

Minutes of the Annual Meeting- June 23, 2018

President Bob Spalten called the 2018 FOLM Annual Meeting to order on June 23, 2017 at 2:02pm at the Lake Breeze Ski Lodge. Other directors in attendance included Buddy Alcede, Berny Croan, Gary Spence, Al Bacon, Cindy Reyna, Karen McMillan, Sadie Stanley, Jamie Long, Larry Schwab, Weldon Dietze, Mark Williams and Matt Hannon.

Bob had each board member introduce themselves. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting on June 24, 2017 were approved as presented.

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority - Bob introduced Jonathan Stinson, Deputy GM of GBRA. Jonathan presented an overview of GBRA similar to the presentation he gave at last year's AGM, and an update on three issues: spillgate repair, permits, and zebra mussels. A copy of his presentation is attached.

GBRA has a variety of functions, including water supply and treatment, wastewater treatment, and laboratory services as well as hydroelectric power generation. Flood control is not a function. It cannot levy taxes.

Its only customer for hydroelectricity is GVEC under a 5 yr rolling contract. Hydroelectricity from GBRA makes up only about 3% of GVEC's needs. In a good year, GBRA receives about \$3 million in revenue from electricity sales but its production expenses are in the range of \$3.5 to \$5 million. When flows are over 1,100 cfs, the dams must be staffed thereby increasing operating costs. Last year, Jonathan advised that GBRA was working with GVEC to try to produce more power during peak periods (as declared by ERCOT). These periods generally last about 2 hrs in the late afternoon, and the sales price is much higher. However, this possibility did not pan out, as the electricity generator must be able to respond within 10 minutes and GBRA can't.

Spillgate repair - Jonathan referred to the recent announcement that the water level in Lake McQueeney will be lowered by 18" to 24" beginning July 23 for a duration estimated to be 9 months. About half of the lake will be lost for boating. A "no-wake" zone will be set up near the dam, in order to protect the workmen and repair activity. The repair will draw on \$3.7 million that GBRA has allocated to cover repairs on all the dams; \$1 million has already been spent. These repairs were characterized as a "band-aid"; they are a relatively low cost option that hopefully will extend the life of the spillgates by up to 10 years.

The longer term solution is to install hydraulic crest gates. These are estimated to cost around \$5 million per gate, and there are currently 15 gates in the system. At least 10 hydraulic crest gates would be needed. Installation at each dam would take from 9 to 24 months to complete, and lake levels would be lowered by 12 to 24 feet during the installation. GBRA does not have the funds to carry out this program. Jonathan indicated that to proceed with the long term solution, there will have to be a paradigm shift in funding.

Bob Spalten noted that there have been discussions about how to fund the repairs. The school districts greatly benefit from the higher property values and higher tax revenues resulting from lake-front property, but they have no interest in diverting funds to help maintain the dams that produce the higher tax revenues. At discussions with county officials, it was indicated that a special utility district could not be created just to cover lake-front properties.

Permits: A permitting process is now in effect in order to install or repair boat houses, retaining walls, and other such structures. GBRA will approve or disapprove the location of a proposed construction site. The applicant must then seek approval from the applicable agency (Guadalupe County for Lake McQueeney) involving No-rise Certification before the commencement of work. GBRA is charging an initial fee of \$600 along with a \$100 annual renewal fee. Previously constructed structures are grandfathered, and will not be subject to the annual fee but they will be subject to annual inspections. Major repairs or modifications to pre-existing structures will require a permit.

Zebra Mussels: As advised at last year's AGM, zebra mussels have been found in Canyon Lake. Their future impact downstream of Canyon Lake is unknown. Traditional thinking is that they will not like the warmer water downstream of Canyon Lake, but they could prove to be adaptable. If they do move downstream, it should be evident to all lake-front owners.

Other Issues raised by FOLM members: How can we find up-to-date information about GBRA? - Jonathan referred to the GBRA website as the prime means of communication, and mentioned the website option to subscribe to GBRA notices.

Money for new GBRA office in New Braunfels but not for dam repair? - Jonathan noted that GBRA is significantly expanding its other operations such as water supply, and needs additional space to serve these activities.

Instead of controllable hydraulic crest gates, could the dams be converted to fixed height dams at a cheaper price? - GBRA's permit requires them to maintain a constant level in the lakes over a variety of flows; this requires adjustable gates.

Treasurer's Report - Jamie reported that FOLM currently has a bank balance of \$220,635. Expenses during the 2017-2018 fiscal year thru June 22 amounted to \$15,105. Debris clean-up and removal costs were much less than the previous year. Income exceeded expenses over the year by \$25,636.

Status of Lake / Problem Vegetation - FOLM has an arrangement with Scott Smith to survey the lake for hydrilla. Fortunately it has not been detected. In order to reduce expenses, the frequency of surveys has been reduced from monthly to every other month.

Yard Trash - Bob noted that a lot of yard trash is being dumped into the lake, especially in the spring. This adversely affects the lake, and can be treated as a misdemeanor subject to a fine. Members are encouraged to speak to offending lakefront owners and service personnel, and incidents could be referred to the Guadalupe County Environmental Department.

Lake Cleanup - We have not had to do as much lake cleanup and debris removal this past year as compared to previous years. FOLM tries to keep the lake hazard-free. If members see hazardous objects in the lake, please contact the FOLM board and we'll try to take care of it quickly.

Membership - Sadie reported that FOLM currently has 243 members, not including several who joined today. This is somewhat below last year's total. Sadie mentioned how important it is to have the correct email address for all members.

Results of Board Election - The results of the election were announced. All candidates listed on the ballot won election; there were no write-in votes. See current list here: [FOLM Board](#)

Any Other Business - Bob advised that 2 webcams have been installed, one at the Ski Lodge and one in the Las Brisas area. The plan is to install 6 webcams in total. Bob thanked Rick Thelen for his help in setting up the webcams. Feedback would be appreciated.

There was no further business or discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Larry Schwab, Secretary