

Lake Conway Advocacy Group
Lake Conway Water Level Management Committee

Ms. Shari Campbell – Rogers Country Estates
Dr. Richard Collins – Lake Conway Angler/Property owner
Jim Fugatt – Lake Conway Homeowners Association
Bill Beall – Lake Conway Citizens Advisory Committee
Bobby Edwards – Rogers Country Estates
Mark Oliver – AGFC
Tom Bly – AGFC
Matt Horton – AGFC

Per Fisheries Division Chief Mike Armstrong's directive, a meeting was held on July 27, 2009, to discuss the Lake Conway Water Level Management Plan. The objective of the meeting was to solicit ideas from all of the stakeholders as to how the plan might be changed or "fine tuned" to lessen the impact of high water events on both riparian landowners and those using Grassy Lake Road and to maintain the lake level at optimum levels for fisheries management purposes.

All present indicated that current water level management activities are all that can be done considering the restrictions placed on dam operation. The following are suggestions and comments of committee members:

1. Dr. Collins stated that we have lost sight of why the lake was created, fishing and not flood control. He also said that if flood control is a consideration then riparian landowners should be our priority and that flooding of Grassy Lake Road should be our last consideration. He feels that the flooding issues surrounding Grassy Lake Road are not the responsibility of the AGFC. He thinks that the lake should be brought up to normal pool by March 1 of every year and that the months of March and April are the most important time in the productivity of the lake's fish population.
2. Mr. Edwards, a construction and excavation contractor, indicated that there are some constrictions in Palarm Creek below the dam that if cleaned out should reduce the amount of flooding below the dam. He said that a new dam originating at its current location and extending to the "shale pit" adjacent to Bell Slough (approximately 1 mile) would impound Grassy Lake allowing for more water storage. He thinks this would allow for a spillway type dam that would take manual operation out of the equation. He also stated that this would increase the amount of water available to the sportsman (anglers and hunters).
3. Ms. Campbell and Mr. Edwards shared some of the history of Grassy Lake Road and Rogers Country Estates. The land was purchased in 1956 and developed in 1982. Mr. Edwards has done a lot of work to the Grassy Lake Road at his own expense and that the subdivision residents met a \$60K obligation for construction of the new bridge. Prior to September 11, 2001, residents had ingress and egress through Camp Robinson. Due to security

concerns this access has been denied. Funds have been appropriated by the State Legislature to construct a raised road from the service road in Mayflower to Rogers Estates but there is not a timeline on this.

4. Other comments made but I did not identify the speakers was that 1) all of the homes within the 100 year flood plain should be condemned and purchased through eminent domain, 2) riparian owners should be priority for flood prevention over Grassy Lake Road, 3) riparian landowners should not have built in the flood plain and not expect to get wet, 4) dredging of the Caney, Stone Dam, and Palarm Creek arms of the lake would allow for original water storage reducing flood events, 5) retention ponds built on these main tributaries would reduce flooding and help control siltation.
5. AGFC personnel suggested that if all gates on the dam could be operated at will without regards to Grassy Lake Road it will all but alleviate the potential flooding of riparian landowners. This should also allow the lake to be held at normal pool year round improving angler access and fish production.

This last recommendation would address two of the three issues regarding water level management on Lake Conway but it would more than likely increase the impact to the Grassy Lake Road and the residents of Rogers Country Estates.

There were a few other comments made regarding issues on the lake that did not pertain to water level management but will be addressed.