

**MEETING OF THE NUECES RIVER AND CORPUS CHRISTI BAY AND
BAFFIN BAY BASIN AND BAY AREA STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE
(NUECES BBASC)**

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

**Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center
1619 Garner Field Road in Uvalde, Texas
January 19, 2011**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Con Mims. The agenda was approved with the combining of Items 2 and 3.

Discussion occurred regarding the status of agency representatives as voting members of the Committee. Agency representatives are on the Committee as a result of their status on the Nueces Estuary Advisory Council (NEAC). Agencies included are the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Water Development Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and General Land Office. Herman Settemeyer indicated that TCEQ would not be a voting member, but would ask management for an answer. The other agencies are going to check and report back at the next meeting.

The status of Committee members was addressed. Bobby Dullnig, Charlie Alegria, Foster Edwards, and Ben Vaughan have resigned. No response was received from Bill Klepac, Mike Petter, Ray Burdette, or Harry Schulz. The committee voted to accept the resignations and to consider those that did not respond as having resigned. The Committee also approved the nomination of Don Roach to replace Jim Naismith. Jim Naismith will be the alternate for Don Roach. Additionally, the Mayor of Mathis has changed and thus is not currently a voting member until approved. The Committee approved the nomination of Joel Pigg to replace Lee Sweeten (Manager, Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District) and the nomination of John Adams to replace Brian Nicolau (Environmental Interests) on the Committee.

The membership roll call established a quorum for the meeting.

No action was taken on the minutes from the last meeting.

Sky Lewey (Nueces River Authority) gave a presentation of Riparian Zone areas. Ms. Lewey discussed riparian areas along rivers and creeks, properly functioning riparian areas, issues associated with changing channel conditions, roles of vegetation, and the down cutting and widening of stream channels. Ms. Lewey discussed the workshops that have and will be conducted on these issues and their attempts to work with landowners to help achieve healthy riparian areas along streams.

Sam Vaughn, chair of the Nueces BBEST, gave a presentation on the activities of the science team. The BBEST has three subcommittees – Hydrology, Instream, and Estuary. The Hydrology subcommittee is looking to establish flow recommendations at 21 stream gage locations within the basin. The large variations in basin geographic scope, the HEFR model outputs, the division of flows (base flows/pulse flows), seasonal flow groupings, calculations of flows (from subsistence to overbanking), frequency of flows, and then the correlation of flows to biology was

discussed. The Instream subcommittee is focusing on overlays of water quality, sediment, and riparian data. The Estuary subcommittee is focusing on overlays of focal species, estuarine inflows, salinity variations, and nutrients. The subcommittee is working through whether the current estuary conditions represent a “sound ecological environment”. Mr. Vaugh discussed the conversion of flow regimes into permit conditions.

Mr. Vaugh indicated the BBEST is required to use the best available science in coming up with their recommendations. Their report is due March 12, 2012 but they hope to have it by late 2011. The Stakeholder Committee will then have six months to review and provide comments.

Mark Wenzel (TWDB) gave a presentation on the geomorphology overlay as used in the BBEST analysis. The sediment transport and how rivers adjust to flow and sediment was addressed. The Sediment Analysis Model (SAM) which is used to estimate sediment transport and effective transport was discussed. The model is used to make future projections and predictions regarding sediment changes related to water changes.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2011 in Corpus Christi, Texas.