

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST)
Monday, December 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, Texas**

Minutes

Members Present:

Sam Vaugh, Tim Bonner, Greg Eckhardt, Mike Gonzales, Thom Hardy, Norman Johns, Debbie Magin, Liz Smith

Call to Order

BBEST Chairman Sam Vaugh called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 18, 2010 BBEST meeting were approved by consensus.

Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Report (Ward)

SAC member George Ward discussed the recent activities of the SAC. He distributed draft copies of the major revisions made to the process document SAC will use to review BBEST work products. Mr. Ward discussed what the SAC expects to be included in the BBEST reports and said that the process document will be used as a checklist by SAC. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2011.

BBASC Report (Raabe)

Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), gave an update from the December 1, 2010 Guadalupe/San Antonio BBASC meeting which included a presentation from Sam Vaugh on the various roles of the BBEST and BBASC. The BBASC also continued work on the list of issues to be addressed by the BBEST and the list of issues to be addressed by the BBASC once the BBEST recommendations are submitted. The next BBASC meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2011 and will include a tour of the riparian areas organized by NWF.

BBEST Budget Update (Vaugh)

Chairman Vaugh gave an update on the BBEST budget. He announced that the BBEST has reserved \$27,000 to assist the BBASC. Additional funds may be available from SAC and the BBEST expressed support of using such funds for Hydrologic Time Series Analyses. Members were reminded that TWDB needs expenses submitted within 30 days of occurrence.

Discussion of GSA BBEST Recommendations Report & Schedule (Vaugh)

Chairman Vaugh discussed assignments, schedules, deadlines, budget needs and whether estimated hours to complete tasks were adequate.

Discussion of Instream Work Elements and Issues

a) TIFP San Antonio and Cibolo Creek Instream Flow Study (Oborny)

Ed Oborny provided an update on the activities of the SB2 instream flow study of the lower San Antonio and lower Cibolo Creek. Five sites were chosen for intensive study; four on the San Antonio River and one on Cibolo Creek. Mr. Oborny distributed and discussed the instream flow study preliminary draft results and data memorandum. Final recommendations were not included in the report, however, they will be available for the BBASC. Information, data and the draft report will be available on the BBEST FTP site.

b) Status Report on Cross-Section & Habitat Suitability Analyses (Hardy, TPWD)

Thom Hardy currently working on the cross-sectional data analysis and expects to have analysis completed the first week of January.

Kevin Mayes reported that TPWD is developing envelope curves for habitat guilds to be used in calculating weighted usable area. This information will be provided to Thom Hardy within two weeks.

c) Biological Overlay (Hardy, Bonner)

Thom Hardy and Tim Bonner presented an update on the biological overlay and discussed the need for an additional 50 hours each to complete the task.

d) Water Quality Overlay (Eckhardt)

Gregg Eckhardt stated that the team used data from 32 sites close to or at 16 gages, and 7 water quality parameters in the water quality analysis. The initial analysis indicates that water quality is not a problem and that flow does not drive water quality in the system. Chairman Vaugh suggested the team focus further analysis on the lower flows and the summer season (June – September).

e) Geomorphology Overlay (TWDB)

Nolan Raphelt presented an overview of the geomorphic overlay and said that TWDB will need daily time step data to run an analysis. Time series data will be provided to the TWDB in approximately one month.

f) Riparian Vegetation Overlay (Smith)

Liz Smith presented an update on the components of the Riparian vegetation overlay section of the report. She discussed questions and issues still outstanding and requested additional clarification so that the document can be completed and submitted to the BBEST members for review.

g) Future Activities and Deliverables

- TPWD will deliver the habitat suitability analysis within 2 weeks
- BBEST to complete time series data within one month
- BBEST to further evaluate water quality during low flows and summer months

Discussion of Hydrology Work Elements and Issues

a) Time Series Analyses (Vaugh)

The time series analyses will be contracted out to Kennedy Resources to perform six scenario simulations. BBEST needs to provide the details for each scenario and consensus on the proposed project scenarios will be obtained via email.

b) Structure of Instream Flow Regime Recommendations (Vaugh)

Chairman Vaugh led the discussion to refine the structure of instream flow recommendations for the consultant. Members decided that subsistence flows should vary with the season, base flows should be subdivided into three levels, and initial analysis of high flow pulses will include multiple levels. Several alternatives for determining hydrologic conditions were discussed and Chairman Vaugh will submit the alternatives to members for a decision via email. The hydrology subcommittee will schedule a conference call to discuss the conditions.

Future Meetings

January 20, 2011 at the GBRA office in Seguin.

February 3, 2011, location to be determined

February 17, 2011, location to be determined

Public Comment

Tyson Broad suggested that the BBEST document the justification for the scenario analyses so it is not perceived that BBEST has undertaken tasks assigned to the BBASC. Kevin Mayes suggested the possibility that the BBEST could consider riparian system indicator species.

Adjourn