

**June 23, 2016**

**Sunset Review of SRBA**

**George Frost: Outline of key points to be made to the Sunset Advisory Commission:**

My name is George Frost and I live in Maud, Texas located in west Bowie County. I have been involved in the issue of water for almost 50 years in a variety of ways. My family members were impacted landowners when Wright Pitman Lake was constructed in the 1950's, my son Stephen, previously served in the Texas Legislature and was heavily involved in water issues and I currently serve as Vice-Chairman of the Region D Water Planning Group.

It is important for the Sunset Commission to understand that the problems with SRBA have gone on for decades, spanning multiple board tenures. This organization is notoriously dysfunctional, has systematic transparency issues, ignored the needs of the locals in the basin and has been allowed to get away with it for years.

To demonstrate how long this type of behavior has occurred, I have brought for you copies of a newspaper article, meeting materials and a subsequent Attorney General's Opinion regarding an "invitation only" meeting held by SRBA. The staff of our U.S. Congressman at the time was actually denied entrance because she was not on the RSVP list. This really happened.

Since its creation in 1985, SRBA has been used for one purpose and one purpose only: to construct the Marvin Nichols Reservoir at all costs. I have seen time and time again where the locals have reached out their hand to the DFW metroplex and tried to work with the SRBA to develop win-win water supply solutions for Region C and Region D, only to be lied to, manipulated and ignored. The dysfunction of SRBA has caused serious damage that has racked up real costs to our region and the rest of the state. They have for more than 3 decades all but ignored the issues of sedimentation and water quality which now plagues the basin and Wright Pitman Lake. If you scour the record, you will not find where SRBA has ever taken a single corrective or preventative action related to these important issues. What you will find, however, piles of studies that are conducted by and paid for by interests outside of the Sulphur Basin, using flawed methodologies, questionable data and study parameters all designed to support and justify the construction of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

This 3 decade problem will not be fixed without some fundamental legislative changes being made to SRBA. The issues of transparency, independent funding and local control must be addressed. I strongly encourage you to make structural legislative changes to this organization if it is going to continue to exist. These changes include providing state funding for its basic operations, wiping the board of older appointments and allowing the governor to appoint new members and the chair, providing legislative protections to the local communities and water rights holders in the Sulphur Basin that requires SRBA to get a 2/3 approval from the Region D Board before they enter into a funding agreement to serve as a local sponsor of a water supply project to be used mostly to serve needs outside the basin or, better yet, support the local

communities to serve as local sponsor on future water supply projects. These are commonsense reforms that would be good for the citizens of Region D, Region C and the entire state of Texas.

Thank you for your consideration and your time this morning. I am happy to answer questions now or in the future if needed.

**My name is George Frost and I live in Maud, Texas located in west Bowie County. I have been involved in the issue of water for over 50 years in a variety of ways. My family were impacted landowners when Wright Patman Lake was constructed in the 1950's. My son Stephen previously served in the Texas Legislature and was heavily involved in water issues and I currently serve as Vice-Chairman of the Region D Water Planning Board. I have previously given testimony before various committees in both Houses in the legislature concerning water.**

**It is important for the Sunset Commission to understand that the problems with the SRBA have gone on for decades, spanning multiple board tenures. This organization is notoriously dysfunctional, has systematic transparency issues, ignored the needs of the local basin and has been allowed to get away with it for years. Many of these abuses have been exposed by your Sunset staff.**

**To demonstrate how long this type of behavior has occurred, I have brought for you copies of newspapers articles, meeting materials and a subsequent Attorney General's Opinion regarding an "invitation only" meeting held by SRBA. The staff of our U.S. Congressman at the time was actually denied entrance because she was not on the RSVP list. This really happened. If you closely examine the invitation list you will not find any farming or timber owners invited.**

**Since its creation in 1985, SRBA has been used for one purpose and one purpose only: to construct the Marvin Nichols Reservoir at all costs. I have seen time and time again where the locals have reached out to the metroplex and tried to work with the SRBA to develop a win-win water supply solution for Region C and Region D, only to be manipulated and ignored. The dysfunction of the SRBA has caused serious distrust in our region. They have for more than three decades all but ignored issues such as sedimentation which now plagues the basin and Wright Patman Lake. If you search the records, you will not find where the SRBA has taken a single corrective or preventative action related to these important issues, including a major logjam . What you will find, however, is piles of studies that are conducted by and paid for by interests outside the Sulphur Basin, using methodologies, questionable data and study parameters all designed to support and justify the construction of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.**

**This three decade problem will not be fixed without some fundamental legislative changes being made to the SRBA. The issues of transparency, independent funding and local control must be addressed. I strongly encourage you to make structural legislative changes to this organization, if it is going to continue to exist. These changes include providing state funding for its basic operations and providing**

George Frost

**legislative protections to the local communities and water right holders in the Sulphur Basin and requiring the SRBA to get a 2/3 approval from the Region D Board before they enter into a funding agreement to serve as a local sponsor of a water supply project for primary use outside the basin. These are commonsense reforms and along with those already proposed by the Sunset Committee that would be good for the citizens of Region D, Region C and the entire state of Texas.**

**Thank you for your consideration and your time this morning. I will be happy to answer questions now or in the future.**