

BRAZOS RIVER CONSERVATION COALITION HOOD COUNTY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 13

November 17, 2007

BRA Managers Kent Rindy and Jim Forte Address the November Meeting

The November 13th meeting of the BRCC was not well attended by the general membership but the presence of BRA Upper Basin Regional Manager, Kent Rindy, and BRA Manager of Planning and development, Jim Forte, did bring Granbury's Mayor Southern, Becky Dixon from State Senator Averitts office, and Debbie Schneider from the Hood County News to the Langdon Center Concert Hall. Kent Rindy and Jim Forte were, in this writer's opinion, open and forthright in their discussion of the issues raised by members of the audience. They covered a wide range of issues, most in great detail.

Mr. Rindy began by stating that BRA was created to sell and manage water in the Brazos River basin. Its responsibility is to meet the water needs of customers, especially the municipalities, for 60 years into the future. A quasi state agency, it has no funding other than the revenues it generates from property leases at Possum Kingdom, water sales and waste water treatment services. The BRA prices water based on one year, five year and long term contracts. The prices are determined by the fiscal needs of the BRA and not by market factors. This results in current prices at \$54.50 per acre foot for long term contracts, less than half the price charged by the nearby Colorado River Authority. One year contracts are priced at \$39.75 paf.

As part of its application for additional water permits, currently being considered by the TCEQ, the BRA spent \$100,000.00 to fund a joint study with the Texas Parks and Wildlife to determine the in-stream flow requirements of the Brazos.

In response to a question from Ed Lowe regarding the lack of an environmental impact study by the BRA prior to the sale of a large water contract, Jim Forte explained that the TCEQ and the Texas Parks and Wildlife conduct environmental impact studies that the state legislature considers prior to granting a water permit to the BRA. Therefore the BRA is not required to do separate studies of the impact of each sale.

Mr. Rindy said that there was a lot of debate before the decision was made to contract the clean-up of the spring floods debris in the lake. The policy that natural debris will naturally dissipate and that the limited manmade debris will be policed up by lakeside residents and boaters has not changed. The decision to clean up the flood debris was based on the recognition this was a singular and unique situation.

Jim Forte wrapped up the discussion explaining that the management and distribution of the Brazos River water supply is very complicated, paraphrasing that “it IS rocket science”.

Two issues of considerable interest to the BRCC are the extension of the John Graves Scenic Riverway and the desalination project underway at the salt flats in the upper river. Mr. Rindy said that the BRA is in support of both efforts. He said the BRA already conducts operations in support of the existing scenic riverway requirements and an extension into Hood County would not add to those operations. He also said the BRA “completely supports the group” working on the desalination project.

For more coverage of the remarks of Mr. Rindy and Mr. Forte see the Saturday, November 17, 2007, edition of the Hood County News article "Lake could drop 30 feet in very long drought" by Debbie Schneider. Or open the attached copy.

NO General Meeting December

In consideration of the holidays there will NOT be a general meeting of the BRCC in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The guest speaker will announced later.

Up Coming Board of Advisors Meeting and January General Meeting

The BRCC-Hood Board of Advisors will meet on December 8th to consider several important items.

The first will be the selection of a slate of nominees for election as 2008 officers and committee heads. Nominees may be submitted to [Clark Lantz](#) prior to December 1st.

The issue of combining both BRCC chapters into one chapter will also be considered.

Chairman Rosenfelds' s Doings

Co-chairman Josh Rosenfeld has been busy since the October general meeting. He made an aerial survey of the Brazos in Hood County, taking a series of photos documenting the present condition of the river. The photos will be posted on the chapter website in early December. He also addressed the Granbury Women's Club on Wednesday, October 31st and attended the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

He found an interesting and timely article in the Texas Monthly webmag on the in-stream flow of the Brazos River that contains a recorded narration by John Graves. He suggests a visit to the website at www.texasmonthly.com/2007-11-01/multimedia6.php .

Important Websites and E-mail Addresses

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