



MEMO

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jenna Covington, Executive Director
DATE: April 19, 2024
SUBJECT: April 25, 2024, Board Meeting

The past month has been very busy for the District. Both the Board and the staff have been working hard to tackle several “big rocks.” Although it has been a demanding period, I am pleased about the positive progress happening all around.

Strategic Initiative Highlight – 1.2.1 Complete Phases One and Two of the Bois d’Arc Lake Program

April marks another major milestone in the decades-long development of Bois d’Arc Lake – the opening of the lake to the public. As we reach these points of achievement, I think it is important to reflect on the immense effort it has taken to arrive at these historic accomplishments.

At 8:00 AM on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, Bois d’Arc Lake officially opened to the public after months of preparation and patience as rains slowly filled the lake. People from nearby communities and throughout the state eagerly anticipated being among the first to enjoy the lake. Over the next few months, we anticipate thousands of visitors anxious to experience this much-anticipated recreational attraction.



The task of opening the lake to the public has been an incredible achievement in and of itself. Establishing Lake Operations and all the responsibilities that go along with it was a new endeavor for the District. Without prior experience in running a lake, the District had to build a program from scratch. From the hiring of the Lake

Manager and an entire maintenance crew to developing rules, regulations, and permitting, everything had to be in place as the Bois d'Arc Lake was finishing construction.

Part of the success of this project is due to the careful coordination with partners and stakeholders in Fannin County. While the lake serves as a vital water supply for over 2.2 million people, it also serves as a major economic development catalyst for the region. The growth in residential and commercial opportunities to the area cannot be overstated. However, without our strong partnerships formed through consistent and responsive communication and engagement, the District would not be able to move Bois d'Arc Lake forward.

Finally, I want to offer sincere appreciation to all of those involved in making the public opening a reality. From the boots on the ground working tirelessly to make the opening safe and organized to our partners at the Fannin County Sheriff's Office and Texas Parks and Wildlife, their incredible efforts will allow Bois d'Arc Lake to become a special place for memories to be made for generations.

Member and Customer Annual Meetings

April and May are traditionally busy months with our annual meetings with Member Cities and Customers. These meetings provide a platform for the District to exchange information and gather feedback.

For the Members, we have had the opportunity to meet with nine of the thirteen cities. The topics discussed have been focused on long-range water supply, Customer premium and representation, water conservation, and capital projects related to each city. Every conversation has been positive and productive. The remaining four meetings should be completed in the next three weeks.

Of the thirty-five Customers, the District has been able to meet with twenty-three. These meetings are attended by a staff team including Assistant Deputies for Water Operations, Water Resources, and Wastewater as well as relevant managers. Similar to the Member City meetings, these conversations cover a host of general topics and specific project updates.

Scheduling almost 50 meetings over our 2,200 square miles is an arduous task; however, these touchpoints are invaluable ways to convey important information and receive critical input from our Members and Customers.