

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

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Bay City Civic Center

201 7th Street, Bay City, TX 77414

MINUTES

BBASC Members Present: Chair Ronald Gertson, Vice-Chair Myron Hess, Dan Croft (alternate for Bruce Arendale), Patrick Brzozowski, Jim Dailey, Jim Robinson (alternate for Carroll Hall-after confirmation vote), David Hill, Dan Hall (alternate for Deedy Huffman), Joe King, Frank Lewis, Teresa Lutes, Jack Maloney (alternate for Dick Ottis), Bob Pickens, Michael Skalicky (alternate for L.G. Raun), Steve Box (alternate for Andy Sansom), Clarence Schomburg, Bob Shoemate, Haskell Simon, Buddy Treybig, Suzanne Zarling

1) Call to order and introductions

Chairman Ronald Gertson called the meeting to order.

2) Discussion and agreement on agenda

All members agreed with the scope of the draft meeting agenda. Chairman Gertson announced that he would not entertain serving as Chair in the coming year, therefore, he suggested that the election of officers be moved to the last item of the agenda to maintain leadership continuity throughout the meeting and to allow members an opportunity to consider his replacement.

3) Public comments

None.

4) Administrative Business

a) Approve Jim Robinson as Carroll Hall's alternate

Jim Robinson introduced himself and said a few words about his background. All members approved him as Carroll Hall's alternate.

b) Officer Elections (occurred at the end of the meeting)

Chairman Gertson opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Joe King nominated Patrick Brzozowski for Chair, and Haskell Simon nominated Myron Hess for Vice-Chair. Both nominations were unanimously approved by acclamation.

c) Attendance records

Chairman Gertson called attention to BBASC attendance records, provided prior to the meeting, and to the existing BBASC meeting rules which were made available at the meeting. He stated that the group's attendance policy may need to be revisited. Vice-Chairman Hess suggested changing the meaning of "excessive absences" from three total (without alternate) to three consecutive or three in a calendar year, and he provided a handout with the suggested change. All agreed to consider this proposal at the next BBASC meeting.

5) Approval of October 28 meeting minutes

The draft meeting minutes for the October 28, 2010 BBASC meeting were approved without changes.

6) WAM Subcommittee update

Patrick Brzozowski

Patrick Brzozowski reviewed the charge of the subcommittee and gave an overview of the notes (handout) from the November 23, 2010 meeting. He said that Kirk Kennedy with the BBEST is still working on WAM runs at the four sites and should have sample output to present at the January BBASC meeting. He also said that Kathy Alexander (TCEQ) has completed maps of each site. Mr. Brzozowski mentioned the discussion paper being developed by the SAC on attainment frequencies and other considerations in flow regime implementation and the importance of reading it once it's finalized. Discussion took place regarding implementation considerations and how the work of the subcommittee will be conveyed. BBEST Chair Dave Buzan stated the intent to make sure the BBEST flow regime is implementable and described in a way that facilitates the BBASC's charge. It was agreed that ample time be set aside at the next full BBASC meeting to discuss these issues and Kirk Kennedy's work. The next subcommittee meeting will be held in early January, prior to the next stakeholder meeting scheduled for January 26.

7) BBEST update

Dave Buzan

BBEST Chair Dave Buzan said that BBEST resources would be expended first to develop their recommendation, then to assist the BBASC. He stated that costs for Texas Water Resources Institute to produce the BBEST report could be as much as \$10,000. Mr. Buzan then gave an overview of the report structure. The first main component will be the instream and freshwater inflow recommendations. The second component will consist of detailed fact sheets for each site. An example fact sheet for the Colorado River at Silver was provided as a handout. The third component of the document will detail the process of how the recommendations were derived.

8) Professional facilitation update

Chairman Gertson stated that he received a good response from members for facilitation funds, and the committee has a solid commitment of \$16,500. Several additional sources may be available that would potentially increase the funds to \$18,000 - \$28,000. Teresa Lutes mentioned that the City of Austin and LCRA have successfully used a no-cost federal government option for facilitation, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). She passed out a handout displaying information from the FMCS website. Ms. Lutes said that she has contacted Mike McMillion with FMCS in San Antonio, and he expressed interest in providing service to the BBASC, though he would first have to get approval. A decision was made to form a new subcommittee to address facilitation needs and funding and report development. Subcommittee members appointed were Joe King, Myron Hess, Suzanne Zarling, Teresa Lutes (chair), and Ronald Gertson. The subcommittee will endeavor to bring a facilitation service recommendation to the January BBASC meeting.

9) Stakeholder Presentations

a) Electricity Generation

Rick Gangluff/Sandy Dannhardt

Rick Gangluff and Sandy Dannhardt of the South Texas Project (STP) Nuclear Operating Company gave a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of water use and future needs of the STP Electric Generating Station. Information was provided on the existing and planned future generating units, how and how much water is used in the generating process, STP's water rights, and environmental stewardship.

Lunch Break

b) Environmental Interests

Myron Hess

BBASC member Myron Hess (National Wildlife Federation) gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "An Environmental Stakeholder Perspective on Environmental Flows". He discussed the functions of environmental flows to maintain native and rare species, biodiversity, instream and riparian habitats, recreation, and water quality. He noted the economic impact fish and wildlife recreation has to the State, and displayed images of numerous sites throughout the Colorado and Lavaca basins emphasizing the diversity and unique considerations of each. He closed by saying that the bay and river environments need sufficient water provided to thrive under average to wet conditions and to survive during drought periods.

c) Commercial Fishing Industry

Buddy Treybig

BBASC member and commercial fisherman Buddy Treybig presented a prepared speech giving his perspective on the importance of freshwater inflows to bays. He stated that reductions in inflows over the years have changed salinities and thereby negatively affected the survival and reproduction of shrimp, fish, oysters, and crabs. He said that if more water is taken away from the natural environment, inland or coastal, the ecosystem will deteriorate and everyone will suffer. He stressed the importance of the decisions that are being considered by the BBEST and BBASC and encouraged members to ensure that the bays get the freshwater they need to prosper now and in the future.

10) Discussion of future tasks and timeline

Chairman Gertson opened discussion of this topic by way of identification of agenda items for the next meeting in January: a) report from new facilitation subcommittee, b) extended report from WAM subcommittee, c) livestock presentation by Clarence Schomburg and Frank Lewis, d) chemical manufacturing presentation by David Hill. Vice-Chair Hess reminded the group of the possibility of a bay tour during the March meeting (e.g., BBEST report presentation in the morning, bay tour in the afternoon) and a river tour at the meeting in February.

11) Public comments

None.

12) Next meeting date and agenda

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at the LCRA Service Center on Montopolis Drive in Austin.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm, followed by an optional tour of the STP facility.