

# WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



## Promoting Clean Water

The Llano River Watershed Alliance spoke out to preserve the quality of the Llano on two occasions this week.

The Alliance commented to TCEQ on the City of Junction’s wastewater permit renewal (see right) and Board Member Ruthie Russell provided testimony before the Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation on a bill that would help preserve river clarity throughout the Hill Country.

(See page 5).

## LRWA to ask TCEQ for Public Meeting re Wastewater

Last night the LRWA Board unanimously voted to request TCEQ hold a Public Meeting in Junction to discuss the renewal of the City’s Wastewater Treatment Permit. (Junction City Council member Znobia Wootan was unable to attend the meeting and did not vote).

Since 2018, the City has violated the TCEQ permit limits for the plant 12 out of 13 quarters. Last year the City was fined nearly \$13,000 for violations that occurred between November 2018 and August 2019. Unfortunately, violations of the permit limits, designed to protect contact recreation such as swimming and boating, continue to occur at the treatment plant.

In our letter to TCEQ, the Alliance requests a public meeting to discuss the violations at the plant, request that nutrient standards be added to the permit, and explore the possibility of converting the plant to a land application process, whereby a majority of the wastewater would be used for irrigation.

[See LRWA Comment Letter](#)

## You May Also Comment to TCEQ

**Individuals may also submit comments** to TCEQ regarding the City of Junction's application to renew their permit via TCEQ e-comment webpage. Comments on the permit must be received by **April 23, 2021**.

The Permit Number is **WQ0010199001**. A copy of the TCEQ Notice of Application may be found here.

*Watershed Week in Review* extensively covered the problems at the City of Junction's Wastewater Treatment Plant in the newsletter last fall.

October 30 and November 6.





## Seven Hundred Springs Tour

*Don't miss this unique opportunity to visit 700 Springs on the South Llano River near Telegraph.*

*April 24, 2021*

To see these spectacular headwater springs along the South Llano, meet at the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction to caravan to the springs. **Departure is at 10am sharp!!**

From the Courthouse, the caravan proceeds the 21 miles to the springs. The tour is very informal, but informative presentations regarding the history and geology of the springs will be provided. It is suggested to bring a hat, folding chairs, a lunch, and a jacket.

There is no charge for the tour, but donations may be made to the Kimble County Historical Society.





# Opportunity to Improve your Riparian Zone

## *Still Openings Available for Site Visits*

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is offering riparian landowners the opportunity to give an additional kick-start to helping their riparian areas, especially those areas damaged by the 2018 flood.

Over the next few months, LRWA will be offering on-site technical guidance visits to inform landowners of the role of properly functioning riparian areas provide to the aquatic ecosystems and the Best Management Practices (and plants) to restore these areas.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact [southllanoriver@gmail.com](mailto:southllanoriver@gmail.com).

This service is free to all, but priority will be given to Alliance members.



Photos: Ryan McGillicuddy, Texas Parks and Wildlife



## Board Member Advocates for Clean Water at the Capitol

Legislation is being introduced at the Texas Legislature this session to preserve the clear waters of our Texas Hill Country Rivers. One of the primary reasons these rivers are so clear is they naturally lack nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous. But because they lack nutrients, the clarity of these rivers can easily be impacted if nutrients are introduced from wastewater treatment facilities.

The proposed legislation (SB 1747 and HB 4146), the work of the Devils River Conservancy and the Nueces River Authority, would prohibit private entities such as youth camps and municipal utility districts from obtaining a permit to discharge to rivers that have historically had low Total Phosphorous readings. The Llano, along with most Hill Country rivers meet these criteria. Municipalities and River Authorities are exempt from the proposed legislation. [Learn More.](#)

LRWA Board member and landowner Ruthie Russell provided the following testimony regarding the importance of these rivers to all of us.

Chairman and members, my name is Ruth Bowman Russell, I am a rancher on the Devils, Llano and Nueces Rivers, all of which contain segments that would be protected by this legislation. I represent the Devils River Conservancy and the Llano Watershed Alliance, and we support House Bill Committee Substitute 4146.

I cannot imagine why anyone who loves our pristine Texas rivers and creeks would dream of voting against this critical legislation.

I am a board member of the Devils River Conservancy and the Llano Watershed Alliance and I have advocated for the conservation of all Texas's waterways throughout my life. So many of our waterways have already been polluted by excess phosphorus from wastewater discharge. Nothing is more valuable than clean water.

We have about 3,700 named rivers in Texas and only parts of about 40 of them are still pure and clear. They are a special gift to the State of Texas and every day they become more and more precious. At the stroke of a pen to leave these state treasures vulnerable to wastewater discharge would be an unspeakable loss. [Continue Reading](#)