

LCRA Approves Drought Measures

At its meeting Wednesday, Nov. 18, the LCRA Board approved drought measures aimed at managing the ongoing Colorado River Basin Drought.

The Board's approval followed weeks of expert staff analysis, public input from customers and stakeholders and deliberation among Board members.

The additional drought management actions are needed to manage the serious drought that has at times been more intense than the worst drought this region has experienced, the Drought of Record that occurred from 1947 to 1957.

The region's water supply reservoirs were about 39 percent full in early September. Plentiful rains in September and October brought water supply levels up to 52 percent of capacity, which alleviated the need for significant cutbacks next year.

Speaking to the LCRA Board of Directors, General Manager Tom Mason recounted how the drought developed during 2009.

"This summer was a turning point.

"We began to understand that the drought may exceed the historic worst drought.

"We proposed various options, received broad public input, and developed a plan for all water users in the lower Colorado River basin."

The LCRA Board approved the following measures:

- Allow some water for interruptible customers in 2010 for a first rice crop. LCRA will consider whether water could be provided for second crop at a later date. LCRA will follow provisions in its Water Management Plan, either the 1999 plan currently in effect, or the 2003 plan, which could be approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in the coming weeks.
- Seek temporary amendments from TCEQ to optimize

river water in the lower portion of the basin so it can be used for industrial, irrigation and municipal uses if dry conditions return and the water is not being used for agricultural customers.

- Continue to encourage customers to conserve water. At this time, conditions have improved such that firm water customers, which include cities and industries, may lift their mandatory watering restrictions with little risk of significant impact on water supply over the next six months. Staff will continue working with customers on pro-rata curtailment procedures to be prepared for use if the drought worsens.

The Board also directed staff to carefully review water availability in light of the drought conditions and to bring all new applications for increased water demand to the Board for consideration, temporarily suspending

a current rule allowing staff to issue contracts for less than 500 acre-feet.

The Board took this action rather than adopt a temporary suspension of new contracts for water, as recently discussed.

The Board and management also signaled their commitment to incorporating the lessons from this drought into future planning.

"As steward of the Colorado River, LCRA has a responsibility to plan for the water future of our basin.

"LCRA will live up to this responsibility," Mason said.

Next month the LCRA Board will review potential costs of future water supply options identified in a draft long-term water supply plan, the Water Supply Resource Plan, which LCRA staff is preparing.

The plan will be LCRA's roadmap for meeting future water needs in its basin to 2100.

LCRA received widespread public input last year and plans another round of public input on the draft plan early next year.

LCRA also will begin the process to update its Water Management Plan, which guides water management in the lower Colorado River basin -- particularly during droughts.

Updating the plan will involve extensive technical analysis and input from an advisory committee.

School Days

Rice School Calendar Dec. 7-12

Mon.-Boy Scout meeting 6:30 p.m.in cafeteria
Grades 1st-4th / /

Tue.- Motivational Speaker at R.J.H. Grades 3rd-6th

Wed.-

Thu.-

Fri.-End of 3 Weeks

Sat.- Band-Region Tryouts-Ganado
Band-Eagle Lake Parade

Sun.-Houston Rodeo School Art-1:30-Commons



Rice High School Senior Best and Most

The senior class made their annual selections of the Best and Most of their class. Winners were announced at a recent pep rally. They are: **Most Beautiful/Handsome**, Becca Dota and Francisco Vazquez; **Most Likely to Succeed**, Kaydi Gold and Cody Munoz; **Best Smile**, Rachel Korenek and Tim Morales; **Most Bashful**, Maddy Gonzales and Michael Fore; **Friendliest**, Shaina Bowen and Kody Miller; **Most Athletic**, Lauren Shimek and Mario Hull; **Class Clown**, Annica Williams and J.J. Reggins; **Most Likely to be Famous**, Kayli Kallina and Tyler Al-Obaidi; **Most Likely to get a Ticket**, Kristyna Lobpries and Austin Renaud; **Most Flirtatious**, Stefani Gertson and Kevin Earls; **Most Spirited**, Kirbrina Robinson and Brian Kallina; **Most Outspoken**, Valencia Clay and Dillan Sanford.

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Colorado County Sheriff's Report

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sponded to Sealy Road in reference to a Criminal Mischief. On arrival, the complainant reported that someone tore down a gutter on his metal building. The case is pending a review of the surveillance video to identify the suspect(s).

At 12:50 pm, Deputy Abbott responded to a residence on Converse Street in Weimar to execute a Felony Parole Warrant on a subject for Burglary of a Building. After further investigation, Debra Ann Marx, 40 of Weimar, was apprehended on the Felony Parole Warrant and Bennie Scott, 52 of Weimar, was later arrested on a warrant for Hindering the Apprehension of a Known Felon. Case closed.

At 1:45 pm, Deputy Abbott responded to Hwy 90E near Weimar in reference to a report of a Theft. On arrival, it was determined that the Theft was a civil matter, however, it was determined that a Magistrate's Emergency Protective Order had been violated. After

further investigation, an arrest warrant was issued and the case is pending apprehension.

Monday, November 2

At 11 am, Deputy Blair responded to McCormick Road near Eagle Lake in reference to a Theft of oil field property. On arrival, it was determined that suspect(s) had stolen a large sum of 2 and 3/8 inch pipe. Case is pending further information.

At 1:27 pm, Deputy Zak responded to the Columbus Travel Center on IH-10 in reference to a gas drive off. The suspect vehicle was located in Austin County and the suspect was identified. After further investigation, no charges were filed at the request of the complainant.

Tuesday, November 3

At 10:10 am, Deputy Hudson responded to FM 102 south of Eagle Lake in reference to a Theft. The complainant reported that two outboard boat motors were stolen from the property. The outboard motors were entered into

the State and National database as stolen. Case is pending further investigation.

At 4 pm, Sgt. Girndt was contacted by a complainant in reference to Harassment. After further investigation, one subject was issued a No Contact letter. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 4:15 pm, Deputy Head responded to Rocky Creek Road west of Columbus in reference to Illegal Dumping. A report was filed and the case is pending

further information to identify a suspect(s).

Wednesday, November 4

At 9:24 am, Deputy Head located a fire burning dark black smoke on CR 218 near Weimar. On arrival, the incident was determined to be a violation of the clean air act and one suspect was identified. The Weimar Volunteer Fire Department responded to put out the fire. Case is pending further action by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

At 12:19 pm, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence on Hwy 71 in Garwood in reference to a Burglary. After further investigation, no charges were filed at the request of the complainant. Case closed.

At 6:51 pm, Sgt. Staff arrived at a residence on FM 949 near Alleyton to assist the Austin County Sheriff's Office with an arrest warrant. After further investigation, Preston Garrett Neuendorff,

21 of Alleyton, was arrested for a Probation Violation warrant issued out of Austin County. Case closed.

Thursday, November 5

At 8:30 am, Deputy Head made contact with a complainant in reference to a Theft that occurred on Commerce Lane east of Columbus. A report was filed and the case is pending further information.

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