

WWS BOARD PACKET - JUNE 14, 2016

ITEM XI

Don

To: Allen Palmer
Subject: RE: Clarification on Big Lake Efforts

Allen:

1. Thank you.
2. Excellent information.
3. The Board will have further discussions concerning the lake foliage stocking and Hollis Lane improvements at our next meeting on either May 5 or May 12 (depending on availability of library meeting room).

Tks
don

From: Allen Palmer [<mailto:brentara@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:54 PM
To: dgrwater@dgrainc.com; ewelch@landstrat.com; hsdb@aol.com; coy.brown@cedarparktexas.gov; cherylwhitesherman@yahoo.com
Subject: Clarification on Big Lake Efforts

Board Members,

Having been a resident of WWS for 15 years, and previously an active member of various volunteer committees, I would like to clarify/refute some comments that were made at the March 24th Board meeting regarding the big lake fish improvement efforts. Without specific numbers and costs (the Board can resurrect these through the approved invoice payments in the past) the following are activities that I was personally involved in:

- 1.) The big lake was stocked with fathead minnows two times in modest quantities
- 2.) 170# of crawfish were stocked for which I personally paid for and picked up in East Texas
- 3.) Most recently young and mature tilapia were stocked in a modest quantity. These were purchased in East Texas from Overton Fisheries which is owned and operated by Texas A&M biologists. I feel confident that I can tell the difference between a shad and a Cichlid/Tilapia and I certainly trust a Fisheries Biologist to be able to tell the difference. Following is a link to Overton website for your scrutiny <http://www.overtonfisheries.com/> Overton is one of the very few fisheries authorized to sell tilapia and they do sell them into Texas and Oklahoma as land owners from both states were making tilapia purchases while I was there.

Regarding the usage of the big lake, I would venture to say that 60% of WWS private landowners (excludes the developer) do not know we have a lake or where it is located. Probably another 30% know where it is located but are not willing to drive their vehicle over the entrance road because it stays in terrible condition. Of the remaining property owners who do visit the lake perhaps as few as 10 to 15 actually fish.

We all agree the lake is a jewel of WWS however without improvements to make it more accessible and useable by more residents it is an underutilized asset.

I agree with the Wildlife Committee that the bass population needs additional forage fish (tilapia preferred) in prescribed quantities to increase the overall fish size. I also feel a fishing pier is critical to the safety of fisher people and recreation in general. Few fish can be caught walking along the bank of our lake because the water is so clear and twisting an ankle or slipping into the lake due to the rocky bank is a constant problem.

Finally, with all the monies budgeted for roads it would seem a simple and relatively inexpensive thing for the lake entrance to be graded and contoured to prevent the current erosion problem. I'm sure something will be done in this regard when the dam is repaired, however, a simple grading/contouring could be done in the interim to provide easier access for property owners, POTENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS, and REALTORS. Surely the developer is willing to support such a modest improvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

As a side note... my temporary phone number is 512-355-2512. Frontier is buying out Verizon landline at least in this area and the acquisition will be turned over next Thursday. So..... things might be a little messed up for a few days. But the good news is that Frontier is going to make a big push to provide internet and television through improvements in their telephone landline service.

Best Regards,
Allen

Allen Palmer
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