From: Jack D"Amario
To: ..THE BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION COALITION--HOOD COUNTY CHAPTER;
cc: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Hood Invironmental Health;
Hood Cnty Extention Agent; Brazos River Authority; USDA-Soil Conservation District;
Hood County News; Co. Commissioner, Mike Sympson;
Co. Commissioner, Leonard Heathington; Sykes, Victoria (Chet Edwards);
Rep. Jim Keffer, TX House; Dixon, Becky (Sen Averitt); Nace, Karen;
Co. Commissioner, Steve Berry;
Subject: BRCC-Hood E-newsletter (BRA email)
Date: Saturday, September 15, 2007 10:56:38 AM

BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION COALITION
HOOD COUNTY CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 11 September 15, 2007

SPECIAL NOTICE

DUE TO A PRIOR USE COMMITMENT THE LANGDON CENTER FACILITY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE BRCC – HOOD IN OCTOBER. THE OCTOBER 9TH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ***AMERICAN TOWN HALL***, 220 N. TRAVIS STREET

State Senator Kip Averitt Draws a Crowd

The September 11th meeting of the BRCC – Hood had the second highest attendance of the year. The presence of State Senator Kip Averitt brought out forty five members and guests. Among those present were Granbury Mayor, David Southern, BRA Government Relations Manager, Matt Phillips, Chamber of Commerce CEO, Mike Scott, Victoria Sykes from Representative Chet Edwards' office and President of The Friends of The Brazos River, Ed Lowe.

Senator Averitt spoke for about thirty minutes and then responded to question for another 35 minutes. He reported that the most significant piece of legislation enacted by the '07 legislature affecting surface water issues was Senate Bill 3 that mandates and funds the scientific study of the ecological condition and requirements of every river in Texas. A major function of the studies will be the determination of the rate of instream flow required to maintain the health of each river. He said population projections estimate that there will be 40 million people in Texas by 2047, twice the current population. There is no anticipated increase in water supplies. He assured the audience that the legislature recognizes they cannot wait any longer to deal with the issues of water use and availability. He reminded the audience that the Regional Groundwater Conservation District question will be on the November ballot and that it is the vehicle by which areas can influence and control local water use.

When BRCC Co-chair, Josh Rosenfeld, raised the issue of the extension of the John Graves Scenic Riverway through Hood County, Senator Averitt said he would work with the BRCC – Hood in support of that effort.

Brazos River Instream Flow Needs Will Be The Topic Of The BRCC – Hood October Meeting

On October 9th at 7:00 PM the BRCC – Hood will hold a public meeting at the ***American Town Hall, 220 N. Travis street.*** The featured speaker will be Joe Trungale, PHD. Mr. Trundale recently completed a study, commissioned by the Friends of The Brazos River, to determine the instream flow needs of the Brazos River. He will address instream flow needs in the context of ongoing BRA systems operation permitting and various state studies and environmental planning. An understanding of this issue is critical to the health of the Brazos River and Lake Granbury as water use resources and recreational facilities.

BRCC – Hood Co-chairs Meet With Senator Averitt

BRCC – Hood co-chairmen Josh Rosenfeld and Billy Teels along with Charles Baskett and Jack D'Amario met with State Senator Kip Averitt on September 5th at the senator's Granbury office to discuss mutual interests in the Brazos River and Lake Granbury. Josh advised the senator of the BRCC's interest in the extension of the John Graves Scenic Riverway through Hood County and of the group's support for the effort to reduce salinity in the river by diverting the brine from upstream salt springs. Another topic discussed was the recently authorized sale of 27,000 additional acre-feet of water to be extracted annually from the Brazos River for gas wells. The concern is that this additional water removal could negatively affect the ecological health of the river during drought conditions. The senator was offered the support of the BRCC – Hood in any effort he gives to the achievement of these goals. Senator Averitt indicated he would look into the implications these issues and keep the BRCC apprised of his findings.

BRA Lake Clean-up anticipated

It appears that the BRA is in very preliminary stages of contracting for the clean-up of the flood debris in Lake Granbury. There has apparently been the recognition that the extent of contamination resulting from the unusual spring floods justifies a departure from the general rule that what nature creates, nature will clean up. The eventual implementation will depend on the success of obtaining funding grants. The change of policy is encouraging.

Watershed Protection Plan **(WPP)**

The WPP Stakeholder's quarterly meeting is October 2nd. BRCC-Hood is a voting member of this group and will report the results of this meeting to our membership. Studies that are underway concern golden algae, e-coli and others issues affecting Lake Granbury and the Brazos River.

Membership Gains

Seven new members were enlisted at the October meeting. Total membership is fast approaching the 300 mark.

Important Websites and E-mail Addresses

U. S. CONGRESS
Senator Kay Bailey-Hutchinson:
http//hutchison.senate.gov (e-mail via website)

Senator John Cornyn:
http//cornyn.senate.gov (e-mail via website)

Representative Chet Edwards:
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TEXAS LEGISLATURE
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