

Lake Eastex Update

REPORT ON THE EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT March/April 2001

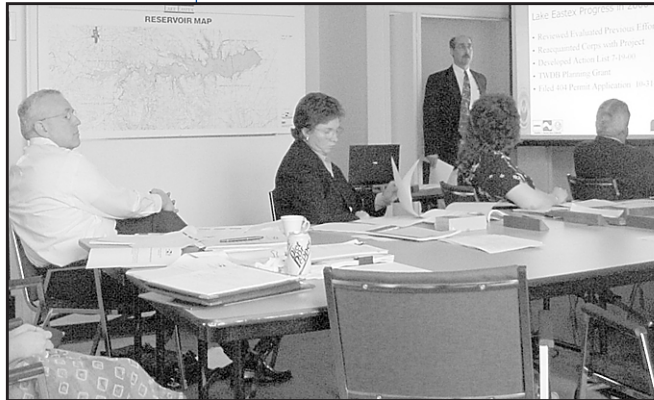
2001 goals for Lake Eastex presented to board of directors

The 2001 work plan to receive the Corps of Engineers 404 permit required for the Lake Eastex Project was presented to the ANRA board of directors at its February meeting.

Steve Watters, environmental scientist with Freese and Nichols, Inc., presented the plan for the environmental studies, which the Corps

of Engineers require in order to award the 404 permit. Once awarded, the permit will allow construction to begin.

The studies planned for this year will help in the development of an environ-



ANRA board members listen to Steve Watters of Freese and Nichols explains the 2001 goals for the Lake Eastex project.

mental impact mitigation plan for the proposed lake. The cost to implement the mitigation plan will be a major part of the cost of the proposed lake.

Pre-construction funding of the proposed lake participation is at 67 percent.

The *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, in a series of articles addressing water issues, printed a story about Lake Eastex in its Feb. 21, 2001, issue.

The story stated there is no longer an abundance of property available for sale that would become lake-front property once the lake is constructed.

One of the Realtors said the increased property values around the proposed lake directly relate to development in the area and a "positive feeling" the lake would be constructed.

Members are: Afton Grove WSC, City of Arp, Blackjack WSC, Caro WSC, Cherokee County, Craft-Turney WSC, City of Jacksonville, City of Nacogdoches, City of New London, New Summerfield WSC, North Cherokee WSC, Reklaw WSC, City of Rusk, Rusk Rural WSC, Stryker Lake WSC, Temple-Inland Corp., City of Troup, City of Tyler and City of Whitehouse.

TWDB approves planning grant

The Texas Water Development Board approved a \$411,000 planning grant for ANRA.

During its Jan. 17 meeting, the board approved providing the funds, which will be matched with local participant contributions to continue the Lake Eastex planning and pre-construction phase.




The planning grant will allow several tasks to be completed, including updating and expanding alternatives analysis, evaluating instream flows, evaluating for red-cockaded woodpecker habitats, accessing wetland and terrestrial habitat, evaluating existing engineering designs and developing preliminary identification of compensatory mitigation.

Addressing these tasks and developing a final report for the TWDB will take two years.

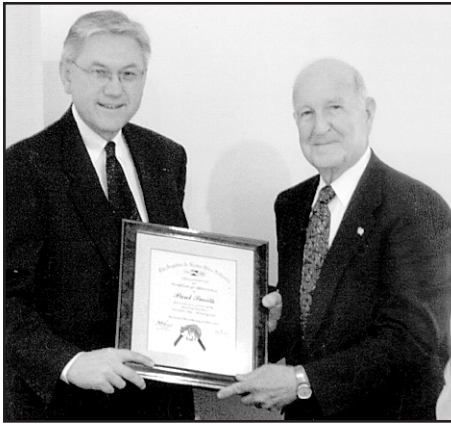
Everyone who assisted in securing this important funding source for this project is appreciated.

The ability to leverage local funds with state dollars is an important step in the financial portion of this project, said Kenneth Reneau, ANRA general manager.



Angelina & Neches River Authority
ANRA jurisdiction includes all or part of the following counties: Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler and Van Zandt counties.



Pete Smith honored

At the Nov. 21, 2000, board meeting, Pete Smith, right, was recognized for his eight years of service to ANRA, as a member of the board of directors. Mr. Smith receive a plaque from Jack Sweeney. Smith died Jan. 26, 2001. Board members and staff of the ANRA extend their condolences to the Smith family. Pete will be remembered as a true gentleman.

Bills to extend reservoir permit past 2002 submitted

The permit for construction of the Eastex Water Supply Reservoir is due to expire in 2002. H.B. 2532, co-sponsored by State Reps. Chuck Hopson and Jim McReynolds was filed on March 5 to extend the permit life beyond the 2002 date, and Sen. Todd Staples introduced SB 1600.

New board members for ANRA

Julie Dowell of Bullard and Carl Ray Polk, Jr., of Lufkin have been appointed to the board of the Angelina & Neches River Authority of East Texas.

Both were appointed by former Gov. George Bush, and each will serve a six-year term.

Ms. Dowell succeeds Dr. Janelle Ashley of Nacogdoches. Polk

succeeds Henry Holubec.

Ms. Dowell is a former special agent with the U.S. Marshall Service in Dallas.

Mr. Polk is executive vice president of Polk Oil in Lufkin.



New board members Carl Ray Polk, Jr., far left, and Julie Dowell with ANRA President Jack Sweeney.

Website to address questions about lake

The Lake Eastex project is becoming a popular issue both inside and outside the river basin.

Numerous requests for information are being received by the ANRA office, so by early Spring there will be a Lake Eastex page on the ANRA website. The site will contain maps, newsletters, questions and answers as well as other information about the project.

This site will allow ANRA to reach an audience beyond the present capabilities, and updates can be easily provided as the project progresses.

ANRA's present website address is: anra.org. It contains information on the Clean Rivers Program.

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