

# BLANCO COUNTY NEWS

"DEDICATED TO THE CITY OF BLANCO AND THE SURROUNDING AREA"

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## Protect Our Blanco members express wastewater concerns

Protect Our Blanco (POB) met at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday at Gem of the Hills. The meeting was a short "Stories of the Hills" presentation by J.T. Morok. Morok took the floor to discuss the progress of the program. He requested that the City of Blanco provide a response.

With the city's current permit for wastewater treatment, 10 million gallons of effluent are discharged to the Blanco River. This also concerns the health of the river and the 10 percent of the population that rely on the river for drinking water. The city is not trying to solve the problem.

Next, David Baker, POB board member and executive director of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, spoke about the major goal of POB. He explained that the City of Blanco is currently discharging treated effluent into the Blanco River and provided current reports from the city. Baker said there are other options including irrigation and that POB has funds and resources to share with the city to make this happen.

Baker informed the others that Dr. Ryan King is currently studying the aquatic life in the river. The Texas Clean River Program, which is a "partnership between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and regional water authorities to coordinate and conduct water quality monitoring, assessment, and stakeholder participation to improve the quality of surface water within each river basin



**Protect Our Blanco held a public meeting Sunday at Gem of the Hills. Pictured, from left, Raymond Slade Jr., POB president; David Baker, POB board member; and Lauren Ice, POB attorney. (Photo by Rachel Lumpee)**

in Texas," according to the TCEQ website, has added two more stations which monitor water quality in Blanco.

Next, Lauren Ice, POB legal coun-

sel, spoke to the audience. She reiterated how it was difficult to get the requested documents from the city. According to Ice, there have been several effluent standards violations

and there is no compliance. The city is operating un-



Protect Our Blanco presented information at Sunday's meeting at (photo by Rachel Lumpee)

with synthesis, secretion, transport, metabolism, binding action, or elimination of natural blood-borne hormones that are present in the body and are responsible for homeostasis, reproduction, and developmental process," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Lastly, questions and comments were heard from the audience members. People expressed concern with the urgency of the matter and desire a solution. Concerns regarding TECQ's standards were expressed as well. POB expressed interest in working together with the City of

irrigation and reuse; insist the city lowers the permit to a number that will accurately reflect our growth over the next ten years; encourage the city of work with POB and the Meadow's Center for Water and the environment to improve the irrigation potential on the city's 110 acres; urge the Blanco city council to adopt the One Water resolution; and write to the Blanco County News; report what you have seen as far as deterioration of the Blanco and emphasize the importance of the waterway to our city, county and state," those at the meeting were told.

## Protect the river

To the editor:

As a Wimberley resident, I was disturbed to learn that your city (Blanco) is dumping wastewater into the Blanco River, and that y'all hope to dump even more — increasing the daily wastewater dump from 225k gallons per day up to 1.6 million.

It would be a tragedy if the actions of the City of Blanco led to an explosion of algae in the river, killing off fish and other wildlife and putting humans at risk, as apparently has happened in the San Gabriel River.

As a member of Protect Our Blanco, I encourage the City of Blanco to work with POB to adopt the One Water resolution, to make use of the best available technology to treat and reuse your wastewater and ensure the health of the Blanco River and the Edwards Aquifer.

Michael Lovitt

## Pipeline concerns

To the editor:

I opened the Blanco newspaper and noted the newest Kinder-Morgan "ad" touting

that Kinder-Morgan had no thought of the natural gas emitted from drilling in West Texas? To claim that the proposed pipeline addresses this inexplicable lack of planning is outrageous! Clearly, the way to "reduce flaring" would have been to plan for the natural gas when drilling began, not to damage one of the most beautiful Texas areas! But the industry really cares little for the gas. The economics of the oil drive the case, and producers don't care about environmental damage. The oil producers are the cause, not our resistance to environmental invasion!

But the comment that "enough natural gas was flared to power every home in Texas" is interesting. Despite earlier ads that suggest natural gas is of some use to

homes across the try, most do not b gas. Of course, th knows this! Indee that the company is to sell this gas USA. But what your efforts to p land and did just every home in Tex natural gas powe Midland/Odessa that?!

Where is that p the ad just trying landowners with es, drawing atten from the compan tention to sell the - delivering nothi invasion and risk

Build that power stop trying to tak That would be tru tising.

Michael D'Ea

# Stay away from downed lines

