

Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)

Organizational Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 10:00 p.m.
LCRA – Eastern Maintenance Division
La Grange, Texas

MINUTES

Introductions

Committee Member Suzanne Zarling, LCRA, welcomed the group to their facilities and members of the committee introduced themselves to the group, identifying their background and interest group they represent.

Discussion and agreement on agenda

Cory Horan, TCEQ, explained that the purpose of these meetings, in keeping with the intent of the legislation, was to allow the decision making process to be put in the hands of the Basin and Bay Stakeholders. He noted that while the TCEQ drafted the initial agenda with input from various members and other agency staff, it was the group's decision to approve the agenda and address items of concern to the group. The group agreed to proceed with the agenda as drafted.

Overview of SB3 and role of the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders

Cory Horan, TCEQ, gave an overview of the environmental flows timeline and process for this particular basin and bay system, referring to a flowchart that outlined the steps mandated by the legislation. He noted that the schedule for implementation of the SB3 process did not match the dates to which the group was appointed, but that the Environmental Flows Advisory Group can revise the schedule upon request. He then explained the various duties of the committee as outlined by the statute. These include:

- Formation of a Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST)
- Review and comments on the BBEST environmental flow recommendations
- Development of environmental flow recommendations and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards for submission to the TCEQ and the Environmental Flows Advisory Group
- The Stakeholder Committee was not subject to Government Code but meeting should be open to the public
- The Committee must operate on a consensus basis to the maximum extent possible

Bob Brandes, Vice-Chair of the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee (SAC) commented in the role of the SAC and future interacting among the stakeholder committee and the expert science team, clarifying the roles of each group.

Report on funds available for Expert Science Team (BBEST) expenses

TWDB

Nolan Raphelt, TWDB, explained the funding available for the members of the BBEST to perform their work, noting that a total of \$228,000 was available to the BBEST for this Basin and Bay system. He distributed a handout which included scenarios of various BBEST expenditures based on the number and size of the BBEST selected.

Overview of environmental flows

David Bradsby, TPWD, gave a general presentation on the background, ecological function and importance of environmental flows. He discussed the various instream flow components, the definition of a Sound Ecological Environment, as well as examples of instream flow matrices and freshwater inflow recommendations developed under previous studies of the basin and bay system. His presentation will be made available on the group's website located here:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/colorado-lavaca-bbbsc

Elect Committee chair

The Committee elected both a chair and vice-chair. Ronald Gertson and Myron Hess were both nominated as the committee chair. The group voted and appointed Ronald Gertson as chair. The group also voted Myron Hess as Vice-Chair. Both Ronald and Myron accepted the positions. The committee agreed that both the chair and vice-chair will retain all privileges of full participation as a stakeholder.

Set ground rules/operating procedures

The committee discussed potential ground rules including the following:

- Organizational structure / group coordination
- Quorum/Consensus
- The committee decision making process
- Potential subcommittees and work groups
- When will public input be taken at meetings
- How will the committee communicate with the members between meetings
- Do alternates need to be appointed

The Committee agreed that members would need to designate alternates who can participate fully in their stead if the member cannot attend a meeting. Alternates must be qualified to represent the same interest group as the member. Each member will need to provide the alternate's name, a short bio, and contact information to Cory Horan, TCEQ, for compilation and distribution.

The Committee agreed that two thirds of the members or alternates (14 people) would constitute quorum. The group agreed that at least 11 of those present must be appointed members of the committee. Members are to notify TCEQ and the chairs if they cannot participate in meetings to ensure that quorum will be reached at each meeting.

It was also agreed to allow public input at the beginning and end of each meeting. Members of the public will also be allowed to participate in the committee discussions throughout the meeting so long as this does not disrupt the activity of the Committee.

An e-mail group will be set up by the vice-chair to assist with communication among members between meetings. Public comments between meetings will be collected and disseminated by TCEQ. The committee chairs will develop a draft document discussing the meeting rules for discussion and adoption at the next meeting.

Discuss nominations process for basin expert science team

The TCEQ provided a sample nomination form and draft cover letter to the members for discussion. It was agreed that a BBEST work group will be formed to address issues for consideration in forming the

committee's BBEST. The work group will host a conference call before the next meeting to develop criteria for selection of BBEST nominees. The deadline for BBEST nominations will be January 27th for discussion at the next meeting, however additional nominations will be accepted if needed. Nomination should be sent to Cory Horan for distribution to the group.

Set next meeting

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 27th at the Aqua WSC facilities in Bastrop, TX. Members also agreed to tentatively schedule the subsequent meeting for Wednesday, February 24th. Members agreed to block off the last Wednesday of each month for BBASC meetings. Items for discussion will be:

- Review and finalize meeting rules
- Finalize BBEST selection process for selection at the February meeting
- Agency members role in BBEST process