

Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays

Basin & Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Summary of April 29, 2010 Meeting

The first meeting of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin & Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) was held on April 29, 2010 at the offices of the San Antonio Water System. The meeting began at approximately 10 AM and adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM. BBEST members in attendance included: Tim Bonner, Gregg Eckhardt, Mike Gonzales, Thom Hardy, Scott Holt, Norman Johns, Debbie Magin, Warren Pulich, Liz Smith, and Sam Vaughn. Meeting activities proceeded in accordance with the agenda prepared and posted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Official minutes of each BBEST meeting will be prepared by the TCEQ and considered for approval by the BBEST during its next meeting. Following is a brief (informal) summary of decisions made, assignments, and activities scheduled during the April 29, 2010 BBEST meeting.

- 1) Members provided a synopsis of their areas of expertise and selected Sam Vaughn as Chair and Norman Johns as Vice-Chair of the BBEST.
- 2) Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff advised that \$228,000 is the allocated budget for BBEST activities. A detailed draft budget breakdown is to be prepared by the Chair and Vice Chair, considered by the BBEST, and submitted to the TWDB and TCEQ for further approvals. Key budget allocations will include: a) Members' time & expenses; b) Technical assignments to members; c) Technical assignments to outside contractor(s); and d) support of the Bay & Basin Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC). The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) offered ongoing support in assembly of BBEST documentation of environmental flow analyses and regime recommendations.
- 3) Presence of seven (7) voting members will constitute a quorum for BBEST meetings. Alternates are welcome to attend BBEST meetings, but will not participate in any required voting.
- 4) Development of BBEST environmental flow regime recommendations will be supported and expedited by activities of three subcommittees identified and comprised as follows: a) Instream – Hardy (Chair), Bonner, Eckhardt, Gonzales, Hudson, Magin, & Smith; b) Estuarine – Pulich (Chair), Buskey, Gonzales, Holt, & Johns; and c) Hydrology – Vaughn (Chair), Bonner, Eckhardt, Hardy, Holt, Johns, Pulich, & Smith. These subcommittees will be conferring between BBEST meetings in order to develop preliminary recommendations and critical technical support as necessary to facilitate timely and informed BBEST decisions.
- 5) BBEST meetings are scheduled on June 11, 2010 (Austin) and July 8, 2010 (Coastal), and will generally occur on the second Thursday of each month. Subjects of discussion during the June 11, 2010 meeting are expected to include budget, sound ecological environment, geographic scope, and hydrology.