

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee
Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
San Jacinto River Authority Offices
Conroe, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

Chairman Vance called the meeting to order and all attending members introduced themselves.

Approval of meeting minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

None.

Resignation of James Murray/Consideration of Glynn Leiper

Since Glynn Leiper was not present at the meeting, this item was postponed.

Subcommittee Update on Facilitation Services

Ken Kramer reported that there is potential to obtain funds for facilitation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Because the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) has an existing agreement with USFWS, it would be most efficient to acquire these funds through GBF (i.e., GBF would retain the facilitator). A figure of \$30,000 would be targeted. Additional funding could come from the Legislature in the future. Chairman Vance mentioned that Kellye Rila of TCEQ would be reporting the facilitation funding needs to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). It was agreed that Ken would pursue funding through both the USFWS and the SAC.

SAC Guidance Document Discussion

Gregg Easley of the TCEQ gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the recently-approved SAC guidance document entitled "Essential Steps for Biological Overlays in Developing Senate Bill 3 Instream Flow Recommendations".

Update on BBEST Activities

BBEST chair Dr. William Espey reported that good progress was being made on the Bay and Estuary (B&E) recommendation and that consensus among the members should be achieved. However, there is a lack of consensus on the Instream Flow recommendation such that there may be two separate recommendations from the group. Dr. Espey stated that he would continue to work for consensus on the Instream Flow recommendation, but he was somewhat doubtful that the differing opinions of the data and what can be done with it could be resolved.

Work Plan Discussion

It was agreed that once the committee receives the BBEST recommendations, an explanation of the recommendations by BBEST members would be necessary. Dr. Espey gave the committee an idea of what the document might look like and mentioned that it would identify assumptions and limitations of the recommendations. He suggested that the committee may want to focus on the B&E recommendation first, and then the instream flow. It was decided that the BBEST would first present the B&E recommendation at the meeting on January 6, 2010, and the second presentation on the instream flow recommendation would occur at the following meeting on February 3rd.

Public Comment

None.

Agenda Topics for Next Committee Meeting

No December meeting is being scheduled. Explanation of the BBEST recommendations would be the primary focus of the meetings in January and February. Status updates on the facilitation funding would be an ongoing item. Mention was made of the upcoming H204Texas conference November 16-17 in Fort Worth and Sierra Club's Water For People & The Environment conference January 16 in Houston.

Adjourn