

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BBEST ON JANUARY 26, 2009

Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

Monday, December 8, 2008

11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lake Livingston

Livingston, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Gary Graham, Scott Hall, Rex Hunt, J. Roger Kelley, Matthew McBroom, Jack D. McCullough, David L. Parkhill, Jack W. Tatum, Samuel Kent Vaughn, Kirk Winemiller

Call to Order/Welcome and Introduction

Kellye Rila, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), called the meeting to order and discussed the charges of the Bay Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) as provided for by Senate Bill No. 3. She provided contact information for Cory Horan, TCEQ, who will serve as a primary contact between the BBEST and TCEQ.

Jerry Clark, Chair of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Stakeholder (BBAS) Committee, made introductory remarks and welcomed the audience and committee.

Bill Holder, Trinity River Authority, welcomed committee members and the public to the Lake Livingston facilities and all attendees introduced themselves to the group.

Cindy Loeffler, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), commented on TPWD's support of the BBEST.

Discussion of BBEST Budget

Carla Guthrie

Carla Guthrie, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), presented a handout "BBEST - compensation for time and reimbursement of travel expenses" providing an overview of funds available for the BBEST. Ms. Guthrie remarked that the BBEST should form a budget plan to be approved by TWDB. Committee members inquired whether funds would carry over to the next fiscal year; the TWDB will be able to answer this question at a later date. Gayla Ray will be the TWDB/BBEST liaison for fiscal management.

Robert Huston, Chair of the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), commented on the SAC budget plan and gave examples to help the BBEST formulate a budget plan.

ACTION ITEM: Scott Hall, BBEST, will draft a budget plan for the BBEST to be discussed at the next meeting.

BBEST Organization: Selection of Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Kellye Rila addressed the committee's need to nominate a chair and vice-chair and Jerry Clark provided information on some of the duties of these positions. Jack Tatum was nominated as chair and Scott Hall as vice-chair of the BBEST. The nominations were confirmed unanimously by other members and Mr. Tatum and Mr. Hall accepted the positions.

Discussion of BBEST Function

Chairman Huston, SAC, presented a handout that included a brief synopsis of the charges and responsibilities of the SAC provided for by S.B. 3 and described the SAC's working timeframe. He encouraged the BBEST to draft a similar document. Chairman Huston announced that George Ward would be the SAC's primary liaison with the BBEST and Fred Manhart would be the secondary liaison. He also discussed reading recommendations for the group, which Dr. Kirk Winemiller added to. The BBEST made a request to the TCEQ for a presentation on the most current Water Availability Model for their area of study.

The BBEST discussed whether they would consider meeting via phone or video conferencing in lieu of meeting in person. Members decided to try to meet in person as much as possible, yet will consider video conferencing at available locations.

ACTION ITEM: The BBEST will create a one-page synopsis of their function as a committee according to S.B. 3. TCEQ will select a hydrologist to give a presentation on the Water Availability Model for the basin at the next meeting. Members and state agencies will determine what locations are available for video conferencing.

Agenda for Next Meeting

The committee discussed and approved the next meeting of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay BBEST. The meeting will be held on January 26, 2009 at 11:30 AM at the same location (Lake Livingston).

Items to be included at the next meeting:

1. A one page description of the BBEST's mission as provided for by S.B. 3.
2. A briefing on the basin's current Water Availability Model by Kathleen Alexander from TCEQ.
3. An ecological baseline study conducted by the Sabine River Authority of Texas and the Lower Neches Valley Authority including a critique of state methodology.
4. A preliminary budget plan drafted by Scott Hall.
5. Committee ground rules (i.e. alternates/proxy vote, quorum, etc...).

Meeting Adjourned