

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)**

Monday, August 29, 2011

New Braunfels Utilities Service Training Center
355 FM 306
New Braunfels, Texas 78131

MINUTES

Members Present: Suzanne Scott, Chair; Dianne Wassenich, Vice Chair; Richard Fritz (for Everett Johnson); Hope Wells (for Robert Puente); Kim Stoker; Thurman Clements; Jay Gray (for David Crow); Josh Gray (for Jay Gray); Paula DiFonzo; Karl Dreher; Stephen Fotiades; Chris Hale; Tyson Broad; Jerry James; Walter Womack; James Lee Murphy; Mike Mecke; Mike Peters; Con Mims; Jack Campbell; Garrett Engelking; Bill Braden; James Dodson (for Ken Dunton); and Jennifer Ellis.

I. Introductions:

Roll call was taken and a quorum was reached.

II. Public Comment:

Cory Horan, TCEQ announced that he had received numerous public comments via email urging the BBASC to consider the freshwater inflow needs of the bay and estuaries. He added that the emails would be entered into public record as an attachment to the minutes of today's meeting. Chair Suzanne Scott noted that if time permits, a few of the comments would be read at the end of the meeting.

III. Discussion and Agreement on Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the July 18th and 19th, 2011; July 28th, 2011; August 2nd and 3rd, 2011; and August 16th, 2011 Meetings

Members agreed to consider the above minutes as well as the minutes for today's meeting at the October work plan meeting. Members chose not to include draft minutes in the final report. Remaining meeting minutes will be appended to the final report once approved.

V. Discussion, Appropriate Action Regarding the Environmental Flows Standards and Strategies Recommendations Report from the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (GSA BBASC)

Chair Scott presented an overview of the efforts of the Final Report Subcommittee consisting of Chair Scott, Vice Chair Dianne Wassenich, Paula DiFonzo, Stephen Fotiades, Jennifer Youngblood, Jennifer Ellis, Josh Gray, and Doris Cooksey. Also in attendance were Tyson Broad, Walter Womack, James Murphy, Steve Raabe, Brian Perkins, BBEST Chair Sam Vaughn, Erin Newberry and Brian Mast. She stated that comments on the draft report had been received and the suggested edits were entered into a "track changes" document distributed prior to the meeting.

Chair Scott reviewed the charge of the BBASC. Members went through the clean version of the draft document, section by section; discussed the additions and revisions made by the

final report subcommittee for comment and approval.

Table of Voting Results

Members voted on whether to include a table showing the results of the vote taken for each recommendation in the final report. Members APPROVED the inclusion of the table.

Signatures for Final Report

Members considered whether to include signatures of all stakeholders on the final report.

Results of Initial Vote: 4R 20G

Members considered allowing the Chair and Vice Chair of the BBASC sign for the Stakeholders.

Results of Initial Vote: 6R 18G

Members discussed the intent of the signatures to the report and whether the narrative should be changed so as not to imply full agreement with the report. Members postponed any further discussion until later in the meeting.

Acknowledgements

Members considered the addition of an acknowledgement page to reflect the efforts and financial support of entities and individuals outside the BBASC, and to recognize Brad Groves, who passed away during his term as a member. Members APPROVED the inclusion of acknowledgement page.

Table of Contents

Chair Scott discussed the significant changes made to the Table of Contents. She noted that explanations of the terminology used (subsistence flow, base flow, and high flow pulses, etc.) were moved forward in the report so that those terms would be defined prior to use in the report.

Appendix

Members AGREED not to include the DRAFT minutes not yet considered for approval and a notation will be added to the transmittal letter stating the DRAFT minutes will be reviewed and approved at the October meeting.

Chair Scott stated that an Appendix I was added to address the comments and questions submitted to TCEQ by GBRA regarding the BBEST report. The BBEST responses to these comments will be included as well.

Chair Scott also discussed the following additions:

- Narrative discussion the issues addressed by the BBASC before receipt of the BBASC report.
- An additional reference map showing the basins, areas of interest, etc.

Section 1.2 (GSA BBASC), Para.1

Members agreed to delete “a fair and equitable balance of” from the description of interest groups.

Section 2.2 Surface Water Rights

Members asked to clarify that water rights listed equal or exceed 20,000 acre-feet.

Section 3.0 Development BBASC Recommendations

Members discussed changes made throughout the section and the expansion of 3.1.4. *GSA BBASC Responses and Requests on the GSA BBEST Report.*

Section 3.1.4

Bullet 2: Members requested the addition of Kerrville to the list of monitoring locations.

Members requested an additional bullet to address that the BBASC commissioned the time series analyses to address interest in how often the BBEST criteria would be met with respect to freshwater inflows to the estuary. Members acknowledged that further detail is located in Section 3.3.

Section 3.2 Consideration of Present and Future Water Needs Related to Water Supply Planning

Members requested that the narrative reflect that all data referenced is 2007 so that any comparison would be relative to a common time frame.

Section 3.2.1 Regional Economies Dependent on Water

Members discussed the reference to the economic data since it was not finished in time to present to the full BBASC and as referenced in the narrative there was no reference to the economic impact to the fishing industry.

Members AGREED to the following

- To include “While these three economic subsectors represent about one quarter of one percent of the regional economy, they are locally quite significant.” in Section 3.2.1 of the final report.
- To move power generation under “direct uses” instead of “less direct uses”.

Section 3.2.3 Regional Water Plan Strategies and Costs

Members AGREED to add to the 2nd paragraph: “As each of these water management strategies relies on existing surface water rights may not require a new appropriation of surface water, it is assumed by the BBASC that such strategies will not be affected by environmental flow standards adopted pursuant to SB3.”

Section 3.3.1.2 Baseline Simulation

Table 3.3-2: Members discussed the need to reference definitions of the acronyms used in the tables either by including the definitions or referencing Appendix D for further detail. Members decided to add a footnote “Terminology regarding the estuary recommendations are further defined in Appendix E2 of this report and throughout the BBEST Recommendation Report”.

Section 3.3.1.3 Initial Simulations for Large-Scale Firm Yield Projects

P. 49, last paragraph: After Figure 3.3-7, the sentence was corrected to read “no instream flow criteria and three actual instream environmental criteria were applied to both the *Mid Basin Project* and the San Antonio River Project.”

Additional Analysis

P. 70, below Table 3.3-19: Members decided to change “best available science” to “best available equations and data” in the following sentence to read: “In support of the analyses performed by members of the GSA BBEST Estuary Subcommittee, Sam Vaughn of the GSA

BBEST used best available equations and data to perform simple quantitative analyses estimating potential effects of changes in freshwater inflow on oyster harvest in the Guadalupe Estuary.”

P. 70, Bullet “d”: Members decided to add “Equations show” each of the scenarios...

Members suggested substituting “water supply” for “human needs” throughout the document to address human economic needs when expressing Human vs. environmental needs.

P. 67, last bullet: Members changed text to read “a change in the attainment performance”

Section 4.1.1.4 High Flow Pulses

Bullet “d”: Members decided to change “peak” to “exceeding the specified peak, Qp, trigger value, equivalent to the specified peak value, Qp, in the environmental flow standards.”

Section 4.1.2 Guadalupe River at Comfort

P. 84, Bullet “d”: Members discussed the following phrase which was used in several gage recommendations, “Recognition that limiting water available for diversion or impoundment in upstream areas preserves water available for diversion and impoundment in downstream areas.” Members AGREED to remove bullet “d” from this gage.

Section 4.1.3 Guadalupe River near Spring Branch

P. 86, Bullet “d”: Members discussed the following phrase which was used in several gage recommendations, “Recognition that limiting water available for diversion or impoundment in upstream areas preserves water available for diversion and impoundment in downstream areas.” Members AGREED to remove bullet “d” from this gage.

Section 4.1.4 Blanco River near Wimberley

P. 88, Bullet “d”: Members discussed the following phrase which was used in several gage recommendations, “Recognition that limiting water available for diversion or impoundment in upstream areas preserves water available for diversion and impoundment in downstream areas.” Members AGREED to remove bullet “d” from this gage.

Section 4.1.6 Plum Creek at Luling

P. 92, Sentences were added to address water quality and to state that the BBASC did not discussion or address those issues.

Section 4.1.7 Guadalupe River at Gonzales

Chair Scott noted that the BBASC recommendation by vote was documented in the section for this gage as well as additional language added on *P. 96, last paragraph under 4.1.7:* “In order to balance environmental and human needs, the 10% dedication to environmental flows as a permit condition was adopted by the BBASC in lieu of a three-tier base flow structure during Fall and Winter for Guadalupe River at Gonzales, Guadalupe River at Cuero, and Guadalupe River at Victoria. A single tier base flow was recommended for the fall and winter.”

Members agreed to add “*adopted by a vote of 19 to 3*”, in the above sentence.

Section 4.1.8 Sandies Creek at Westhoff

Members noted that the order of placement of this gage was changed due to geography.

Section 4.1.9 Guadalupe River at Cuero

Members noted that the language used for Guadalupe River at Gonzales should be applied to this gage.

Section 4.1.10 Guadalupe River at Victoria

Members noted that the language used for Guadalupe River at Gonzales should be applied to this gage.

San Antonio Basin Gage Sites

Members reviewed the specified sites located in the San Antonio Basin and discussed the revisions proposed by the subcommittee. Revisions were accepted with minor clarifications.

Section 4.2 GSA BBASC Recommendations for Estuary Freshwater Inflow Standards

Members were presented with the latest changes made to the draft report prior to the meeting.

Section 4.3.2 Ten Percent Dedication to Environmental Flows (10% Rule)

Members discussed the use of the word “assuming” with respect to TCEQ’s means of dedicating water to the estuary. Members considered using “BBASC recommends TCEQ provide”.

Results of Initial Vote: 2R 22G

Suspension of Consensus

Members decided that a consensus could not be reached and proposed a vote to invoke the suspension of consensus to allow the group the ability to move forward with agreement of 75% of the membership (19 members). Members **AGREED** to suspend consensus by the following vote:

Initial Vote for Suspend Consensus: 0R 24G

Members **APPROVED** the above proposal which will also apply under Section 4.4.4 by the following vote:

Second Vote on the language change: 2R 22G

Section 4.4.2 Additional Support and Funding for TCEQ South Texas Watermaster Program

Members voted on whether to include the GSA BBASC recommends that funding for the Watermaster program be increased to accommodate the additional manpower and tools that will be necessary to support an increase in expected workload.

Results of Initial Vote: 2R 22G

Suspension of Consensus

Members decided that a consensus could not be reached and proposed to vote to invoke the suspension of consensus to allow the group the ability to move forward with agreement of 75% of the membership (19 members). Members to suspend consensus by the following vote:

Initial Vote for Suspend Consensus: 0R 24G

Members **APPROVED** the above proposal which will also apply under Section 4.4.2 by the following vote:

Second Vote on the language change: 3R 21G

Members considered additional language which states that the recommendations represent the decision of the BBASC and that if additional time was available, members “believe” that a

consensus could be reached. Some members noted the fundamental disagreements that exist, and agreed that additional time would not resolve these issues.

Approval of the Recommendations and Report

A motion was made to approve the recommendations and the report for subsequent submittal to TCEQ and the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG).

Initial Vote on the above: 3R 21G

Suspension of Consensus

Members decided that a consensus could not be reached and proposed to vote to invoke the suspension of consensus to allow the group the ability to move forward with agreement of 75% of the membership (19 members). Members **AGREED** to suspend consensus by the following vote:

Initial Vote for Suspend Consensus: 0R 24G

Members considered the motion to approve the recommendations and the report for subsequent submittal to TCEQ and the EFAG.

Second Vote for the above: 3R 21G

Members Con Mims and Paula DiFonzo commended Chair Suzanne Scott and Vice Chair Dianne Wassenich on their efforts.

Chair Scott thanked members for their work and reminded the members that the BBASC is still charged with delivering a work plan. Future meetings will be held to develop the work plan.

VI. Status Report on BBEST Technical Support for Work Plan, Sam Vaugh

BBEST Chair Sam Vaugh presented a status report on the BBEST technical support for the work plan. He stated that Section 6 of the recommendation report included a list of areas previously identified by the BBASC for additional study and/or monitoring during the next year. The members of the BBEST, in support for the BBASC, have already begun work on these 36 areas based on individual member's expertise. The BBEST will deliver scopes of work for each area which will address the "who, what, when, where, why, and cost" for each area with special attention to data gaps and needs for additional data or understanding identified by the BBASC. BBASC members will be able to use the scopes of work to prioritize these areas so that when funds whether public or private become available, these areas can be considered as directed by the BBASC. The BBEST will have the Scopes of work ready by the next meeting and will support the BBASC for the following six months during the work plan phase of their charge.

Signatures for the Recommendation Report

Members discussed how to address report signatures as earlier discussions were not approved by consensus. Members **AGREED** to limit signatures to the BBASC Chair and Vice Chair.

X. Discuss Future Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Chair Scott noted that she will make a presentation on the recommendation report to the EFAG at their September 8, 2011 meeting and all members are invited to attend. The meeting is at 10 a.m. at the Capitol, Room E1.012. Mr. Horan will send an announcement regarding the EFAG meeting to members including directions on how to access the meeting on the internet.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Members will be notified with the time and location.

XI. Public Comment

Public comments received via email were presented to members and are attached to these minutes.

XII. ADJOURN

*Comments not included below have been incorporated into previous meeting minutes

Public Comments submitted to the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee

>>> <arandc@csl.edu> 8/24/11 10:00 AM >>>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in order to urge you the BBASC and TCEQ to provide sufficient freshwater flow for the bays, fisheries, and wildlife along Rockport and Aransas coasts.

My wife and I came down for several days this past February for the purpose of seeing the whooping cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and visit the areas around the refuge. It is a beautiful area and provides the wintering grounds for the only naturally wild flock of whooping cranes in the world. These cranes and the wetlands where they live are a priceless treasure! As they need sufficient fresh water flows into the bays in order to have a good blue crab population for their winter diet, I hope that you will act to ensure that they receive the fresh water that not only helps them to survive at their current numbers but enables to thrive as a growing flock. I believe that it will be good not only for the whooping cranes but for the larger economy of the region as well. For that matter, my wife and I plan on coming down again next January and spend more than a few days there. We hope to do so for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Arand
597 Woodlyn Crossing
Ballwin, MO 63021

>>> barbara BOEHME <sbgbarbara@yahoo.com> 8/24/11 6:40 PM >>>

We must have some fresh water for the life of the bay and all of its inhabitants, including the endangered whooping crane

look what happened in the drought year of 08-09...it can happen this year again as we are heading for the same with this la nina

please consider this in your vote.

Barbara boehme

new Braunfels, TX

>>> "Beverly Trifonidis" <beverly@rockportartcenter.com> 8/24/11 1:13 PM >>>

This is a crucial vote and as a homeowner in Rockport, Texas and who has been coming to Rockport for 57 years over my lifetime, I urge you to vote to change the regulations to allow sufficient fresh water to reach the coast and protect the estuaries.

1. I have personally witnessed how the lack of fresh water has decreased the blue crabs in the area near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge from boating in this area, and the dire impact this had on the Whooping Cranes several years ago.
2. The ANWR and the local estuaries are some of the most important eco systems in the United States.
3. ANWR is one of the top birding destinations in the world and the only one that is the major natural home in the US to the Whooping Crane.
4. People live and work in this coastal area because of the prevalence of wildlife, and tourists come here from all over the world for that reason.

I will be paying attention to how this decision is made and it will be at the top of my criteria for how I vote in the next election. This is one of the most important decisions to be made for our State welfare, given the importance of the entire Texas coast estuary system.

I am forwarding this message to my Representative Todd Hunter, as well.

Beverly Trifonidis
beverly@yant.net
361 205 1798

>>> "Bill Forbes" <bforbes@care2.com> 8/16/11 12:34 PM >>>
BBASC Chairs Diane Wassenich and Suzanne Scott,

Please read Sandra Postel's book Rivers for Life. You will see that Texas and the US are considered behind in their policy towards instream rights for wildlife. It is sad that we have to look to Africa for the best river management policies. You might also read Robin Doughty's Return of the Whooping Crane. To think they have made this remarkable comeback and are threatened again is equally sad. As Aldo Leopold wrote in Marshland Elegy and other works, we live in kinship with cranes and other species, some of whom have been on the planet millions of years longer than we have. We need to stop merely mitigating so these species populations don't drop too far near the point of extinction (if we even know where that point is - see the Northern spotted owl updates). We need to plan for the simultaneous thriving of other species - it doesn't take that much sacrifice. The impacts of lack of adequate fresh water flows into Texas bays and estuaries on the local economy, the whooping cranes and the coastal way of life are unacceptable. Please make my comments part of the public record for the BBASC for the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, Aransas and Copano Basins. Thank you.

Regards,

Bill Forbes
Nacogdoches, Texas

>>> brenda hutchens <blouhutch@yahoo.com> 8/24/11 3:49 PM >>>

Those who are fortunate enough to live on the coast or the along waterways of South Texas can see the results of the drought and extreme temperatures this summer. Some waterways are depleted by evaporation, beaches exist where they have not before, marshlands are arid. As the stewards of these great natural resources on which birds, fish and wildlife depend, we must intervene in whatever way that we might to provide fresh water to these waterways. This problem will not correct itself. We can be sure that we will "pay" now or "pay" later and the "cost" (not only monetary) may be more than we want to bear if not addressed soon. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Brenda Hutchens

Concerned Rockport, Texas homeowner

>>> Charles R Shamel <chuckshamel@clearwire.net> 8/24/11 3:57 PM >>>

Though I m sure you have many voices speaking on behalf of the users of water from the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers I would add a few words for those who have no voices, the wildlife that lost their lives in the last drought when the rivers did not flow marshes became hyper-saline and those that will perish in the next drought, not to mention the losses to fishing and tourism industries.

We know you are listening to the needs of agriculture, city planners, developers and electric providers in Victoria and along the Austin San Antonio corridor who expect population to double in the not too distant future. Human users have possible alternatives of either limiting their use of surface water and underground aquifers, discouraging population from immigrating to places of limited water resources, or of finding alternate technologies to make electricity and desalinate water for human use. There are no such alternatives for the wildlife and fishing industries dependent on river flow for a healthy bay and estuary.

Ranchers and farmers need to shift to dry land techniques or better water conservation practices. Power companies need to focus on solar, wind and using gulf wave action to generate electricity. The folks wanting to move to Texas need to know the cost of their water and plan to xeriscape as in West Texas or pay for green lawns and swimming pools. We already are willing to pay \$1.25 for 20 ounces of drinking water in a plastic bottle, an idea you could not have imagined 30 years ago. We all need to realize that water and living space are limited resources and if we are to have quality of life for all, we must share wisely with all stakeholders whether we were given a voice or not.

--

Chuck
152 Dustin Ln.
Rockport, TX 78382

>>> "CJ Wax" <cjwCurlew@cobridge.tv> 8/25/11 6:29 AM >>>

To All

I am writing to urge the BBASC to remember that Coastal Communities and a number of unique species depend on a flow of freshwater into our Bays and Estuaries for their very survival. Water rights that are approved upstream cannot be rebuilt downstream and as the population continues to grow throughout the state; proper management and allocation of these rights will become a more critical issue over time. An upstream water right should not be approved if its execution endangers the vitality of a community or species downstream. The minimum flow must be established at the bottom of the watershed to ensure the health of the coast, it's bays, fisheries, wildlife and population.

Our last drought of 08-09 brought this reality into sharp relief as we saw the devastation to the Whooping Crane population; the reduction in freshwater flows had a direct impact in the production of young blue crabs that they rely on for their survival. That is just one example of the impact reduced flows can have. There is no effective difference between a reduced flow resultant from drought or a reduced flow resultant from over-committing the freshwater in our rivers. We need to remind our selves that man's interaction with the environment can have just as devastating impact on our lives as mother nature's.

The bays and estuaries of the Texas coast host many critical species of fish and wildlife plus a significant coastal population. Their numbers may not match those of larger population centers higher up in the watershed but their rights should be protected just as vigorously.

CJ Wax

Mayor

City of Rockport

>>> "Jason D. Hawn" <jhawn@hawnventures.com> 8/23/11 3:32 PM >>>

I write this to encourage the BBASC and TCEQ to take a stand for our Texas Bay system and Texas' overall ecological health. You are truly in a position to ensure that our natural estuaries have the proper balance of fresh water to be healthy long into the future. It is imperative that you take a long-term approach to ensure that the bay systems receive the needed fresh water inflows that have made them what they are today over the past millennium.

I have personally experienced the decline in the health of our overall bay system. I am excited to see the results of the opening of Cedar Bayou but know that the added inflow of saltwater from the Gulf will need to mix with a health flow of freshwater. No scientific report can take the place of the historical knowledge those on the ground or water in this instance.

Please know that I appreciate your service and attention and would be happy to share my experiences and knowledge with you should it help.

Best regards,

Jason D. Hawn
Hawn Ventures L.L.C.
jhawn@hawnventures.com
512-658-8517
512-380-9957

>>> "Jim Mixon" <ibrealor@msn.com> 8/24/11 2:41 PM >>>

Dear Ladies,

I live in the Rockport community and have been very aware of the small amount of fresh water that reach our Bay Systems. Some of this fault lies with Mother Nature at the moment but our situation is becoming more dire. Our Bay Systems need fresh water in order to produce the blue crabs which feed our flock of Whooping Cranes. Our Bay Systems need fresh water in order for the oysters in our bays to populate. I could go into great detail here but will not. Please protect this area with a proper allocation of water from all of the river systems that help us out here.

Sincerely,

Jim Mixon
Republican County Chair
po box 2107
rockport, tx
78381

>>> "John Kafka" <jkafka@chamberlinltd.com> 8/24/11 4:40 PM >>>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a home owner on Key Allegro in Rockport. My family and I consider Rockport and the surrounding bay system one of the great treasure of Texas. Clearly ,Rockport would be just another city in Texas without the bay system and the incredible and unique wildlife that it supports. I have been traveling to Rockport for nearly 25 years and purchased a home there in 2000. Since then, we have seen many changes to the wildlife system which have not been positive. One of the most devastating changes has been the reduction of fresh water in flow into the bays themselves and the resulting negative impact to both the fisheries and other wild life, particularly the whooping crane.

I don't have the time to go into all of the things that I have witnessed over the past 10 years while being a homeowner and spending lots of time on the water but suffice it to say that fresh water flowing into the bays is a critical element if we are to pass onto our children and grandchildren a healthy bay system that has simply been entrusted to us to pass onto future generations. Therefore, I urge you to make sure that BBASC and TCEQ take the necessary measures to provide for significant and adequate water for the bays, wildlife and fishery. This is also of great importance to the to the economic health of the coastal community.

I know there must be much pressure from various interests. I pray that you will have both the wisdom and the courage to make the right decisions.

God Speed,

John Kafka

John M. Kafka
President/CEO

Chamberlin Roofing & Waterproofing
7510 Langtry
Houston, TX 77040
713-880-1432 (main)
713-425-9030 (direct)
713-828-1881 (cell)
713-880-8255 (fax)
jkafka@chamberlinltd.com

>>> "Kara Mills" <karamills@sbcglobal.net> 8/24/11 4:17 PM >>>

Hello –

I am writing to implore you to find a solution for the coastal communities & estuaries to continue receiving the upstream water that they need to survive. If we allow the magnificent Whooping Crane to become extinct, what other smaller fish and wildlife will be the next that will be facing extinction? The decisions that are made by you are critical to keeping the coast that we all love alive.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kara Mills

Rockport TX

>>> "Kathy David" <KATHY@SEASHORESIGNED.COM> 8/23/11 4:25 PM >>>

As the BBASC finalizes its recommendations for the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, Aransas and Copano Basins to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on in stream flows for the Guadalupe and San Antonio river basins, I urge you to provide adequate water for the bays, fisheries, wildlife, and coastal communities. Adequate fresh water flow is of great importance to healthy bays, whopping crane population and the economic future of the Aransas Coast. We must help to protect nature.

Regards, Kathy David

Kathy David
Texas Coast Signs DBA
SeaShore Signs & Graphics
PO Box 1763
Rockport, TX 78381
361-737-6885
kathy@seashoresigns.com
www.seashoresigns.com

>>> "Lee Hutchinson" <lee@csidedecorating.com> 8/24/11 2:05 PM >>>

Dear members of BBASC and TCEQ ,

I appeal to you as the decision makers that may forever effect the water for the bays, estuaries. Fisheries, wildlife, and ultimately our coastal communities. I plead with you to support all measures to provide adequate fresh water for filtration and sustained life.

My family members all have Rockport-Fulton as our alma mater, enjoying every aspect that being raised on the coast affords. We have noticed a decline in the fish and wildlife of the area over the last several years. We took particular notice when the numbers of whooping cranes was so significantly reduced last year. Healthy bays and whooping cranes are the economic future of the Aransas coast.

Warm regards,
V. Lee Hutchinson



www.csidedecorating.com

323 East Market St.
Rockport, TX 78382
t.361.729.9588
f.361.729.1056

>>> Paul Gonin <pggonin@gmail.com> 8/24/11 4:02 PM >>>

I am writing to request that the BBASC and the TCEQ adopt strong measures to ensure that adequate fresh water inflows are assured in the future, for the Aransas and related bay and estuary systems. As a resident of Georgetown, TX, I am well aware of the demands made on our Texas rivers, especially in times of drought like we are now experiencing. I am also very aware of the importance of fresh water flows into our bays, to maintain the right balance of salt and fresh waters for the development of shellfish and other marine life. A healthy marine environment is critical for the endangered whooping cranes, but is also vital for the fishing and tourism industries on which the coastal economy is so dependent.

Thank you,

Paul Gonin

110 Powder Creek Cv

Georgetown, TX 78633

>>> "Ray Kirkwood" <ray_kirkwood@wildblue.net> 8/24/11 3:32 PM >>>

The recommended freshwater inflows are insufficient to sustain the health of our bays. You must remember that the mission of this study is to safeguard the health of the bays as well as the rivers..

The salinity of Aransas Bay yesterday was approaching 40ppt. This is too high for Blue crab & it is too high for Whooping cranes to drink. I do not want to spend another winter watching dehydrated Whooping cranes starve as they did in 2008 & 2009. It may be too late for this winter, but you can help prevent a recurrence in the future.

Ray Kirkwood

>>> shirley blackman <shblackman01@yahoo.com> 8/24/11 2:13 PM >>>

Dear Diane, Suzanne, and Cory,

Many of our beloved Whooping Cranes died two years ago because of a drought. We are experiencing another drought this year. The endangered Whooping Cranes are just one of the many fish and wildlife that need our help to survive. They need the life giving fresh water from the rivers into the bays.

PLEASE.....Vote NO on the nuclear plant in Victoria.

Sincerely,

Shirley Blackman

>>> shirley blackman <shblackman01@yahoo.com> 8/24/11 3:08 PM >>>

Dear Diane, Suzann and Cory

For centuries Whooping Cranes have been flying 4,000. miles from Canada to winter in Texas. There is no way to warn them that their lives are in danger if they continue to come.

We were in a drought two years ago and again this year. Lack of fresh water killed many of the wintering Whooping Cranes in 2008-9. We need more, not less, fresh water from rivers into the bays. We in Aransas County do not have a vote on our water allocation. All we can do is ask your help to insure the survival of the already endangered Whooping Cranes and the survival of fish and wildlife on the coast. Please help us by bringing more water from the river into the bay.

Sincerely,
Clint Blackman
2201 Cape McCan
Rockport, Tx 78382

>>> "Tom Callan" <tcallan23@gmail.com> 8/24/11 2:20 PM >>>

Ladies:

I have watched and to a very limited extent participated in the process BBASC and BBEST have followed in the last few months. As Chairman of the City of Rockport's Water Quality Committee and as a Director of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce I have spoken with a number of our local organizations and government officials about how serious the allocation of fresh water to our bays is to the future of Aransas County, its people and its economy. As you may be aware, Aransas is one of the smallest, if not the smallest county in the state. Yet the town of Fulton and the City of Rockport by virtue of our natural resources, draw around one million visitors each year. These communities are a vacation mecca because of their climate, coastal facilities, including a nationally recognized "Blue Wave" beach park, the ski basin at Little Bay, proximity to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, numerous waterfowl and upland birds, and the welcome received from our local businesses. The hotel, motel, and fishing industries, including guide services, are dependent on healthy bay systems. Without this particular resource, maintained and nurtured by those in government and the private sector, the economic life of Aransas County will be put in extreme jeopardy.

Now is the moment to finally recognize that the bays and the habitat they provide can be strangled by upstream demand for water. Surely the peoples of Aransas County and others along the Texas Coast, are just as deserving of consideration and allocation of water as those entities through which it flows.

Best regards,

Tom Callan
Phone 361-729-7077
Mobile 361-205-3369

>>> <AngaleeDeF@aol.com> 8/25/11 10:51 AM >>>

I am writing as a TAP supporter. I strongly urge you to ensure that there is adequate water supplied to our South Texas bays. The whooping cranes have suffered greatly in the past two years due to the drought, as well as other wildlife indigenous to the area. It is ever so important to not be short sighted about this great need. It affects the future health of all of us. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Angalee DeForest

Angalee DeForest
DeForest Fine Art
PO Box 1030
Rockport, TX 78382
361-727-9728
www.deforestfineart.com

>>> Duane Keilstrup <dvictork@gmail.com> 8/25/11 11:45 AM >>>

Please, in the name of our heritage of waterways and beautiful birds and healthy fisheries, please, save our Texas coast and wildlife for generations to come. Act now in the name of all God's creation and our planet before it's too late.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Duane V. Keilstrup

Arlington, TX

>>> Rolf and Penny Hong <aurora2@boreal.org> 8/25/11 2:51 PM >>>

Dear Council and TCEQ,

*"Not all things that can be counted, count. Not all things that count, can be counted.
Albert Einstein.*

We are residents of Rockport, Texas and members of The Aransas Project (TAP). We strongly support the position of TAP with regard to insuring improved water management policies that provide significant water inflows to sustain the communities, wildlife and water fowl of our Texas Coast.

Of particular weight to us is the presence each winter of the migrating Whooping Cranes from Woods Buffalo Refuge in Canada. We and our community, including substantial numbers of "winter Texans", were stunned by the heart-breaking loss of 24+ Whooping Cranes to starvation in the drought 2008-2009. Water policies must cover both conditions of drought as well as other less severe times.

We fully support a Final Report which calls for timely review and frequent communication with the Coastal Communities to insure that sustainable water inflows are provided to our communities.

Best regards,
Penny & Rolf Hong

>>> "Art Dohmann" <artdohmann@gmail.com> 8/25/11 3:00 PM >>>

Dear Committee,

My name is Art Dohmann. I now live in Goliad County but previously lived in Calhoun County for many years.

I am writing you concerning the environmental flows associated with the Guadalupe River feeding San Antonio Bay. I am and have been concerned that the water rights already granted, if exercised, will not allow sufficient fresh water inflow to the bays and estuaries. I experienced the drought of the 1950's and its massive negative effect on the health of the bays and estuaries and on the economic stability of the Gulf Coast. I experienced first hand the negative impact, living in Port Lavaca.

In the 1950's, the Guadalupe River had a very minimal flow, like that of a small creek. This was a personal observation. In 2000, Region L brought out computer results that showed that the Guadalupe River had a significant flow and would be able to supply SA with 80,000 acre feet per year of water. This was proven to be wrong and the project was cancelled.

Eleven years later (2011), water developers are again using computer models to claim that there is an abundant amount of water to meet environmental flow needs and to allow even more water to be permitted. Responsible leaders need to stand up and put a stop to this type of reckless behavior.

If any of you come through Cuero on Hwy 183, please carefully look to the south and observe the low flow on the Guadalupe River. It is still greater than it was during the drought of the 1950's but it is rapidly shrinking to that of a creek stream. Salinity in all of the Gulf Coast Bays is on the rise and approaching a critical point where significant long term environmental damage may occur.

I urge you to make responsible decisions to maintain the necessary environmental flows to protect our bays and estuaries for future generations and to protect the health of our ecology.

Art Dohmann

>>> blair brown <lapercha10@gmail.com> 8/25/11 4:48 PM >>>

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing in support of policies which prioritize conserving enough water from Texas rivers to support healthy ecosystems in our bays and estuaries. These are our very finite resources for the long-term. The biology supported by habitats in our rivers, estuaries, bay and gulf is irreplaceable, much of it already in precarious state, and should not be endangered further by short-term gain for self-serving projects and or parties.

Please do all you can to create environmentally responsible policies which will proactively ensure healthy water flow from rivers to the bays.

Sincerely,

Blair Brown , *Advisory Board, RavenStar Outdoor Education, EduKudos!*

Blair Brown Concepts *"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."* Derek Bok

>>> "Les Sorenson" <les.sorenson@sbcglobal.net> 8/25/11 7:07 PM >>>

As a lifelong resident of Rockport (71 yrs.) I urge you all to consider the freshwater needs of our bays and coastal areas.

Sincerely,

Les Sorenson

>>> pat fahrenheit <pfahrenheit@sbcglobal.net> 8/27/11 5:02 PM >>>

Please find a balanced approach to water distribution and allotments. It's easy for communities to panic in a time of extreme drought, like to the one we are in now, but there is enough water for everyone with careful management and stewardship.

Some ideas for ways to use water better:

Limit housing development that would take water from the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, Aransas and Copano Basins.

Prohibit any intensive water-use industry that would use water from the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, Aransas and Copano Basins. Exceptions could be made for industries that return at least two-thirds of the water they use as treated wastewater to the rivers.

Mandate the use of treated wastewater for landscape watering and toilets in new construction. "Purple pipes" for treated wastewater are becoming common in new construction.

Recapture condensation runoff from air conditioners in commercial buildings for landscape gardening and flushing toilets.

Provide incentives, either tax exemptions or rebates, for homeowners who install rain water catchment systems.

Everyone in the BBSAC read "The Big Thirst" by Charles Fishman for many more great ideas for sensible, reasonable water use.

Thank you for listening,
Pat Fahrenheit
617 Columbia Ave.
San Marcos TX 78666

>>> David Davidson <ddavidson2314@earthlink.net> 8/31/11 6:55 PM >>>

I am commenting on the water flows in the San Antonio River system. I am principally interested in maintaining enough flow so that the Whooping Cranes food supply in San Antonio and associated estuaries are sufficient during periods of low rainfall, like is being experienced in Texas in 2011.

Whooping cranes have been endangered since I was a child, and thanks to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and many concerned Texans, the numbers have slowly grown. However, the numbers are still far below that number required for their long term survival. I have actually worked on some of the plans that have been formulated towards long term survival, and I have donated funds to buy conservation easements for Whooping Crane habitat on the Texas Coast.

Unless sufficient water is guaranteed for San Antonio Bay and associated estuaries, all this time and money will have been wasted and the Whooping Cranes numbers will not continue to at least be stable, and if denied water long enough, Whooping Cranes will probably become extinct, a huge loss to Texas' natural resources and heritage.

I urge TCEQ to ensure enough water to supply the Whooping Crane feeding grounds adequately for continued recovery of the Whooping Crane population.

Sincerely yours, David L. Davidson, 117 Elm Spring, San Antonio, TX 78231