Update from the Brazos River Basin and Bay Expert Science Team
Purpose

- Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3 set out a new regulatory system for protecting environmental flows
- Consensus-based regional approach involving a balanced representation of stakeholders
- Each river basin has as Science Team and Stakeholder Group
Science Team

- Recommend an environmental flow regimes that will protect a sound ecological environment
- Recommendations shall be based solely on best available science
- Recommendations submitted to Stakeholder Group and TCEQ on March 1, 2012
BBEST Report

Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group balances the environmental needs recommended by BBEST with human demand and submits a recommendation to TCEQ.
- Recommendations submitted to TCEQ on September 1, 2012.
BBASC Recommendations

• Made recommendations at all BBEST locations
• No overbank flows recommended
• Adopted BBEST recommended subsistence and base flows
• Adopted BBEST recommended 50% rule
• High flow pulse (HFP) recommendations varied by season and by location
• Unable to develop consensus on HFPs for the three uppermost gages
BBASC Report

BBASC Work Plan

- Establish period review of environmental flows
- Prescribe monitoring
- Schedule for validation/ refinement of recommendations
Regulation Schedule

- TCEQ originally to adopt regulations for Brazos Basin – September 1, 2013
- Postponed until March 2014
- Brazos is lumped with Rio Grande and Nueces in rulemaking schedule
- Delays in Rio Grande