

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

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

GBRA – River Annex, Seguin, TX

MINUTES

Introductions

Kellye Rila – TCEQ

Cory will be unavailable for a while and Chris Loft is serving as Cory's replacement today. Minutes from the April 7, 2010 meeting will not be available until the next meeting.

Roll call

Suzanne Scott – SARA

Discussion and agreement on agenda

Consensus approval of agenda.

Approval of April 7, 2010 minutes

Postponed until the next meeting.

BBEST update

Suzanne Scott – SARA

Summary provided in handouts. BBEST elected Sam Vaughn as chairman and Norman Johns as vice-chairman. Seven voting members will be considered a quorum. Three subgroups formed: instream, estuarine, and hydrology. Next BBEST meeting will be June 11, 2010. BBASC has provided information about existing studies to BBEST.

Water Usage Presentation– Electrical Generation

Sam Helmle – CPS Energy

CPS produces energy for the San Antonio area. Produces power through a variety of means: gas/steam electric, coal, nuclear, renewables, and gas turbines. The presentation provided detail on historical water use by CPS Energy and projections for future water use. Reuse of treated wastewater for once-through cooling also conserves water. Water use will continue to increase with population growth and air regulations requiring scrubbing.

Water Usage Presentation– Chemical Manufacturing

Dale Duhon - Invista

Invista-Victoria plant construction began in the mid to late 1940s. Production began in 1951. Primary water source is the Guadalupe River. Invista withdraws about 20,000 acre-feet of water per year and is permitted for approximately 60,000 acre-feet per year. About 80% is returned to the Guadalupe River. Most water is used for cooling. Groundwater is used for potable water. Evaporation is the largest source of water loss. Treated wastewater goes through a 50-acre constructed wetland before being discharged to the Guadalupe River.

Bay and Estuary Presentation

Norman Boyd - TPWD

Estuaries are semi-enclosed coastal bodies of water which have a free connection with the open sea and within which sea water is measurably diluted with freshwater. Three important components of estuaries are salinity gradients, nutrient inputs, and wetlands. Sediment loads, which are brought in by freshwater inflows, maintain habitats in estuaries. Changing freshwater inflows also alter salinity gradients within estuaries. Norman Boyd stated that mobile species, like blue crabs, can be used to determine what habitats/conditions they prefer.

Region L and N – Initially Prepared Water Plans

Brian Perkins - HDR

Region L, the South Central Texas Planning Region, is projected to need an additional 400,000 acre-feet per year by 2060. The San Antonio-Nueces River Basin portion of Region N (Aransas, Bee, and San Patricio counties) is projected to need an additional 13,375 acre-feet per year by 2060. Each plan is evaluated using a cumulative effects assessment that includes hydrologic, environmental, and ecologically based assessments. Results of hydrologic assessments were presented using flow frequency graphs to compare flows projected under the plan against baseline conditions. Baseline conditions include full use of water rights and actual effluent discharge levels (as of 2006). Results of ecologically based assessments were also presented under natural conditions (no human impact), present conditions (actual water diversions and discharges), baseline conditions, and the Regional Water Plan for 2060.

Based on the volume of questions about the presentation, the group agreed to compile a list of questions to be sent to Suzanne Scott and have HDR come back to the next meeting to discuss them.

Discussion of proposed presentation schedule

Steve Raabe – SARA

Steve discussed potential presentations to the BBASC through October 2010. Remainder of outline covers tasks that BBASC will need to do to prepare for reviewing the BBEST recommendations and developing its recommendations regarding environmental flow standards.

Group Discussion

BBASC

Members requested that information be provided on water measurement terminology, for example, acre-feet, cubic feet per second, etc. The group also suggested that a basic “Water 101” type presentation be provided. Suzanne Scott committed to coordinating such a presentation. Dianne Wassenich suggested that attending the BBEST meetings would be very beneficial for the BBASC members. Group suggested contacting USFWS regarding potential Recovery Implementation Plan for the Whooping Crane.

A suggestion was made to include a briefing on The Aransas Project v. TCEQ Commissioners, et al be included. Kellye Rila responded that the TCEQ will be reviewing its ability to participate in such a briefing due to the ongoing litigation.

Set next meeting

Where/when:

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Doc’s Roadhouse in Gonzales, Texas (tentative location)

Suggested agenda items:

- “Water 101” presentation
- Follow-up to Region L and N Initially Prepared Water Plan presentation
- Current water rights, water availability models (WAM), usage, and facilities
- South Texas Watermaster operations, activities, and procedures; the experiences of the 2008-2009 drought; and how domestic and livestock riparian water use affects the appropriative rights in the basins

How long:

Not discussed

Future meeting logistics:

Members should submit questions on the Region L and N Initially Prepared Water Plan presentation to Suzanne Scott by May 19.

Adjourn