Drought Impact and Recovery in Texas Estuaries Workshop

Speakers
(In order of appearance)

Myron Hess serves as Water Programs Manager/Counsel for the National Wildlife Federation's South Central Regional Center in Austin, specializing in the protection of water resources. Throughout his career, Mr. Hess has concentrated his work in the areas of water quality and quantity and endangered species protection. After working for the Denver firm of Holland & Hart and before joining NWF in 1998, he spent five years as an attorney for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and was a partner in the environmental law firm of Henry, Lowerre, Johnson, Hess & Frederick in Austin for five years. Mr. Hess received his law degree with high honors from the University of Texas in 1986 and his undergraduate degree, *summa cum laude*, in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 1977.

Carla Guthrie manages the Texas Water Development Board's Bays & Estuaries Program. In this role, she provides scientific and directional guidance to a small staff of engineers, hydrologists, and biologists who gather data and information to better understand freshwater inflow needs of Texas' bays and estuaries. Dr. Guthrie began her career with the Brazos River Authority investigating water quality issues in Central Texas streams. She then departed from the water world for a few years to study species interactions and community organization in tropical systems. She holds degrees from Baylor University (B.S.), Texas Tech University (M.S.), and The University of Texas at Austin (Ph.D.). She is a member of the Ecological Society of America and the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, and serves as the TWDB representative on the Galveston Bay Council.

Cindy Loeffler joined the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Resource Protection Division as a coastal hydrologist in 1987. In 2001, she was named the Water Resources Branch Chief. Her duties now include managing the Water Quality and Water Quantity Programs and the coordination of Department response to water resource issues affecting fish and wildlife. Ms. Loeffler represents TPWD on the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Stakeholder Committee, the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative Science Team and the Governor's Commission for Women State Agency Council. She received her B.S. in Engineering from Colorado State University in 1984.

David Bradsby is the leader of the Water Quantity Program at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and has been involved in issues related to environmental flows, water rights, water planning, and water policy for over 20 years. He has worked with a wide range of stakeholders on major and minor water supply projects, and has helped to develop and refine approaches to evaluate environmental flow needs. He serves as TPWD's representative for the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group. He also provided technical support to the Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee and Expert Science Team and other Senate Bill 3 groups in developing recommended environmental flow standards. He is a member of the Texas Drought Preparedness Council and the Drought Technology Steering Committee. He has a B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas and a Masters in Aquatic Biology from Southwest Texas State University (Texas State University).

Paul Montagna received a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of South Carolina in 1983, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1986, and was a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute from 1986 – 2006. In 2006, he became the Endowed Chair for Ecosystem Studies and Modeling at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Science Advisory Committee for Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group. His research is related broadly to the question of: "what flow regime is necessary to maintain ecological health of estuaries?"

Leslie Hartman has been with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for almost 5 years as the Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader following 10 years of fisheries management experience in Alabama. Her areas of interest include invasive species, freshwater inflows, and commercial shrimping and crabbing.

Terry Stelly began his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Coastal Fisheries in 1989. He came to Coastal Fisheries after 8.5 years with the Sabine River Authority of Texas. He hired on as the Harvest Biologist for Port Arthur Marine Lab for Sabine Lake. From 1989 to 1992, he handled studies on coastal striped bass, while serving on Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Anadromous Fish Subcommittee. In 1992, under Coastal Fisheries reorganization Terry became the Ecosystem Biologist for the Port Arthur Marine Lab. He has served on the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group - Region I as the agency's non-voting member since 1997. Besides his routine duties, he continues to provide input on water and environmental issues affecting coastal fisheries in the Sabine Lake estuary. Most recently, participated in the study Sabine Lake oyster reef. Study findings resulted in the permitting and future construction of an artificial oyster reef on the Texas side of Sabine Lake.

Lance Robinson has worked for Texas Parks & Wildlife Division's Coastal Fisheries Division for over twenty years, first as the Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader and currently as Regional Director. During this time, he has been involved with fisheries independent and fisheries dependent monitoring programs for oysters and other marine resources and as PI on several special projects. At present, Mr. Robinson is responsible for operational management of the four ecosystem teams along the Texas upper coast - Sabine Lake, Galveston, Matagorda and San Antonio Bays and the commercial oyster lease fishery in Texas. Additionally, Mr. Robinson oversees the Oyster Habitat Mapping and Restoration Program for TPWD. Prior to his employment with TPWD, Mr. Robinson worked as research faculty at Auburn University's Marine Research and Extension Center. He holds a B.S. degree from Auburn University and a M.S. from Fairleigh Dickinson University/West Indies Laboratory, USVI.

Norman Johns serves as Water Resources Scientist for the Texas office of the National Wildlife Federation in Austin. He received undergraduate training in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Environmental Sciences at the University of Florida. He has Master's degrees through the University of Texas at Austin's program with Civil Engineering the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He also earned a Ph.D. in Geography and Environment from the University of Texas at Austin. His duties at NWF are to provide scientifically-based input on a wide variety of Texas water resource issues at both local and statewide levels. Dr. Johns has over 25 years of experience in the field of water resources planning and management. Prior to working for the National Wildlife Federation, he worked in a variety of settings including private engineering consulting firms, a Texas state water agency, and as a researcher at the University of Texas. He has authored several works on water and other environmental topics.

Kenneth Dunton is a biological oceanographer whose research is focused on estuarine, coastal, and shelf processes. He is an Associate Editor for three scientific journals and serves on the Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Advisory Committee for the Department of the Interior, the Guadalupe San Antonio BBASC, and the Texas Basin and Bays Expert Science Team for environmental inflows for the Nueces River Basin. He obtained his B.S. in Biology from the University of Maine in 1975, his M.S. from Western Washington in 1977, and his Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1986. Dr. Dunton is currently a professor in Marine Science at The University of Texas at Austin.

Bryan Cook is the Water Quality Supervisor at the Lower Colorado River Authority. He holds a M.S. in Aquatic Biology from Texas State and MPAff from the UT LBJ School of Public Affairs. Mr. Cook has conducted monitoring and studies through the Colorado River basin and Matagorda Bay during his 15 year tenure at LCRA. His primary interests are water quality and environmental flow. He currently oversee LCRA's monitoring program in Matagorda Bay, which gathers hourly temperature and salinity

data at 4 locations in the bay and delta region. This data has been useful in establishing freshwater inflow needs for the estuary.

John Nielsen-Gammon is the Texas State Climatologist and a Regents Professor at the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in 1991 and was appointed Texas State Climatologist by then-Governor George W. Bush in 2000. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon's research involves such topics as drought monitoring and forecasting, climate data quality, heavy rain, air pollution meteorology, and data assimilation. He teaches courses in weather analysis and forecasting, atmospheric dynamics, and climatology. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and Past President of the International Commission for Dynamical Meteorology.

Ed Oborny is Principal at BIO-WEST directing the Aquatic/Fisheries Resource Section along with concurrently serving as Vice-President. He specializes in aquatic ecology, threatened and endangered species, radio telemetry, biological modeling, instream flow and freshwater inflow issues and concepts. He has 20 years of professional project experience and has worked on many environmental flow projects involving endangered species components. On the freshwater side, he has managed several large ecological and water resource projects including fisheries/instream flow projects on the Sabine, Trinity, Brazos, Colorado, Guadalupe, Comal, San Marcos, and San Antonio rivers. On the estuarine side, he has participated in freshwater inflow, seagrass, oyster reef, and/or bathymetric surveys from Louisiana to Mexico. He is currently a member of the statewide Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee Member and the Southern Edwards Aquifer Species Recovery Team.