

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

TCEQ Region 13

14250 Judson Rd., San Antonio TX 78233-4480

March 29, 2011 1:00

MINUTES

Members Present (or teleconferenced): Tony Reisinger, Chair; David Crum, Vice Chair; Rick Guerrero; Wayne Halbert; Michael McCulloch; Robert Potts; Joe Barrera; Sonia Lambert; Scott McWilliams; Arturo Rodriguez; and Sonny Hinojosa

Introductions

Chairman Tony Reisinger welcomed members to the meeting. Roll call was taken and a majority of the members were present. Since rules had not been adopted, a quorum was not needed to proceed with any decision making. Chairman Reisinger asked those members present to introduce themselves and state what interest group they represented.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of February 28, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 28, 2011 meeting were approved by consensus.

Science Advisory Committee Remarks – Bob Huston

Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairman Bob Huston presented an overview of the SB3 environmental flows process and the role of the SAC. He mentioned the SAC liaisons assigned to each BBEST and the guidance documents developed for technical support. For the Rio Grande BBESTs Bob Brandes will be the primary and Mary Kelley will be the secondary liaisons. He discussed the resources provided by State agencies available to the group and funding which may be limited in the next fiscal year. Chairman Huston talked about the charge of the BBEST and BBASC, and the deliverables that will be developed.

Environmental Flows 101 – Jim Tolan, TWDB

Jim Tolan, TWDB, presented an overview of the water resources of Texas. He explained the importance of environmental flows and the efforts taken to protect them. He talked about how the components of a healthy environmental flow regime relate to the charge of the BBEST and BBASC. He discussed the components of instream flow and the impacts of each component on the sound ecologic environment of the rivers, bays and estuaries.

USGS Projects Overview – Mark Null, USGS

Mark Null, Office Chief of the USGS South Texas Program Office, made a presentation on the USGS, a federal science organization created to provide scientific information on the health of the environment through monitoring and numerous cooperative studies. He discussed the

stream gage program in Texas and the historical data that is available. He presented several studies the USGS has undertaken with other federal, state and local agencies within the state to show the type of support available to the group.

Formalize Ground Rules/Operating Procedures

Members discussed revisions to the rules and operating procedures that were previously distributed. The motion to adopt the rules and procedures as amended per discussion, was made and seconded. The motion was passed.

Other Discussion Items

Vacancies: Cory Horan, TCEQ, informed the committee that member Roy Rodriguez, representing municipalities had resigned. He explained that vacancies could be filled by majority vote of the remaining members and suggested that members review the BBASC candidates not selected which represent municipalities. Members agreed to this approach and Mr. Horan will forward to members the other candidates for selection and formal approval at the April meeting.

BBASC representation at BBEST Meetings: In response to a question from the members, Mr. Horan explained how the BBEST committee will proceed and encouraged interested members to attend BBEST meetings to gain understanding of the processes used and be prepared to proceed once the BBEST report is submitted. Chairman Reisinger stated that he planned to attend the Lower BBEST meetings and Vice Chair David Crum planned to attend the Upper BBEST meetings to relay any pertinent developments to the BBEST.

BBEST/BBASC Budgets: Rubin Solis, TWDB, stated that the Upper and Lower BBEST will need to determine how the \$148,000 available funds will be divided among the two groups.

Set Next Meeting

Cory Horan stated that the first meeting for each of the BBEST groups will likely be at the end of April. The next BBASC meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 in Austin. Members will be notified with the time and location.

Proposed Agenda Items:

- Presentation by Dr. Michelson of the Research Station in El Paso
- Presentation by the Coastal Fisheries on the Productivity of the Estuarine Areas of the Rio Grande
- Presentation on Mexico's Instream Flow Regulations on the Rio Grande
- Presentation on the Arroyo Colorado, programs and ecology

Adjourn