

Lake Medina Conservation Society

P.O. Box 390, Lakehills, Texas 78063



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LAMCOS Newsletter Spring 2021

LAMCOS General Membership Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the LAMCOS General Membership Meeting plans for the second time in a little over a year. However, LAMCOS is considering a meeting sometime this summer. The meeting date and the format will be determined based on how well progress is made on controlling the virus. If it is decided not to do a live meeting, we are considering a virtual meeting instead. The safety of our community is most important. We will make an announcement when a decision is reached.

Save Medina Lake Committee

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 proved to be a very busy year for the Save Medina Lake committee (SML). It's hard to believe that our committee is now in the 9th year of working to conserve and protect the water in Medina Lake!

SML has been analyzing USGS (United States Geological Survey) 24 hour change in volume & surface elevation data and Medina River's inflow into the lake data since 2015, when the lake filled to 70%. The data are captured from the USGS gauges on Medina Lake, Medina River at Bandera Park, and Medina River at English Crossing. The purpose of our analysis is to understand how much water is lost from the lake due to:

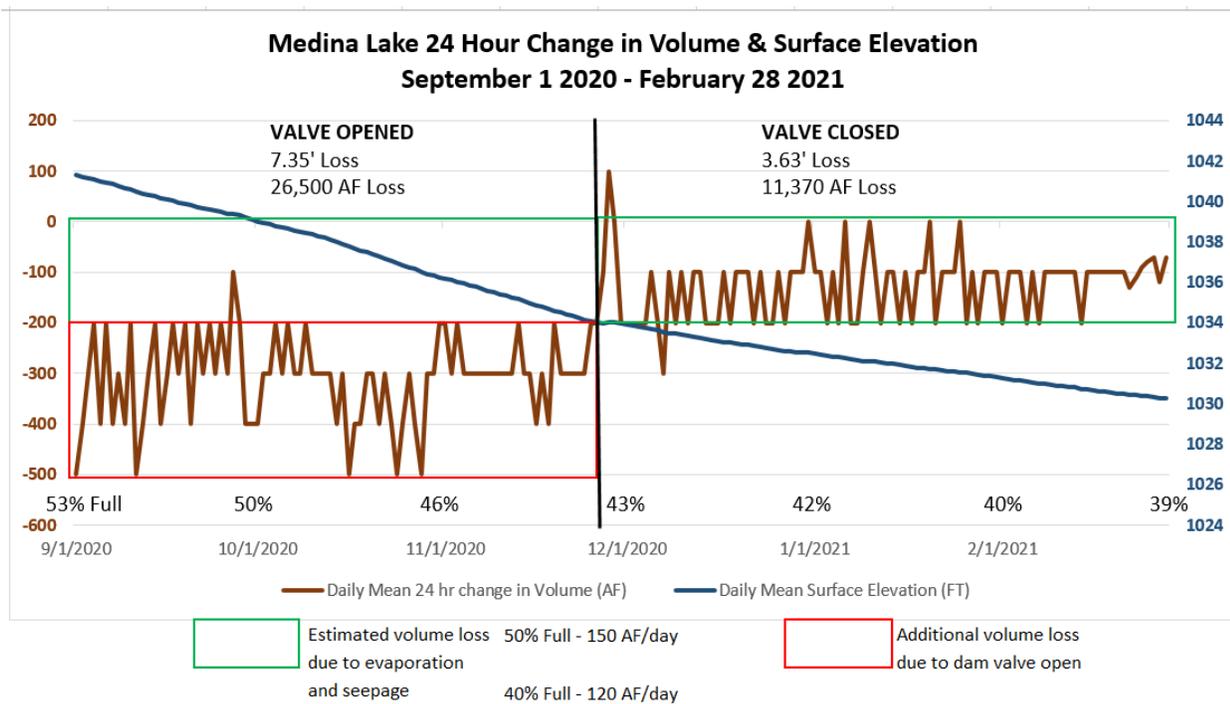
1. Seepage and Evaporation into the environment
2. The valve(s) being open on Medina Lake dam

From our analysis we have been able to estimate the amount of loss due to seepage and evaporation depending on the volume of the lake. See the below table. We can now determine from the data when a valve is opened or closed. Any daily loss values significantly greater than those in the

table are due to BMA releasing water into their antiquated/ dis-repaired irrigation canal system where most of the water is lost. One example of many illustrating this water loss was this past November at the end of the growing season. While Medina Lake was 46% full, it lost 2.2 FT in surface elevation and 7400 AF in volume for the month. During that month, BMA diverted 3,334.5 AF of water into the irrigation canals to deliver ONLY 580.21 AF of water sales. Those numbers indicate that 82.6% of the water released into the irrigation canals was lost. **So, 1000's of AF were released from Medina Lake and only a few 100 AF were actually purchased.**

| Medina Lake Seepage & Evaporation Loss <i>Estimated</i> | |
|--|-------------|
| % Full | AF loss/day |
| 100 | 330 |
| 80 | 250 |
| 60 | 180 |
| 40 | 120 |
| 20 | 70 |

Fortunately the valve(s) were closed at the end of November and the water loss had significantly decreased. On average, 350AF/day was lost from the lake between September and end of November. That's greater than twice the amount that would be expected based on seepage and evaporation. Once the valve(s) were closed, the average daily loss decreased to 150 AF - 125AF.



One would think that BMA now realizes that there is very little to gain by draining the lake dry again. UNFORTUNATELY this is NOT the case, BMA recently opened the valve(s) on the Medina Lake dam on March 24th and apparently will drain the lake again regardless of the severe negative and potentially irreversible impacts to the environment and to the communities on and around the lake. This makes our continued legislative initiative in Austin to institute permanent changes on how the lake is managed more important than ever.

Because of the costs of this initiative, SML is urgently requesting donations (through LAMCOS) to support the cost of our “Austin initiative”. Never before has your financial support been more critical than it is now!! And as always, we will continue to monitor and report BMA’s activities to you.

Lake Medina Conservation Society



Please complete the below form and mail the form with your dues and a donation if you can to:

LAMCOS, P.O. BOX 390, Lakehills, TX 78063.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Mailing Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **email** _____

LAMCOS Membership Dues (\$20.00) and Donations \$ _____

All donations go to support the work and expenses of Lake Medina Conservation Society and the Save Medina Lake Committee. There are no paid employees.