

Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows Group 04 September 2007 Meeting Summary

Participants Present: Barney Austin, John Bartos, Jeff DallaRosa, Jason Fluharty, Woody Frossard, Wendy Gordon, Carla Guthrie, Ken Kramer, Cindy Loeffler, Robert McFarlane, David Parkhill, Linda Shead, Ann Sheridan, Jeff Taylor, Mary Ellen Whitworth, Pudge Willcox, Woody Woodrow

Support Team Present: Glenda Callaway, Pris Weeks, Jim Dobberstine

Others Present: Darrel Andrews (TRWD), Susie Carazoo (City of League City), Richard Ess (TSSWCB), Jim Lester (HARC), Brandt Mannchen (HSC), Temple McKinnen (TWDB), Dan Opdyke (TPWD), Mike Rickman (NTMWD), Bob Stokes (GBF), Joe Trungale (TES), Michael Turco (USGS), Brian Walls (FNI)

1. The Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows group met at the E.B. Cape Center in Houston, Texas at 1:30 pm. Self-introductions were made.
2. The agenda and the time allotment were approved.
3. The following updates were provided by GBFIG members:
 - a. **Taylor** provided updates on Region H, noting that the next meeting will be in October 2007. A subgroup was convened to select stakeholders from Region H for the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (BBAS). The subgroup recommended that it might be helpful if recommendations from the various interest groups matched.
 - b. **Rickman** provided updates on Region C, noting that they have not met in the previous four to five months, but plan to meet in October as well to select members to recommend for the BBAS.
 - c. **Austin** and **Loeffler** provided an update on the Tri-Agency Science and Technical Subcommittee activities.
 - i. Task 1 of their subgroup was to look at the validity of the TPWD data. There were a series of questions that they were addressing including looking at the coherency of the data among different gear types and any correlations among different gear types. Ultimately, it looks like there is coherency among the gear types. There is some question yet as to whether they will hire an independent statistician to review the data as well.
 - ii. Harvest regressions have been conducted with the updated data set for the original study period (1959-1987) and for an extended period of time (1959-2004). They discussed how to identify outliers, as that can greatly affect the R^2 values. Results for reanalysis of the original study period (through 2004) were poor, possible due to changing hydrology.

Results for a later period (1988-2004) suggests a different hydrological condition as harvest equations for this time period were better than the analysis of the full, extended time period (1959-2004) – and more similar in strength and significance to the original study period, though regression coefficients differed from the originals published equations.

- iii. Suitable alternatives to bimonthly grouping is being investigated; monthly basis may yield some additional information, but the work is still in progress.
- iv. Currently developing new salinity inflow regressions to incorporate into the TxEMP model.

Callaway inquired whether the Tri-agency stakeholder group would continue to meet. **Loeffler** responded that they would, in part as there is much overlap between the Tri-agency, SB3 Scientific Advisory Group, and GBFIG.

Parkhill inquired whether changing the TPWD data would change the regression equations. **Loeffler** responded that they would need to look into that.

Frossard asked if information would be posted online for public use. **Loeffler** responded that they would have reports posted in 4 to 6 weeks.

Callaway inquired whether discussion had been held regarding the schedule of nominations for the Environmental Flows Advisory Group. **Loeffler**, **Austin**, and **Gordon** indicated that had not occurred yet, but that they expected that experts would be appointed to provide data to the science team. **Callaway** noted that Region H considered supplying a list of recommended candidates for appointment. **Gordon** noted that the schedule with SB2 studies is still valid under SB3, although the deadline has been extended to 2016.

Parkhill inquired what happens to the permits that were pending? **Gordon** indicated that anything after the 31st would be subject to the 12% rule. The question was posed regarding reuse permits: Gordon indicated that future reuse was not being considered for environmental flows. The current approach is trying to take into account legislative mandates and the spirit of the legislation, but will likely be consistent with recent permits.

4. Nominations for the Bay and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (BBAS): Recommendations were as follows:
 1. Agricultural Water Users: Pudge Wilcox (Reg. H), Robert Bruner (Reg. H)
 2. Recreational Water Users: Pat Murray (CCA), John Bartos (HCC), Steve Tyler (Reg. H and business owner)
 3. Municipality: Jeff Taylor (CoH and Reg. H), Ann Sheridan (CoH), Mark Evans (Trinity County)

4. Soil and Water Conservation Districts: (agreed to ask Carl Masterson)
5. Industrial Users: Jim Kachtic (DOW and Reg. H), Jason Fluharty (Texas Genco) or Kerry Whelan (Reliant Energy)
6. Commercial Fishing: Doris Nelson
7. Public Interest: Mary Ellen Whitworth (League of Women Voters and BPA)
8. Regional Water Group: Reed Eichelberger (Reg. H)
9. Regional Water Authority: Woody Frossard (Tarrant RWD), Reed Eichelberger (SJRA)*, Danny Vance, Richard Browning (TRA), Garry Oradat, Jim Parks, Jimmy Schindelwolf, Paul Nelson.
10. Ground Water Conservation District: Ron Neighbors, Tom Michael (Houston-Galveston Area Subsidence District), Kathy Jones (Lone Star)
11. Environmental Interests: Glenda Callaway (GBF), Brandt Manchen (Sierra Club), Bob Stokes (GBF), David Parkhill (BPA), Page Williams (Sierra Club).

Nominations for Basin and Bay Area Science Advisory Team: Jim Lester (HARC), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Richard Browning (TRA), Bob McFarlane, David Parkhill (BPA), George Guillen (EIH), George Ward, Bob Huston, Frank Fisher, David Buzan, Antoinetta Quigg (TAMUG), Glenn Auman, Cindy Loeffler (TPWD), Ted Cleveland, Fred Werner, Rusty Swafford (NMFS), Don Moore, Roger Zimmerman (NMFS), Steven Davis, Dan (?) Moulton, Woody Woodrow, Joe Trumbley, Woody Frossard (Tarrant RWD), Bill Espy, Tony Smith, Timothy Love (GBF).

It was decided that the list would be circulated and distributed via e-mail the week of September 4th for response by GBFIG members, Tri-agency stakeholders, and any interested parties within 4-5 business days.

5. **Weeks** noted that we need to determine how GBFIG will move forward. **Callaway** suggested that GBFIG not formally dissolve, but rather meet via e-mail. There was concurrence by **Bartos** and **Shed**, among others.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.