

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

Thursday, July 10th, 2025 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; Ken Kramer, Vice-Chair; Tiffany Malzahn; Ronald Kelling; Ronald Woodruff; Bruce Bodson; Bret Raley; Alan Rudd; Evgenia Spears; Jack Newton (alternate for Brett Raley).

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

BBASC members could not take action on the minutes from April 10, 2025 due to lack of quorum. No changes were made to the minutes.

Announcement of vacancies

Chair Spurgin informed members of the 3 vacancies on the BBASC for the following stakeholder groups: free range livestock (1 vacancy), agricultural irrigation (1), and electric generation (1). The group further discussed whether a representative in the electric generation category could be from the renewable electricity industry. The group concluded that the member should be affiliated with an entity that is a water user.

Announcement of nominations

There were no nominations received.

Action on nominations

There were no nominations received.

BBEST Update

BBEST Chair Tom Gooch discussed the BBEST letter sent to the BBASC discussing suggested updates to the Work Plan. The BBEST concluded that original research recommendations in the work plan are still valid, but recommended adding another Priority 1 research item for community-level monitoring of aquatic biota responses to flow recommendations and standards. The research should focus on flow tiers for maintenance of indicator species, especially in the middle and upper Brazos. The letter included suggested key indicator species. The group also suggested additional Priority 2 efforts, including connectivity of oxbows and modeling of sediment concentration in the lower Brazos. The BBEST did not find sufficient data to recommend changes to the environmental flow standards. The recommendations in the letter focus on intermediate

high flow pulses that may support key species, but they identified nothing new in the data to justify suggesting changes at this time.

The group asked whether funding would likely be available for future studies through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Dr. Mark Wentzel, TWDB, discussed available funding, \$1 million per year, over the biennium for a variety of TWDB priorities. The funding must be used within the biennium unless the contract is with a public university, which is granted an additional year. The BBASC discussed updating the Work Plan and preparing project recommendations for TWDB. Dr. Wentzel noted that typically TWDB solicits study ideas around October following a legislative session. Mr. Ronald Kelling asked if providing a cost estimate for studies that are being recommended would be helpful. Dr. Wentzel replied that an estimate of cost would be beneficial but is not required. Once study topics are prioritized, TWDB will prepare Requests for Qualifications (RFQs). Ms. Tiffany Malzahn, Brazos River Authority (BRA), mentioned that some of the priority items in the Work Plan are being addressed by other entities outside of this funding process, such as BRA and state agencies. The group further discussed reviewing the work that has been completed in the basin and suggested members review the Biennial Report produced by the Texas Committee on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), with input from TWDB and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which includes a list of studies funded by TPWD and TWDB. Dr. Ken Kramer noted that the group should identify priority items that are being addressed in ongoing efforts through other funding sources while reviewing the Work Plan.

Chair Gooch also mentioned that several members of the BBEST planned to retire soon and asked whether the BBASC would like suggestions for potential replacements. The BBEST members were aware of several individuals actively working in the basin that would be appropriate to serve on the BBEST. Chair Spurgin noted that the BBASC will consider nominations and elect new members to the BBEST once BBEST members are ready to step down. Chair Spurgin also said that it would be beneficial for the BBEST to meet annually.

The group opted to form a subcommittee of BBASC and BBEST members to discuss suggested changes to the Work Plan and discuss studies to recommend for future funding. The draft changes to the Work Plan will be presented to the full BBASC for approval at the next meeting.

Updates from State Agencies (TCEQ, TPWD, TWDB)

Dr. Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, gave an update on permitting activity in the basin. Dr. Wentzel, TWDB, stated that the aerial magnetic survey of Brazos River alluvial aquifer had received funding and a contract was in place. Mr. Marty Kelly, TPWD, gave an update on pertinent work being done by TPWD, such as the Least Disturbed Streams Report, which is available on the TPWD webpage.

Other Items

None.

Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on October 9, 2025. The meeting will likely include discussion of the updates to the Work Plan and discussion of projects for funding.

Public comment

There were no public comments made at this time.

Adjourn