

Rio Grande, Rio Grande Estuary, and Lower Laguna Madre Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)

**Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Transportation Center
Weslaco, Texas**

Minutes

Introductions

The BBASC members introduced themselves and provided information on their background and affiliations.

Overview of SB3 and role of the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders

Cory Horan, TCEQ, discussed Senate Bill 3, the environmental flows program, and the charge of the basin and bay area stakeholder committee (BBASC). He noted that the group was to establish a basin and bay expert science team that will:

- Develop environmental flow analyses and a recommended environmental flow regime
 - Consider all reasonably available science
 - Collaborative process designed to achieve consensus
- Submit those recommendations to the BBASC, the TCEQ, and the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG).

In discussing the role of the BBASC he noted:

- The BBASC is to establish their BBEST by March 1, 2011
- The BBASC will review the BBEST recommendations and will consider them in conjunction with factors beyond just science and
- The BBASC must submit its comments on and recommendations regarding the BBESTs recommendations by September 1, 2012

He also noted that staff from the resource agencies, TPWD, TWDB, and TCEQ, were available to provide both technical and administrative support to both the BBASC and BBEST.

Mr. Horan also discussed the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee, noting that their role was to provide guidance and direction to the state's BBESTs.

Members questioned the geographic scope and it was confirmed that the group would need to consider in their evaluations portions of the Nueces-Rio Grande coastal basin, including the Arroyo Colorado.

Discuss nominations process for Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST)

Mr. Horan discussed the role of the BBEST, noting their charge to develop environmental an environmental flow analysis and an environmental flow regime using the best available science.

The members requested that TCEQ provide a nomination form for BBEST candidates that will include the following requests for information:

- Does the candidate serve on other BBESTs
- Discussion of the candidate's experience and background as it relates to environmental flows
- Discussion of the candidate's knowledge of the Rio Grande system
- Candidate affiliation

The TCEQ will develop and distribute a BBEST nomination form, as well as a solicitation cover letter that members can use/revise as they see fit. The group agreed that solicitations for BBEST candidates should be published to the group's website.

Nominations for BBEST candidates will be accepted through Friday, February 11, 2011 at which point the TCEQ will provide a matrix of the BBEST nominees that reflects their areas of expertise as it relates to the development of environmental flows. The members will select their BBEST at the February meeting.

Member Michael McCulloch proposed that Texas A&M Agrilife be considered as a BBEST candidate.

At the February meeting members should be prepared to speak to the background and qualifications of individuals which BBASC members submit for BBEST consideration.

Elect Committee chair

After discussion the members nominated Tony Reisinger as committee chair and David Crum as committee vice-chair. These nominations were approved by consensus.

Set ground rules/operating procedures

The TCEQ will distribute draft meeting rules for review and consideration at the February 2011 meeting.

Set next meeting

The next BBASC meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011 at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Transportation Center located in Weslaco, Texas. Future meeting locations will be evaluated.

Potential agenda topics discussed include:

- Presentation by member of the Science Advisory Committee
- BBEST review and selection
- Formalize meeting rules
- Regional water planning needs
- Agency staff presentation

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time