

The Waterline

The Newsletter of the Travis County Water Control & Improvement District 17

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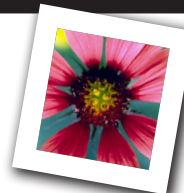
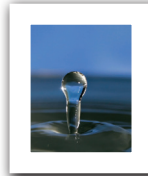
Summer 2013

Hudson Bend
Page 3



Water Filter Warning
Page 2

Conserving Water?
Page 2



SB 198 PASSED
Page 3

Board Action
Page 4



LCRA's 2012 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN Does Not Protect Our Water Supply



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) released the latest version of the LCRA's 2012 Water Management Plan (WMP) for public comment on April 15; however, municipal customers and other lake interests have serious concerns about the plan as written. WCID 17 and other municipal customers expressed those concerns to TCEQ at a public hearing on June 26th.

Although there are some improvements in the proposed WMP, these improvements are not sufficient to assure that the LCRA will provide a guaranteed water supply to the firm water customers in this current drought. With firm use growing and inflows declining, we will face chronically low reservoir lake levels that further endanger drinking water supplies. Chronically low levels do not benefit anyone, environmental, agricultural, municipal, industrial or lake interests.

Some specific concerns about the plan include:

- Recent hydrology, including recent record drought years (2010, 2011, 2012), is not taken into account. Only data up to 2009 is considered. This is important because recent years' data indicates the average inflows have significantly decreased from what was assumed in the past. TCEQ has promised to upgrade their models.

- No clear and distinct provisions are made for lake recovery time. As evidenced by 2010, one good year of rainfall and recovery in the midst of a drought cycle can be wiped out by huge releases the following year. This is what happened in 2011. Without an appropriate recovery period, we could be perpetually in a state of water emergency.

- Despite implementing emergency orders curtailing some interruptible customers two years in a row, the WMP is not protective enough of current firm customers. Even with the two Emergency Orders, we are facing a potential Drought Worse than Drought of Record (DWDOR) this summer, which evidences the serious failure of the WMP.



- Water saved by utilities through expensive conservation measures may then become available for use by downstream farmers at a heavily discounted rate; and

- Lake levels and utility's ability to reach the water to pump it are not taken into account.

If you would like to express your concerns about the latest version of the LCRA's application to amend the Water Management Plan, or to share how this drought has affected you, you may submit written comments by July 31, 2013. Address mailed comments

to Kathy Alexander, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, MC-160, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087. Submit electronic comments to wras@tceq.texas.gov. Please include the text "LCRA WMP" in the subject line of your e-mail.

WHY DO I SEE WORKERS OPENING FIRE HYDRANTS AND LETTING WATER RUN OUT?

I thought we needed to conserve water?

Keeping water pipes clean is a big job, as Water District 17 has over 240 miles of pipeline. Almost all water pipes have a thin film of rust on the inside. Although this film is harmless, build-up of this material may cause problems such as clogged fixtures, cloudy water, or reduced levels of disinfectant in the water as it passes through the pipes.

District 17 has an ongoing program of flushing and cleaning the distribution pipes to ensure that these pipes are kept clean and proper level of disinfectant is maintained. Unfortunately, during this process some water is lost, however, if pipes aren't flushed regularly, rust and microbes would cling to the pipe walls and more disinfectant would need to be used. Flushing is done by opening fire hydrants and letting the water rush out. It must be done in many areas to make sure every pipe is reached.

WCID 17 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT for 2012 is Available

The saying "Knowledge is power" certainly applies to drinking water safety. Copies of the Annual Water Quality Report, Reporting Year 2012, have been mailed to all customers and the report is also available online at www.wcid17.org/waterquality.

CHECK OUT THE NEW DISTRICT 17 WEBSITE! www.wcid17.org

District 17's website got a makeover! It's brighter, easier to navigate, and packed with information for customers, Realtors, builders and plumbers. The site features the latest water news and public notices as well as many links to local area sites.

The site is brand new, so enjoy exploring it and if you notice any glitches, be sure to let us know so we can get them corrected. Be sure to check back often as we'll be updating our news section regularly. Send your comments via email to lsandlin@wcid17.org.

*** WATER FILTER WARNING *** Older Housings May Crack

Do you have a water filter system installed in your home? If so, check the instructions and caution warnings carefully. In some installations if the filter housings are not replaced as required, they could crack causing serious flooding and possible damage.

If your filter housings have been in place for several years, check the manufacturer installation and operating instructions, (you can sometimes find these on the internet) or talk to your sales person.



The photograph here shows a ten (10) year old filter housing in which the threaded cap sheared in half and caused flooding in the laundry and kitchen area of one home. The particular precaution for this unit read: "CAUTION: Because of the product's limited service life and to prevent costly repairs or possible water damage, we strongly recommend that the plastic housings be replaced every ten years. If the housing has been in use for longer than this period, it should be replaced immediately. Date the bottom of any new or replacement housing to indicate the next recommended replacement date."



HUDSON BEND HISTORICAL MARKER to be replaced

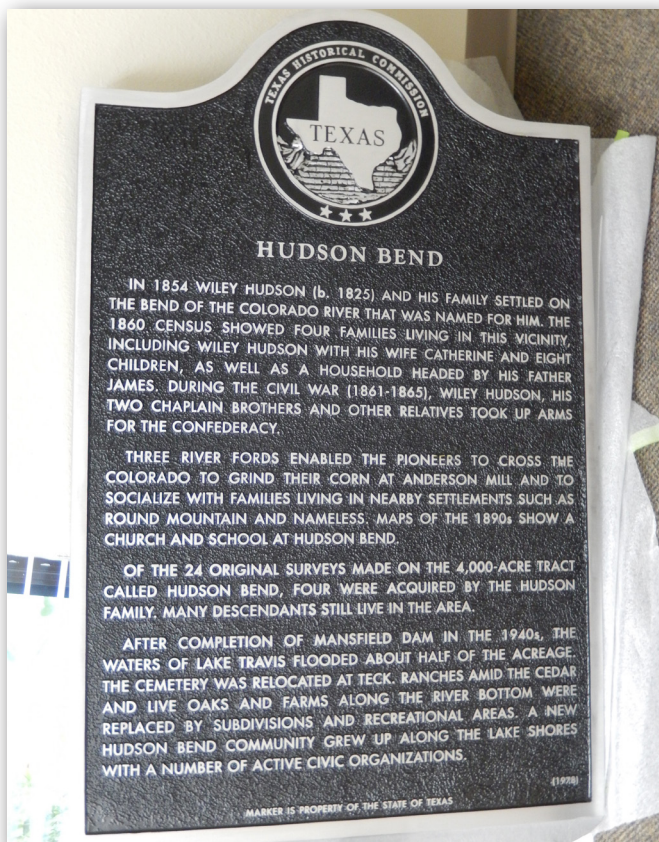
The Hudson Bend Garden Club has procured a new Texas Historical Commission Marker to replace the one damaged by a car several years ago. The marker will be located at the site of the original Hudson Bend Colony that was originally settled in 1854, at the small roadside park on Hudson Bend Road. The Garden Club thanks everyone that contributed toward replacing this marker.

The marker reads, "Hudson Bend – In 1854 Wiley Hudson (b.1825) and his family settled on the bend of the Colorado River that was named for him. The 1860 census showed four families living in this vicinity, including Wiley Hudson with his wife Catherine and eight children, as well as a household headed by his father James. During the Civil War (1861-1865) Wiley Hudson, his two chaplain brothers and other relatives took up arms for the Confederacy.

Three River Fords enabled the pioneers to cross the Colorado to grind their corn at Anderson Mill and to socialize with families living in nearby settlements such as Round Mountain and Nameless. Maps of the 1890s show a church and school at Hudson Bend.

Of the 24 original surveys made of the 4,000-acre tract called Hudson Bend, four were acquired by the Hudson family. Many descendants still live in the area.

After completion of Mansfield Dam in the 1940s, the waters of Lake Travis flooded about half of the acreage. The cemetery was relocated at Teck. Ranches amid the cedar and live oaks and farms along the river bottom were replaced by subdivisions and recreational areas. A new Hudson Bend Community grew up along the lake shores with a number of active civic organizations. (1978)"



HOW FULL ARE THE LAKES?

36%

Lake Travis and Buchanan are our region's water supply reservoirs and currently hold about 727,638 acre feet of water combined.

7.8.13



SB 198 Allows for Water Efficient Landscaping

New legislation signed by Governor Rick Perry will prohibit Texas homeowners associations from banning water-efficient landscaping. Senate Bill 198, sponsored by Senator Kirk Watson (D-Austin) and Representative Dawna Dukes (D-Austin), goes into effect September 1. Under the bill, HOAs can still require prior approval before homeowners can switch to such landscapes, and HOAs can adopt guidelines that determine what kind of plants are acceptable, as long as such guidelines do not "unreasonably restrict" water-conserving landscapes. Clean Water Action and the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter praised the law as an important way for our drought-stricken state to address its water needs.

Travis County WCID 17

Board Action

Nov '12 - Current

- Authorized Water Resources Management, LLC to perform a five-year cost of service evaluation and rate design study to establish a financial plan of the District's water and wastewater fee structure.
- Adopted a Resolution in Support of an Emergency Drought Order for 2013.
- Adopted a Resolution for Supporting the Creation of and Declaring its Membership in a Coalition of the Lower Colorado River (LCRA) Authorities Firm Water Supply Contract Customers - The coalition mission will be to protect firm water supply over interruptible supply and speak for all firm water customers regarding water planning, including drought plans, ensure future Water Management Plans take all drought data and lake levels into consideration.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation of 16 Years of Service for Virginia A. Maxwell, District Plumbing and Permits Coordinator, and thanked her upon her retirement.
- Approved the Financial Audit for the period ending September 30, 2012.
- Authorized initial Flintrock Ranch Estates Defined Area Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2013, to save substantial interest payments.
- Authorized District Consultants to find refunding opportunities for the Texas Water Development Board Revenue Bonds that could save the District at least \$200,000 and meet a three percent savings threshold.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for the Dedicated Community Service of Coleman Rowland.
- Approved an Interlocal Agreement to be a member in the creation of "The Highland Lakes Firm Water Customers Cooperative."
- Approved contract award for the construction of a permanent cover at the Steiner Ranch Wastewater Equalization Basin for odor control.
- Approved the Resolution Regarding Acceptance of the Mountain View Elevated Storage Tank completion.
- Authorized the establishment of a permanent regional household waste recycle facility.
- Authorized a disbursement of \$5,000 to the Homeowners United for Rate Fairness (HURF) for the savings WCID 17 customers gained from HURF's settlement with Austin Energy.
- Authorized Bond No. 17 in the Steiner Ranch Defined Area.
- Approved a Resolution Supporting the Determination of the Steering Committee of the Highland Lakes Firm Water Customers Cooperative to Seek Party Status, and Request a Contested Case Hearing if Recommended by the Steering Committee on the Application of the Lower Colorado River Authority to Amend its Water Management Plan; Authorizing Participation in Proceedings Related to the LCRA Water Management Plan through the Highland Lakes Firm Water Customers Cooperative; Making other Findings and Determinations Relating Thereto; and Declaring an Effective Date.
- Approved a Resolution Adopting Use of Competitive Sealed Proposals as Authorized Contract Procurement Method giving the General Manager authority to determine which District construction projects would use this method and incorporate the competitive sealed proposal method into the District Service Rules and Policies.

Conserving Water for
Today and Tomorrow
www.wcid17.org

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