

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)
Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 10:00 am
Port O'Connor Community Center
3674 W Adams St., Port O Connor, TX**

MINUTES

Members Present: Suzanne Scott – chair, Dianne Wassenich – vice chair, Bill Braden, Tyson Broad, Jack Campbell, Thurman Clements, David Crow, Karl Dreher, Paula DiFonzo, Ken Dunton, Stephen Fotiades, Jay Gray, Chris Hale, Tommy Hill (alternate for James Murphy), Everett Johnson, Mike Mecke, Gary Middleton (alternate for Jerry James), Con Mims, 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

The draft meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of meeting minutes for October 6, 2010

The minutes from the October 2010 meeting were approved by consensus.

BBEST Update

Steve Raabe, SARA, gave an update on the BBEST activities as provided by BBEST chair Sam Vaughn. He noted that the BBEST has developed a draft outline of their recommendations report and that members were working to complete individual tasks corresponding to the draft outline. The BBASC members discussed the BBEST use of derived data, as well as the calculation of freshwater inflow data. Carla Guthrie, TWDB, noted that the BBEST will be allocated \$47,000 to support the work of the BBEST and BBASC after the BBEST environmental flow recommendations have been delivered to the BBASC.

Scientific Advisory Committee Guidance – Robert Huston, Chair

Robert Huston, chair of the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee, discussed two key guidance documents that have been developed by the SAC for the SB3 BBEST and BBASC groups: the “Lessons Learned from Initial SB3 BBEST Activities” and “Moving from Instream Flow Regime Matrix Development to Environmental Flow Standard Recommendations.” He emphasized the importance of communication between the BBASC and BBEST throughout the process, particularly in the interpretation of BBEST recommendations and in workplan development. Members discussed the need to understand how the BBEST decisions are made, as well as how the BBEST defined what constitutes a sound ecological environment. Members identified options as to how they would like to see this communication and interaction with the BBEST and agreed to increase the interaction with the BBEST, primarily through the BBEST subcommittees, as that group finalized their environmental flow regime recommendations. Chairman Huston and the members briefly discussed work plan development and the associated SAC guidance.

Review of SB 3 BBASC Charge – Cory Horan, TCEQ

Cory Horan, TCEQ, discussed the charge of the BBASC as outlined in SB3. He presented a flow chart describing the steps of the environmental flows process from BBASC appointment through work plan development. He noted that the BBASC may not change the environmental flow analyses or environmental flow regime recommendations of the BBEST. He explained that the BBASC is charged with reviewing the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations submitted by the BBEST 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 doing so the BBASC shall develop recommendations regarding environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards, while operating on a consensus basis to the maximum extent possible. These tasks are to be completed by September 1, 2011.

Discussion Regarding Guadalupe-San Antonio-Mission-Aransas-Copano BBASC Charge

The BBASC members discussed and identified issues that will need to be addressed in the development of environmental flow standards and strategies to meet those standards. The members also discussed factors related to these issues that will need to be considered.

Issues identified and factors to be considered include:

- Minimum levels of freshwater inflows adequate to support commercial fisheries
- Exempted well and domestic water usage throughout the basin
- Invasive species
- Impact of flow regimes on region L water project plan yields
- How the saltwater barrier affects instream flow and freshwater inflow dynamics
- Sea level rise

SAC chairman Huston suggested that these issues be categorized as many of the issues discussed will fall to the BBEST to address and recommended that the BBASC will want to communicate these issues to the BBEST so that they can be addressed.

The members also discussed what their final report/successful completion of the BBASC charge might look like:

- Flow regime adequate to protect environmental and human needs during drought
- Balancing present and future conditions
- Better management of existing water rights
- Healthy riparian habitat
- Recognition that water is a finite resource
- Handing down something members can be proud of to future generations

Set next meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2010 in the San Antonio area.

The January 12, 2011 meeting will be held in the upper basin.

The February 2, 2011 meeting will be held in the lower basin.

Public Comment

Members discussed a “Crab workshop” hosted by the BBEST. Members requested additional information regarding details and participation in the workshop.

Jennifer Ellis, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), proposed offering field tours to members in conjunction with future meetings. The members agreed by consensus to proceed with this proposal.

Adjourn