

Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay BBASC and BBEST Work Plan Development Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
San Jacinto River Authority Office
1577 Damsite Road, Conroe, Texas

Minutes

Members Present: (BBASC) – Danny Vance (Chair), John Bartos (Vice-Chair), Scott Alford, Glenda Callaway, Jun Chang, Jace Houston, Kathy Turner-Jones, Ken Kramer, Glynn Leiper, Ted Long, Carl Masterson (alternate for Terry Anderson), Tom Michel, Paul Nelson, Jim Oliver, Jim Parks, Denis Qualls, Adam Sinclair, Lori Traweek, Pudge Wilcox, Tracy Woody
(BBEST) – Bill Espey (Chair), Jim Lester (Vice-Chair), Richard Browning, Dave Buzan, Woody Frossard, Bob McFarlane, Alan Plummer, Mike Reedy, Sammy Ray, Tony Smith, Joe Trungale, Mike Turco, Woody Woodrow

Call to Order

BBASC Chairman Danny Vance called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of October 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The October 6, 2010 meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Discussion of BBASC Member Replacement (Kachtick)

No new information was available, so this item was deferred to the next meeting. Biographical information on the proposed replacement, Tom Stang, will be provided to members in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

TCEQ Environmental Flows Rulemaking Update

Gregg Easley (TCEQ) said that the public comment period on the initially proposed Trinity-San Jacinto environmental flows rule recently ended. He explained that the TCEQ is currently compiling comments received and preparing responses to them. April 20, 2011 is the tentative date for the TCEQ Commissioners to make an adoption decision on the final proposed rule package. The proposed rule package will be posted to the TCEQ website approximately three weeks prior to the Commissioner's Agenda date. There will be an opportunity to make public comments at that meeting.

BBEST Presentation on Draft Work Plan

BBEST members presented a PowerPoint slideshow giving an overview of the Draft Work Plan. The presentation can be viewed on the Trinity-San Jacinto web page on TCEQ's website:

www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/eflows/trinsanjacgalbaystake.html

Tony Smith presented the Senate Bill 3 charge for the work plan and reviewed the work plan timeline, objectives, implementation, and draft outline. Tony then gave an overview of the Instream Flow elements of the Draft Work Plan. Next, Jim Lester gave a summary of the Estuary and Integration sections of the draft document. It was acknowledged that funds to accomplish the work will probably be very limited, so there would have to be some degree of leveraging of existing data collection programs. Ruben Solis (TWDB) mentioned that there may be some funds available in the fall of 2011 to allow the BBEST to provide a limited oversight role of the adaptive management process.

Discussion of Draft Work Plan and Path Forward

Members further discussed aspects of the Draft Work Plan such as available funding for the work plan activities and the review cycle for reevaluation of the environmental flow recommendations, standards, and strategies. Further review of the Draft Work Plan was recommended.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion of Future Activities

The decision was made to not set another work plan development meeting until after the TCEQ environmental flows rulemaking and the Texas Legislature session were completed, perhaps in June or July. A better assessment of available funds could be made at that time. In the meantime, BBASC members were asked to provide any additional comments on the Draft Work Plan to the BBEST Chair by February 15th.

Adjourn