

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

Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 10:00 am
Refugio City Hall, Club Room
609 Commerce St.
Refugio, TX 78377

MINUTES

Members Present: Suzanne Scott – Chair, Dianne Wassenich – Vice Chair, Bill Braden, Tyson Broad, Thurman Clements, David Crow, Karl Dreher, Paula DiFonzo, Stephen Fotiades (alternate for Dale Duhon), Ken Dunton, Garrett Engelking, Jack Campbell, Jay Gray, Brad Groves, Chris Hale, Jerry James, Everett Johnson, Mike Mecke, Con Mims, James Lee Murphy, Steven Clouse (alternate for Robert Puente), Scott Smith, Walter Womack.

Introductions and Public Comment

Roll call was taken and a quorum was reached. There was no public comment at this time.

Discussion and agreement on agenda

Members agreed to proceed with the agenda as drafted.

Approval of meeting minutes for August 4, 2010

Suzanne Scott announced that the August meeting minutes were not included in the packet and Cory Horan will email for approval.

BBEST Update

The members were given an update on the activities of the BBEST to date. Steve Raabe reviewed with the committee the written report submitted by BBEST Chair Sam Vaughn included in the packet materials. It was noted that the BBEST subcommittees were making progress in their tasks. The hydrology subcommittee has not yet received results from the pilot study for hydrological analysis on the five selected gage sites chosen by the full BBEST. Those results will be completed at the next BBEST meeting scheduled for September 14, 2010.

Replacement of BBASC Members Kenneth Finster and Velma Danielson

BBASC Members Kenneth Finster and Velma Danielson have submitted their resignation from the BBASC. Mr. Finster recommended Mr. Jack Campbell as his replacement. Ms. Danielson recommended Mr. Karl Dreher as her replacement. The BBASC members approved the two recommended replacements by consensus.

Municipal Water Use

- a. **City of Victoria – Jerry James, City of Victoria**

BBASC member Jerry James, City of Victoria, gave a presentation on the city's water systems. He discussed water production and treatment, the city's industrial pretreatment program, their potable drinking water system, and their surface water supply project. He noted that the original source of water came from 15 groundwater wells that produced approximately 1500 gallons per minute. In discussing the city's water supply strategy he noted the primary and backup sources and the amounts produced by each. For the city's new water supply strategy he discussed the available water sources, including surface water from the Guadalupe River, purchased water rights, off channel reservoirs and groundwater wells.

State Methodology for Estimating Bay and Estuary Inflow – Cindy Loeffler, TPWD

Cindy Loeffler, TPWD, discussed the state methodology for estimating freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries. She noted that freshwater inflows create and sustain the estuaries by carrying nutrients, and establishing wetlands. She discussed the negative effects of decreased freshwater inflows. She also discussed the benefits that healthy estuaries provide. She noted the legal background for the freshwater inflow methodology. She explained the process of developing freshwater inflow recommendations, citing the Guadalupe estuary example.

Development of Community-Based Planning around the Whooping Crane – Leigh Bernacchi, Institute for Renewable Natural Resources, Texas A&M University

Leigh Bernacchi and Chara J. Ragland gave a presentation on their project regarding the development of community-based planning around the Whooping Crane. They noted that the specific area for this project were the communities around Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Whooping Crane migration patterns. She explained the initial project goals as identifying and interview interested parties, using interview responses to identify possible approaches to community-based planning, and to bring together interested parties for an initial meeting in September using a collaborative learning process. They discussed possible outcomes of the project, including crane and coastal conservation.

Mission- Aransas Rivers – Liz Smith, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Liz Smith, BBEST member with Texas A&M Corpus Christi, gave an overview of the Mission and Aransas watersheds. She discussed habitat diversity within the watersheds, available riparian data as well as hydrologic data. She also discussed recommendations to assist with the environmental flows process, suggesting periodic riparian inventories using national classification methods be conducted, recommending that base riparian area management decisions on landscape needs as well as site-specific requirements, and the need to emphasize riparian areas in natural resources conservation policies and programs.

Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve – Ed Buskey. UT Marine Science Institute

BBEST member Ed Buskey with the University of Texas Marine Science Institute gave a presentation on the characterization of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve. He discussed the benefits of estuaries, and defined the goals of a national estuarine research reserve, noting one of the goals is to ensure a stable environment for research through long-term protection. He then discussed the overall components of the Mission-

Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, noting the physical attributes of Copano and Aransas Bays and the research components of the program.

San Antonio Bay Partnership – James Dodson, Groundswell Enterprises

BBASC member James Dodson gave a presentation on the development of an estuary management program for the San Antonio Bay and Guadalupe Estuary System, the key task of the San Antonio Bay Partnership. He discussed the steps involved in developing a stakeholder-driven management plan for the bay and estuary system. He also discussed the purpose and goals established by the partnership including to characterize status of resources and availability of information, prepare appropriate management strategies and action plans, and the implementation of projects supporting management strategies.

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program – Ray Allen, Executive Director

BBASC member Ray Allen gave a presentation on the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. He discussed the history and goals of the program, the program's geographic range, its source of funding, and the priority issues of the program. He discussed various projects the program was involved in, including habitat restoration, the Copano Bay oyster reef restoration project, tarpon tagging, and Nueces delta freshwater inflow management. Various other programs and projects were discussed.

Set next meeting

The next meeting of the BBASC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2010. The meeting will be held at the San Antonio Water System.

Suzanne Scott noted that the November meeting would be in Port O'Connor and Jim Dodson noted that the San Antonio Bay Partnership is planning a seminar around the same dates in Victoria.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjourn