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TOLEDO BEND ALERT

October 2018

Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee#

To Educate and Activate

www.tbcac.net

tbcac3@gmail.com

Next TBCAC SOCIAL 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Our Next TBCAC Quarterly Membership Meeting and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 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 guest speaker for the November 2018 meeting will be Mike McCormic, Police Juror for Ward 3. Mike will review the status of parish road improvement plans. The November social entrée will be baked catfish served on a bed of rice topped with crawfish etouffee. 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.

2018 Calendar of Meetings: Be sure to “*save the date*” for the upcoming 2018 Socials:

November 13

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

Board Meetings: The Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of even numbered months at 2:00 pm at the SCOA-Toledo Town location. The Board welcomes all members to attend these meetings. Any member who wishes to address the Board during a Board meeting should notify the President prior to the meeting to ensure that appropriate time is allocated to hear that member. The detailed minutes of all Board of Directors meetings are posted on the TBCAC website at www.tbcac.net.

Lake Level as of 9/30/2018: The lake level for Toledo Bend is reported to be 168.16 feet above mean sea level, as measured near the dam by the National Weather Service automated gauge. Last year at this time the lake level was reported at 168.61 feet. 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:

Update on Power Generation Contract

The Sabine River Authorities (SRA) of Louisiana and Texas along with three power companies, Entergy Louisiana, Swepco and Cleco have signed a new 5 –year power generation contract for Toledo Bend Reservoir effective May 1, 2018. The power companies now have presented the contract to the Louisiana Public Services Commission (LPSC) for their approval. The LPSC was involved in the agreement’s negotiation process. The SRA’s and the power companies will operate under the terms of the new contract until the LPSC makes their decision. The LPSC is expected to approve the new power contract at their mid-October 2018 meeting.

Update on Spillway Repair Plans

The currently planned timeframes are:

2nd Quarter 2018: Bids were received from several construction firms in June. The second lowest bidder filed a protest. SRA decided to amend some terms of the requests for proposals and go out to bid again.

3rd Quarter 2018: A new bid package was sent July 24, 2018. A pre-bid meeting was held on August 9, 2018 to answer any bidder questions. Final bids were submitted on August 21, 2018. After the re-bid process, the SRA of Louisiana and Texas, on September 6, 2018 awarded the winning bid of \$8.8 million to American Equipment Company of Anacoco, LA.

3rd and 4th Quarters 2018: Mobilize for repairs and refurbish the 20 inch pipes that provide water flow downstream during repairs.

4th Quarter 2018– 2nd Quarter 2019: Complete the concrete apron repairs and “rip rap” stone replacement.

The repair work is still planned to be accomplished under the normal lake operations within the generating pool range of 168 feet to 172 feet mean sea level. However, should abnormal weather patterns disrupt the construction schedule, a variance request may be requested from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). TBCAC will provide updates as the schedule proceeds.

Update on Water Sales

The powers that be in Baton Rouge are taking a more active look at out-of-state water sales from Toledo Bend Reservoir. We want to make our members and other interested parties aware of some of the actions that are being examined by the Louisiana Water Resources Commission.

It is important to note that no specific proposed water sale is currently in the works.

Background:

The proposed sale of 600,000 acre feet per year to Texas in 2011-2012 by the SRA-LA, from Louisiana’s annual 1,000,000 acre feet allocation, was ultimately rejected by then Governor Bobby Jindal. TBCAC was very active in opposing that sale primarily because the provisions in the contract did not adequately protect lake levels and the related concerns of recreational use and environmental protection.

Stakeholders of the communities surrounding Toledo Bend Reservoir, both residents and business interests, were not consulted nor given an adequate opportunity to make comments about the proposed sale and its possible impacts on our communities and the long-term ecological impacts on the reservoir.

As a result of that lack of openness in communications, and to ensure more involvement by stakeholders in any future out-of-state water sale proposals, Act 784 was passed by the Louisiana Legislature in the 2012 Regular Session. Act 784 provides that, in addition to the Governor’s approval, the following approvals are also required for out-of-state water sales from Toledo Bend Reservoir: (1) The written concurrence of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and (2) At least two-thirds of the governing authorities of the parishes within the territorial jurisdiction of the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana. In 2018, Senator Gerald Long proposed an amendment to Act 784 that, in addition to the other approvals, would require the approval of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission. That amendment was approved by the legislature.

The Louisiana Water Resources Commission was created several years ago by the Louisiana Legislature with the authority to promote and assist in the effective management of the state’s water resources. The commission’s responsibilities include the study and evaluation of overall resource management, current and projected demands, alternative source use opportunities, conservation programs and practices, and the utilization of incentives and new technologies.

The Louisiana Water Resources Commission is chaired by Thomas Harris, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. It is comprised of 27 members from various state regulatory agencies, industry representatives and environmental experts.

Recent Developments:

On December 6, 2017, the Water Resources Commission passed a resolution stating that, in part, “prior to entertaining any potential offers to divert surface water to outside entities beyond its borders, the State of Louisiana must first have a good understanding of its own needs for population growth, economic development, environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and a sustainable coast, in accordance with the mandates of the state Constitution.” The resolution further states that the commission chairman “constitute a work group of members to study existing state laws governing the sales of surface water to out-of-state entities and make recommendations for improvements and/or additional processes for such sales that will guarantee that the State of Louisiana not only protects its own needs but also receives a fair market value for its water resources, such study to be reported back to the Water Resources Commission for final approval before being forwarded to the legislature.”

It is the opinion of the TBCAC Board of Directors that the currently mandated approvals for out-of-state water sales are a good thing. They help to ensure that a broad spectrum of stakeholders can weigh-in on ramifications of an out-of-state water sale.

It is also the opinion of the TBCAC Board of Directors that it would oppose any attempt to change the approvals required by current legislation. TBCAC will continue to monitor the recommendations of this study group within the Water Resources Commission and keep our members and other interested parties informed.

New Bond Issue for Capital Improvements

The SRA/LA Board of Commissioners approved a resolution for a new bond issue to cover future capital improvements. The new \$12 million bond being requested will refinance remaining funds of \$3.3 million from the prior 2011 bond issue and provide \$8.7 million of additional funding for future capital improvements. SRA financial advisers worked with various banks to structure the bond issue. Three banks within the state submitted proposals. At the SRA-LA Board of Commissioners Meeting on August 23, 2018, the commissioners approved a 10-year \$12 million bond issue offered by Citizens National Bank, for the lowest interest rate proposed, of 3.1 percent.

TBCAC Trash Pick-Up: The parish-wide Trash Bash road-side trash pick-up took place on Saturday, September 22. Rainy weather hampered pick-up in some areas but a strong effort was made to complete pick-up where possible. TBCAC was scheduled to pick-up our designated Adopt-A Road section on Highway 191 south of the Toledo Town intersection. However, heavy rain forced us to re-schedule the pick-up. We will notify all TBCAC members when a new pick-up date is set.

Many Community Center Upcoming Events –

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

Oct 6- War Room

Oct 26- Casper, the Friendly Ghost

Music in Many (ticket prices vary)

Oct 13- First Annual Sabine Parish Gospel Singing 7 p.m.

Nov 3- Troy LeBlanc & Band 7 p.m.

Other Upcoming Community Events-

Fundraiser for Taylor House and Many Cultural District- Oct. 6th, **Golf Tournament and Party at the Pavilion/Cypress Bend**, 2 Man Scramble \$150/team in advance, \$200/team day of, 9:30 am; Silent Auction and Big Screen Football at the Pavilion 2-5:00pm, Contact Mary Brocato at 318-617-5239 or Cheryl Wooley at 318-256-9796.

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.