBEST was utilizing a contractor to test WAM runs as a part of their scope of work. BBEST vice chair Scott Hall elaborated on the subcontracting work and stated that the work should be completed by the next SAC meeting. Chairman Huston requested that the subcontractor and BBEST members working with the subcontractor present their findings at the next SAC meeting.

**Nueces BBASC organizational meeting**

Chairman Huston and SAC member Dr. Paul Montagna gave an overview the initial meeting of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays BBASC, and outlined the provision in SB3 which allows the Nueces Estuary Advisory Council (NEAC) to expand to become the
basin’s BBASC. They noted that the initial NEAC was expanded to meet the representativeness requirements stated in SB3. It was also noted that Dr. Montagna would be the SAC liaison to the basin’s BBEST when formed.

**Progress reports on Literature “Drill-down” contracts**
Chairman Huston gave a status update on the SAC contracting efforts to extract relevant environmental flows information from reports discovered in the literature review process being done under separate contract for the Trinity and San Jacinto basins. Tim Osting, Espey Consultants, who will be performing the drill down work for the San Jacinto basin, mentioned that the contracts had not been finalized at meeting time, but outlined some of the steps already taken regarding coordination with the BBESTs, the Texas Instream Flow Program (TIFP), and the SAC to begin this effort. He noted that it would be necessary to identify focal biological components, and both the subcontractors would be working with agency staff to identify these components as well as working with the Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST to get input on how to best proceed with this task. He explained that the project would cover three major facets: 1) compatibility as a template for other basins to utilize in future SB3 activities, 2) extract as much information as possible in the short time frame to complete the work, and 3) to summarize and compile all the information, specifically stating that coordination among the BBEST and the SAC subcontractors would be key. He indicated that as the work has just begun, more would be available to present at the next SAC meeting.

**Public comments**
Norman Johns, NWF, commented on the infrastructure issue the hydrology subcommittee had previously discussed with regard to implementation and noted his concern that other issues had not been discussed. Chairman Huston noted that these issues could be discussed along with the implementation discussion at the next meeting.

Ruben Solis, TWDB, noted that they would be submitting proposals for research and planning fund projects to their board for approval and asked if the SAC could provide comments on the list of projects in the proposal. He will provide the list to the SAC.

Phil Price, Brazos River Authority, made an observation that a flow regime alone had little meaning, but each component of environmental flows (water quality, biology, etc) would have a common flow component as part of each overlay.

**Next Meeting (September 9) Agenda**
The next SAC meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2009 at the TCEQ, and the following meeting will be held on October 7, 2009 at TPWD.

Potential agenda items include the following:
- Update on the Drill Down contracts
- Water Quality Overlay discussion
- Implementation discussion
- Update on Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST subcommittee activities

**Adjourn**