

HAVE YOU SEEN OR HEARD THE LOW WATER ALARMS OF COMAL COUNTY?

Friends and neighbors, the low water alarms are blaring at us all over Comal County and our Texas Hill Country communities. We're breaking drought records on many days as the historic drought nears crossing the severest records regarding rainfall deprivation. Modest showers have kept surface growth deceptively green. However, the signs of deep needs for significant measurable precipitation are all around us. Do you not see? Can you not hear?

A number of folks have reached out to me with their tales of water woes. Frustrated reports of failing wells so costly to replace, redrilling delays and so much more abound. Both our Herald-Zeitung and San Antonio Express News have iterated the STAGE 5 declaration of restrictions for the first time of the precious and life supporting Edwards Aquifer Authority. The Trinity and other aquifers show signs of stress as well. So many report and show photographs of Canyon Lake below fifty-percent capacity for the first time since it filled decades ago. The grand array of sailboats out in Canyon Lake are gone, with just a few modest venturing souls. A drive along the springs in and around Landa Park make clear that reports of "a trickle" are not an exaggeration.

The children and youth seem more observant and wiser about the consequences of neglecting conservation and more judicious planning for development. Continuing to race with building in "the corridor" and across our lovely hills implies taking from the struggling sources with little foresight into the future.

When the concluding 2025 session of the Texas Legislature was convened, there was anticipation that this had the makings of an historic water moment. After near silence until the final weeks, those with informed assessments counsel that the likely measures emerging about our water futures are but a token down payment for what is critically needed. What might voting citizens of Comal and neighboring counties expect? How about representatives taking the lead to both judiciously find tapping into water sources more cautiously? Likewise, wastewater treatment and release practices need an upgrade of attention. As the next election cycles come around, let's insist on public forums that pursue policies that protect and nourish our future water resources. That's true for legislators expected to represent our interests as well as County Commissioners, and those seeking office in the numerous municipalities. Let's structure these public gatherings so that young and not so young have an opportunity to tell their stories and describe their experiences. Even an art exhibit by some younger residents who may be reluctant to speak in front of others can show the tearful discoveries of where there once was a plethora of fish, or waters that welcomed swimmers, floaters and boaters. It is less a commiserating among the disappointed as it is pointing to the consequences of too little planning and careful permitting. Even more, might some of our resources be applied to retain green parcels for continuing agriculture as well as recreation in parklands or hiking and biking trails? More and more folks seem willing to set aside bond monies to help good stewardship happen.

Social media, telecommunications and printed media have been seeking to do their part in getting the stories out. Some of our brightest and best school kids are raising their voices as if with shouts of “See here! Take note! Show us you care!

On the comalconservation.org website you’ll find a myriad of resources and recorded public events most informative. Do step forward to join the regular discussion and find ways to make a difference. There’s little water to spare or waste!