



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
933 EAST COURT STREET · SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155 · FAX [830] 379-9718

Flood Reconnaissance scheduled for Lakes H-4 and H-5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Wednesday, February 10, 1999
Contact: Judy Gardner, [830] 379-5822 or email: jgardner@gbra.org

SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and local lake homeowners' associations will lower Lake H-5 (Lake Wood) on Saturday, February 20 and Lake H-4 on Sunday, February 21 approximately 2 feet below normal level, to inspect the lakes for flood damage and debris prior to opening them for public use.

During the 'reconnaissance' effort, authorized personnel will evaluate the lakes for water safety, identify obstructions, mark water hazards where possible and determine whether state or federal funding will be needed to remove debris and obstructions, said GBRA director of project development David Welsch.

To insure public safety, the GBRA Board of Directors has restricted the use of motor-powered watercraft on the hydro lakes. Welsch said next weekend's reconnaissance is part of the process that will lead to reopening the lakes for public use as soon as possible.

During the reconnaissance and lake lowering period, only authorized persons with watercraft displaying a limited use permit issued by GBRA will be allowed on the lakes, said Welsch. A permit can be obtained at the GBRA Lake Wood Recreation Area.

Lake Wood will be lowered approximately 2 feet effective 8 a.m. Saturday and should return to normal levels by 8 a.m. Sunday. Lake H-4 will also be approximately 2 feet below normal effective 8 a.m. Sunday and will return to its normal level by 8 a.m. Monday. During this period, flows will be approximately 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) below each dam. Welsch said this rate presents strong currents but will not increase elevations in any of the lakes during the reconnaissance project. Canyon Reservoir releases will continue to be in the range of 250 cfs. In case of heavy rainfall or other severe weather, the event will be rescheduled for the following weekend.

"Lake residents may want to secure their boats in lifts or remove them from the water beginning Thursday, February 18," said Welsch. "We also encourage property owners to inspect their shorelines, boat docks and retaining walls for future repairs, perform cleanup activities and photograph obstructions and damage that would normally be underwater."

Results of the reconnaissance findings will be helpful in making recommendations to the GBRA Board of Directors regarding future use of the lakes relating to public safety.

(more)

Area Lakes Lower for Flood Reconnaissance
February 10, 1999
Page 2 of 2

According to GBRA general manager Bill West, the amount of funding available for flood debris removal and the specific areas that will qualify must still be determined. "We have been in contact with National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) officials to determine the availability of funding. A local sponsor must provide 25% matching funds for any grant money received, and the extent of funding and areas that qualify for cleanup are determined by NRCS after reviewing the application."

The City of Gonzales and the Gonzales Water Supply Corporation have been notified regarding the lake lowerings and reconnaissance.

Early indications are that lakes H-4 and H-5 were not as severely affected by the flooding as Lakes Dunlap, McQueeney, Placid and Nolte. If this is the case, GBRA general manager Bill West may direct Lakes H-4 and H-5 to be opened for public use within a few weeks.

Questions about individual lake efforts should be addressed to the following representatives of local lake homeowners associations:

Lake H-5 (Lake Wood)	Mr. Gary Sutton	(830) 437-5732
Lake H-4	Mrs. Marcia Pinney	(830) 437-5107

For general information, contact David Welsch or Allen Ognoskie at GBRA at (830) 379-5822.