

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

Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.  
Texas Baptist Encampment, Roberts Conference Building  
Palacios, Texas

## **Meeting Minutes**

**BBASC Members Present:** Chair Patrick Brzozowski, Vice-Chair Myron Hess, Bruce Arendale, Bob Colura (alternate for Jim Dailey), Ronald Gertson, Carroll Hall, David Hill, Deedy Huffman, Frank Lewis, Jeff Fox (alternate for Teresa Lutes), Jack Maloney (alternate for Dick Ottis), Bob Pickens, L.G. Raun, Caroline Runge, Andrew Sansom, Clarence Schomburg, Bob Shoemate, Haskell Simon, Buddy Treybig, Suzanne Zarling

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### **1) Call to order and introductions**

Vice-Chairman Myron Hess called the meeting to order. Chairman Patrick Brzozowski joined the meeting later.

### **2) Discussion and agreement on agenda**

Myron Hess gave an overview of the day's agenda. No additional items were added.

### **3) Public comments (limit 3 min.)**

None.

### **4) Administrative business**

#### **a) Approval of February 17 meeting minutes**

The February 17, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### **5) Subcommittee updates**

#### **a) Facilitation arrangements**

**Hess**

Myron Hess reported that the facilitation contract is still being reviewed by the respective parties, National Wildlife Federation and UT Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution. He stated that some of the contract funding has come in, but he is still working on collecting the rest of the pledges. One of the facilitators, Suzanne Schwartz, stated that she and her co-facilitator, Margaret Menicucci, are starting to work with the BBASC's facilitation steering committee. They will soon be setting up phone interviews with individual BBASC members via e-mail. The interviews should each last around 30-45 minutes.

#### **b) Report Subcommittee**

**King**

##### **i. Meeting with TCEQ**

In Joe King's absence, Myron Hess updated the group on the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of a subset of BBASC members with TCEQ regarding the BBASC's task of developing their recommendations. Myron relayed that the TCEQ is

looking for a clear approach on implementation of the recommendations, something that can be put into a water right permit. He also said that the TCEQ wants to see the rationale for the recommendations laid out clearly. The TCEQ communicated that there is no preferred approach to developing recommendations and that the BBASC has the latitude to go about it as they best see fit. Kathy Alexander with TCEQ said at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that she would be available to provide feedback to the BBASC as needed.

## **ii. Formation of subcommittee**

Myron mentioned that Joe King was willing to head-up the report subcommittee. Myron was reluctant to go forward with the formation of the subcommittee in Joe's absence, so the BBASC agreed to take it up at the next meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Myron did say that, in addition to Joe, Teresa Lutes, Suzanne Zarling, Andy Sansom, Caroline Runge, and himself were willing to serve on the subcommittee.

## **6) BBEST Recommendations Report presentation**

**Buzan**

BBEST chairman Dave Buzan briefly discussed the different ways to obtain the final BBEST recommendations report. It was announced that the report would be posted to the group's web page on the TCEQ website. Dave reiterated the BBEST charge and gave an overview of the report's organization. He then spent the majority of the time going over selected portions of the different sections of the report to give members a feel for the type of information provided in each section. Dave mentioned that the BBEST followed SAC guidance regarding the relationships of the different technical disciplines to flow. After the report presentation and a question and answer session, BBASC members discussed what forum might be best to ask questions of the BBEST as they are reading over their report. It was agreed that the Google e-mail group would be used to post questions and receive answers.

## **7) Public comments (limit 3 min.)**

Buddy Treybig distributed to the group a Galveston Bay Foundation handout on behalf of Trinity-San Jacinto BBASC member Tracy Woody entitled "Proposed Freshwater Inflows Rule is a Threat to Galveston Bay Oysters". With regard to the Matagorda Bay system, Buddy stated that inflows can't stay the same, and that bay productivity is declining. He doesn't believe that the system represents a sound environment and can back that up with his business records (oyster harvests).

## **8) Next meeting date and agenda**

### **a) When (March 30)/Where**

The next BBASC meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the board room of LCRA in Austin.

**b) Proposed agenda items in addition to facilitated agenda**

Proposed agenda items for the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting include: Senate Bill 3 funding issues for the next fiscal year (none currently allocated in proposed state budget), distribution of existing BBEST funds for BBASC support, geomorphology discussion (members to notify chair of any other subject areas needing further attention), facilitation schedule beyond next meeting, review of questions and answers regarding BBEST report (Gregg Easley with TCEQ will compile and categorize questions), and formalize the report subcommittee.

**c) Schedule for subsequent facilitated meetings (April 27, May ? and 25, June ? and 29, July 27, August ?)**

The group discussed several meeting dates for the months leading up to August. It was decided that the facilitators would set up a Doodle poll to enable members to indicate their availability on potential meeting dates. The facilitators will work with the chair and vice chair on the pool of potential dates, and then the group will be notified by e-mail of when the Doodle poll is up and how to fill it out.

**9) Lunch and bay biology presentation by Leslie Hartman (TPWD)**

TPWD Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader Leslie Hartman gave a PowerPoint presentation to the group on Matagorda Bay. Leslie described the extent of the Colorado-Lavaca watershed, the relative size of the Matagorda-Lavaca Bay system in relation to the other Texas estuaries, the volume of monthly inflows to the bay and their sources, the transitional nature of the soil and climate zones, the human history, the physical alterations over time, industrial influences, and the value of the commercial and recreational fisheries. She then talked about some of the things that would be observed on the bay field tour including types of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and diversity of vegetation and wildlife. Leslie concluded by discussing aspects of bay ecology and the influence of freshwater inflows and thereby salinity on the development and distribution of particular estuarine species.

**10) Afternoon tour of Tres Palacios Bay**