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TOLEDO BEND ALERT

August 2019

Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee

To Educate and Activate

www.tbccac.net

tbccac3@gmail.com

Next TBCAC SOCIAL 7:00 - 8:30PM Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Our Next TBCAC Quarterly Membership Meeting and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the **Sabine Council on Aging – Toledo Town Location (SCOA)** located on Hwy. 191, 3/4 miles north of the Hwy. 6 Toledo Town intersection. The SCOA is located next to the DAV. Socials are held quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of the designated month.

The speaker for the next meeting will be Chuck Soileau, a local attorney and board member of TBCAC. Chuck chairs the TBCAC Telecommunications Committee and will report on progress related to improving wireless communications in Toledo Bend country. The September social entrée will be hamburger steak/white gravy with mashed potatoes. Please bring complimentary side dishes and desserts and join us for good food, fellowship and updates on TBCAC. For more information, contact Jim Mifflin at (318) 586-7897.

2019 Calendar of Meetings: Be sure to “*save the date*” for the upcoming 2019 Socials:

September 10

November 12

Meetings/Socials begin at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there, and bring a guest!

Board Meetings: The Board normally meets on the 2nd Thursday of even numbered months at 2:00 pm at the SCOA-Toledo Town location. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2019 at 2:00PM. The Board welcomes all members to attend these meetings. The detailed minutes of all Board of Directors meetings are posted on the TBCAC website at www.tbccac.net.

Lake Level as of 7/30/2019: The lake level for Toledo Bend is reported to be 168.09 feet mean sea level (msl), as measured near the dam by the National Weather Service automated gauge. The lake level on July 30 last year was 168.82 msl. Up-to-date reservoir elevations and releases may be obtained from the Toledo Bend Project offices on a 24 hour per day basis at (337) 286-5253 and (409) 565-2273. For the most current lake levels, go to www.srala-toledo.com and click on the National Weather Service link.

Sabine River Authority (SRA/LA) Updates:

Spillway Repairs

The contractor that is working on the spillway repairs restarted work on the project in mid-July. Progress has been good over the past couple of weeks but estimates on completion are still around mid-October 2019. This can only be accomplished if there are no further spillway openings until after the repairs are complete.

As we outlined in the June TBCAC newsletter, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved a variance to the power generation schedule that allows SRA to bring the lake level down to as low as 165 feet mean sea level (msl). This was done in order to allow a lower than normally approved

level for larger than normal inflows that could occur due to excessive rainfall from a tropical depression, tropical storm or hurricane. A lower level creates a safety factor to prevent any more spillway openings so that the repair project can be completed without any further delays.

The Sabine River Authorities of Louisiana and Texas will continue to monitor the key variables such as progress on the repair project, actual inflow data, weather forecasts and generator downtime for required preventative maintenance in order to determine just how low the lake level needs to be in order to give the best chance to complete the project without any additional opening of the spillway gates.

TBCAC will keep our members informed as we receive further information.

Modifications to the SRA Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new operating permit to the Sabine River Authorities of Louisiana and Texas to manage Toledo Bend Project on August 29, 2014. An integral part of that operating permit is a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

The SMP is a comprehensive plan to manage the multiple resources and uses of the Project's shoreline in a manner that is consistent with license requirements and Project purposes, and to address the needs of the public. This SMP identifies the existing resources at the Project and acceptable uses that the Authorities will consider in analyzing the impact of new shoreline facilities and activities within the Project Boundary, prior to granting a permit or authorization for such uses.

While the SMP is a management tool to assure that use and occupancy of Project lands and waters are consistent with license requirements, FERC guidelines, and the Authorities' management policies, it also serves as a helpful guide for property owners adjacent to the Project shoreline. For example, although both SRAs (the Authorities) have well-established, existing permitting programs, persons wishing to construct or place structures within the Project Boundary or otherwise use Project lands now have a consolidated document that provides information on the types of shoreline facilities and activities that will be allowed within specific portions of the Project Boundary.

The SMP provided for a review of the plan after 5-years of operation to determine if any modifications to the plan are needed. August 29, 2019 marks the 5-year point of operations and the Sabine River Authorities of Louisiana and Texas have determined that some modifications to the plan are needed.

On August 29, 2019 they plan to request FERC to approve a Shoreline Management Plan Review that includes a Process Plan and Schedule shown below as Attachment A.

Attachment A

| Action | Time Period/Due Date |
|--|---|
| <p>The Authorities: Prepare a preliminary revised SMP, with proposed changes indicated (“track changes”)</p> <p>Post the preliminary revised SMP on each Authorities website; and</p> <p>Notify interested agencies and stakeholders (the public) of the availability of the preliminary revised SMP for review and comment.</p> | <p>Within 30 days of FERC’s order approving this SMP Review Process Plan and Schedule</p> |
| <p>Public Review Period:</p> <p>Interested agencies and stakeholder review of the preliminary revised SMP and provide written comments to the Authorities.</p> | <p>Within 90 days after FERC’s order (60-day review period)</p> |
| <p>Preparation and Filing of Final SMP:</p> <p>The Authorities will review all comments received and make modifications to the draft SMP to address comments.</p> <p>The Authorities will file the revised and final SMP to FERC for approval.</p> | <p>120 days after FERC’s order</p> |

The TBCAC Board of Directors sent a letter to the Authorities on July 28 stating that, after our review, we feel the Process Plan and Schedule is satisfactory. The real key will be quick and clear communication to the public of the recommended modifications in order to get meaningful feedback during the 60-day review period.

In addition to posting the proposed modifications on the Authorities websites and notifying the list of interested agencies and stakeholders (TBCAC is on that list), we feel it would be appropriate to hold a public forum so that the general public could understand possible impacts and have an opportunity to comment on the modifications.

The current Shoreline Management Plan is shown in its entirety on the SRA of Louisiana home page at www.srala-toledo.com.

TBCAC will monitor this process as it continues and keep our members informed.

Update on Water Sales

No specific proposed water sale is currently planned.

TBCAC 2019 Membership Renewals

We thank you for your loyal support of the Toledo Bend Citizens’ Advisory Committee (TBCAC). Your support enables us to continually monitor proposed legislative proceedings or planned governmental actions that could affect the communities surrounding Toledo Bend Reservoir. The article in our February 2019 newsletter regarding the workings of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission is an example of

how TBCAC researches issues relating to the preservation of Toledo Bend Reservoir. The February newsletter also has a list of our accomplishments for 2018. The February newsletter can be accessed at www.tbcac.net.

The TBCAC will support public agencies when they act in the best interests of our communities and vigorously oppose them when they do not.

It is very important that we maintain a large membership since there is always strength in numbers.

Soon, we will be purging our membership list which is used to mail out our newsletter. We do not want anyone to miss out on news related to the Toledo Bend area. We urge everyone to renew their membership as soon as possible.

If you are not sure if you have paid your 2019 dues, please contact our treasurer Mitzie Galligan at (318) 590-0975. A renewal application is also attached below. We sincerely hope we can depend on your continued support.

TBCAC Adopt-A-Road Program – Trash Pick-Up

The Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee (TBCAC) has held three Adopt-A-Road trash pick-ups this year. The most recent pick-up was Friday, June 14.

TBCAC will hold their next trash pickup on Saturday, September 21 at 8:00AM as part of the parish-wide 2019 Fall Trash Bash. We ask that you schedule this now to keep your calendar clear for this event. We will meet at the intersection of El Camino Road and Highway 191 just north of the Beulah Baptist Church. TBCAC's responsibility is Highway 191 at El Camino Road heading south to the intersection of Highway 191 and Cypress Bend Parkway. Please make plans to join us on Saturday, September 21 at 8 AM. The more people we have, the sooner we complete the roadway cleanup! Thanks.



Pictured Left to Right: Jim Mifflin, Harry Stafford, Randy Pennington and Linda McCormic. Not Pictured: Deb Pennington

Fish Care- Reprinted by Permission of the Toledo Bend Lake Association (TBLA)

By law, legally caught fish become the property of the angler and the angler may decide whether to keep or release those fish. If the angler chooses to keep those fish, then arrangements should be made in advance to ensure that the fish make it to the table in good condition. Such arrangements likely include having an iced container to keep the fish fresh until such time as they are stored at home. If anglers choose to release some or all their catch, then arrangements should be made in advance to ensure that the fish remain in good condition following release. In this case, such arrangements should include the knowledge and equipment to keep the fish healthy until and after they are released.

Information regarding fish handling and livewell care, along with catch and release information in general is too plentiful to receive fair treatment in this publication but the topics are worthy of our time spent educating ourselves regarding them. Fortunately, the legwork has been done by experts in the field of fisheries management and is available to us at no cost.

The Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department covers these topics well on their website. The link to their *Catch and Release Tips* is <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/catch-release-tips>. From there you can also explore the following links and more:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/catchrelease/bassconserve.phtml>

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/catchrelease/livewell.phtml>

There is much useful information on the website that will be useful to anglers in their effort to wisely use our fisheries resources

Community Center Upcoming Events –

Movies in Many (free admission – cokes and popcorn \$1.00 each)

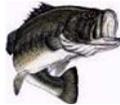
August 10 – Aquaman

August 24 – Mary Poppins Returns

Music on the Square at Historic Fisher Opera House – August 31, Starts at 5PM.

Remember: You can help us save money by providing your e-mail address as a means of receiving your copy of the newsletter. You can list your e-mail address with your dues, or drop us a line at tbcac3@gmail.com. Every newsletter that we can send out via e-mail helps to save \$\$.

Help Us Grow Our TBCAC Membership: If you know someone who is not a member, give them a membership form and ask them to join. The TBCAC is a Civic & Educational Organization, dedicated to making the lake and surrounding community a true “Sportsman’s Paradise” and the retirement destination of choice for people from all walks of life. **JOIN US TODAY!** *We need your support!* And visit our website at www.tbcac.net Questions? E-mail us at: tbcac3@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For new members, or RENEWAL form for existing members.

Annual membership is \$20.00 per single, \$30.00 per couple. *Not tax deductible under IRS rules.*

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| Name: | _____ | Spouse: | _____ |
| Address: | _____ | City, State: | _____ |
| Zip: | _____ | Home Phone | _____ |
| | | Lake Phone: | _____ |
| Occupation: | _____ | E-mail Address: | _____ |
| Dues amount: | _____ | Donation enclosed: | _____ |

* Providing an e-mail address allows us to quickly send you the Toledo Bend Alert electronically, keep you informed and save printing and postage costs.

With your paid membership, you’ll receive our periodic newsletter, the “Toledo Bend Alert.”

Make check payable to: TBCAC and Mail to: TBCAC, P.O. Box 983, Many, LA 71449.