

Lake Eastex Update

REPORT ON THE EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

November, 2001

Briefing session held for Lake Eastex

A Lake Eastex participant briefing session was held recently at the Norman Activity Center in Jacksonville.

The meeting was designed to give each of the participants a thorough understanding of the project history, present status, and the activity and timetable for the next few years.

Gene Shepherd of Legg Mason Wood & Walker, Inc., ANRA legal John Stover, Steve Watters, John Rutledge, and Larry Clendenen of Freese & Nichols Engineering Company, and Allen Ross of Schaumburg & Polk Engineering Company updated the attendees on the engineering, legal and financial aspects of the project.

Guests included State Representative Leo Berman, State Representative Chuck Hopson, Misty Greer of Representative Wayne Christian's Office, Wil Galloway, chief of staff with Senator Todd Staples' Office, and Bill Roberts, project manager with the Texas Water Development Board.



A speaker addresses the Lake Eastex briefing session in Jacksonville.

Representatives from 18 of the 20 Lake Eastex participants attended. These included Afton Grove Water System Corporation (WSC), City of Arp, Blackjack WSC, Caro WSC, Cherokee County, Craft Turney WSC, Jackson WSC, City of Jacksonville, City of Nacogdoches, City of New London, New Summerfield WSC, North Cherokee WS, Reklaw WSC, City of Rusk, Rusk Rural WSC, Stryker Lake WSC, Temple-Inland, Inc., City of Troup, City of Tyler, and City of Whitehouse.

Website operational

The website for the Lake Eastex Project is finally complete.

Containing a wide variety of information about the project, including maps, charts, history, current status, the site became operational in April and has already been visited by about 1,500 people.

As with any new communication tool, ANRA is always interested in improving the flow of information to the public.

If you have any suggestions for improvements to the website, please contact us. The website address is www.lakeeastex.org. You may also link to this site from the ANRA website, www.anra.org.

Water quality agreement renewed

The Angelina & Neches River Authority has renewed its agreement to conduct water quality assessments in the Upper Neches River basin with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in Austin.

The two-year, \$343,952 contract was effective September 1.




Under the agreement, ANRA will continue to serve as the regional planning agency for the Texas Clean Rivers Program by providing project administration, quality assurance, water quality monitoring, data management, watershed inventories, and public outreach activities in the basin.

ANRA has served as the regional planning agency in the basin since the inception of the Texas Clean Rivers Program in 1991.

The goal of the state program is to maintain and improve the quality of water within each Texas river basin. The program uses a watershed management approach to identify and evaluate water quality issues, establish priorities for corrective action and work to implement those actions.

Through the ANRA Upper Neches River monitoring effort, surface water quality data has been used to develop water quality standards in East Texas.





Angelina & Neches River Authority

ANRA serves Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler and Van Zandt counties.



Regional wastewater system planned

The Angelina and Neches River Authority (ANRA) Board of Directors has voted to proceed with the \$3.1 million North Angelina County Regional Wastewater Project.

The board members voted on three items: (1) the approval of an interlocal agreement with area schools and businesses, (2) the approval of a contract with Everett Griffith, Jr. & Associates and (3) the approval of a resolution authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of ANRA contract revenue bonds to the Texas Water Development Board.

The vote was the final step taken before continuing with the construction of a wastewater collection, transportation, and treatment facility. The project will serve Central I.S.D., MHMR Lufkin State School, the Idlewood Subdivision and several other potential customers in the area.

New adjacent treatment facilities will be built to expand the existing one located in the Idlewood Subdivision. A pipeline and associated pump stations will also be built to connect all three locations.

"We are pleased with the cooperative spirit of each of the participants in this project," said board president Stewart Kenderdine. "A regional solution to these types of situations is usually the most cost effective and represents a legitimate role for the River Authority to play in seeking an environmentally sound resolution to localized problems."

With the completion of this project, the River Authority is looking forward to improved water quality as wastewater is emptied into the Angelina River above the Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Eastex team holds briefing

The project team for the proposed Lake Eastex recently held a meeting at the reservoir site with seven federal and state resource agencies.

The meeting began with a briefing by the project team at The Norman Center in Jacksonville, followed by a field tour to representative sites within the reservoir pool area.

The meeting was a follow-up to the application that was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in October 2000 requesting a 404 permit to build the dam that will hold back the lake.

Objectives were to acquaint the agencies with the current status of the project, take a tour of the reservoir site, and initiate discussions of detailed habitat evaluations and other studies that need to be accomplished as the permitting process unfolds.

The project team consisted of officials from the Angelina and Neches River Authority (ANRA) and two engineering firms, Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Schaumburg and Polk, Inc.

Agencies attending included the Corps of Engineers, which is the lead federal agency for permitting; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and the Texas Water Development Board, which is partially funding the activities associated with the meeting through a matching grant awarded to ANRA.

"For some of the agencies, the meeting introduced them to the project, while for others, it was a chance to become reacquainted with the Lake Eastex project," said Kenneth Reneau, general manager of ANRA. "The goal is to bring everyone to a common understanding of the current project status and what needs to be accomplished to complete the lake," he said.

PARTING THOUGHT

Water has become a highly precious resource. There are some places where a barrel of water costs more than a barrel of oil.

Lloyd Axworthy

Bulk Rate
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