

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 1:00 pm
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 January 6, 2010 meeting were approved with no changes.

Resignation of James Murray/Consideration of Glynna Leiper

Glynna Leiper introduced herself to the committee. Her replacement of former committee member James Murray was approved.

Public Comment

Brandt Mannchen expressed his support for the instream flow and freshwater inflow recommendations put forth by the majority group of the BBEST and urged the BBASC to use those recommendations as the basis for their own environmental flow recommendations.

BBEST Recommendations Report – Instream Flows Various BBEST members

BBEST chairman Dr. Bill Espey introduced the BBEST members present and those that will be giving presentations to the BBASC. Dave Buzan gave a slide presentation of the majority instream flow recommendation, or “Science-Based Environmental Flow Regime for the Trinity River, San Jacinto River, and Galveston Bay”, and then fielded questions from the committee and others present. Richard Browning then gave a slide presentation of the minority instream flow recommendation, or “Science-Based Conditional Phased Approach”, and subsequently fielded questions from the audience.

Review of Committee Charge and Discussion of Path Forward

The committee engaged in a discussion of the next steps necessary to move toward an environmental flow standards recommendation. It was determined that BBEST members would be available to answer questions or provide additional background material not found in the final report on an individual and voluntary basis. Ken Kramer gave an update on the prospect of obtaining professional facilitation services by mentioning that, at the request of Woody Woodrow, a proposal has been submitted to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (through Galveston Bay Foundation) for a \$10,000 grant in hopes that if the money is awarded, other entities might contribute towards the \$25,000-\$30,000 goal. Woody mentioned that he would also look for other funding sources within USFWS. It was requested that arrangements be made to have representatives from the SAC and TPWD present their respective comments on the BBEST report to the committee at the

next meeting. It was also requested that TWDB use the BBEST instream flow recommendations to make Water Availability Model (WAM) runs to evaluate impacts to water supply. Nolan Raphelt with TWDB said that he would look into the possibility of having modeling results by the next meeting.

Agenda Topics for Next Committee Meeting

The committee hopes to have presentations regarding SAC and TPWD comments on the BBEST final recommendations report as well as a report on TWDB's WAM runs taking into account the BBEST instream flow recommendations. The next committee meeting will be on February 23rd at 10:00 am at the San Jacinto River Authority office in Conroe. Future committee meeting dates were tentatively set for March 18th in Dallas and April 7th in Conroe.

Adjourn