

A Publication of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Winter 2017

GBRA River Run

LAKE WOOD DAM GATE

Prompts Review of Hydro System

- 3 / Coleta Gets Upgrades
- 4 / Board Elects Officers
- 7 / Summit Success

Constituent Communiqué

Minding the Challenges and Benefits



After nine months as the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's new General Manager/CEO, I have had an opportunity to visit operations from the top to the bottom of our 10-county statutory district. With each trip, I have learned more and more about the diverse constituents, city and county officials and the unique challenges and advantages that wind through the Guadalupe River basin.

The Lower Guadalupe River basin has greeted me with recurring log jams and the litany of problems that log jams bring to landowners adjacent to the river. With funding from a federal grant and other sources, we dispersed segments of our river, stacked and mulched or burned log piles, and continue to work to keep the jams cleared. In the middle of our basin, the aging dams of the hydro system present an entirely different set of concerns. A broken gate on the dam at Lake Wood has prompted a more comprehensive look at the 15 gates on all six dams, which is detailed in a story on p. 8 of this magazine. And a few miles upstream from the hydro system, Canyon Reservoir and its releases, the potential incursion of zebra mussels and the levels of spring flow from Comal and San Marcos springs mark a host of other issues with which we must tend.

But GBRA has welcomed me with many benefits as well. When the cool, winding rivers in this watershed are flowing freely, there is no better water recreation in the state – just ask the thousands of visitors annually who make their fun tubing on the Comal, San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers or boating, jet skiing, swimming or camping at Canyon or Coletto Creek reservoirs. Coletto has been voted “Best Lake” on multiple occasions in the *Victoria Advocate's* annual “Best of the Best” contest. GBRA also has some of the most well-trained, licensed water and wastewater treatment operators in the state. For example, the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant has earned 16 TOP Ops designations over the past eight years from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality — there are only a select few plants in the entire state that have such a consistently good operations record. And, the city and county officials in our district have been exceptional partners in stewardship of the river.

As GBRA approaches 85 years of service to the citizens of Texas, I look forward to forging constructive relationships that benefit all of our constituents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Patteson'.

Kevin Patteson
General Manager/CEO

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Board of Directors

Rusty Brockman, Chair (Comal County)
Dennis L. Patillo, Vice-Chair (Victoria County)
Don B. Meador, Secretary-Treasurer (Hays County)
Tommy Mathews, (Kendall County)
William R. Carbonara, (DeWitt County)
Ronald J. Hermes, (Guadalupe County)
Kenneth Motl, (Calhoun County)
Oscar H. Fogle, (Caldwell County)

Executive Management

Kevin Patteson, J.D., General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Darrell Nichols, Senior Deputy General Manager
Jonathan Stinson, Deputy General Manager
Alvin Schuerg, Senior Advisor to the General Manager
Cindy Demers, Executive Manager of Finance and Administration,
Chief Financial Officer
Darel Ball, Executive Manager of Water Resources and
Utility Operations
Todd Votteler, Ph.D., Executive Manager of Science,
Intergovernmental Relations and Policy
David Welsch, Executive Manager of Business Development and
Resource Management
LaMarriol Smith, Executive Manager for Strategic Communications
and Public Affairs
George "Tom" Bohl, J.D., General Counsel

GBRA River Run

Winter 2017

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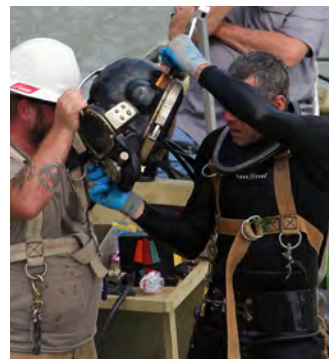
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Contents

Departments

2 | Field and Office

4 | Inside GBRA

17 | The Trust

Features

8 | Lake Wood Dam Gate Prompts
Review of Hydro System

Cover photo of Lake Wood Dam by Eric Schlagel

FIELD & OFFICE



Is it safe to **DRINK** the Water?

By Jennifer Blinder

“Is it safe to drink?”

It is the most common question heard at the GBRA Lab from well owners. While it seems to be a straightforward question, one would be surprised at how complicated it really is.

Addressing this question requires a common test for total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria conducted by GBRA Lab staff. Testing begins when a well owner collects the water in a sample bottle containing a preservative and instructions provided by GBRA.

When the analysis is complete, the GBRA Lab staff will notify a customer immediately if the sample tests positive for bacteria. If contaminated, the water well will need to be disinfected before the customer can continue consumption. Just as homeowners with private wells go through this process, officials at public water systems also must routinely test drinking water to ensure it is safe for public consumption.

Water, being a universal solvent, has the ability to dissolve some of what it passes over and through, taking some along its journey. These particles are what give mineral water such a great taste, but it is also what contributes to its corrosiveness. This can cause pipes to leach lead, copper or other harmful metals and increase the content of those contaminants in the water, which can result in health issues. Federal and

state agencies set regulations designed to minimize exposure to such contaminants in water supplies.

The Environmental Protection Agency has set maximum levels for contaminants known to have detrimental health effects. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires public water systems to provide annual consumer confidence reports (CCRs) for their customers. CCRs reveal if those public systems have exceeded any of the permitted levels.

GBRA Director of Water Quality Services, Mike Urrutia, explained, “Some contaminants are very difficult or expensive to test for, but the presence of coliform bacteria raises suspicion that those other contaminants could also be present.”

Urrutia recommends that well owners test for coliform bacteria once or twice a year. A more complete well analysis, which would include tests for nutrients, hardness and metals, should be conducted annually, or more frequently if the well is in an area with a lot of activity, during drought or after heavy rains. Analytical package options can be found at www.gbralab.org.

Electrical Upgrades Completed at Coletto Creek Park

The GBRA's Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir staff have completed electrical upgrades on the park's Camping Loop No. 1 in October, bringing the outlets to 20/30/50-amp service.

"These updates really will benefit the park's visitors. Many of today's motorhomes and travel trailers require 50-amp service. We want to ensure that we can accommodate all the different camping vehicles coming into the park," said Wilfred Korth, chief ranger at Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir. The electrical upgrade project was completed at a cost of approximately \$25,000.

The project required park staff to remove old, buried electrical wiring and to trench and lay a new electrical grid in the camping loop. The park has three camping loops with a total of 74 campsites. Fifty-nine of those sites now offer 20/30/50 amp service. All of the sites have water, a picnic table, and a barbecue pit.

Recreationalists may reserve a specific site up to a year in advance. "We strongly recommend campers

make reservations for holiday weekends and during the summer months," Korth said. The park also has four camping cabins, four rental trailers, and two group pavilions that also can be rented up to a year in advance.

Other amenities at Coletto include a large picnic area, a 200-foot lighted fishing pier, volleyball courts, a mile-long nature trail with two wildlife viewing areas, a boat ramp, playgrounds, swimming area, and restrooms.

Coletto Creek Park, is open year round and offers a wide range of outdoor activities for families, including camping, picnicking, fishing, water activities, hiking, playgrounds, and bird/wildlife viewing. The reservoir continues to be ranked by local users as the "Best Lake" in the region. For additional information about Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir, visit the website at www.colettocreekpark.com. GBRA's Coletto Creek Park is located midway between Victoria and Goliad off Highway 59.



INSIDE GBRA

2017 Board Officers Elected



The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Board of Directors elected board officers for 2017. Rusty Brockman of Comal County will serve as chair, Dennis Patillo of Victoria County will serve as vice-chair, and Don Meador of Hays County will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Brockman, a resident of New Braunfels, is director of economic development for the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, Inc. He is vice-chair of the Texas Economic Development Council, Economic Development Committee chair of the Austin/San Antonio IH-35 Corridor Council, a life member of the Texas Parent/Teacher Association, and a member of the International Economic Development Council. Brockman is also director and past president of the New Braunfels Breakfast Lions.

Brockman received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, his teaching certification from the University of Houston at Clear Lake, and a master of education degree and professional administrator certification from Stephen F. Austin State University. Brockman was appointed by Governor Rick Perry.

Patillo, of Victoria, is president of Stewart Title of the Coastal Bend, Inc. He is vice-chair of the Victoria Economic Development Council, infrastructure chair of Crossroads Commission on Education, and a board member of DeTar Healthcare System.

Patillo is past board chair of the Texas and Houston associations of realtors, a former board member of the National Association of Realtors and Victoria Country Club, and a past member of the Texas Tax Reform Commission and University of Houston Commission on Downward Expansion. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston. Patillo was reappointed to the board by Governor Greg Abbott.

Meador of San Marcos, also reappointed by Abbott, is a retired rancher and engineer. He is a past member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and American Angus Association, and a past board member of the Texas Angus Association. He is past president of the Hays County Farm Bureau, past board vice chair of the Hays County Water Conservation District, and a former commissioner of the City of Coppell Planning and Zoning Commission. He served in the U.S. Army. Meador received a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in industrial engineering from Oklahoma State University.

Other members of the GBRA board of directors are Tommy Mathews, Kendall County; Ron Hermes, Guadalupe County; Oscar Fogle, Caldwell County; Kenneth Motl, Calhoun County; and William R. Carbonara, DeWitt County.

Abbott Appoints New GBRA Board Member



Governor Greg Abbott appointed Ronald “Ron” J. Hermes of Seguin to the GBRA’s Board of Directors as the representative for Guadalupe County. He began his new duties in September.

Hermes, a physics teacher at Marion High School, takes the place on the board formerly held by Seguin attorney Grace Kunde. His term will expire in February 2021.

Hermes is a member of the Private Schools Interscholastic Association State Board of Directors and secretary of Citizens United for Lake Placid. He also works with the Christian Youth Theater and is a lector at St. James Catholic Church.

Hermes received a Bachelor of Education from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master in Human Performance from the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant Earns Award



Photo courtesy of the Port Lavaca Chamber

GBRA’s Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant was awarded the Port Lavaca Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture 2016 Small Business Level 1 of the Year in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community. Employees from the plant received the award during a ceremony in January.

Shown from left to right are Anna Daniels, Ronnie Parenica, Stephanie Shelly, Billy Penney, Curtis Gosnell, Sheryll Kisiah, and Linda McPherson.



New Executive Hired and Other Promotions

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Patteson introduced two executive managers during the GBRA Board of Directors meeting in October.

Cindy Demers was named executive manager of Finance and Administration and chief financial officer. Darel Ball was named executive manager for Water Resources and Utility Operations.

Demers, who formerly served as chief financial officer at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), will oversee the accounting and finance functions at GBRA, preparation of GBRA's annual budget and five-year financial plan, financial reserves, and debt service investments, capital assets, procurement and risk



management. Her areas of responsibility also include accounts payable, receivable and payroll functions, human resource services, information technology support, and coordination of GBRA's Industrial Development Corporation.

"Cindy is a talented fiscal professional who will have a positive impact on the financial functions throughout GBRA. We are fortunate to have been able to recruit her into our organization and we look forward to benefitting from her experience," Patteson said.

Demers, a certified public accountant, earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia University in Austin and her master's degree from St. Edwards University in Austin. Prior to her work at TWDB, she was controller for the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and also previously served as assistant city manager in Round Rock, Texas.

Ball, who was promoted internally from his position as manager for Lower Basin Operations and serves as the chief operations officer and directs engineering and construction activities of the organization, water



resource management, recreation and parks, and utilities operations. He also will direct the negotiation and development of major contracts and represent GBRA with its customers.

"Over the years as GBRA's roles have expanded and diversified, so has Ball's career path and responsibilities whether it has been in the

upper basin, lower basin or in Seguin," Patteson said.

Ball earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and a master of business administration from the University of Houston-Victoria. Ball brings decades of service and commitment to GBRA and its communities throughout the Guadalupe River basin to his new position.

In a separate action, Patteson named long-time GBRA executive Alvin Schuerg as senior advisor to the general manager. In his new capacity, Schuerg provides advice and guidance to the general manager and executive staff on GBRA's programs, operational activities and strategic planning. He reviews GBRA's operational contracts and procurement procedures, and focuses on project implementation and customer development.

Schuerg, a certified public accountant, has more than 35 years of service at GBRA, previously serving as executive manager for Financial Administration, overseeing the accounting and finance functions at GBRA, preparation of its annual budget and financial plans, financial reserves, debt administration, capital assets, procurement and risk management prior to



being elevated to senior advisor in 2016. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Lutheran University.



Charles "Charlie" Hickman, P.E., was promoted from water resources engineer II to manager of Project Engineering. In his new capacity, Hickman is responsible for the management of GBRA's construction projects, including preliminary design, permitting and construction of major

design and engineering projects. He also ensures adherence to the state's procurement procedures with respect to construction projects and handles the development of policies and procedures for project management.



Eduardo Montaña also was promoted from manager of the Lockhart Wastewater Reclamation Division and Lockhart Water Treatment Plant to division manager for Hays and Caldwell counties. In his new capacity, Montaña is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Hays

and Caldwell divisions, which include the San Marcos Water Treatment Plant, the IH-35 Treated Water Delivery System, Lockhart water and wastewater treatment plants, Luling Water Treatment Plant and Treated Water Delivery System, Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sunfield Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Shadow Creek Wastewater System.

Leaders Discuss Challenges and Strategies at Hill Country Water Summit

National and State leaders came together during the Texas Hill Country Summit in December 2016 at the New Braunfels Civic Center to dissect the state's water challenges, plan strategies, and learn from two devastating holiday floods in the past two years on the Blanco, San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers.

In addition to water and weather-related effects, the Summit offered an election re-cap and assessment and preview of the 85th Texas Legislature. Participants also explored the water management issues addressed in the distinctive white paper agreement forged between the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and The Aransas Project (TAP) after years of litigation.

"This Summit promoted awareness of the precious water resources of the Texas Hill Country.

We also were able to facilitate planning strategies for short- and long-term challenges," Todd Votteler, Ph.D., chairman of the Guadalupe Basin Coalition said.

"There are very few opportunities for the public, local officials, and students to find this level of water leadership assembled together to assess and help address the water situation we're facing," Votteler said, adding, "This Summit allowed water leaders to be in a better position facing the spring rains of 2017 than we were in 2015 and 2016."



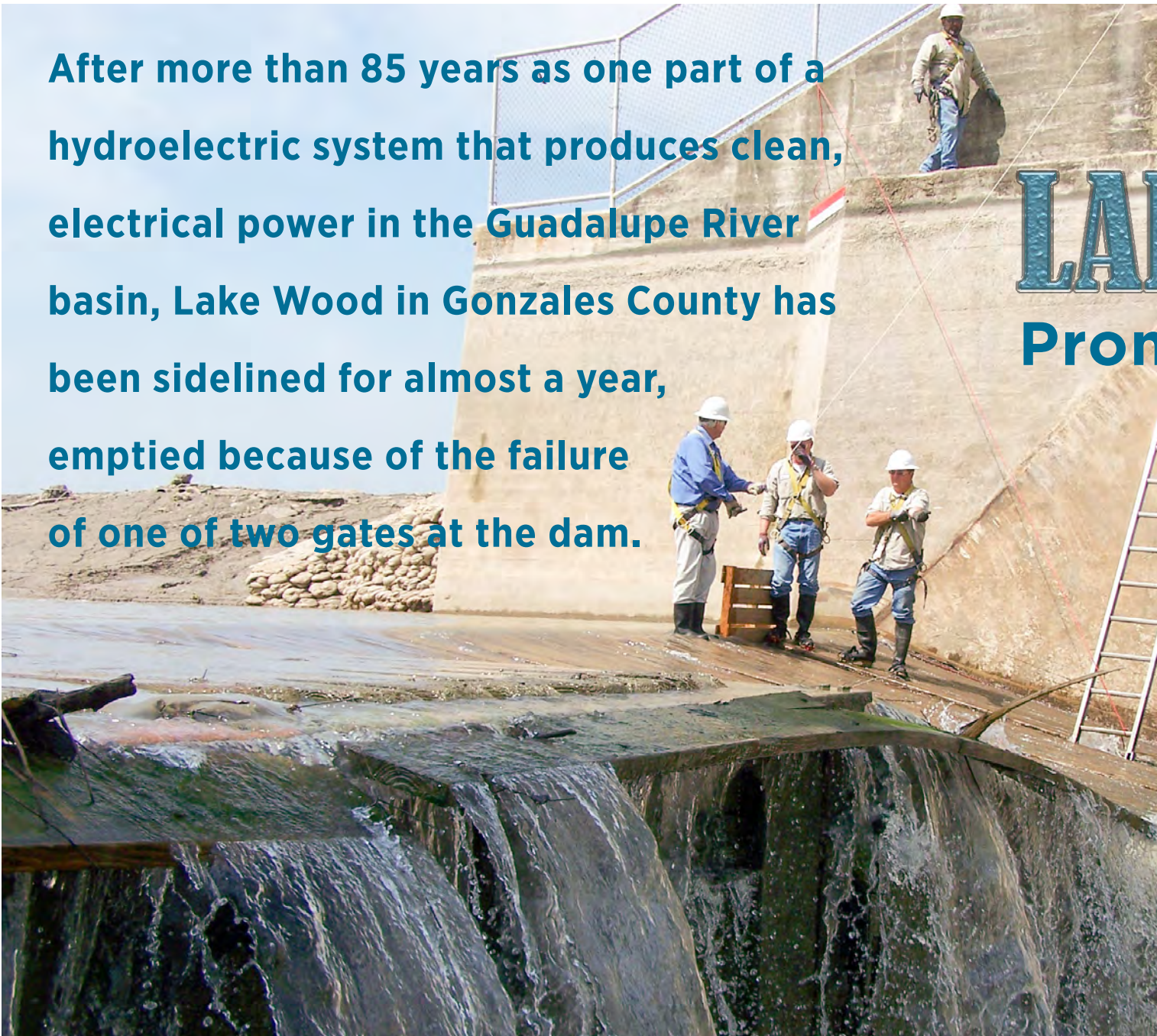
Left to right: GBRA's Kevin Patteson and SAWS' Robert Puente discuss water future as Votteler moderates.

Featured participants included leaders from the Texas Water Development Board, the Climatology Office at Texas A&M University, National Weather Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the San Antonio Water System, the GBRA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TAP, Texas Politics Project at the University

of Texas at Austin, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, and the Texas Senate.

About 220 participants attended the summit.

After more than 85 years as one part of a hydroelectric system that produces clean, electrical power in the Guadalupe River basin, Lake Wood in Gonzales County has been sidelined for almost a year, emptied because of the failure of one of two gates at the dam.



Although the power that the system of lakes produces historically has been inexpensive, replacing the gate will not be. The estimated cost is at least \$3 million to replace one failed gate. This latest chapter in the history of the 85-year-old hydro system started almost a year ago when for the first time, one of the 15 gates in the system was irreparably damaged. The Lake Wood gate failed as higher than normal river flows produced by upstream rainfall were being passed over the gate.

Underwater divers later found the broken section of the gate downstream, and with the help of heavy equipment, GBRA was able to recover it. This recovery should aid in determining the root causes of the failure as well as provide insights into possible gate replacement options.

“We recognize that this process of taking time to determine what is best for the system is frustrating for the property owners along Lake Wood,” said Kevin Patteson, GBRA’s General Manager/CEO. “But the due diligence is necessary so that we don’t find ourselves in a similar situation a few years from now either at



LAKE WOOD DAM GATE

Attempts Review of Hydro System

By Barbara Elmore

Lake Wood or at one of the other five hydroelectric lakes. So, the gate replacement option that ultimately is chosen must be feasible for the other dams as well.”

GBRA has been steadily working on various replacement options and the first step in the process was for engineers to identify a cause for the failure, said Darrell Nichols, GBRA senior deputy general manager. “They have now identified the likely key points of the gate failure, and with that information, replacement options can be better analyzed. At the same time, we also are looking at our other hydro dams and the gates at those locations,” he added. GBRA is continuing to make repairs of key gate components to provide some time to secure funding for replacement gate installation. As engineers study the feasibility of various replacement options, they also are examining new technology that may improve gate operations. Until that evaluation is complete, they will not be ready to recommend a course of action to GBRA’s board of directors, which ultimately will make the final decision about what to do.

Photo by Charlie Hickman



GBRA Photo Archive



Photo by Charlie Hickman



Photo by Eric Schliager

Hydroelectric Power

The hydroelectric power system that GBRA owns helped usher in electricity to rural parts of Texas. Many cities across the country were electrified by the 1930s, but rural areas remained in the dark. By the mid-1930s, only 10 percent of rural residents in the U.S. had electricity. Across the vast farmlands of Texas, the rate of electrification was 2.3 percent according to the *Handbook of Texas*.

A private entity, Texas HydroElectric Corp. and Texas Power Corp., built the current GBRA hydro system in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The original owners offered to sell the system to GBRA in the 1940s, but GBRA board members decided to wait until the post-World War II economy improved. GBRA's mission, then as now, was stewardship of resources. In 1963, GBRA agreed to acquire the hydro system.

Maintenance to preserve the aging structures has been constant, and GBRA has performed most of it. In the 1980s, GBRA overhauled all 15 gates, a costly undertaking at the time, said Jeff McKee, assistant division manager for GBRA's Hydroelectric and Rural Utilities. "We re-timbered every piece of wood, cleaned and painted the underlying metal structure of each gate, and made repairs to the accessible components."

River debris has damaged the gates before, he said, but in his 40 years at GBRA — part of that time doing hands-on maintenance on the hydroelectric system — he saw nothing equal to last year's damage at Lake Wood. The result is that the lake is drained and there is no public access. The river, however, is flowing and deep. "The area is wild and looks the way it did before the dam was built," McKee said.

How the System Works

In addition to the 15 gates, the hydro system includes six dams. Four dams are in Guadalupe County: Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney, Lake Nolte, also known as Meadow Lake, and Lake Placid. Two dams are in Gonzales County: Lake Gonzales and Lake Wood.

The amount of power generated is limited by nature. High river flows mean more power; low river flows mean less. Production cannot be increased to generate more revenue unless Mother Nature cooperates.

The natural flow of the Guadalupe River, stored in a reservoir like Lake Wood, produces hydroelectricity. Water is released through the turbines located beneath the powerhouses located adjacent to the dams, which in turn activate generators to produce electricity.

The amount of power generated is limited by nature. High river flows mean more power; low river flows mean less. Production cannot be increased to generate more revenue unless Mother Nature cooperates.

In drought years — common in Texas recently — low river flow has meant less power generation in the hydro system. In the years of high rainfall and high river flow,

power generation increases. But, while high flows may increase revenue, they also can cause massive damage on the aged system requiring expensive repairs.

The bear trap gates have an upper and a lower leaf, one sitting atop the other when the gate is lowered, explained Charlie Hickman, manager of Project Engineering for GBRA. "It is not completely watertight, but is able to be pressurized," Hickman said. "The system was designed before big power systems were in place, so the energy provided by the elevation drop in the river at the dam could be used to operate the gate."

"During March of last year, a portion of the lower leaf of the Lake Wood gate failed and went into the river below," Hickman said. Divers recovered it so that engineers could study what happened. That study is complete, but what to do next is not. The issues are as follows:

- The bear trap gates are more labor- and maintenance- intensive.
- To replace a gate, engineers must study how water flows over the gate at each specific site, how a new gate style affects the underlying structure at the site, and what kinds of structures the dam's foundation will support.

- Research conducted at the Lake Wood site will be applied to the whole gate/dam system since all of the gates are nearing the end of their useful life. Part of the analysis is looking at whether the gate replacement at Lake Wood will work at 14 other specific sites.

One of the options engineers have been studying is an Obermeyer spillway gate with an estimated cost of \$3 million per gate. Obermeyer gates have a good reputation among users because they are simple, less labor-intensive to operate, and can react quickly to changing river conditions. They are also among the more cost-effective options. Engineers are creating a small-scale physical

model to determine how such a gate would perform in high-flow/flash flood events. "Every dam site is different," Hickman said. "We must verify there are no scenarios that could affect the dam or gate operations."

With model in hand, the next step is to test the performance in a flume at a hydraulics laboratory that allows testing and calibrating equipment.

"One other gate under

consideration is a hydraulic crest gate," Hickman said. It operates using a hydraulic cylinder to provide resistance and a lifting force similar to that of an exercise machine.

Engineers also are cautious about what could happen while installing a replacement gate in a river channel. "If a flood comes at the wrong time, you lose the work you have done," Hickman said. "You have to take the time to be sure you do the job right."



GBRA Photo Archive



Photos by Charlie Hickman

Finding the Money

The hydroelectric system is one of approximately 30 operations that GBRA has located throughout the Guadalupe River Basin. Since 1981, GBRA has sold all the power from the system to the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC). For many of those years, the price of the power sold to GVEC was established by the Public Utility Commission. It was that price and the revenue that it provided that funded the overhaul of the gates during the 1980s. However starting in 2002,

is not practical given the state's utility rate regulations, GBRA's customer contracts, and the economic conditions each GBRA operation competes within."

Another limitation is that GBRA has no taxing authority. However, GBRA is exploring financing options for gate replacement, including government and private grant sources. Other external funding sources also are being discussed with stakeholder groups including homeowners associations that are in close proximity to the hydro lakes.

Photo by Charlie Hickman



The power sales revenue GBRA receives from its hydroelectric energy production remains within our hydroelectric operation. All of that revenue is used to pay for current operating costs, system repairs and improvements.

the Texas electric market was "deregulated." Since that time, the price of power has been set by the marketplace at a level that is not sufficient for GBRA to fund a gate overhaul program similar to the 1980s. "Coincidentally during this period, even less expensive sources of power, particularly power produced by plants fueled with natural gas, were changing the electric market," said GBRA's Alvin Schuerg, former executive manager of Finance and Administration. Therefore in the near term, it does not seem probable that GBRA will be able to raise the price for its hydroelectric energy it sells.

"The power sales revenue that GBRA receives from its hydroelectric energy production remains within our hydroelectric operation. All of that revenue is used to pay for current operating costs as well as system repairs and improvements," Schuerg said. This practice is true across the agency, whether the operation is water and wastewater treatment plants, pipelines, irrigation canals, laboratory services, or water sales. "Yet, since GBRA's hydroelectric revenue is not sufficient to pay for the costly gate replacements that are needed, some people have suggested that all GBRA customers, regardless of their location or service they receive, should pay for the replacement of the hydroelectric gates," he said. "That

GBRA officials have met with some of those groups, many of whom are interested in learning more about the Lake Wood situation and the aging hydroelectric system. "We have discussed with these groups why the dams were created," Nichols said, "Not for flood control, not for recreation, but for hydroelectric power."

One of the options that these groups have been discussing in Guadalupe County is the creation of a special-purpose district with the ability to raise funds to help pay for extraordinary maintenance on the dams and associated gates. They are looking at various types of special-purpose districts, Nichols said, and are exploring methods of generating revenue from people who use the lakes. "Homeowners with an interest in the lakes also are reaching out to county and legislative representatives to see what their options are," he said.

While GBRA officials have not met with a similar homeowners group in Gonzales County, they have met with individual homeowners, county officials and legislative representatives to update them about Lake Wood, Nichols said. Once engineers complete their analyses, GBRA will continue to discuss funding options, because finding the necessary revenue will be the next big step to moving forward.

In Memoriam:

Darrell G. McLain

Darrell G. McLain of Gonzales died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017. He served on the GBRA Board of Directors for more than three years, having been appointed by Governor Rick Perry in May 2013.

McLain was born Nov. 21, 1937, in Waterford, Calif. He earned his associates degree in chemistry and biology from Modesto Junior College. He was married to Helen Kathleen Roberts and they had four children.

After working for Shell Development, Ralston Purina and a partnership in the mushroom business, McLain and his sons constructed Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms in the late 1980s. In addition to his business, McLain taught Sunday School, volunteered with youth groups, and participated with the Rotary Club.

McLain was loved by his family, friends and colleagues, and was known as one of the pillars of the community in Gonzales County. In addition to representing the interests of his constituents in Gonzales County as a GBRA director, he served as a past member of the Capital Certified Development Corporation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Mushroom Council, Golden Crescent Workforce Development Advisory Board, and Gonzales Rotary Club.

Services for McLain were 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017, at Two Rivers Bible Church in Gonzales. He is survived by his wife Kathie; son Greg (wife Kris), daughter Gina, daughter Lori (husband Ed Wuensch), daughter-in-law Piera McLain; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.



EMPLOYEES ANNIVERSARIES

GBRA recognizes the following employees for their dedication of service. These employees started with GBRA between the months of July through December.

July

7/10/2016	Heideke, Joel	RUD	38
7/2/2016	Allen Ognoskie	Hydro	32
7/28/2016	Lee Gudgell	Water Resources	13
7/15/2016	Mark Wagner	Western Canyon	3
7/6/2016	Travis Basham	RUD	1
7/12/2016	Luis Vasquez	Luling WTP	NH
7/18/2016	Branden Wilson	Calhoun Canal RWSS	NH

August

8/18/2016	Richard Maxwell	Hydro	41
8/25/2016	Christy Dietert	General	41
8/7/2016	Scott Kolbe	Hydro	27
8/5/2016	John Urban	Coletto Creek Rec.	25
8/11/2016	Billy Imhoff	General	21
8/5/2016	Josephine Longoria	Lab	14
8/18/2016	Jeffery Hebert	Western Canyon	8
8/24/2016	James Irby	Coletto Creek Rec.	7
8/13/2016	Kimberly Helmke	General	4
8/12/2016	Daniel Wilhelm	Lockhart WTP	3
8/31/2016	Richard Whitelatch	San Marcos WTP	1
8/1/2016	Holli Metz	Lab	NH
8/22/2016	Tomas Salinas	Hydro	NH
8/31/2016	Cynthia Demers	General	NH

September

9/1/2016	Eduardo Montana	Water Resources	28
9/3/2016	Stephanie Shelly	Water Resources	25
9/2/2016	Jason Eeds	Lockhart WWTP	24
9/15/2016	Ronnie Parenica	Port Lavaca WTP	24
9/14/2016	Susan Cochran	Water Resources	18
9/10/2016	Ryan Boedeker	Rural Water	17
9/1/2016	Brian Lyssy	RUD	16
9/28/2016	Gerardo Rodriguez	Water Resources	15
9/16/2016	Kylie Gudgell	Lab	8
9/24/2016	Jennifer Sanchez	Lab	4
9/2/2016	Carrie Kasnicka	Water Resources	2
9/3/2016	Cecil Holliday	Western Canyon	2
9/15/2016	Justin Cortez	Water Resources	2
9/27/2016	Carmen Phillips	Lab	2
9/1/2016	Mark Steele	General	1
9/21/2016	Logan Daigle	Port Lavaca WTP	1
9/21/2016	Austin English	Lockhart WWTP	1

October

10/10/2016	Dennis Walker	Buda WWTP	18
10/1/2016	Barbara Gunn	General	15
10/15/2016	Marella Dalme	General	15
10/20/2016	Jose Leal	Lockhart WTP	13
10/25/2016	Annlee Drazkowski	General	9
10/22/2016	Tommy Walenta	San Marcos WTP	5
10/17/2016	Elizabeth Gutierrez	General	4
10/9/2016	Patricia Ramirez	General	3
10/1/2016	Michael Hencerling	Coletto Creek Recreation	1
10/2/2016	Miliana Hernandez-Santa	Lab	1
10/12/2016	Richard Valadez	San Marcos WTP	1
10/18/2016	Walter Brown	Calhoun Canal RWSS	NH



Joel Heideke



GBRA Archive Photos

November

11/19/2016	Wilfred Korth	Coletto Creek Rec.	37
11/10/2016	Don Koble	Calhoun Canal RWSS	35
11/14/2016	Jason Lewis	Coletto Creek Rec.	33
11/24/2016	Jeannine Herrmann	General	19
11/22/2016	Eric Mendez	Lockhart WWTP	17
11/20/2016	Robert Scott	Hydro	16
11/1/2016	Gynna Hernandez	General	9
11/5/2016	John Moryl	Hydro	8
11/4/2016	Jeremy Stanton	RUD	3
11/18/2016	Mike Fagan	Western Canyon	1
11/1/2016	Scott Egger	General	NH

December

12/25/2016	Roy Odom	Hydro	35
12/28/2016	Dianne Fly	Coletto Creek Rec.	24
12/10/2016	Jerry Sharp	San Marcos WTP	17
12/29/2016	James Medrano	Hydro	16
12/3/2016	Daniel Alonso	General	4
12/1/2016	David Spivey	General	2
12/3/2016	Jeffrey Robison	Hydro	2
12/7/2016	Rebecca Wilson	General	1
12/14/2016	Wilbert Freeman	General	1
12/14/2016	Michael Stanford	Coletto Creek Rec.	1
12/21/2016	Timothy Dusek	General	1

NH - Newly Hired

The information for the employee anniversary list was compiled by Jeannine Herrmann, Accounting Department of the Office of Finance and Administration.



GBRA TRAINING & LICENSES

Darel Ball - Water Resources, completed the Reservoir Tabletop Emergency Exercise, TEXPERS basic trustee training, and TRWA chlorinator systems and chemical handling, and office fire safety.

Travis Basham - Rural Utilities, completed electrical safety.

Healy Beaty - Calhoun County RWS, completed 10 TRFM safety videos, introduction to monochloramine, free ammonia, and chlorine analysis, basic water works, and electrical safety.

Jennifer Blinder - Lab, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 level 1, 2, and 3 trainings as well as the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) online trainings and office fire safety.

Ryan Boedeker - Calhoun County RWS, completed pipeline safety, cross connection control, pump and motor maintenance, TAWWA Cyber Security, TWUA water and wastewater training.

Ed Boettner - Buda WWTP, completed Level 2 electrical work training, Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 1 and chlorine handling.

Walter Brown - Calhoun Canal System, completed TWCA trainings and a Boat Texas course.

Susan Cochran - Operations, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 2, office fire safety, and Tier II chemical reporting.

Justin Cortez - Water Quality, completed TWCA trainings and Master Mind Study and office fire safety training.

Paulette Cowey - Operations, completed office fire safety training.

Logan Daigle - Port Lavaca WTP, completed adult first aid/CPR/AED, utility safety, pump and motor maintenance, and DR6000 training.

Marella Dalme - Financial Administration, completed office fire safety training.

Cindy Demers - Financial Administration, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 3.

Joseph Downey - Luling WTP, completed electrical safety.

Annlee Drazkowski - Financial Administration, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 1.

Hunter Duncan - Western Canyon WTP, completed TWCA trainings, chlorine and coliform samplings and chlorinator systems and chemical handling training.

Jason Eeds - Lockhart WWTP, completed Microsoft Excel Level 1 and 2 trainings, nitrification action plan and DR6000 training.

Austin English - Port Lavaca WTP, completed DR6000 training.

Mike Fagan - Western Canyon WTP, completed TWCA trainings, DR6000 and FM Global training courses.

Dianne Fly - Coletto Creek Recreation, completed safety awareness training.

Wilbert Freeman - Project Engineering, completed electrical safety and office fire safety training.

John Gerland - San Marcos WTP, completed TWCA training and Electrical safety.

Josie Gonzales - Water Resources, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 1 and 2.

Richard Gonzales - Lockhart WTP, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 1 and 2, nitrification action plans and electrical safety training.

Cheryl Gorden - Financial Administration, completed office fire safety training.

Curtis Gosnell - Calhoun Canal System, completed adult first aid/CPR/AED, pipeline safety, TAWWA Cyber Security, and supervisor training.

Kylie Gudgell - Lab, completed TWCA trainings, Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 3, and leadership training.

Lee Gudgell - Water Quality, completed TWCA training.

Rodney Guice - Calhoun Canal System, completed adult first aid/CPR/AED, pipeline safety, the Mid-Coast Hurricane Conference, TAWWA Cyber Security, and Boat Texas course.

Elizabeth Gutierrez - Communication and Education, completed TWCA trainings and office fire safety.

Jeffery Herbert - Western Canyon WTP, completed electrical safety training.

Kimberly Helmke - Financial Administration, completed Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 2 and office fire safety training.

Michael Helmke - Hydro, completed office fire safety training.

Michael Hencerling - Coletto Creek Recreation, completed the reservoir tabletop emergency exercise, electrical safety, TDA pesticide applicator, and wastewater treatment trainings.

Mark Henneke - Lake Wood Park, completed slow down mowing and pole saw safety training.

Michelle Henson - Lab, completed TWCA trainings and Microsoft Excel 2010 Level 1 and 2 training.

Gynna Hernandez - Finance Administration, completed office fire safety training.

Miliana Hernandez-Santa - Lab, completed TWCA trainings and office fire safety training.

Derek Schedlbauer - Western Canyon WTP, attended CPR/first aid and class C surface water treatment operator license training.

Alan Schneider - Coletto Park and Reservoir, attended the annual TEXAS Aquatic Plant Mgmt Conference.

Michael Schultze - Hydro, attended CPR/first aid training.

Curtis Seiler - Coletto Park and Reservoir, attended GBRA electrician workshop.

Jerry Sharp - San Marcos WTP, attended electrical safety and Level 2 electrical work.

The information for the employee trainings list was compiled by Chellsie Benavides, Human Resources Department of the Office of Finance and Administration.

GBRA and TAP Sign New Whitepaper Agreement

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and The Aransas Project (TAP) in November signed a new version of an agreement to work together to help chart the future of the Guadalupe River Watershed, San Antonio Bay and last remaining flock of wild whooping cranes that winter along the Texas coast. This whitepaper agreement reaffirmed and enhanced an agreement signed in February between the two organizations.

The whitepaper agreement signed by new GBRA General Manager/CEO Kevin Patteson and TAP Board Member Jim Blackburn reaffirmed both entities' intent to work together to solve problems relating to habitat and water supply within the watershed and the San Antonio Bay system.

"This agreement offers a real chance for a new dynamic in water management in the Guadalupe River watershed," said Patteson, who assumed his new position in May. "It is a very positive sign for the future when groups such as GBRA and TAP, who have fought each other in the past, join forces to move forward on issues such as water supply and land and water stewardship. As the new General Manager/CEO, I am committed to realizing the vision of this agreement."

Ann Hamilton, a member of the TAP Board, echoed Patteson's sentiments, stating, "TAP is committed to finding a way to meet the needs of people and the environment. From the beginning, we have wanted to protect the whooping cranes and San Antonio Bay while meeting the needs of the basin. We are now underway to achieve that goal."

Under the new agreement, 10 study areas identified under the February agreement have been combined into two major topic areas - habitat improvement and long-term water supply investigations. Under the habitat section, issues such as the future of the Guadalupe Delta, new territories for wintering cranes, river mussel

requirements and habitat improvement throughout the watershed will be studied along with review of a concept for protecting a nursery zone within San Antonio Bay. Under the water supply work, the water allocation model for the watershed will be reviewed as will all existing permits along with consideration of creative concepts such as water pricing and alternative supply development, permit conditions and water supply enhancement techniques. All work will be undertaken with the assistance of stakeholder groups comprised of interested entities and individuals.

"We have a lot of work to do and it is good to get underway," said Blackburn. "This will be a long-term effort that is going to require creativity and goodwill, but I feel comfortable that we can realize the huge upside potential of this agreement."

Added Patteson, "This is not an easy or quick piece of work.

We are all dedicated to rolling up our sleeves and getting it done well."

Blackburn and GBRA Executive Manager of Science, Intergovernmental Relations and Policy, Todd Votteler also promoted the agreement at the Hill Country Water Summit in New Braunfels and the Restore

America's Estuaries conference in New Orleans, both held in December.



THE TRUST

James “Wayne” Musgrove Joins Trust

A new trustee recently joined the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust to help bolster efforts in conserving water and land in Texas. James “Wayne” Musgrove, a resident of Mountain Home, Texas, was born and raised in Beaumont. According to Musgrove, all of the men in the family joined the Texas Army under Sam Houston on Oct. 12, 1835, and fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. After winning Texas Independence in 1836, three of the boys went on to become Texas Rangers. Musgrove said that as a fifth generation Texan, his family has deep roots with a long history of protecting Texas. Along with his and his ancestors’ love of Texas and freedom, he is a proud member of the “Sons of the Texas Republic.”

Musgrove is a retired businessman with a past career in marine transportation, aviation, ranching, and marine construction. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and as a naval aviator flew on and off of several aircraft carriers during the Cold War and Vietnam Era. He serves on

the Board of Directors of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and was appointed to the Board of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority by Governor Greg Abbott. He has served under President George Bush and Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole as one of the founding members of the Lower Mississippi River Safety Advisory Committee, which is in use today on the Mississippi River port corridor.

He joins President Jack Jones, John P. Schneider, Jr., Oscar H. Fogle, Tommy Matthews, William Blackwell, Denis Mueller, and Todd Merendino, Ph.D. on the Trust Board.



**Texas Land Trust
Conference
Austin
March 1 - 3, 2017**

www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org

“We still do not know
one thousandth of one
percent of what nature
has revealed to us”

- Albert Einstein



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

Feb. 23, 2017

Texas Water Symposium: Watershed Protection Programs
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
<http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/TexasWaterSymposium>

Feb. 23-24, 2017

TexasBarCLE: 18th Annual Changing Face of Water Rights
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa
San Antonio, TX
<http://www.texasbarcle.com/materials/Programs/3396/Brochure.pdf>

March

Mar 1-3, 2017

Texas Water Conservation Association Annual Convention
Sheraton Hotel at the Capital, Austin, TX
http://www.twca.org/Public/Public/Annual_Convention.aspx

Mar 12, 2017

Daylight Savings Time

Mar. 15, 2017

GBRA Board Meeting
William E. West, Jr., Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

Mar. 23, 2017

Clean Rivers Program, Basin Steering Committee Meeting
William E. West, Jr., Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX
<http://www.gbra.org/crp/>

April

April 8, 2017

Geronimo Creek Cleanup and Texas Trash Off
Statewide
<http://www.ktb.org/get-involved/calendar.aspx?pageid=2139>

April 14, 2017

Good Friday Holiday
GBRA Offices Closed

April 19, 2017

GBRA Board Meeting
William E. West, Jr., Annex Bldg., Seguin, TX
<http://www.gbra.org/board/meetings.aspx>

April 22, 2017

Earth Day



Photo by Alvin Schuerg