

BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION COALITION HOOD COUNTY CHAPTER E-NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 3

February 17, 2007

February 13th Chapter Meeting

The meeting of the Hood County Chapter, Brazos River Conservation Coalition, held on Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Langdon Center was attended by about 55 people. In addition to local citizens, the meeting was attended by Bill Gordon, president of Erath County Citizens for Clean Water, and Deb Harper from Glen Rose who is working to put together a grass roots environmental interest group in Somervell County.

Chapter Co-Chairman, Billy Teels, acknowledged the achievements of the founders of the Hood County Chapter, Charles Lantz, Barbara Goodwin-Lantz, Charles Inge and Dominique Inge. In less than a year they grew the chapter to over 125 members, created a formal advisory board and eight elected committee chairpersons.

Dominique Inge announced that the Chapter has been appointed as a member of the Stakeholders Group at their Tuesday meeting. This is a significant recognition of the Chapters importance and influence.

During Tuesday's meeting ten new members were signed up taking our rolls to 135.

The featured speaker, Frank Espino, from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality outlined the authority and responsibilities of the three major agencies overseeing the quality of the Brazos River and Lake Granbury, the TCEQ, the BRA and the Hood County Office of Environmental Health. He stated that the TCEQ is the enforcement arm of the EPA in Texas. That federal agency has ceded its compliance authority to the TCEQ.

Mr. Espino also said the North Central Texas Area office of the TCEQ is second only to the EPA in size among the countries environmental agencies and is responsible for an area that covers one fourth of the population the State of Texas.

Chapter Meeting(continued)

The Hood County Environmental Health office was described as having the responsibility for ensuring the adequacy of new septic systems and the inspection of old systems in Hood County. James McAusland, RS, who is the director of that office will be the guest speaker at the April meeting of the BRCC-HCC.

Mr. Espino said that Hood County is unique in that the various agencies involved in the counties environmental protection issues enjoy a rare cooperative working arrangement. Unlike other areas the agencies here have found a way to focus on common goals and unite their efforts.

After his formal talk Mr. Espino took questions from the audience for about thirty minutes. In response to some of those questions he stated that the lake water is safe for swimming, boating and fishing with the exception of some of the canals which are stagnant and three areas that have high levels of bacterial contamination probably caused by runoff and failing septic systems.

The BRA is the first place to call with concerns about the lake and river except for those related to oil and gas production facilities. The Railroad Commission is the only agency with authority over gas and oil production operations.

Mr. Lee Overstreet will be the featured speaker at the March meeting. He is the owner of Overstreet Realty and has long been an advocate for Granbury and Hood County. His family has deep roots in the county that go back several generations. He will discuss the effects of development on the Brazos River and Lake Granbury and how degradation of the river and lake can impact potential development. That means property values.

The Chapter Website – A Reality

The work and creativity Phil Delucchi and Doug Richards has resulted in the creation of a most excellent chapter website. Seeing is believing so click on www.brcchood.org and take a look. Check it frequently for regular updates of chapter goings on and other relevant information. Use the links on the home page to view the activities of the various government agencies charged with protecting our river.

Thank you Phil and Doug.

Hood County Day at the State Legislature

March 7th is Hood County Day in Austin and chapter Co-Chairs Josh Rosenfeld and Billy Teels will be there to introduce the BRCC-HCC to the legislators, letting them know who we are what our purpose is.

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