

-----Original Email Message-----

From: Robert Hoffman [mailto:rabrobhoff@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 8:15 PM

To: Teresa Clark

Subject: Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group - Public meeting

Dear Ms. Clark,

I am not sure if my problems are within the scope of your concern, but I will inform you about them in case you can consider them at the public meeting on July 26, 2006.

I own a farm in Erath County on which there is a soil conservation lake. The lake has collected so much silt that there is not much depth. At port level, the lake still covers about fifty acres which is the amount according to the original specifications. When the lake goes down about 6 inches in depth, it only covers about 40 acres. When the level of the lake goes down another 6 inches in depth, it only covers about 35 acres, etc. The average depth at port level is about 3 to 4 feet. These conditions cause uncontrollable growth of willow trees, moss in the water and germination of grass in the water. These conditions worsen every year. As a result, the lake is very vulnerable to drought. It has dried up 2 times in the last 5 years. There is no fish in the lake at present. The lake used to be beautiful but now is an eye sore most of the time.

I kept an irrigation permit until the year 2000. I let it go because every time there was a need to irrigate there wasn't enough water in the reservoir to irrigate. If anyone decides to irrigate from this reservoir, it will be fatal to the fish and wildlife that depend on this water source. As far as downstream release goes, there is water as high as the bottom of the down spout only about 20% of the year; therefore, when you need water downstream, it is not available. I realize the lake was designed mainly for flood control, and it is still performing that function; however, now it looks like a snake infested swamp most of the time and most of the time will not support fish.

The reservoir is 1/2 on my farm and 1/2 on my neighbor's, Ruby Johnson's Trust. To better identify the reservoir, it is Floodwater Retarding Dam No. 1, built under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. It was completed on October 1, 1968 and is located on the West Fork of Armstrong Creek site #1 in northwest Erath County.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robert Hoffman
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