

Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

LCRA Riverside Conference Center
1405 Willow Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

MINUTES

BBASC Members Present: Chair Ronald Gertson, Vice-Chair Myron Hess, Patrick Brzozowski, Jim Dailey, Carroll Hall (after confirmation vote), David Hill, Deedy Huffman, Joe King, Frank Lewis, Teresa Lutes, Jennifer Walker (alternate for Bob Pickens), Caroline Runge, Steve Box (alternate for Andy Samson), Clarence Schomburg, Suzanne Zarling

1) Call to order and introductions

Chairman Ronald Gertson called the meeting to order. A brief discussion and review of the attendance policy occurred as several members were not present.

2) Discussion and agreement on agenda

All members agreed with the scope of the draft meeting agenda.

3) Public comments

None.

4) Approval of meeting minutes

Ronald Gertson pointed out two corrections in the subcommittee members listing under the “WAM Subcommittee” topic. The draft meeting minutes for the August 25, 2010 BBASC meeting, as amended, were approved.

5) LCRA Presentations (History, Operations, Water Rights, WAM) LCRA

Suzanne Zarling gave a brief introduction of the LCRA presentations. Karen Bondy gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “LCRA-Then and Now”, which touched on the history of LCRA, its operations, environmental stewardship, and customer relations. James Kowis and David Wheelock then gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “LCRA’s Water Operations” which covered topics such as the Highland Lakes water rights, the LCRA Water Management Plan, other LCRA water rights, pending water rights and amendments, and the Water Supply Resource Plan. Lastly, Dr. Bob Brandes gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Discussion of Water Availability Models (WAMs)” which went over the model’s development and structure, data input requirements, and simulated outputs. Dr. Brandes also discussed important features and assumptions regarding the Colorado Basin WAM and how the stakeholders could potentially use the WAM in their process.

Lunch Break

6) Stakeholder replacement for Rick Kresta

Vice-Chair Myron Hess summarized the status of the four original nominations for the recreational user category saying that two of the nominees could not serve, one could possibly serve (Commissioner Deshotels), and one is available to serve (Carroll Hall). The stakeholder replacement subcommittee recommended Mr. Hall as the replacement. Mr. Hall was present at the meeting and said a few words about his background. A motion was made and seconded to approve Carroll Hall as the new stakeholder. All members were in favor. Mr. Hall was asked to identify an alternate as soon as possible.

7) WAM subcommittee update

Patrick Brzozowski

Subcommittee chair Patrick Brzozowski briefly reviewed the charge and past meeting of the subcommittee and gave an overview of the notes (handout) from the October 18 subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee will meet again on November 23rd in Austin. The resource agencies will be presenting results of preliminary model runs and attempts to provide more user-friendly output, and will also present this information at the next full BBASC meeting on December 1st. The subcommittee hopes to have a recommendation to the full BBASC by January 2011.

8) BBEST update

Dave Buzan

BBEST Chair Dave Buzan updated the BBASC on the recent activities of the BBEST. He reemphasized the importance of the BBASC getting familiar with WAM output. He mentioned that significant field data collection efforts are underway to assist with fish habitat and riparian analyses. Analysis of flood stage locations at specific sites is also taking place. All these efforts will contribute toward the development of the technical overlays. Dave mentioned that there is money set aside in their budget to provide support to the BBASC after the BBEST recommendations are out. He offered that a draft outline of the BBEST recommendation document could be presented at the December 1st BBASC meeting.

9) Professional facilitation update

Myron Hess/Suzanne Schwartz

Myron introduced Suzanne Schwartz with the Center For Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University of Texas School of Law. She distributed a handout entitled "A Practical Guide to Collaborative Governance" and spoke about what a facilitator can do by assisting a group in reaching a consensus decision. She talked about six steps to reaching consensus which are 1) gathering information and sharing views, 2) framing issues for joint problem solving, 3) generating options to accommodate interests, 4) identify criteria to evaluate options, 5) assemble agreed-upon options into package, and 6) develop final agreement. In response to questions, Suzanne said that the work she did for the Trinity-San Jacinto BBASC was approximately \$130 per hour or \$4,000-\$5,000 per meeting, with two facilitators doing the work. She said that a facilitator can write the BBASC report, if requested. The BBASC began discussing the potential for funding a facilitator. Ronald Gertson requested that all members look into potential funding sources, with the goal of raising \$40,000. It was agreed that a solicitation letter from Ronald and Myron would be put together and sent to the full BBASC, so individuals could send it to their respective interest groups.

10) Other Stakeholder Presentations

a) Municipal Interests

Teresa Lutes

Teresa Lutes with the City of Austin gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “City of Austin Municipal Water Supply Overview”. She discussed the City’s water supplies, sourced in existing Colorado River water rights and supply contracts, and demands, noting increasing projections of population and water demand. She then described the major system components of the City’s water and wastewater treatment facilities. Teresa next gave an overview of the City’s water conservation and reclaimed water programs. Finally, she discussed the key water supply points of firm supply, water stewardship, affordability, water quality protection, and infrastructure investment and management.

b) Environmental Interests

Myron Hess

Myron’s presentation was rescheduled for the next BBASC meeting.

11) Public comments

None.

12) Next meeting date and agenda

a) When (December 1st)/Where and b) Proposed agenda items

The next meeting of the BBASC will be on Wednesday, December 1st at 9:30 am, and will be hosted by the South Texas Project (STP) in Bay City. Proposed agenda items for that meeting include WAM subcommittee report and preliminary output presentation, facilitation funding update, preliminary BBEST report outline, Myron’s environmental presentation, electrical generation presentation, and afternoon tour of the STP site. The possibility of also having a bay tour was discussed, and it was decided to possibly do that in March. January 26, 2011 was agreed on as the next BBASC meeting date, and Frank Lewis volunteered to present on free-range livestock. The January meeting could possibly be hosted at an LCRA facility in the Austin-area. February 9th was decided as the next meeting date, and then another on March 3rd, shortly after the BBEST report comes out. Members were asked to reserve the last Wednesday of the month from March through August 2011. Gregg Easley (TCEQ) will e-mail a list of the agreed-upon meeting dates to all the stakeholders.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.