

**Brazos River and Associated Bay and Estuary System
Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)**

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Minutes

Members Present: Dale Spurgin, Chair; Ned Meister; Gená Leathers; Tom Conry; Horace Grace; Eddie Saucedo; Ken Kramer; Ed Lowe; Tommy O'Brien; Gary Spicer; Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh; David Blackburn; Joe Langdon; Phil Ford

Call to Order

Chair Dale Spurgin called the meeting to order and the members in attendance introduced themselves.

Public comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of July 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the July 9, 2013 BBASC meeting were approved by consensus.

Update of HB4/SB4 Work Plan Funding

Chair Dale Spurgin gave a brief overview on the status of the potential funding from the legislature adopted Rider in the Appropriations Bill that provided \$2.0 million during the next biennium for the purpose of continued study of environmental and instream flows for basins. He informed members that the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) had requested information from each BBASC concerning the basin's funding needs and projects that would fit the criteria for these funds. Chair Spurgin informed members that a letter had been sent to the SAC requesting consideration for these funds. Ruben Solis, TWDB, explained that the SAC's letter to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG) dated September 10th, 2013 recommended an even split of \$312,500 between the four eflow's basins deemed eligible, inclusive of the Brazos Basin pending finalization of the Work Plan. Mr. Solis further explained that the funds would have to be completely spent by the end of the biennium, August 2015. At present, the next EFAG has not been scheduled and the funding approval is still pending.

Discussion Regarding Work Plan for Adaptive Management

Members reviewed the BBEST's Comments on the Work Plan and briefly discussed the criteria by which projects should be considered for funding, such as costs, length of study, field components, and matching funds. BBEST members on the conference call briefly provided insight into their comments on the Work Plan. BBASC members were in agreement that the BBEST's comments should be included in the Work Plan. Both Ken Kramer, BBASC member, and Tim Bonner, BBEST member, offered to incorporate these comments into the Work Plan. Other members expressed concern over the amount of time incorporation of comments and review would require. These members suggested adding the BBEST's comments as an amendment to the Work Plan rather than integrating the BBEST's comments. A motion was made by Tommy O'Brien and seconded by Phil Ford to attach the BBEST's comments as an amendment the Work Plan. The motion passed with 9 members voting for the motion and 3 opposing.

Another motion was made to approve the Work Plan with the amendment by David Blackburn and seconded by Gary Spicer. Motion passed with 11 members supporting and 1 abstaining from the vote.

Other Items as Necessary

Horace Grace, BBASC member, inquired as to the process of identifying projects and developing a Request for Proposals (RFP). Ruben Solis, TWDB, indicated that they will work with the BBASC to develop an RFP and that the next step is for stakeholders to prioritize projects and develop scopes of works for those projects they want included in the RFP. Chair Spurgin and other members indicated that this would be best addressed by a subcommittee. No members objected to this action and Chair Spurgin indicated he would organize the formation of the subcommittee.

In addition, members also inquired as to when the public meeting on the Proposed Eflows Rules for the Brazos River Basin will be held as well as the process of formally submitting comments. Members were informed by Chris Loft, TCEQ, that the public meeting will be held at TCEQ on Oct 15th, 2013 at 10:00 am and that information would be sent via email concerning submission of formal comments.

Public comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjourn