

Submitted by Mike Southerland, 3401 Parkway Ter, Bryan, TX 77802, 979 229 7805,
msoutherland@suddenlink.net

Subject: Region 8 Lower Brazos RPG: Public Comment: Operation of Lake Limestone
Agenda Item 7 of June 24, 2021, Meeting

June 14, 2021

The flood plan for Region 8 needs to be made more inclusive.

1. The members of the board and study group needs to be significantly expanded. The definition of “Stake Holder” is per **Merriam-Webster Definition of stakeholder:**
 - a. person entrusted with the stakes of bettors
 - b. one that has a stake in an enterprise
 - c. one who is involved in or affected by a course of actionA review of the flood planning group in the Texas Flood Plan law names and functions does not list anyone that is a landowner. Which means the stakeholders have been excluded from any decision making.
2. Lake Limestone must be included in the plan because it is an existing and future risk. Although the Limestone dam is not defined as flood control, anytime a structure is formed to control water it inherently has a flood control function. Even in home construction, the runoff cannot be allowed to flow without controls to preclude damage to downstream property. However, in the case of the operation of Limestone, the management has been allowed to flow uncontrolled amounts of water downstream causing untold damage to downstream landowners. The riverbed is not cleaned out or restored after the tremendous flows the management releases which causes even more damage. The management has the control and capacity to totally prevent the flooding now released downstream.
3. The “No new floodplain modeling is expected” briefing slide line shows that a bias exists. Flood modeling is available from many sources and as the Corps of Engineers can show is a critical part of the flood prevention. Modeling must be included in the process.
4. The study should not be limited by a budget because that causes a biased decision to be made. Identify the issue and then later identify funding.
5. I suggest you contact at least the Corps of Engineers and the flood management authority of Louisiana to gain their experience and save money on the study. Also, the Texas State Ground Water Districts have great plans and studies for many of the controls you are studying.
6. The study area is too broad with dissimilar geographic areas and functions. Suggest that at least a study subgroup consisting of the downstream Navasota River landowners be formed with the purpose of providing specific input for the study.
7. The public input for this study is critical. The advertisement for all avenues of public input must be expanded in all markets.