

Provided by Cheryl Langford and Mike Southerland  
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## **The Brazos River Authority Party Line Is Very Misleading**

### **Why do we care?**

Lake Limestone mismanagement has caused long term damage to our property. It has altered the use of our properties and caused untold amounts of monies being spent by landowners to navigate, ranch, and family recreational use. Our great ranch land has been turned into wetlands, the drainage blocked, animals drowned, and trees washed down. The careless operation has block economic development and caused diminished value of the land.

### **How the BRA Misleads everyone:**

#### **1. The Brazos River blocks the Navasota causing flooding.**

I compared the crests on the Brazos River to the Navasota. They do not coincide, so the Brazos does not block the Navasota. The rainfall in the Brazos is totally timed differently than the Navasota. Usually, it rains on the Brazos and then later the Navasota. Plus, Limestone traps the runoff between it and Dallas and releases that water after the Brazos clears.

#### **2. The rain South of Lake limestone causes the flooding.**

If you look at the rainfall data for the areas that drain into Lake limestone and South Lake limestone in resident grams County you can see that when the rainfall gets to a certain point above Lake Limestone the water from Limestone starts poring downstream in the River. During those periods Brazos County and Grimes County may only have 6 inches of rain or even none. While north of Limestone at the same time there may be 20 inches of rain.

### **3. Lake limestone only releases water that they take in.**

That is true but, very misleading. Limestone releases the water that it takes in upstream, it is not possible to release any other water anyway. However, the volume and the velocity at which they release the water and the energy that is created by storing behind the dam and dropping it 30 feet down to the Riverbed is a totally different force than a “release” that the operators create. Natural runoff is much less damaging. There are times when the Riverbed is overcome because of the rainfall but that is rare now and has been historically. The frequency that is created by Lake Limestone operators has been 38 flooding events in the past 2 years, some lasting as long as 6 months.

### **4. The land below Lake limestones in the floodplain that is why it floods.**

Land below Lake limestone is in the floodplain, but it has never been totally useless until after the dam was built and management allows uncontrolled releases. The land is in the floodplain. The 100-year floodplain, which is 1% a year or 1% per 100 years. The Lake releases gives us two floods a year every year sometimes four floods in a year and those are not from natural rainfall.

### **5. The Lake level must be maintained at 363 because that is the flood stage.**

The flood stage of Limestone according to the USGS records is at 370. Homes are built above 370 because FEMA will not allow home construction below the 370 level. Boat docks obviously are at the 363 level at the water level for convenience of boat owners. The top of the dam is at 380 feet. From these numbers you can see that the management of the Lake has plenty of room to avoid tremendous releases at one time. They can gradually release over several days and not increase the flow to the damaging levels.

### **6. The lake must be maintained at 363 because of the water service contracts the BRA has for water.**

The historical Lake records for levels the Lake shows the lake level to be during drought periods below 363. Sometimes the level may be is 50% of its capacity but

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water is still supplied to those contracts, and the generators still work. That is a totally misleading a statement.

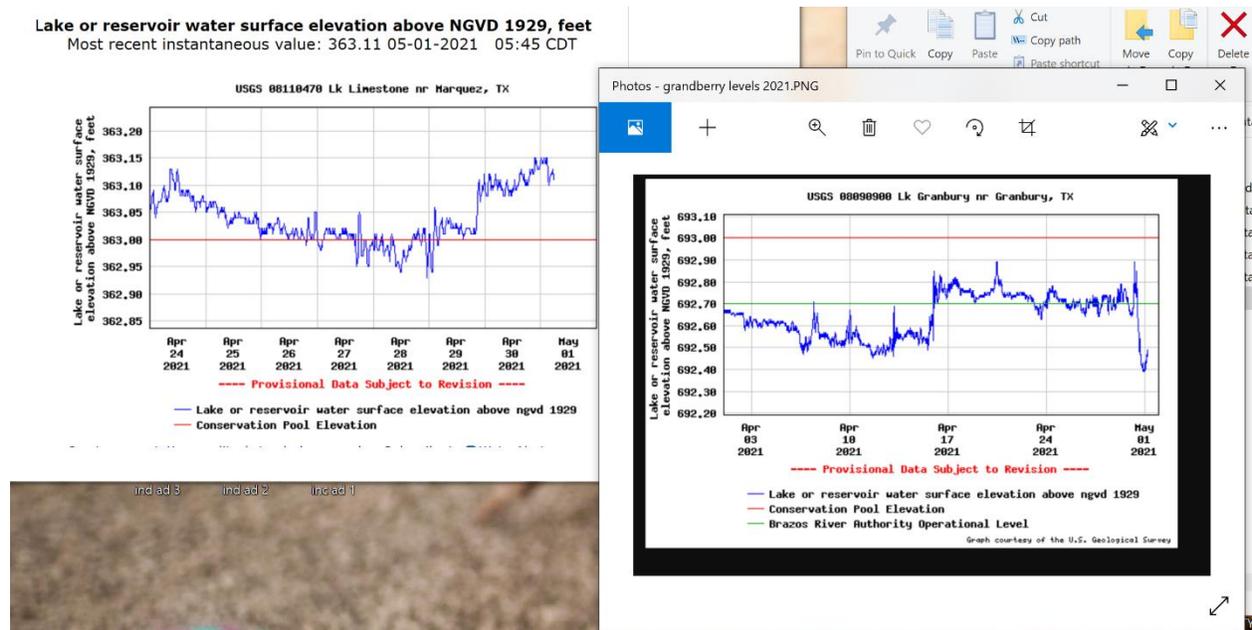
New info 050102021:

Another management lie “got to be at the conservation pool level”:

The 2 lakes in the attachment are both BRA lakes. On limestone they stay close to the red line the conservation pool elevation but at Granberry they maintain way below the conservation pool level.

Today May 1

Grandberry is releasing 14,139 cfs even when they are below conservation pool level Limestone is above conservation pool level and they are only releasing 6,000 cfs



## **7. Limestone is a water conservation lake it is not flood control.**

There is no difference between a flood control lake and water conservation. They both have a dam, gates, impound water and release it periodically. They both control water managed by humans.

**Note: One of BRA's tactics if someone disagrees with their operation is to call names, try to discredit the person and marginalize the person and the effort to shed light on them.**

## Here is what the BRA should be doing by State Law:

TITLE 6. WATER AND WASTEWATER, SUBTITLE G. RIVER AUTHORITIES,  
CHAPTER 8502. BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY, Sec. 8502.004. POWERS.

(b) The authority may provide for storing, controlling, and conserving storm waters, floodwaters, and unappropriated flow waters of the Brazos River and its tributaries, preventing the escape of those waters without the maximum of public service, preventing the devastation of lands by recurrent overflows, and protecting life and property in the watershed area from uncontrolled floodwaters.

(c) The authority may provide for the conservation of waters essential for the domestic uses of the people of the watershed of the Brazos River and its tributaries, including all necessary water supplies for municipalities.

(d) The authority may provide for the irrigation of lands in the watershed of the Brazos River and its tributary streams where irrigation is required for agricultural purposes, or may be considered helpful to more profitable agricultural production, and provide for the equitable distribution of storm waters, floodwaters, and unappropriated flow waters to the regional potential requirements for all uses. Plans and works provided by the authority, and works provided under the authorization of the authority, should give primary consideration to the necessary and potential needs for water by or within the areas constituting the watershed of the Brazos River and its tributary streams.

(e) The authority may provide for the better encouragement and development of drainage systems and provisions for drainage of lands in the valleys of the Brazos River and its tributary streams needing drainage for profitable agricultural production and drainage for other lands in the watershed area of the authority requiring drainage for the most advantageous use.

(f) The authority may provide for the conservation of all soils against destructive erosion and for the prevention of increased flood danger caused by destructive soil erosion.

(g) The authority may provide for controlling and making available for employment floodwaters, storm waters, and unappropriated flow waters in the development of commercial and industrial enterprises in all sections of the watershed area of the authority.

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(h) The authority may provide for the control, storage, and employment of floodwaters, storm waters, and unappropriated flow waters in the development and distribution of hydroelectric power, where this use may be economically coordinated with other and superior uses and subordinated to the uses declared by law to be superior.

(i) The authority may provide for each purpose for which floodwaters, storm waters, and unappropriated flow waters, when controlled and conserved, may be used in the performance of a useful service as contemplated and authorized by the provisions of the constitution and the public policy it declares.