

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

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 10:00 am

San Antonio Water System  
Customer Service Center, Room 145  
2800 US Hwy 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78298

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Suzanne Scott – Chair; Dianne Wassenich – Vice Chair; Bill Braden; Tyson Broad; Jack Campbell; Tim Andruss (alternate for Thurman Clements); David Crow; Roger Biggers (alternate for Paula DiFonzo); Rick Illgner (alternate for Karl Dreher); Jennifer Ellis (alternate for Ken Dunton); Garrett Engelking; Steven Fotiades; Josh Gray; Chris Hale; Jerry James; Everett Johnson; Con Mims; James Lee Murphy; Mike Peters; Robert Puente; Scott Smith; West Warren; Walter Womack

**Introductions and Public comment**

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

**Committee Vacancy**

Chair Suzanne Scott announced that there was a vacancy on the committee due to the passing of member Brad Groves. Vice chair Dianne Wassenich expressed sympathy on behalf of the BBASC. Suzanne Scott will send a letter of condolence on behalf of the committee. Cory Horan, TCEQ, discussed the process for replacement of the vacancy, noting that SB3 allows for a member to be replaced by majority vote. The group agreed to accept nominations to fill the committee vacancy. Nomination forms will be sent out for formal submissions to be sent to Cory Horan. Nominees will be distributed for consideration and a vote to fill the vacancy will occur at the January meeting.

**Discussion and Agreement on Agenda**

The draft meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 1, 2010**

The minutes from the September 1, 2010 meeting were approved by consensus.

**BBEST Update**

BBEST Chair Sam Vaughn gave an update on recent activities of the BBEST.

He discussed analysis being conducted by the three BBEST subcommittees: Instream, Estuary, and Hydrology. Members discussed various aspects of their analysis including:

- Salinity Zone approach for freshwater inflows
- Drought criteria
- Groundwater pumping in the upper basin
- And other characteristics of the basin

Chairman Vaughn also discussed the recently proposed rule standards for environmental flows in the Trinity/San Jacinto and Sabine/Neches basin and bay systems. He explained the impact of adoption of these standards and the considerations the BBEST has initiated in light of the proposed rules.

Chairman Vaughn noted that the BBEST focus is to ensure there are sufficient flows to protect a sound ecological environment. He stated that the report and analysis of the BBEST will provide the data which the BBASC will need to consider and balance in light of other factors.

The members discussed a list of factors to be presented to the BBEST for analysis to support considerations identified by the BBASC. Those factors include:

- Minimum freshwater inflows needed to protect commercial fish species
- Impact to wildlife, to include terrestrial animals dependant on rivers/bays
- Geomorphology
- Sea level rise
- Retreat of the delta

### **Discussion - Identified Factors and What Success will Look Like**

Members continued discussion from the November meeting on factors identified that the committee will need to address in the development of their recommendations for environmental flows and strategies to meet those flows. Factors identified and considered include:

- Sediment transport and impact of sediment deposition
- Impacts of wells and alluvial deposits
- Agricultural issues
- Correlation of conservation and drought management in the lower basin.
- Terrestrial/riparian biology

Members discussed the importance of the consideration of existing water rights in the development of their recommendations. Members discussed other considerations identified. The Chairman of the committee said these discussions will continue at the January BBASC meeting.

Members then focused on implementation strategies. Discussion included consideration of the following:

- Voluntary management strategies
- Donation/ purchase of unused water rights to meet environmental flow requirements
- dry lease options

### **Field Tours Organized by National Wildlife Federation**

Jennifer Ellis, National Wildlife Federation, stated that the proposed field tours will take place after the January 12 and February 2, 2011 meetings. The January and February meetings will be arranged so that the tours are scheduled for the afternoons. The members agreed to proceed in the planning of these field tours

### **Set Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the BBASC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2011. The meeting location will be determined at a later date. Items to be discussed at the January meeting include:

- Desired outcome of BBASC deliberations
- Discussion of potential assistance by consultant
- Committee vacancy
- Lower basin field tours

### **Public Comments**

Bruce Wasinger, GBRA, provided an update on the Aransas Project lawsuit against the TCEQ. Vice chair Dianne Wassenich noted that the work of the BBASC was important as the BBASC will make recommendations and strategies for conditions on future water rights, whereas the lawsuit is about water rights granted in the past.

### **Adjourn**