

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)**

Monday, January 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

INVISTA - Victoria, Texas

MINUTES

Call to Order

Committee Chair Suzanne Scott called the meeting to order and asked for introductions from the members and other participants.

Public Comments

Dale Duhon welcomed the group to the Invista facilities and invited them to view the wetlands center adjacent to the meeting room after the meeting. There were no other comments at this time.

Discussion and agreement on agenda

The Committee reviewed the agenda, agreed to move the discussion of committee vacancies to after the meeting rules discussion, and approved it unanimously with this change.

Approval of meeting minutes from December 15, 2009

The minutes from the previous BBASC meeting were approved unanimously.

Review of Draft Meeting Rules document

Members discussed the draft meeting rules as prepared by the committee chair with input from various members. The committee reached consensus on item one, concluding that meetings are open to the public and the agenda will be posted on the group's website 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials will also be posted to the website after each meeting. Members also discussed administrative support, agendas, and record keeping, the scheduling of future meetings, public participation at meetings, the formation of workgroups/subcommittees and their responsibilities, and the election and terms of committee chairs and vice chairs. Also discussed was how the group would define quorum, the designation of alternates, member/alternate attendance and participation in meetings, removal and replacement of committee members, voting procedures, conduct of meetings, and amendments to the meeting rules. The group discussed each area, commenting and making changes as each section was reviewed, and agreed to distribute the revised meeting rules with all comments incorporated as discussed, for adoption at the next meeting.

Discussion and adoption of Meeting Rules

While the meeting rules were not officially adopted, the committee agreed to operate on the 75% threshold basis, as proposed in the draft meeting rules, for the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion/Filling of Committee Vacancies

The Committee took up the vacancies for the Recreational Water Users and Commercial Fishermen categories. The group agreed to move forward with the candidates for Commercial Fishermen and discussed the two candidates. The group ultimately chose Kenneth Finster and approved his appointment to the Commercial Fishermen category unanimously. The committee discussed the various candidates for the Recreational Water users. Various members discussed the candidates for this category, explaining their background, qualifications, and areas of expertise. The group ultimately agreed to appoint West Warren to fill the Recreational Water User Category with a 75% approval vote of the membership.

Update on BBEST Work Group activities and Discussion of BBEST Criteria/Nomination Process

Cory Horan, TCEQ, gave an overview of the BBEST work group conference call that was held on December 28, 2009. The work group altered the BBEST nomination form to include a request for resume or CV. The cover letter was discussed and noted that each member could alter it to meet their needs if they chose to use it. The BBASC agreed that the work group would not develop a slate of recommended nominees, but rather categorize each nominee by background and areas of expertise. The primary areas of expertise were identified as hydrology (both instream and freshwater inflows), geomorphology/sediment transport, water quality, biology (both riverine and estuarine), general riverine ecology, riparian/botany knowledge, geography and land use patterns, and estuarine circulation. Knowledge of endangered species was also mentioned as an important consideration. It was clarified that agency staff could participate in the BBEST process but as non-voting members. Cory will distribute the revised nomination form, cover letter, and a document that discusses the duties and charge of the BBEST to the committee. All nominations are to be sent to Cory at the TCEQ for compilation. The deadline for submittals was set as February 1, 2010. The BBEST work group will meet after that date and categorize the nominees for review and consideration by the full BBASC at the next meeting.

Extension Request to Environmental Flows Advisory Group

Cory Horan noted that staff for the Advisory Group had been notified that the BBASCs would be considering submittal of an extension request. Committee Chair Suzanne Scott agreed to draft a letter, in conjunction with the Colorado/Lavaca BBASC, requesting an extension of the environmental flows schedule. The request would allow the BBEST to have a full year beginning March 1, 2010 to complete their work. This would allow the BBASC six months after the BBEST recommendations are due to develop their comments and recommendations.

Public Comments

James Dodson announced the upcoming "Future of San Antonio Bay" conference to be held the following day. Jennifer Ellis, NWF, asked if BBEST nominations could be submitted from outside the BBASC membership. The group agreed that this was appropriate and the BBEST nomination form and cover letter will be posted to the website and notice of the nomination period and deadline will be sent out via e-mail. Vice-Chair Diane Wassenich requested that members send in a short bio of themselves that she will compile so that the committee members can get to know one another. She also asked that members send her dates of regularly scheduled meetings that she will compile so the group can attempt to set standing meeting dates for future meetings.

Set next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at the San Antonio Water System facilities in San Antonio. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

The committee requested that at the beginning of each meeting the host make a short presentation.

Suggested topics of discussion for next meeting and possible future meetings included:

- Finalize meeting rules
- Approval of Alternates
- BBEST selection
- Discussion of how industry uses water
- Regional water issues/general presentation

Meeting Adjourn