



LAKE TRAVIS

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS

ASSOCIATION

253 VENTURE

KEEP IT CLEAN, CLEAR, BEAUTIFUL

LEANDER, TEXAS 78645

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1987

REVIEW

Current permitted effluent discharges into Lake Marble Falls and LBJ total 2.8 million gallons per day.

These two Lakes have the worst trophic rating of all the Highland Lakes.

This rating is established by considering clarity, amount of plant life, and amount of phosphorus in the lake.

The Texas Water Commission prepared a set of proposed rules for these lakes that (1) would prevent new applicants from discharging effluent into the lake and (2) would allow current permitted plants to continue effluent discharges if the daily permitted quantity is not increased.

PLTA agrees with part (1) above but does not approve of any lake discharge.

Land irrigation with chlorinated effluent is the superior alternative.

Soil bacteria and sunshine will eliminate any remaining virus and bacteria in the effluent.

The irrigated fluids will be consumed by evaporation or transpiration (plant absorption).

Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in effluent cause accelerated plant growth in lakes.

They do the same on land except the land plants have a commercial value.

These plants could be those that produce far more than normal revenues such as Christmas trees, Zoysia grass, horticultural plants etc.

This is in keeping with the Texas Department of Agriculture "Grown in Texas" program.

Lake Travis has the second best rating of the 96 Texas lakes.

RULES HEARING-FEBRUARY 9,1987

PLTA presented 16 speakers to prove effluent disposal utilizing land irrigation is the proper approach. A brief summary of each speakers comments includes:

1. Cecil Laws-(a) goal of PLTA, (b) accomplishments of PLTA, (c) Colorado River water is best conserved by improving wasteful water sales procedures to farmers and not by returning effluents to the lakes, (d) aquifers on upper end of Lake Travis are recharged with poor quality water, (e) from actual field inspections, the Llano River appears clean and is not polluting the upper end of Lake LBJ.
2. Sam Warrington-(a) the Llano River water quality reports prove it is fabulously clean, (b) public water systems between Marble Falls and Austin can not remove ammonia and nitrogen in the raw drinking water supply, (c) removal of bad taste and odors due to algae cause these water plants to be far more costly to operate.
3. Jack Strickland-(a) reasons why Inks Lake is not polluting Lake LBJ, (b) there are a multitude of septic tank designs-selection of the proper one will eliminate any pollution problems.
4. Dr. Taylor Ollmann-(a) facts from Texas Water Commission publication proving that Lakes LBJ and Marble Falls have the worst water quality in the chain of lakes, (b) quoted TWC data on non-compliance records of LBJ MUD and Marble Falls sewage treatment plants.
5. Dr. Jack Myers -algae production (2,000# per day from a 500,000 gallon/day effluent discharge with 1 part per million of phosphorus content) and its harmful affects.
6. Alex Young-gave the tourist dollars spent in Llano, Burnet, and Travis Counties as tabulated by the U.S. Travel Data Center.
- *7. Mel Hinson-upstream lake discharges that continually add nutrients will cause trophic rating of Lake Travis to decline. Due to its physical size, flow through is slow and it becomes a catch basin.
8. Carrie Williams-upper end of Lake Travis has excessive algal growth.
9. Terry Bilger-upper end of Lake Travis has very limited clarity-only 6" at times.
10. Paul Rowe-lower end of Lake Travis had 20' clarity 25 years ago, now it is only 10'.
11. Bill Atwood-scuba divers are finding decline in Lake Travis clarity and considerable green-brown and black plant matter is now growing on subsurface rocks.
- *12. Dr. Ted Metcalf-viruses do survive sewage treatment plants disinfection and these viruses can cause hepatitis and gastro-intestinal diseases.
- *13. Don Rauschuber-cost for building, land purchase, and operation of a sewage treatment plant for land irrigation would cost only \$17.89 per month (City of Marble Falls claims it would be \$161).
- *14. Dr. Bobby Carlile-there is plenty of land available for irrigation near Marble Falls sewage discharge point and/or plant. For the relatively small plant (1.5 million gallons per day), disposal of effluent through irrigation is always cheaper than discharge to lakes. Several cities are paying the operational and maintenance costs of their plants through sale of the crops produced on the irrigated land.
15. Larry Mellenbruch-he gave his experience in utilizing effluent from an Austin sewage treatment plant on his farm. This was a very successful operation.
16. Gene Moran-Conclusions were drawn from the above. Other cities in the area do dispose of effluent through land irrigation. Burnet's sewage bills are the highest in the area and they are only \$9.50 per month for 2000 gallons.

*These were paid expert witnesses, all of whom have many years of experience in their respective fields.

MEMBERSHIPS/CONTRIBUTIONS

The Hearing detailed above plus a February 24 Hearing on the Marble Falls application to increase their discharge by one million gallons per day have reduced our treasury considerably. There were many volunteer hours that put these hearings in place. Your financial help is needed-either by renewal of your membership or a generous contribution. Get a friend, neighbor, or associate to help. There are at least 3 more hearings in the next 3 months.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On March 14 (Saturday) from 2 to 4 PM at St. Lukes On The Lake (R.R. 620-meeting room at rear of the Church) we will have an ice cream social. A discussion will be offered to further explain some of the points relating to these upstream pollution problems. A question and answer session will be a major part of this. Your attendance will be appreciated. \$3.00 entitles you to all the ice cream you can eat. We must have your \$3/person reservation for this by March 10 so that we can properly prepare for the meeting. Return the coupon below with your payment.

THANKS,

Cecil Laws

Cecil Laws
President
2-28-87

YES!! I CARE ABOUT THE HIGHLAND LAKES

() Here is my contribution of
\$25__, \$50__, \$100__

() Here is my membership fee
of \$10__

I will help with () Finance () Membership
() Legislative () Technical
Committees.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

(Return to Protect Lake Travis Assoc.
253 Venture, Leander, Tx. 78645)

YES! I WILL ATTEND THE MARCH 14 MEETING

() Here is my payment for this all you can eat ice cream social @ \$3/person-
\$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

(Return to Protect Lake Travis Assoc.
253 Venture, Leander, Tx. 78645 by
March 10)