

On behalf of the TRPA Board, I hope you are well and surviving the pandemic. And, I hope you are still able to get out there and enjoy our Texas Rivers.

As you know, I have been given the honor of becoming the new President of TRPA, about a year ago. Rather than repeating what we have on the web, please see my letter, here:

<http://www.txrivers.org/archive/Letter%20from%20the%20President%20Winter%202021.pdf>

We have many exciting things going on with the Organization, and many initiatives in the works, including an upgrade to our great website, some legislative things, and information on river use.

A couple of ideas put forth are a linear State Park for portions of the San Marcos River, that Tom has worked on for a few years. The next idea is a proposal for a Texas "Wild and Scenic" designation, for perhaps the Devils River. The Wild and Scenic information is being worked on, and our hope is to get it in during the current Legislative Session (we will not let this idea go away).

Please enjoy the information, below, courtesy of the continued hard work of Tom Goynes on the Newsletter.

SYOTR..... David Price

Wastewater Permit News on the San Marcos River: by David Price, P.E.

I want to share some VERY GOOD news.

TRPA was a protestant in the Cherryville Wastewater Treatment Plant permit, that would ultimately dump 160,000 gallons per day into the San Marcos River, via Dickerson Creek. By 2050, the forecasted amount was 3.3 million gallons per day. The entry point into the San Marcos River, was immediately west of the intersection of Hwy 20, and Hwy 80.

The TCEQ had issued an Administratively Complete approval for the Developer's Permit, which legally allowed a discharge of wastewater with 10 mg/liter of CBOD, 15 mg/liter of Total Suspended Solids, and 3 mg/liter of ammonia-nitrogen. This is known as a 10/15/3 permit limit.

TRPA requested a "contested case hearing", whereby our team (and our attorney), and the public sought input into TCEQ to fight the permit limits.

On 26 January, TRPA, our attorney (Kelly Davis, with the Save Our Springs Alliance), the San Marcos River Foundation, and TRPA members Nancy and Michael Ohlendorf participated in a mediation that lasted from 9 am to 6:30 pm.

The result of the mediation was that we successfully managed to get the Developer to agree to REDUCING the treatment limits from the new plant to 5/5/2 limits. This is a FIFTY PERCENT REDUCTION of organics into the river, and over 65% REDUCTION of suspended solids into the river, and a 33%

reduction of harmful ammonia-nitrogen. Equally important, is the plant is only allowed to discharge 25% of its flow into the creek, forever.

Equally as important, this means there are now two plants in this area that discharge to the 5/5/2 limits, or better. This will hopefully mean that any future permits will use the good levels at least a 5/5/2 for discharge into the river. This will help keep the river cleaner, for now and future generations.

These fights are not inexpensive. TRPA paid a large amount of the total costs for attorney's fees, and one outside expert. I provided expert professional engineer's testimony and research on this matter pro bono, and Tom provided countless hours, also.

This is one of the crucial things that TRPA is doing to help protect the water quality of rivers, for generations to come.

I am pasting below the financial report for 2020.

Thank you all, for your support!!!

David Price,
President

Financial Report 2020

General Fund:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2020	\$52,634.60
Contributions for 2020	\$25,561.61
Subtotal general fund	\$78,196.21
Less general expenses:	
Colorado River Clean Up	\$1,000.00
Adobe Software (for website)	\$649.37
Adobe Acrobat	\$113.61
Transfer to Hidalgo	\$375.00
Newsletter	\$154.00
Postage	\$78.46
River Network	\$150.00
Annual meeting	\$58.01
Office expenses	\$4.30
Total general expenses	\$2,582.75
Total general fund 12/31/2020	\$75,613.46

Hidalgo Falls Fund 2020

Beginning Balance 1/1/20	\$1,210.02
Contributions received	\$7,627.87

Total Money Available \$8,837.89
Less Expenses:
Mower \$2,499.20
Supplies \$1,727.00
Electricity \$631.00
Mugs for festival \$236.80
Total money available 12/31/20 \$3,743.89

San Marcos River Clean UP
Contribution received \$600
Expenses \$600
ending balance \$0

Earmarked Accounts with no change for 2020
River Road \$200.13
Center Point Rockcrusher \$3,990.58
Center Point Lion's Park \$100.00
Can Ban and tuber issues \$969.86

Memorial Funds
Mike Ash \$350.00
Ed Lowe \$400.00
David Smith \$700.00
Sharpe McCollough \$850.00
Roy Neal Staton Jr. \$625.00

Wastewater Permits
Torn wastewater permit (Tarpley) \$150
Castroville permit \$300
General Wastewater permits \$1,765

Total funds (all accounts) 12/31/20 \$89,757.92

The good news is that we have over \$75,000 in the general fund! Of course, one contested case hearing (when we fight a wastewater permit like Cherryville) can cost as much as \$50,000.

I think I should also point out at our total office expenses for 2020 was \$4.30. Notice that there are no expenses for phone, no rent, no internet charge - nada. You might also note that there are no travel expenses. We are a volunteer organization. There are no salaries. And we use our personal phones, addresses and internet providers. And most of the time we pay for our travel expenses. And while we do have to pay a fee to Dreamweaver and Acrobat to manage the website the actual hosting is provided free of charge by the noise.org a company owned by our longtime friend and member Mark Boyden. Our webmaster for (has it been 30 years?) is board member Rich Grayson. And, of course

board members Steve Daniel and Patti Carothers have kept Hidalgo Falls going. We have a very dedicated group of board members who keep this organization going. And, of course, we could do nothing without your support.

Speaking of that, I am including below your most recent contribution. Please let me know if I have missed anything. And, if you have misplaced your receipt, let me know and I will send it again (for tax purposes).

As always, you can go to our website: txrivers.org to join, pay dues, make a contribution or just see what is going on.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tom Goynes
ex officio president and keeper of the membership list