

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GBRA - Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution. - Gonzales Inquirer Article 06.07.18  
**Date:** Friday, June 8, 2018 7:54:20 AM

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**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 7, 2018 5:27 PM  
**To:**

**Subject:** GBRA - Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution. - Gonzales Inquirer Article 06.07.18

**If we are not part of the solution we are part of the problem. With that in mind, I respectfully offer the following comments.**

Supplying water to Comal County might be better served by the private sector like the Texas Water Alliance that GBRA is trying to purchase. Public-private partnerships have mixed results. Regulation of that entity would be under the PUC and it would be a taxable entity subject to property taxes. The generic problems with purchasing and asset management pointed out in several agencies Sunset Report would be theirs to bear.

We must remember that GBRA is less than a tenth the size of LCRA in terms of revenue. In an earlier hearing one commissioner comment that perhaps there be a state agency to assist with procurement and contract management. Maybe that is a good idea for the smaller entities, but it still is government solving the problem with more government.

One of the other river authorities water services was placed under the PUC as a water utility. The PUC had a different take on the "Vertical Silo" approach to funding based on revenue put forth by GBRA via TCEQ and TWB direction. At a customer level, I think the PUC views this as classic "Red Lining". But, taken at the mission statement level only funding projects and initiatives that that can retire debt service red lines all GBRA mission, the water utility business is not mentioned in their mission statement below.

## **Mission Statement**

**The mission of GBRA is to support responsible watershed protection and stewardship, provide quality operational service, and a commitment to promote conservation and educational opportunities in order to enhance (the) quality of life for those we serve.**

If they are to have a chance to accomplish their mission their funding model has to change. Other missions, like flood mitigation, remain orphaned, an unlearned lesson from Harvey.

Again, GBRA has been reduced to a water utility, These are not bad people, but the only thing funding the authority and their jobs is water sales. Job retention is a real motivator. The GBRA Chairman is a very good person. but Comal County economic development, his day job while chair, is supported by his actions as chairman.

That happens to be the only path forward available with the funding rules passed down by the state. In this case, funneling tax monies from all Texas taxpayers into Comal County for further development. Development that their schools and other entities are already struggling to keep up with.

***Opinion: We need a strong mission-centric GBRA with clear support and understanding of that mission from The State of Texas and its leaders. That will require changing a broken funding model.***

FYI, This appeared in the Gonzales Inquirer today. With the situation at Lake Wood they are understandably angry.

GBRA Board actions require immediate answers, overhaul copy attached.

<http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com/stories/gbra-board-actions-require-immediate-answers-overhaul.25312>

***With Great Respect and Thanks For Your Time - James Ryan - Gonzales Texas***

*Disclosure: I am on the Gonzales EDC. Gonzales County and its citizens with leased water rights to Texas Water Alliance would benefit economically from GBRA's Mid-Basin Project to supply water to the Hill County. But that gain would be offset a thousand-fold with disasters like Lake Wood, Harvey Type flooding from over-development in the hill county and lose of our river ecosystems.*

**Subject:** Sunset Commission Hearing Video - GBRA Chairman Questions

Thank Mr. Anderson. The video of the River Authority Sunset Commission Meeting is posted.

The River Authorities start @ 6.09.10 and last about an hour and twenty minutes.

[http://tlcenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=44&clip\\_id=13432](http://tlcenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=44&clip_id=13432)

I got my first chance to view yesterday. There was something familiar about the GBRA Chairman Rusty Brockman, but it was out of context from GBRA. I serve on the Gonzales EDC and looking at his Bio (attached) on the GBRA site I made the connection. Mr. Brockman is the is director of economic development for the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Inc.

One of the Sunset issues is whether the Chairman of the River Authorities should be locally elected or appointed by the Governor. And one Gonzales issues has been the lack of representation on the board. The Chairman steers the boat. Under Mr. Brockman:

Mr. Brockman's Comal County has plans in place, via GBRA, to receive water to sustain its growth with mega-development like Dean Word's ASA Properties Vermendi and dozens of other large developments. Along with that is the plan to move GBRA headquarter (\$ 5 million). In effect subjugating GBRA strategic mission to the tactical mission of supplying the water to support his economic development goal for Comal County. I find difficult to accept that the over-development of Comal County is in the best interest of our rivers.

Reference: <http://www.veramenditx.com/master-plan/>

Gonzales County and the other downstream counties get things like a broken Lake Woods, a destroyed ecosystem at San Antonio Bay and additional flooding from over-development in the in the I-35 Corridor.

Reference: Lake Woods - <https://vimeo.com/247671614>

My first interest in GBRA was in connection with GBRA Mid-Basin Project which would be an economic boost for Gonzales County. But that with my Economic development "black hat" on. Mr. Brockman is a very good man and it is not easy to take the "black hat" off. But sometimes someone may ask you to take it off out of respect (*for our rivers*).

Mr. Brockman, Mr. Patteson, and Mr. Solansky all did well at the Hearings. Mr. Patteson has impressed me owning the decision to divert the funds for repair of Lake Woods.

***We need a strong mission-centric GBRA with clear support and understanding from The State of Texas and its leaders.***

***Key to that support is finding a fix for a broken funding model that abandoned flood mitigation and the river ecosystem in favor of a water utility function.***

Take Care All & Thanks for your valuable time.

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: A 'Harvey-Proof' Community Wetlands Protection - Rebuild Texas  
**Date:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 7:24:41 AM

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**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 11:04 PM  
**To:**

**Subject:** A 'Harvey-Proof' Community Wetlands Protection - Rebuild Texas

I thought this was interesting because of those involved.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Clear Lake City Water Authority  
Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas  
Texas Community Watershed Partners  
Exploration Green Conservancy  
Texas General Land Office.

Notably absent was the TCEQ.

Excerpt:

Water quality studies, funded by a grant from the Texas General Land Office Coastal Management Program, will begin in October 2018 to monitor and document water quality changes provided by the stormwater wetlands. A groundbreaking for Phase 2 of the stormwater wetlands portion of the project is slated for May 2018. All phases of the project are expected to be completed in 2022.

***We need a strong mission-centric GBRA with clear support and understanding from The State of Texas and its leaders.***

***Sharp's assignment was to be the Czar of the effort to "Rebuild Texas" and cut through the bureaucratic maze to get things done.***

James Ryan - Gonzales Texas

A bit about my background.

A&M BSEE 68

Houston Light & Power - Texas Genco 1967 - 2002

Electrical and Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor - South Texas Project -  
Construction Phase

Maintenance Director - Limestone SES

Project Engineering Manager- Plant Improvement Project

Executive Special - Assignment - Monetization of deregulated Generation Assets in  
Energy Trading Market

*(I was not always the smartest one in the room, but I was always the best prepared.)*

Post Retirement - 2002

Victoria College Foundation

Gonzales ISD Foundation

Appraisal Review Board - Gonzales County

Gonzales Economic Development Board

An old Eagle Scout that drives an EV. And a person who cares.

Take Care All - J.R.

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: REVISED Sunset Commission Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 8:08:52 AM

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**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 11:11 PM  
**To:** Jim Blackburn

Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>

**Subject:** Re: REVISED Sunset Commission Meeting Agenda

Jim, this important! Good folks, for those of you not familiar with The Aransas Project.

**Its goal: Saving the river from the Hill Country to San Antonio Bay.**

Here is a link

<http://thearansasproject.org/situation/>

<http://thearansasproject.org/basin-management/implementing-the-gbra-tap-agreement/>

<http://thearansasproject.org/situation/tap-progress/>

Excerpt:

*Actions by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) since the filing of the Notice of Intent to Sue demonstrate the need for legal action. During that time period, GBRA—without seeking public comment and on an accelerated timetable—lengthened the term of an existing contract with Exelon that ties up more than 24 billion gallons of water annually from the Guadalupe River for a proposed nuclear plant that may never even be built. The combination of TCEQ's failure to act, along with GBRA's aggressive actions since the Notice of Intent was filed, demonstrates utter disregard for the fate of the Whooping Crane and for coastal communities.*

*They have an agreement with GBRA, **but guess what?** No funding available. Sound familiar.*

*Texas Water Board, I guess that the project could not retire the bonds to build it*

Jim Blackburn, Attorney for The Aransas Project (Also with the Baker Institute with several papers about flooding in Houston (Pre-Harvey) Humm. Our Future along the Guadalupe??

<http://thearansasproject.org/about/tap-team/>

Take Care All & Thanks for Your Valuable Time -

*We need a strong mission-centric GBRA with clear support and understanding from The State of Texas and its leaders.*

On Mon, May 21, 2018 at 8:36 PM, Jim Blackburn

wrote:

James. I appreciate your sending all of these materials. I am out of the watershed and don't normally see these things. Thank you. Jim Blackburn

*Jim Blackburn  
BlackburnCarter Law Firm  
Sustainable Planning and Design*

**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 6:42 PM  
**To:** Joe Solansky - Friends of Lake Woods

**Subject:** Fwd: REVISED Sunset Commission Meeting Agenda

**Attached are the new agenda and Sunset Summary Report. Take Care and Thanks for Your Time - James Ryan Gonzales Texas**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sunset Commission** <[Sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:Sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>

Date: Mon, May 21, 2018 at 5:07 PM

Attached is a revised Sunset Commission Meeting Agenda. Please be aware the room number has changed and the Sunset Commission meeting scheduled for May 23 and 24, 2018, will now be held in the Senate Finance Committee Room, Room E1.036. Please call

our office at (512) 463-1300 if you have any questions.

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - Gonzales Inquirer - Sunset Commission Slams GBRA  
**Date:** Friday, May 18, 2018 7:59:16 AM

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**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 10:09 PM  
**To:** GBRA - Jonathan Stinson <jstinson@gbra.org>  
**Cc:**

**Subject:** FYI - Gonzales Inquirer - Sunset Commission Slams GBRA

<http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com/stories/sunset-commission-slams-gbra,25230>

## Sunset Advisory Commission slams GBRA

Posted Thursday, May 17, 2018 6:06 am



**By Terry Fitzwater**

[terry.fitzwater@gonzalesinquirer.com](mailto:terry.fitzwater@gonzalesinquirer.com)

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority board is once again coming under criticism for not doing anything tangible on rebuilding the Lake Wood spillgate on the Guadalupe River.

This time the criticism is not coming just from members of the Friends of Lake Wood Association.

This time it is coming from the state of Texas through the Sunset Advisory Commission.

In a recent report, the Sunset Advisory Commission slammed the GBRA for three very important issues that FOLW has been raising for years.

In its findings, the Sunset Advisory Commission faulted the GBRA's aging infrastructure and inadequate asset management, which puts some utility operations at risk. According to the Sunset Advisory Commission, "the authority has not implemented a comprehensive asset management process to ensure timely repair of its significant utility assets. Some of the authority's infrastructure is failing, either in critical condition or beyond repair, and GRBA faces potential service disruptions

for its customers. GBRA will need to balance maintenance repair, and replacement of its existing, aging infrastructure with the need for new development throughout the basin. ...GBRA's communication strategies are not well-coordinated with asset management and operations...". The

Commission recommended that the GBRA develop and maintain a comprehensive asset management plan and to ensure the management plan and process is linked to the authority's public messaging and communications.

"We've known this for some time," said FOLW member Joe Solansky. "We've been saying this over and over but the GBRA has not given us the time of day. It is nice that the state of Texas and the Sunset Advisory Commission agrees with us."

A second issue the Sunset Advisory Commission faulted the GBRA for was GBRA's procurement and contracting efforts lack coordination and best practices needed to ensure adequate expertise and best value. According to the Sunset Advisory Commission finding, "GBRA does not have fully centralized oversight of procurement and contracting functions to ensure proper development, tracking, and monitoring of contracts...some of GBRA's contracting activities do not conform to typical best practices...".

The Commission recommended that GRBA take steps to centralized its approach to procurement and contracting, ensure key procurement and management staff receive formal training, and improve contracting activities to ensure consistency and enhance monitoring.

The third criticism said that GBRA should clarify and better manage its relationships with associated nonprofits. Since the GBRA partners with three nonprofits to assist in carrying out GRBA's educational and conservation activities, the Sunset Advisory Commission found it outrageous that "Nonprofit staff members are also GBRA employees and report directly to GBRA's general manager as well as their respective boards. This creates a conflict of interest for non-profit staff in balancing their obligations to both GBRA and the non-profit boards."

The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended "to consolidate the funds it provides to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust and San Antonio Bay Foundation to one organization and clearly define expectations tied to this funding", to create clear boundaries and reporting structures between its staff and associated nonprofits, to evaluate whether the Gorge Preservation Society's narrow mission justifies GRBA support, and evaluate the continuing need for relationships with any non-profits every five years to ensure the nonprofits are achieving shared goals.

Compounding the issues cited by the Sunset Advisory Commission, FOLW members are extremely upset that the GBRA now wants to move its headquarters from Seguin to New Braunfels at a cost of over \$6 million dollars.

"They have plenty of space where they are now, but they want to spend \$6 million to move to New Braunfels but they don't have enough money to repair H-5 (The Lake Wood spillgate)," said James Ryan, and FOLW member. "That's ridiculous"

*. (Actual, the lady in front of me made the comment about space, but I had no reason to disagree- J.R.)*

***We need a strong mission centric GBRA with clear support and understanding from The State of Texas and its leaders.***

***Take Care & Thanks All - James Ryan - Gonzales Tx***

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Funds for Flood Mitigation - Gov. Abbott - Rainy-Day - TCEQ  
**Date:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 7:54:24 AM

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**From:** James Ryan [mailto:jr68jr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 5:59 PM  
**To:** GBRA - Jonathan Stinson <jstinson@gbra.org>; Kevin Patteson - GBRA <kpatteson@gbra.org>  
**Cc:** District17 Cyrier <District17.Cyrier@house.texas.gov>; rebuildtexas@tamus.edu; Keith Schauer <KSchauer@doucetengineers.com>; Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>; TAP - Jim Blackburn <jbb@blackburncarter.com>; Mayor - Connie Kacir <CKacir@cityofgonzales.org>; Gerri Lawing - GVEC <glawing@gvec.org>; Julie Frank Gov. Office Policy Advisor <julie.frank@gov.texas.gov>; Judge Fowler <daryl.fowler@co.dewitt.tx.us>; Judge David Bird <countyjudge089@co.gonzales.tx.us>; Judge Donna Rayes <donna rayes81@yahoo.com>; Corrie MacLaggan <cmaclaggan@texastribune.org>; Publisher Inquirer <publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com>  
**Subject:** Funds for Flood Mitigation - Gov. Abbott - Rainy-Day - TCEQ

**Mr. Stinson, we are up at our place in Wimberley and I caught a 15 sec clip on the news about Gov. Abbott, Rainy-Day and Flood mitigation. See Attached.**

**The communities are requesting that The Governor call a special session to use the Rainy-Day fund for the local matching funds for flood mitigation projects.**

**This mirrors my concern about Texas Water Board not supporting grants for matching funds in my email about who has flood responsibility in Texas. See Below.**

**Flooding needs oversight and a firm commitment from a coordinated group of governing bodies to save our future. Money is there.**

**Backyard Example:**

**Guadalupe County spent about \$ 800,000 to match a 12.2 Million Dollar FEMA Flood Mitigation project around Lake Placid to elevate 42 homes on stilts to get them out of the floodplain. See attached.**

**Guadalupe, Hays, and Comal counties are not going to spend millions to save Gonzales, Dewitt, Victoria, and Calhoun counties. We need a strong GBRA with a clear and defined mission and appropriate funding to do its mission. I would argue that that mission is bigger than just supplying water for growth in the Hill Country.**

**Floodplains are rapidly taking in higher elevations and annual premiums are headed to 10% of home value.**

**An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.**

**Take Care & Thanks for your efforts. James Ryan - Gonzales**

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Email on flood authority fro:  
Roman Hill, Communications Division - Texas Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Thank you for contacting the Texas Department of Transportation. In response to your question, here are the responsible agencies with authority over your areas of interest.

Floods - Municipalities (cities or counties) are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and produce floodplain maps depicting flood risk. Some municipalities may have even more detailed maps showing flood risk than what FEMA produces. TxDOT is an agency of the state and while not a participating community, we coordinate closely with communities and FEMA on understanding and mapping flood risk.

Flood Mitigation - Municipalities typically enforce some level of flood mitigation on private property. For example, requiring detention ponds to mitigate the effects of development. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and other state/federal agencies also actively work to promote flood mitigation projects. TxDOT has jurisdiction to regulate state highway property. The only authority TxDOT has with respect to flood mitigation outside of state highway property is when a development is seeking to connect its stormwater outfall to a TxDOT drainage system. In these cases, TxDOT does have review authority to approve the stormwater connection and the requirements are provided in the memo section of this link (<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/consultants-contractors/publications/design.html>).

Dams - TxDOT is not typically involved in flood control dams. Dams are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) dam safety group.

Thank you and kind regards,

Roman Hill, Communications Division  
Texas Department of Transportation

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: My view of GBRA situation (updated 05.13) - We Live in Interesting Times  
**Date:** Monday, May 14, 2018 7:51:52 AM

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**From:** James Ryan

**Sent:** Sunday, May 13, 2018 9:03 PM

**Cc:** Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>

**Subject:** My view of GBRA situation (updated 05.13) - We Live in Interesting Times

**My view of GBRA situation** *(as of Feb 18, changes and updates in blue italics)*

LCRA and GBRA have similar missions and challenges, both in terms of critically and scale. LCRA projects it's 2018 revenue at \$ 860 million. GBRA projects revenue at \$ 57 million (1/15th of LCRA). 3

million

*(Now \$ 10 million)*

to repair the dam is almost 5%

*(now 17.5%)*

of GBRA annual revenue, it would be 0.4 % of LCRA. The dam failure would almost been a non-event for LCRA.

The Mid-Basin water supply project they submitted in 2016 was \$700 million (12 x projected 2018 revenue). That does not include a need reservoir at San Antonio bay. And those don't have flood mitigation as a design element. A future desalinization water supply project is [estimated.at](#) a billion. The tremendous growth in the I-35 corridor is overwhelming the watershed for water supply and flooding run-off. It is a setup for a Harvey like event for the area & communities GBRA serves.

TCEQ has made organizational changes at GBRA, but without a revenue model that supports funding planning, building and sustaining the infrastructure along the basins they will fail! The consequences of that failure will lost economic growth and then lost lives and property.

FEMA or Rebuild Texas under John Sharp could be a potential source of funding, but, like Lake Woods, without a revenue model that maintains and sustains the basin and it's

infrastructure

,  
you are just build a bigger disaster  
!

These are good people, but sometimes the math just does not work. Each new home and business along I-35 pushes us closer to our Harvey. We need a strong and focus organization to accomplish the GBRA mission.

We must to work together to find solutions.

*GBRA is not a taxing entity, like SARA. The taxable base of the counties GBRA serves is \$75,855,208,753. A \$ 0.02 tax rate like SARA would generate \$15,171,042, but that is just enough to pay for one H5 dam gate failure. Impact fees on developers is another possibility. The annual debt service and maintenance of the 3a option Mid-Basin project is 77 million. The pipeline must pass through the Luling fault area to get to the hill country. Is that a problem? Look at I-130.*

*Slowing development in the Hill Country may not be a bad thing.*

*Note one cc - Jim Blackburn, environmental lawyer for the Aransas Project. but also with Baker Institute and wrote the book on the Harvey Flooding two years ago. see 2015 paper attached*

<https://www.bakerinstitute.org/experts/jim-blackburn/>

Pullin and Prayin for All

- *(including the Cypress trees and ecosystem of H5 Lake Woods)*

**Thank you for your valuable time -  
James Ryan - Gonzales**

Attachments

2016 Min-Basin Water Supply Project GBRA Submittal

**Option 3A - No reservoir, but still \$ 700 million.**

*(It involves injection of raw water from the two rivers below the convergence near the Gonzales Dam in the Carrizo aquifer storage and retrieving to serve Comal and Hays County. The process may include water treatment in and out of the aquifer. There is at least one oil waste injection facility in the area, just off Hwy 304 in Northern Gonzales County)*

Mid-Basin Project - Lake Texas Lexington - 09.27.17 ([My](#) thoughts on the project - Still lots of money

, but it would have flood mitigation and and could be accomplish the limited scope of the submitted option 3A for less that the GBRA recommendation, based on the cost of

*the LCRA Lake of Hope project cost.*

)

*Tax Base for the GBRA served counties.*

*2015 .*

*EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES IN HURRICANE DAMAGE*

*RISK ABATEMENT - Jim Blackburn etc*

*Rebuild Texas - REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE - CRITICAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS*

*I lost my contact with Farenthold office in the shuffle*

**From:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GBRA Flood Mitigation Responsibility Agency  
**Date:** Monday, May 14, 2018 8:43:28 AM

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**From:** James Ryan  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 3:38 PM  
**To:** Trisha Linebarger <Trisha.Linebarger@sunset.texas.gov>

**Subject:** Re: GBRA Flood Mitigation Responsibility Agency

**I put my name on it, cc'd GBRA and want it vetted in public, please use my comments.**

**In your comments, you mention mission alignment. Construction management is not nor should it be there. Their energies are going in finding funding to repair Lake Wood and getting the Mid-Basin Project. They need to take a step back and redefine their organization that meets a mission statement valid for the usability, sustainability, and survivability of the rivers and communities along the rivers. The diversity from the upper Guadalupe basin to San Antonio Bay is amazing. Preserving it should not be an unfunded priority for Texas.**

**GBRA and the folks it serves need help from Texas, just as the folks in Houston needed help before Harvey.**

**I copy Jim Blackburn with the Baker Institute and environmental attorney for the Aransas Project. Two years before Harvey they published a paper on the implications of a major hurricane in Houston. I watched on the national news as the light cleared on the devastation as they interviewed him. Flooding in central Texas in recent years has destroyed property and taken lives, yet no entity has accountability, authority or funding to prevent it.**

**Thank for your time, it is our most valuable asset use it well.**

**Take Care & Thanks - James Ryan - Gonzales Tx**

Ms. Frank, GBRA has stated that they do not have a roll in flood mitigation. I have been inquiring where that responsibility is. Below is the clearest response I received from a Mr. Hill @ TxDot. GBRA has also informed folks here that TWB will not fund any projects that cannot retire the revenue bond required for construction.

Flood Mitigation is an unfunded orphan that no one in state government will adopt. One only need look at Houston and Harvey to see the consequences of overdevelopment. The same thing is being repeated in Hays and Comal Counties.

I review the submittal to John Sharps Rebuild Texas and I found none on the GBRA watershed. Yet, GBRA is advancing a ~ 700 million dollar project (Mid-Basin) up through the Water Boards to supply water to Hays and Comal Counties.

That project has no flood mitigation in it and with the funding policy that the TWB is operating that marginal cost could not be funded.

GBRA's Annual Revenue is 55 million, compared to LCRA's 780 million. They can build a \$ 200 million dollar reservoir on the Colorado River.

Attached is the Sunset Commission report. My concern is the issues are heavy on construction management and not on managing the rivers. Corp of Engineer could do the construction management as they did on Canyon Lake and repairs of the Lewisville dam. With funding on wonders how quickly they could prevent the Lake Woods disaster.

**We need a strong GBRA funded to meet it's stated mission. That will take changes in Austin on funding and accountability policy.**

Thanks for your time. James Ryan - Gonzales, TX

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roman.T.Hill** <  
Date: Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 4:11 PM  
Subject: TxDOT Response to Inquiry  
To:

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Thank you for contacting the Texas Department of Transportation. In response to your question, here are the responsible agencies with authority over your areas of interest.

Floods - Municipalities (cities or counties) are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and produce floodplain maps depicting flood risk. Some municipalities may have even more detailed maps showing flood risk than what FEMA produces. TxDOT is an agency of the state and while not a participating community, we coordinate closely with communities and FEMA

on understanding and mapping flood risk.

Flood Mitigation - Municipalities typically enforce some level of flood mitigation on private property. For example, requiring detention ponds to mitigate the effects of development. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and other state/federal agencies also actively work to promote flood mitigation projects. TxDOT has jurisdiction to regulate state highway property. The only authority TxDOT has with respect to flood mitigation outside of state highway property is when a development is seeking to connect its stormwater outfall to a TxDOT drainage system. In these cases, TxDOT does have review authority to approve the stormwater connection and the requirements are provided in the memo section of this link (<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/consultants-contractors/publications/design.html>).

Dams - TxDOT is not typically involved in flood control dams. Dams are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) dam safety group.

Thank you and kind regards,

Roman Hill, Communications Division  
Texas Department of Transportation

**Subject:** GBRA Sunset Committee - Friends of Lake Wood Asso. Meeting.....

Below is a link to comment on the sunset committee report. Summary attached.

<https://www.sunset.texas.gov/input-form-public?id=1295&agency=GUADALUPE%20BLANCO%20RIVER%20AUTHORITY>

My comments:

1. The Texas Water Board, TCEQ, and the legislature need to change the rule that projects must have the revenue to retire the bonds. Flood Control and Environmental protection will not produce revenue. The growth in area's like Hays and Comal Counties can destroy our river and way of life.
2. GBRA is the only entity that would have the jurisdiction to manage the watershed, but without a working funding model that supports its mission, it will fail.
3. GBRA was a great organization for the 60s, but not for 2030. Developing the water resources, controlling flooding, protecting the ecosystem from San Antonio Bay, to the Guadalupe Valley and on to the Texas Hill Country will cost billions. Much like Canyon Lake, it is unreasonable to gear up to build a huge infrastructure project only to go into maintenance mode. Corp of Engineers was the answer on Canyon Lake. Whether it is funding from DC, Rebuild Texas or Corp of Engineers there will need to be local matching funds. If the Texas Water Board is not giving grant money where will the matching funds come from?
4. Before GBRA needs help from Washington they need help from Texas!

Take Care All - James Ryan - Gonzales

On Wed, May 9, 2018 at 6:34 PM, Motzie Ehrig <[motzie@gvtc.com](mailto:motzie@gvtc.com)> wrote:

Friends of Lake Wood Asso. will meet tomorrow night, Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 at the Elks Lodge. We encourage all to attend important meeting as we will need for a rather large group to attend a GBRA later this month!!!!