

Newsletter, Summer 2011

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State of Texas Permit System

The State of Texas considers surface water from rivers and lakes to be the property of the citizens of Texas. Surface water used from Lake Medina is permitted by the state through the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) which also monitors and records the data. These permits function on a calendar year of January 1 thru December 31 of each year.

The TCEQ permit for the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa Water Control Improvement District No. 1 (BMA) is approximately 46,000 acre feet per year and the Bexar Metropolitan Water Authority (Bexar-Met) permit is for 20,000 acre feet per year.

TCEQ monitored water usage data for the past 6 years is as follows:

Year	BMA Permit #2130-300	Bexar-Met Permit #2130-301
2005	41,737 Acre Feet	10,235 Acre Feet
2006	45,686 Acre Feet	7,574 Acre Feet
2007	10,775 Acre Feet	0 Acre Feet
2008	32,806 Acre Feet	3,503 Acre Feet
2009	35,010 Acre Feet	9,298 Acre Feet
2010	17,103 Acre Feet	4,387 Acre Feet

Aquifer / Surface Water Relationship

Understanding how rivers and lakes interact with aquifers has been a key ingredient in recent science studies in Bandera County. For the past 3 years the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District and the USGS have been conducting gain-loss studies on the Medina River. Information concerning areas where the river gains water from the aquifer and/or loses water to the aquifer is important knowledge for future planning.

The USGS has been interested in studying the water loss from Medina Lake to the Edwards aquifer. The Edwards aquifer is recharged by groundwater outflow (seepage) from Medina and Diversion Lakes, individually, as well as from the Medina/Diversion Lake system as a whole. Recharge from this system is estimated to contribute an average 62,700 acre-ft of recharge annually to the Edwards aquifer, accounting for about 9 percent of the estimated 698,500 acre-ft of average annual (1934-2003) recharge to the Edwards aquifer (Slattery, 2004) as reported in the USGS Report 5209.

Medina River Protection Fund, Inc.

The Lake Medina Conservation Society (LAMCOS) began the Medina River Cleanup in 2001 to help maintain the beauty of the river. The Cleanup was conducted by paddlers and volunteers who loved to be on the river. As the effort continued during the following years the volunteer base grew. In 2004 LAMCOS incorporated the Medina River Protection Fund and in 2009 applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status which was granted.

The eleventh annual Medina River Cleanup was held on May 7, 2011 with a turnout of approximately 210 volunteers. Over 6500 lbs. of metal and plastic debris was removed from the Medina River. The twelfth annual Medina River Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

The Medina River Cleanup is supported by donations from Bandera Business Association, Bandera County Commissioners Court, Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District, City of Bandera, Lake Medina Conservation Society, Texas River Protection Association, and residents throughout the state.

If you have had any changes or are sending in your membership dues, please complete (PRINT) and mail to LAMCOS, P.O. BOX 390, Lakehills, TX 78063.

Dues are \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Any and all donations are appreciated.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **e-mail** _____

Dues _____ **Donation** _____