

**Brazos River and Associated Bay and Estuary System Basin and
Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Conference Call
Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 10:00 - 11:00 am**

Minutes

[Participants: BBEST members – Tom Gooch, Kirk Winemiller, Dan Gise, David Dunn, Tiffany Morgan, Jack Davis, Tim Bonner, Phil Price; Others – Gregg Easley, Mark Wentzel, John Botros, Dan Opdyke, Tyson Broad, Paul Jensen.]

1) Housekeeping

BBEST chair Tom Gooch reviewed the two topics to cover during the conference call: report writing and the sediment analysis. Gregg Easley (TCEQ) added that he would appreciate comments on the draft minutes from the November 30th BBEST meeting that he distributed the day before.

2) Report Writing

Kirk Winemiller brought attention to portions of the report that he had previously highlighted in his editing work as needing additional information. Examples included additional information on water quality (e.g., subsistence flows) in the basin overview section; any flow-related, species-specific studies of fish and mussels in the basin in the ecological analysis section; and lateral connectivity in the flow regimes testing section. Members discussed the best way for insertions, edits, and comments to be processed. It was agreed that individual members would be assigned a given section and referee all suggested revisions for that section. The following assignments were made:

- Section 1 – Dan Gise
- Section 2 – Tiffany Morgan
- Section 3 – Tom Gooch
- Section 4 – Kirk Winemiller
- Section 5 – Phil Price
- Section 6 – Phil Price
- Section 7 – David Dunn
- Section 8 – Tim Bonner

Kirk said that he had talked with Kathy White of TWRI and they were okay with pushing back the contract deadlines. Members agreed to set a deadline of January 18th to get any revisions to the section editors and January 20th to get a draft of the report to TWRI. Kirk mentioned he was starting a references section, Section 9, but that references could be compiled later in the process. He also suggested several formatting consistencies (two spaces between sentences, Times Roman – 12 pt font) for those still inserting text, but TWRI will be able to clean those things up later if not done before.

3) Sediment Analysis

David Dunn began a discussion of how the results of the sediment transport analysis would be portrayed in the final report. He started by summarizing the latest SAC guidance on the geomorphological overlay process, part of which states that the 10

percent change in sediment load criterion used by previous BBESTs to potentially indicate an unacceptable impact threshold was not justified. David suggested that results of the analysis be expressed as a concern, that no changes in the flow regimes be made, and that further study be recommended in the Work Plan. David said that he would highlight key passages in his write-up with a comment box to direct attention for members to comment. Kirk echoed that all members should do the same for their respective sections. Tim Bonner asked for some context to the sediment analysis results. Mark Wentzel (TWDB) discussed TWDB's analysis that with only the BBEST e-flow recommendations in place, 20-23% of the baseline average annual sediment yield is estimated at the two project locations (Seymour and Richmond). With a predicted implementation of the two projects with the e-flow recommendations in place, 81-83% of the sediment yield compared to baseline is estimated.

Next Meeting?

Members discussed whether another meeting or conference call would be needed. They agreed to set aside Tuesday, January 31st at 10:00 am at HDR-Austin in case a face-to-face meeting was most appropriate. Tom said he would check-in with members a week ahead of time to assess the need for a meeting or conference call.