

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

Thursday, October 10th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Brazos River Authority Central Office located at 4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas
and Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Minutes

Members Present: Dale Spurgin, Chair; Dr. Ken Kramer, Vice-Chair; Horace Grace; Tiffany Malzahn; Ronald Kelling; Ronald Woodruff; Nick Dornak; Bruce Bodson; Jack Newton for Bret Raley; Virginia Migl for Brandon Wade.

Call to Order

Chair Dale Spurgin called the meeting to order and member attendance was taken.

Public comment

There were no public comments made at this time.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from July 11, 2024 could not be approved due to lack of quorum. No changes to the minutes were suggested.

Announcement of vacancies

Chair Spurgin informed members of the 4 vacancies on the BBASC for the following stakeholder groups: free range livestock (1 vacancy), agricultural irrigation (1), Environmental Interests (1), and Municipalities (1).

Announcement of nominations

Ms. Evgenia Spears was nominated to represent Environmental Interests.

Action on nominations

No action was taken to elect nominees due to lack of quorum.

Consideration of BBEST Nominees

The group discussed two nominees for appointment to the BBEST. Mr. Cory Scanes and Dr. Peyton Lisenby were introduced to the group and their qualifications were highlighted. These individuals would replace positions vacated by Jack Davis and Philip Price on the BBEST.

Presentation on the Texas Water Trust

Mr. Marty Kelly, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), gave an overview on TPWD's activities in the Water Resources Program. He also discussed the work being done by TPWD in relation to the Texas Water Trust. TPWD can encourage and facilitate dedication of water rights to the Texas Water Trust. A workshop on the Trust was held recently with presentations from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and TPWD. Mr. Kelly discussed two projects that TPWD is facilitating for dedications to the Trust. Mr. Kelly also discussed

the Environmental Flows Toolkit that was developed by TPWD and how it could be helpful for the group.

Presentation on Research of the Brazos River Authority

Ms. Tiffany Malzahn, Brazos River Authority (BRA), discussed BRA's environmental flows program's research activities. BRA committed to studying 8 stream reaches with environmental flow standards. The research involves collecting baseline data across different flow levels and assessing changes over time. At each site, BRA is studying various components, including water quality, habitat, fish, macroinvertebrates, and mussels, sediment composition, and riparian tree surveys. Sampling was implemented in 2012 at 6 sites, and BRA is in the process of establishing two new sites. Ms. Malzahn shared results of the monitoring and takeaways from the work done so far. The monitoring indicates good aquatic life use scores and sound fish populations at most sites and conditions. Ms. Malzahn also highlighted the channel survey data looking at the impact of flows. Overall, they are finding functional riparian zones, at least in the lower basin. BRA also completes an annual environmental flows achievement report as part of the water management plan submitted to TCEQ. Ms. Malzahn also mentioned other work of potential interest being done in the basin. BRA does routine water quality sampling for the Texas Clean Rivers Program at all sites with environmental flow standards. There are also efforts monitoring freshwater mussels and the Brazos watersnake. Future work to be done will be continuing monitoring at all sites to fill data gaps, adding sampling for 2 new sites on the Little River, and more in-depth analyses on fish community data and GIS analyses of organismal and habitat data per site.

Updates from State Agencies (TCEQ, TPWD, TWDB)

Dr. Wentzel, TWDB, noted that funding typically is available every two years following the legislative session. Dr. Kramer suggested that the group should develop study ideas to prepare recommendations for future funding. Dr. Wentzel responded that project ideas can be submitted to TWDB at any time.

Propose Letter to Members of the Environmental Flows Advisory Group

Dr. Kramer discussed a letter he had drafted to send to the EFAG. After group discussion, Dr. Kramer opted to send the letter as an individual, independently from the group.

Other Items

None.

Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be January 9, 2025. Future agenda items could include presentations from science teams that have done work in the past, namely Dr. Winemiller and Dr. Bonner. The group will also take action on nominees for the BBASC and BBEST at the next meeting, if the group has a quorum in attendance. Mr. Kelling asked if there have been any study topics identified by the BBEST for recommendation. Ms. Malzahn responded that the BBEST had not met formally in many years, although members were contacted to determine if they wish to continue serving. She further noted that it would be helpful to identify questions for the group before the BBEST

meets, as well as provide direction for their discussion. The BBEST could meet following a BBASC meeting or could do a joint meeting with the BBASC in the future.

Public comment

There were no public comments made at this time.

Adjourn