

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 10:00 am
San Jacinto River Authority Offices
Conroe, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Vance called the meeting to order and requested an expedited meeting due to the winter weather conditions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the February 3, 2010 meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

None.

Inclement Weather Policy

Members were asked to write down their names and contact information in case future meetings have to be canceled due to inclement weather. The committee decided to use a message on Gregg Easley's (TCEQ) voice mail (512-239-4539) in addition to an e-mail notification to notify members of potential meeting cancellations. Chairman Vance and Vice-Chairman Bartos will be responsible for making any future weather-related cancellation decisions.

TPWD Comments on BBEST Recommendations Report

Cindy Loeffler presented an overview of TPWD comments on the Trinity/San Jacinto BBEST Final Recommendations Report, which were recently distributed in letter form. TPWD endorsed the Flow Regime Approach for instream flow recommendations and felt that it could be expanded to develop recommendations for major tributaries of the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers. TPWD also supported the Freshwater Inflow Recommendations and recommended that State Methodology numbers be used to fill in areas where there were gaps in the recommendations. Lastly, TPWD staff will continue to provide support to SB3 groups and provide comments during TCEQ rulemaking. A short question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

Update on TWDB Water Availability Model (WAM) Runs

Nolan Raphelt with TWDB presented their progress on evaluating the instream flow recommendations in the context of water availability modeling and trying to determine if existing and future river flows can accommodate the recommended flow targets at the selected gage locations. After describing the analysis methodology, the data used, and the gages evaluated, Nolan showed seasonal flow vs. percent time exceeded graphs for several gage location examples that compared the two BBEST instream flow recommendations (base and subsistence flows), gaged flows, and daily derived flows from WAM runs 3, 8, and 9. Next, the overbank and high flow pulse analysis was

described and a table showing pulse flow components (overbank and high flow pulse) and how often WAM run 9 flows met the flow recommendation criteria was presented. Nolan outlined areas where additional work is needed and also received suggestions for improving the analysis from committee members and others in the audience. Updates to the analyses will be presented by TWDB at the next stakeholder meeting on March 18th.

Public Comment

Norman Johns (NWF) suggested that the pulse analysis tables include some sort of measure of how many pulses came close to meeting the peak, volume, and duration criteria.

BBEST member Woody Woodrow stated that the BBEST recommendations are not meant to be prescriptive but descriptive. He would have liked to have had more time to go back and review the flow numbers based on site-specific conditions.

Committee member Glenda Callaway requested that, if possible, the WAM be run with some sort of error buffer around the specific recommendation values.

Kellye Rila (TCEQ) explained that the TCEQ will be developing rules based on all recommendations and public input received and that permits will be issued based on those rules.

Dan Opdyke (TPWD) gave an illustration of how the HEFR matrix recommendations and their attainment can be interpreted.

Agenda Topics for Next Committee Meeting

A presentation by the SAC on their comments on the BBEST recommendations was requested. An update on TWDB's WAM analysis is also expected at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Trinity River Authority office in Arlington on March 18th at 10:00 am.

Adjourn