

**Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 10 AM – 12 Noon
Lower Neches Valley Authority, Main Office
7850 Eastex Freeway Beaumont, Texas 77708**

MINUTES

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Tatum called the meeting to order and gave a summary of the agenda and an overview of the proposed workshop to be held in the afternoon and the following day. He outlined the proposed schedule for finalization of the BBEST's environmental flows recommendations report, noting that individual discipline reports were to be completed by November 10, 2009, comments on the individual discipline reports from the BBEST members due by November 17, 2009, and final approval and sign off would occur at the November 24, 2009 meeting.

September 24 (Meeting #10) Minutes:

Cory Horan, TCEQ, presented the minutes to the group. As the group had not had a chance to comment on the minutes it was requested that any comments be sent to TCEQ for revision within one week; after that point the minutes would be considered final. The group will approve the minutes during the November meeting.

The group discussed how to address minutes of the workshop and agreed that as the final report will contain details of the group's deliberations, qualifications and uncertainties in the BBEST recommendations, minutes would only be captured for the actual BBEST meetings, and not the BBEST workshops.

Addendum to Reports of Interest: BBEST Library: <http://www.sratx.org/BBEST/Library.html>

It was noted that the BBEST Library maintained by Sabine River Authority (SRA) had been updated to include the newly produced relevant reports. The group discussed including all subcontractor work, as well as individual discipline reports, as appendices to the final environmental flows recommendation report to be completed by the group. It was agreed that the actual report would be distributed as a paper copy, with the individual documents from subcontractors and the individual disciplines would be included with the report in electronic format.

SAC Status Report

Fred Manhart, SAC liaison, noted that the SAC was set to meet next on November 4, 2009 at the Capitol Extension in Austin. He gave an update to the activities of the Environmental Flows Advisory group, noting that SAC Chairman Huston had given an update of the SAC activities to that group, and Kellye Rila, TCEQ, had given an update on the individual basin groups as provided by the group chairs. It was noted that Ed Oborny had been appointed to the SAC to replace former member Frank Heitmuller. It was also noted that the SAC guidance on the Water Quality overlay was almost complete and should be available for release as a "working draft" soon.

Update on National Wildlife Federation study

Dr. Norman Johns, NWF, gave an overview of the process and results of a study he was conducting looking at Salinity Suitability Analyses of *Rangia cuneata* and Other Characteristic species and Communities of the Sabine/Neches Estuary in order to Develop a Freshwater Inflow Regime. He discussed the period of record utilized in his analysis, stating that he had looked at the 40-60%ile range of base average, high tier pulses, and subsistence flows and compared those numbers to the HEFR generated flows at the Ruliff, Evadale, and Village Creek gages, as well as comparing the subsistence recommendations to “dry year” inflows. The group discussed his findings and noted the need to qualify/caveat certain areas of his report. The group noted that while the study and its results were not optimal, it gives the group a strong basis for developing freshwater inflow recommendations for their basin and bay system. The group continued discussion of various topics brought up during this presentation in the biological overlay discipline discussion in the BBEST workshop later in the day.

Public Comments

The BBEST thanked Dr. Johns for the substantial amount of work and input he had contributed to the BBEST process.

No public comment was received at this time.

Adjourn

The BBEST adjourned their formal BBEST meeting and would go on to work toward finalizing their tasks in the BBEST workshop to be held that afternoon and the following day.
