



MEMORANDUM

REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

Larry N. Patterson

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Larry N. Patterson, Executive Director
DATE: October 26, 2018
SUBJECT: Board of Directors Meeting - - November 1, 2018

Meeting Place: Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Board Meeting Room
900 N. Kealy
Lewisville, TX 75057

Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018

Board Meeting: 12:30 P.M.

Notice: For the required quorum, your presence is very important. However, if you cannot attend, please contact Nancy Tam by email: ntam@utrwd.com or by telephone at 214-538-8602, as soon as possible.



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The November 1st Board Meeting will not be an all-day planning retreat / field trip this year as is customary for the Fall. A combination of factors led to this decision, including the absence of specific planning agenda topics, the recent flooding of the proposed field trip site (Bois d'Arc Lake) and staff's current work load in managing the Lake Ralph Hall permit process. Therefore, the November 1st Board Meeting will be a regularly scheduled half-day business meeting held in the District's Board Room. We have a relatively light agenda, but your presence is important - - as usual, I will try to keep the meeting as brief as possible.

Securing the TCEQ Water Rights for Lake Ralph Hall was a major step forward for the District, enabling fulfillment of our regional long-term responsibilities to provide a reliable water supply for its Members and Customers. On October 25th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a Public Meeting to gather comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Ralph Hall. This will denote the final phase of the Section 404 Federal Permitting Process - - a process that has taken over twelve years. For the Board meeting, during the Work Session, staff plans to present a summary / highlights briefing about the Corps of Engineers meeting and the path forward.

Finally, let me thank the operations personnel of our Members and Customers who have worked diligently with District staff to respond to the extremely high wastewater flows caused by recent excessive rainfall. I cannot stress enough the importance of coordination and teamwork in providing quality / reliable regional water and wastewater utility service.

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday.

- - Kevin Mercer, President

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

When Water Gives Us the Willies. Enclosed is another interesting article published by the Texas Water Development Board. This article reminds us of the extremes Texans can experience when it comes to water resources. Hope you enjoy the article.

Recent storms in the Metroplex have filled local water reservoirs. Yes the District's water supply is back to 100 percent plus. However, the heavy rainfall also provided a litmus test for the current state of Inflow/Infiltration control in the Member's and Customer's wastewater collection systems. Some of the District's Water Reclamation Plants fared better than others. Staff will provide a briefing during the Work Session summarizing the status for each of the systems and actions taken by staff to treat these high wastewater flows.

Lake Lewisville Dam Safety Modification Project Update. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has secured funding for the project. The USACE has received contractor qualification and is on track to award the first construction contract for Dam Safety Improvements in April 2019. Phase one improvements will include the relocation of the City of Lewisville's raw water supply line, utility relocations, and a new berm and seepage collection drainage system. Fortunately, District Staff was able to work directly with USACE to avoid relocating District pipelines. Staff intends to work diligently with USACE Lewisville Lake staff and construction management team during construction activities to protect the District's 60-inch raw water supply line to the Taylor Water Treatment Plant and both the 24-inch treated and 16-inch non-potable pipelines serving Castle Hills (DCFWS #1A). See enclosed article.

Ladonia hosted their 8th Annual Fossil Day event. On October 20th, Dallas Paleontological Society was there with specimens for viewing, along with Mick Tune who gave an informational briefing about the North Sulphur River and fossil hunting along the river.

This is an activity that is expected to be incorporated into the Corps of Engineers permit provisions for Lake Ralph Hall. Enclosed is a social media post.

Watershed Partners Breakfast. Upper Trinity is hosting the Watershed Partners Breakfast meeting on November 14, beginning at 8:30 A.M. Invitations for the Breakfast have been sent. We hope Board Members can set aside time to attend and learn more about how stormwater management and greenbelt preservation strategies identified in the Denton County Greenbelt Plan can protect local water quality. Please RSVP to Brenda Scott at bscott@utrwd.com or 972-219-1228 by November 11 if you are available to attend.

Conservation Trust Board Vacancies. Dr. Janet Aune and Dr. Ken Dickson have recently stepped down from service on the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust Board. Both Dr. Aune and Dr. Dickson have been strong advocates of Upper Trinity's watershed programs, and supporters of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan. If you know of anyone who would be interested in serving as a Trustee, please contact Jason Pierce at 972-219-1228 or jpierce@utrwd.com.

Defend Your Drains During the Holiday Season. As you may know, fats, oils and grease can clog pipes and cause sewer backups when it cools and solidifies - - which is particularly important around the holiday season. The 'Defend Your Drains' program brings awareness to this and other items that challenge the water reclamation system, including flushable wipes, medicines and household chemicals. 'Defend Your Drains' educates residents on what not to flush or put down the sink drain, and provides drop-off locations for certain items. If you would like more information about 'Defend Your Drains,' including graphics to use, please contact Jason Pierce at 972-219-1228 or jpierce@utrwd.com.



Lewisville School Outreach. As part of the Watershed Protection Program, Blake Alldredge spoke to approximately two hundred sixty 7th grade students on October 5 at Huffines Middle School in Lewisville about watersheds and how to protect water quality - - right where we live. The Enviroscape watershed model, a rainfall simulator, and a stream trailer were used to demonstrate effective watershed management principles and stream hydrology. If you are interested in having a similar presentation for a school, civic group, or other organization in your area, please contact Jason Pierce at 972-219-1228.



MEETING

Enclosed is the agenda for the November 1, 2018 Board Meeting, and the Data Sheets for action items and other related information. Please contact me or the appropriate staff person if you have any questions.



When Water Gives Us the Willies October 2018



Halloween trick-or-treaters love the adventure of going door-to-door, never sure what ghoulish surprises they'll find. Touring a haunted house sounds fun, but once inside, the spooky sounds and gruesome sights might send some running.

Similarly, Mother Nature always has a trick up her sleeve and can unleash some spectacular skullduggery, often involving water—too much or too little. Either scenario carries consequences that are harrowing to consider.

Beware water in excess

Few Texans who experienced Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath would have guessed they would ever witness flooding on such magnitude. The storm made landfall at Rockport in late August 2017 and drenched southeast Texas for days, dropping a ghastly 15 trillion gallons of water and becoming one of the worst natural disasters recorded in this country.

The undeniable truth is that Texas is woefully susceptible to weather extremes. Just look at our history of floods, hurricanes, and, on the flip side, drought. That's because our climate is no stranger to extremes in temperature and precipitation rates and variations of severe weather. Since 1980, Texas has experienced the highest number of billion-dollar weather disasters of any state. Moreover, flooding is the leading cause of fatalities associated with natural disasters in Texas. Most occur when people drive or walk into floodwaters.

For these reasons, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has invested in a [variety of programs](#) to increase data collection and dissemination and to support improved flood forecasting and warning throughout Texas. The TWDB also issues grants for flood protection and mitigation and helps educate the public on how to prepare for flood conditions, what to do during a flood event, and actions to take in the aftermath. Currently, the TWDB is in the final stages of preparing the first-ever [State Flood Assessment](#).

A hex on dry spells

While floods are frightening for their ferocity and rapid onset, Texas is well acquainted with another disaster that is slow moving, yet crippling. A prolonged drought can be as ruinous to pocketbooks and quality of life as a flood. Texans may recall the 2011–2014 drought, touted as the worst of modern times; in 2011, 100 percent of the state was in drought.

The 1950–1957 drought is considered the longest drought in Texas' recorded history. It triggered state action to fund water conservation and supply projects and to plan for future droughts. The Texas Legislature authorized state bonds for water development projects, and the TWDB was created to administer those funds. The TWDB also was charged with planning and financing water development and, as a result, produced its first state water plan in 1968. This important document evolved over the decades, and now, based on input from 16 planning regions, is instrumental in guiding Texas through the 21st century and beyond.

No fortune teller is needed to foresee Texas trends. Newly released data-based [population projections for the 2022 State Water Plan](#) tell us population estimates continue to climb. Unfortunately, our water supply does not. Looking ahead 50 years to 2070, we estimate a population of about 51.5 million. More people living here will place even greater demands on existing water resources.

What's in the cards?

While Texas faces its own water-related monsters, the scary truth is our state's not alone. Texas is part of a larger water crisis that circles the globe. Many countries lack any kind of infrastructure at all to support water needs. Impoverished regions, such

as those in Africa, simply don't have the luxury of turning on a faucet to draw clean running water. Rather, people must walk long distances to rivers or other sources; even then the water they carry home might be contaminated.

Texas is fortunate to have the state water plan in place to outline strategies and projects that will help ensure future Texans have reliable water systems to meet their needs. The TWDB supports communities throughout the state by offering scientific and planning expertise and financial assistance to bring those projects to life. Every effort helps, though, including individual conservation efforts to use water more wisely.

The fact is that people tend to underestimate the power and importance of water, and then rightfully get spooked when there is too much or too little of it. Without a doubt, water and its unpredictable nature can bedevil us. But if we don't treat this natural resource as the precious, finite source it is, then the joke will be on us.

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

Dallasnews.com

Friday, October 19, 2018

DENTON COUNTY

Lewisville dam closely monitored

Staff checks will increase with water level, lawmaker says

By JEFF MOSIER
Staff Writer
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Officials are keeping a close eye on the Lewisville Lake dam, where water level has been rising after several days of downpours on top of record rainfall this season.

The lake was the subject of a *Dallas Morning News* investigation into the 2015 spring flooding scare when there were signs of seepage under the dam. Army Corps of Engineers staff was worried at the time that water could be tunneling under the dam and weakening it.

That 2015 scare is causing some people to look over their shoulders at the high-risk dam, upstream from downtown Dallas and hundreds of thousands of people.

State Rep. Ron Simmons, R-Carrollton, posted on Facebook this week that the Corps was inspecting the dam weekly but "should lake levels continue to rise, they could go to daily inspections and finally, if the lake levels got back to where they were in 2015, they would be onsite 24/7."

On Thursday, the lake water level was at 527 feet,



Shaban Althuman/Staff Photographer

The Lewisville Lake dam is getting extra scrutiny as water levels rise from record rains.

which is about 5 feet above the normal levels, and about 5 feet below the level where water would reach the emergency spillway.

In the 2015 incident, the warning signs were spotted early and handled before the dam entered dangerous territory. No similar incidents have been reported at the dam since then.

"The flood risk management system for the Dallas-Fort Worth area is functioning as designed," said Clay Church, a spokesman for the Corps' Fort Worth District. "The Lewisville Lake is capturing runoff and flood waters as it's designed to do."

The Corps is currently working on a \$150 million project to shore up the dam, with construction expected to start next year.

The lake, however, isn't getting close to the emergency spillway, Church said. About 46 percent of the lake's flood capacity has been used, giving it some cushion.

Church said none of the area reservoirs were releasing water since the Trinity River has already been above the flood stage.

When the Trinity River subsides, Joe Pool Lake is likely to be the first to release water. About 70 percent of its flood capacity has been used.

"Looking at the next seven to 10 days, it looks like the Trinity River is going regain some capacity, and we'll be able to do some releases out of the flood risk management reservoirs," Church said.

Twitter: @jeffmosier

facebook

**Posted by: Cheryl L. McClure
October 20, 2018**

Our 8th Annual Fossil Day has come and gone so mark your calendar now, for next year. We do this every October.

The **Dallas Paleontological Society** came out to Ladonia with top notch specimens to share with us! Plus someone from Honey Grove and others came with an incredible collection of arrowheads and Indian artifacts.

Mick Tune gave an informative talk about the river and fossil hunting. There were many folks who had not hunted the river before and were able to ask questions.

We are so grateful for **Dallas Paleontological Society** members coming out to educate us and for **Bois d' Arc Master Naturalist** members including **PK Kirkpatrick**. And a big thanks to **Doug Franklin** and **Jan Cooper** from the **Ladonia Chamber of Commerce**.

Feel free to tag your friends. I don't know everyone and just want to extend a big thank you for all that everyone did. Thanks for allowing me to take your pics.

I went to **Ladonia Fossil Park** this afternoon. The water was flowing and there were a few places to walk so it turned out to be a beautiful day, after all. I just didn't go as far as usual. There was a copperhead on the shale but I respectfully backed off! So if you are planning to go in soon, remember our slithery friends are in there too. Happy Fossil Hunting! ~
Cheryl

