

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST)**

Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, Texas

MINUTES

Call to Order and Introductions

BBEST Chair Sam Vaugh called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2010

The minutes from the September 14, 2010 meeting were approved by consensus.

Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Report

SAC liaison Jim Wiersema gave an update on the SAC activities since the last BBEST meeting. He noted that the SAC was reviewing two guidance documents: the soon to be released WAM report and the Hydrologic Methods document. Sam Vaugh discussed the WAM guidance document, noting that the document will have a role in the BBEST efforts.

BBASC Report

BBASC vice-chair Dianne Wassenich explained that the BBASC was continuing to receive presentations to educate the members on various aspects of the basin/bay system. She noted that the November BBASC meeting will be held in Port O'Connor, TX and will follow the San Antonio Bay Partnership's "Science and the Stakeholder" workshop to be held in Victoria, TX.

BBASC member Tyson Broad noted that the BBASC will begin discussion of how to address the BBEST environmental flow recommendations and incorporate the "other factors" in addition to science.

BBEST Budget Update (TWDB)

Carla Guthrie, TWDB, gave an update on the BBEST budget. She noted that the BBEST will receive an extra \$25,000 specifically to work with the BBASC in the development of the work plan for adaptive management. She also discussed the potential for unused SAC funds to be allocated to the various BBESTs. Discussions are currently underway to determine how those funds might best be used.

Discussion of Draft outline of BBEST recommendation report

Members discussed a draft outline of the BBEST recommendations report, prepared by Chair Sam Vaugh and CO-chair Norman Johns. Members walked through the various

chapters and components of the draft outline to identify missing pieces and which members might take the lead in drafting various sections of the report. The members agreed to defer to the individual authors as to how the various sub-sections are initially organized. Any comments subsequent to this discussion should be sent to the chairs in track changes format.

Vice-chair Norman Johns discussed the time frame as to how the BBEST would proceed in the coming months. He and chairman Vaughn developed a rough time line that should drive the group tasks and when they should be completed. This was discussed to give the BBEST members a better picture as to how the group should proceed to meet their objectives.

Subcommittee Report & Discussion of Estuary Work Elements and Issues

Carla Guthrie, TWDB, presented the current findings of the TxBLEND modeling efforts performed by TWDB. She discussed the calibration of TxBLEND and validation of the results. TxBLEND modeling for the BBEST will be finalized using freshwater inflow hydrology including diversions and returns reported by major dischargers and water rights owners as compiled by HDR, coordinated with the South Texas Watermaster, and provided to the TWDB. The TWDB has indicated that the changes appear to be sound. This refinement will be completed prior to issuance of TxBLEND results to TPWD and the BBEST for further analysis. After Guthrie presented the TxBLEND efforts, members discussed various considerations including characteristics of the actual salinity data available for comparisons to TxBLEND and the ability to track salinity in certain ranges for indicator species. The members decided to move ahead with the model as calibrated, asked for slight modifications to some of the comparisons of TxBLEND to actual data, and will converse with TWDB staff as necessary.

Subcommittee chair Warren Pulich gave a brief update on subcommittee assignments approved at the last meeting. He noted that the subcommittee was able to contract with the TWDB and Texas State to hire a GIS analyst. He noted that discussion of target species was still ongoing. He discussed a meeting of blue crab experts which will occur at UTMSI the day following the November BBEST meeting.

Subcommittee Report & Discussion of Instream Work Elements and Issues

Members discussed what data and resources are available for each selected site. Clint Robertson, TPWD, identified the sites with available cross-section and other data from the Texas Instream Flow Program and other studies in the lower San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers. The members prioritized the collection of cross section data for other sites suggesting initial focus on the Hill Country sites, followed by the mid-Guadalupe and San Marcos sites, and concluding with the upper San Antonio and Mission River sites. TWDB and TPWD will coordinate with the BBEST to plan sampling events at each of the sites to obtain site specific cross section data.

Subcommittee Report & Discussion of Hydrology Work Elements and Issues

Sam Vaugh discussed the recommendation of the Hydrology subcommittee as to the application of a moving average filter prior to MBFIT to best accomplish hydrographic separation. Their recommendation for dealing with daily hydropower fluctuations at 3 sites (Guadalupe at Victoria, Cuero and Gonzales) is to utilize a low pass filter/3-day moving average. Dan Opdyke, TPWD, applied this method and the subcommittee reviewed the results and found them to be adequate. Chairman Vaugh also explained how daily flows for the ungedged period of record for the site at Gonzales were derived.

Chairman Vaugh noted that the initial HEFR results for all sites are complete. The BBEST members discussed the initial HEFR matrices for the early, late, and full periods of record in order to make a decision on which period of record HEFR results would be used to begin the overlay process. He recommended that the group be consistent in using the same period of record on all gages selected. Members then discussed the merits of using the full, early, or late periods of record. By consensus, the members agreed to move forward using the initial HEFR matrices based on the full period of record. Members agreed to a 16 hour assignment to chairman Vaugh in order to start drafting a summary of the hydrologic results and decisions made, as listed in section 3.2 of the draft report outline.

Vaugh and Johns provided background information and facilitated member discussion of hydrologic time series for verification and refinement of regime recommendations. By consensus, the members agreed to task the hydrology subcommittee with drafting a scope of work to address this effort for consideration and approval by the full BBEST.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Future Meetings

The next BBEST meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2010 and will be held at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. The estuary subcommittee will be hosting a blue crab workshop the following day. The December meeting date will be discussed between meetings before a final date is set.

Adjourn