

April 14, 2010

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

The BBASC appointed the Bay and Basin Expert Science Team (BBEST) on March 1, 2010. Assuming that the BBASC's request to extend the BBEST deadline is approved, the BBEST would deliver its environmental flow regime recommendation to the BBASC and TCEQ by March 1, 2011. The BBASC would submit its comments on and recommendations regarding the BBEST's recommended environmental flow regime to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by September 1, 2011.

The BBASC is tasked by Senate Bill 3 to:

1. review the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations submitted by the committee's basin and bay expert science team and shall consider them in conjunction with other factors, including the present and future needs for water for other uses related to water supply planning in the pertinent river basin and bay system.
2. develop recommendations regarding environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards and submit those recommendations to the commission and the advisory group.
3. prepare, with the assistance of the BBEST, a work plan that
 - a. establishes a periodic review of the basin and bay environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations, environmental flow standards and strategies at least once every ten years.
 - b. prescribes specific monitoring, studies, and activities
 - c. establishes a schedule for continuing the validation or refinement of the basin and bay environmental flow analyses and environmental flow recommendations, the environmental flow standards adopted by the commission and the strategies to achieve those standards.

The BBASC will only have six months to perform its review of the environmental flow regime recommended by the BBEST and to consider other factors in formulating the BBASC recommendation to the TCEQ. In order to effectively accomplish its charge in six months, the following process is proposed.

- BBASC holds monthly meetings during the year that the BBEST is conducting its work.
- Spend the first part of the year gathering information and hearing presentations on the physical, environmental, institutional and water use characteristics of the river basins and bays.
- Spend the latter part of the year identifying the other factors the BBASC should consider in developing its recommendation to TCEQ. This could include developing a management philosophy or goal for the river basins and bays that

can be compared to the environmental flow regime recommendation prepared by the BBEST.

- Have the BBEST give periodic status reports on its progress to the BBASC
- Determine what, if any, technical assistance is needed to assist the BBASC in reviewing and applying the other factors identified by the BBASC to the BBEST recommendation.
- Spend the six months after the BBEST recommendation has been submitted preparing the BBASC comments and recommendations to TCEQ.

Potential topics for presentations to the BBASC include but not limited to:

- Existing and future sources of water to the rivers and bays
- 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
- Future needs for water
- Regions J, L and N regional water plans including analyses of cumulative effects on the environment of the plans
- Groundwater-surface water interaction
- Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
- Texas Instream Flow Program, state bay and estuary studies, other environmental studies
- Conservation activities such as: San Antonio Bay Partnership, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, TPWD wildlife management areas, Texas Water Trust, San Antonio River Foundation/SARA
- Science Advisory Committee resource document titled "Moving From Instream Flow Regime Matrix Development to Environmental Flow Standard Recommendations"
- What has been done outside Texas to support environmental flows
- BBASC reports from the Sabine-Neches and Trinity-San Jacinto bay and basins
- Other topics identified by the BBASC