

LAKE CONROE ASSOCIATION “STOP LAKE LOWERING”

HOA and POA Stakeholder Meeting

Bentwater Yacht Club

Wednesday November 13, 2019

Agenda

Introductions -Lake Conroe Association Role

Brief Background of SJRA Lake Lowering Program

What will it take to rescind / change the lake lowering program?

Do we have the critical first step to make it change?

Group Discussion

Timeline and Milestones - Suggested Next Steps

Introductions -Lake Conroe Association Role

LCA Board Members Present - Mike Bleier – President - Board Members Kevin Lacy, Rich Cutler, Mike McDuffie, Gene Barrington, Paul Waits

LCA has a history of representing the best interests of the Lake Conroe residents and businesses as a trusted and singular voice to address issues and work with government and regulatory entities.

The LCA Board strongly believes the lake lowering program was enacted with minimal community input and has limited technical basis for reducing flood impacts downstream of the Lake Conroe Dam.

We are leading the effort to enroll and inform all parties that have similar views and want to convince the SJRA Board to cancel or at least significantly modify the lake lowering program.

Brief Background of SJRA Lake Lowering Program

The lake lowering program was implemented by the SJRA following the significant flooding of communities located well downstream of Lake Conroe from Hurricane Harvey rainfall.

The emergency releases from Lake Conroe contributed a relatively small portion of the total water flow (estimated at about 15%) into the flooded areas and were necessary as water levels in Lake Conroe were exceeding dam design levels and flooding many lake front properties.

The lake level rose almost 5.5 feet before the releases and was over two times the largest historical storm effect.

Summary of San Jacinto River Authority's Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

EFFECTIVE March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019:

SJRA Management proposes 6" reduction between March 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018, and 12" reduction between August 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018. SJRA Management presents this as a "temporary" program

SJRA Board proposes 12" reduction between March 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018, and 24" reduction between August 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018

LCA presents data collected from Lake Conroe POA's on average lake levels in their sub-divisions and their unanimous vote for no lake level reductions

SJRA Board votes unanimously for 12" and 24" reductions

Summary of San Jacinto River Authority's Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

EFFECTIVE March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020:

SJRA Management proposes nothing and asks SJRA Board what they want to do. SJRA Management again stresses this to be a “temporary” program

SJRA Board proposes 12” reduction between March 1, 2019 and April 30, 2019, and 24” reduction between August 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019

LCA presents opposition to existing program, highlights problems for local residents and businesses when lake levels are reduced, and requests the elimination of the program

SJRA Board votes 5 “for” and 1 “against”, and the 12” and 24” reductions continue for another year

Summary of San Jacinto River Authority's Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

EFFECTIVE March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021:

LCA to present to SJRA Board on January 23, 2020 and request elimination of SJRA's Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

SJRA Board to vote on February 27, 2020 to eliminate, modify or continue its Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

What will it take to rescind / change the lake lowering program?

SJRA's Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program was designated as "temporary" by the SJRA Board when it voted to implement the program.

"Temporary" was tied to completing dredging of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The dredging is designed to improve the flow of water through the river and reduce flooding in Kingwood and surrounding areas.

The original and a second increased dredging program has been completed. It is reasonable to expect that the seasonal "temporary" program should now be over as "promised by the SJRA Board"

The simple but not necessarily easy answer is four of seven SJRA Board Members to vote to rescind / change the program.

Timeline and Milestones

November 13 Meeting of HOA's and POA's

- If support is clear, then start publicity campaign and press releases and
- Continue to meet and enroll SJRA Board Members ahead of the December Board Meeting
- Meet with SJRA Management with suggested requirements to present to the SJRA Board

December 12th SJRA Board Meeting – Enlist significant numbers of residents to attend and speak in the Public Comment

January 23rd SJRA Board Meeting – LCA makes presentation - many residents in attendance

February 27th SJRA Board review the lake lowering program. LCA encourages big attendance

How to attend Key SJRA Board meetings that will influence or determine the vote to renew:

SJRA Board Meeting Dates (all start at 8AM):

Dec. 12, 2019 – Recommended that HOA's and POA's and individuals attend to express concerns including public comment

Jan. 23, 2020 -LCA Presentation – organized presentation on the negative impacts and concerns

February 27, 2020 -SJRA Board vote on Seasonal Lake Level Adjustment Program

SJRA Board Meeting Location:

SJRA Lake Conroe Campus

3rd Floor Conference Room

1577 Dam Site Road, Conroe, Texas 77304

Dam Site Road is north of Highway 105 at the traffic light and where the Shooter's Station is located
(936) 588-3111

How to Contact Key SJRA individuals that will influence or determine the vote to renew:

SJRA Management:

Jace Houston, General Manager

jhouston@sjra.net

Chuck Gilman, Manager of Flood Management Division

cgilman@sjra.net

SJRA Board of Directors:

Lloyd B. Tisdale, President - Ronnie Anderson, Vice President - Mark Micheletti, Treasurer

Kaaren Cambio, Secretary - Ed Boulware, Assistant Secretary

Jim Alexander, Member - Brenda Cooper, Member

E-Mail Communication for SJRA Board of Directors:

Visit SJRA web site at sjra.net

Select "SJRA Board of Directors"

Scroll to bottom of section and Select "Contact SJRA Board of Directors"

Mailing Communication for SJRA Management and Board of Directors:

San Jacinto River Authority - P.O. Box 329 - Conroe, Texas 77305

Key points –

- 1. The program was presented to the public as temporary and linked to completing Phase I of the San Jacinto river dredging. Dredging is complete - it's been two years – time is up!**
- 2. The levels implemented are arbitrary, excessive, and not required to handle a Harvey level rainfall leading to emergency releases from Lake Conroe.**
- 3. Recent storms show that Lake Conroe residents and businesses are being unfairly penalized and blamed for the bulk of downstream flooding.**
- 4. The program has wasted significant volumes of water, will make any subsequent drought very severe, and it creates safety hazards throughout the lake.**

**Will we have the visible and
vocal support of many lake residents?**

**That is the critical requirement
to shift the SJRA Board vote.**