

The Bandera PROPHECY

May 25, 2023

Compromise reached

More than 30 citizens attended the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District (BCRAGD) board meeting, and well over 50 citizens sent in comments. This was a tough issue. The board deliberated in an executive session for nearly an hour regarding the variance request by RR 417 to pump groundwater into impoundments during Stage 5 drought. Without a variance, ALL pumping into these impoundments would cease during Stage 5 drought.

In a unanimous vote, the board agreed to grant a variance to RR 417 allowing them to pump ONLY FROM LOWER TRINITY WELL P-1177 up to 24 acre feet of water into their recreational lakes during Stage 5 drought. The board also stipulated that monthly pumping records must be submitted to the District, and that this variance can be reviewed if new information becomes available.

Friends of Hondo Canyon believes this is a good compromise.

The variance does not allow for groundwater pumping from the Middle Trinity Aquifer during Stage 5 drought.

The variance puts a lower cap on groundwater withdrawal from the Lower Trinity Aquifer during Stage 5 drought – lowering the total annual allowable withdrawal from 40 acre feet to 24 acre feet.

Water, like minerals, is a vested property right in Texas – a landowner ‘owns’ the water beneath his land. The BCRAGD board must represent all of us in Bandera County – business owners and residents alike. I believe that the compromise reached today serves all.

PS: There is still work to be done! Our dedicated Middle Trinity monitor well, which includes a precipitation gauge capable of warning for flash floods, has been on line since June 2022. We now have a goal of funding a dedicated Lower Trinity monitor well. We have raised \$16,200 towards

the \$40,000 needed to complete this project, which we will also have outfitted with a USGS satellite monitor so that anyone can have access the real-time and historical data collected. This well will be drilled next to the dedicated Middle Trinity monitoring well. The benefit of this location is information can be simultaneously collected regarding both Trinity aquifer levels and their recharge/possible communication characteristics.

Can you help? Your donation to Friends of Hondo Canyon is tax deductible.

Checks can be set to:

Friends of Hondo Canyon 11035 FM 470

Tarpley TX 78883