

**POST OFFICE BOX 667
GLEN ROSE, TEXAS 76043**
o/p

6/26/04

Dear Ed:

Here is my revision of your statement about the Brazos. Your version was good and full and my only major change was to put your recommendations toward the end, where such things usually go.

Please triple-check things like the names of institutions, my mathematics concerning water quantities and such, and any places where I have misinterpreted your meaning. It has been a long time since I dealt with such matters.

Do feel free to make marks in the printout and to change any wording alterations that bother you back to the way you had them originally. I've got the whole thing on my computer now and after we've completed and agreed on an ultimate version, we can print it up in fancy style.

I'm not up to extensive participation in your campaign, but I'm very much on your side and will be glad to help some more.

Thrive —

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ed", written over a horizontal line.

**JOHN GRAVES
POST OFFICE BOX 667
GLEN ROSE, TEXAS 76043**

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May 12, 2005

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
c/o Office of Chief Clerk, MC 105
P. O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

To whom it may concern:

I am nearly 85 years old and have had close links to the Brazos River since the 1920s and 1930s, when I was growing up in Fort Worth and used to make frequent use of Brazos waters for fishing, boating, hunting, and other activities. Later, in 1960, I published a book, *Goodbye to a River*, about a canoe trip I made down the upper-middle part of the river. This work has been well-received and is still in print 45 years after its publication.

In recent years, while living and working in Somervell County only a few miles from the river on a Brazos tributary stream called White Bluff Creek, I have been mainly aware of conditions in the stretch of the Brazos from the Lake Granbury Dam to Lake Whitney, where an increasingly great and damaging shrinkage in flow has been taking place as more and more water-use rights have been extended to various entities by the Brazos River Authority. In my opinion the granting of even more widespread authority to the BRA in accord with their Application No. 5851, System Operation Permit, would have still further adverse effects on the Brazos drainage basin in terms of river flow, as well as esthetic, ecological, historic, and recreational values. And it would ultimately affect the use of White Bluff Creek's water on my own land by myself and my heirs.

Therefore I join with others in opposing issuance of the above-mentioned permit to the BRA, and request that a Contested Case Hearing be held in relation to their permit application.

Sincerely,

John Graves

POST OFFICE BOX 667
GLEN ROSE, TEXAS 76043

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9/19/08


Friend Ed:

The attached page contains my current thoughts on the status of the Brazos. I'm sure you won't like everything it says, but I needed to write it all down to clarify my views, primarily for myself.

I made notes when you & I spoke about my writing letters to one or two or more influential figures, but I can't find those notes now. Could you send me the names, positions, and addresses of those people and the exact subjects I need to cover in those letters? Sorry to come back at you like this, but probably it is what you get for trying to deal with an aging codger.

I did get in touch with Jack D'Amanio of Tolar, the fellow from the Brazos River Conservation Coalition who had sent me a letter. He is primarily interested in getting permission to use some quotations from *Goodbye to a River* in material they are putting out about extension of the "JG Riverway" to Hood & Somervell Counties. I said it was o. k. with me, but steered him to the Knopf publisher's permissions people, who technically need to approve such use. However, I also got from him the name & address of the BRCC president Billy Teels, who lives in Granbury. So I will write Teels or send him a copy of a letter to some official whose name & data you will have to give me—again.

Cheers —



Copy for Ed

NOTES ON ED LOWE'S BRAZOS PROJECTS

9/19/08: Ed has been most generously thoughtful about my participation in his "Friends of the Brazos" activities, which I favor & admire but at this state in my life don't want to get too tangled up with. It is of course one of his central concerns & he has gone about promoting it strongly & intelligently.

The chief problem of course is that the Brazos River Authority, a potent state agency, has only a commercial/political interest in the river & primarily its water. The stretch from Possum Kingdom down to the headwaters of Lake Granbury has not been badly changed since my days on it, except in the proliferation of riverside residential development. Threats to it have been fought back by influential landowners, especially Alice (?) Walton the Walmart heiress, who just about on her own vanquished pollutive limestone mining on that stretch. And the fact that State Senator Estes (without much aid from me, I fear) managed to persuade the Legislature to designate this stretch the "John Graves Scenic Riverway," with some restrictions on its use, has apparently also helped in its preservation.

From Lake Granbury's headwaters on down, however, rape has been the rule. The BRA is only partly responsible for this, since the chief water hog has been the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, a nuclear plant which uses the Brazos water as a coolant delivered through a large pipeline, with the used water (diminished in volume) being returned to the lake. The lake itself, I have always believed, was created with the atomic plant in prospect, though this was not mentioned, and later the forces in favor of the plant were so potent as to nullify any objections from the BRA, if it had any. To make the reservoir more palatable to the general public, there has been hardly any restriction on development along its shores, a situation that has crowded those shores with homes and docks, etc., and has made many realtors rich.

Because of intelligent people's highly critical & publicized concern during its construction, the CPSES is apparently a much safer facility than it would have been otherwise. But the water it uses up plus the water rights granted by the BRA to other entities on the lake or on the Brazos downstream have reduced the river's flow below the lake to just a trickle during most years.

That downstream mess is the situation that Ed's Friends of the Brazos was formed to confront, & they have recently been in contact with the Brazos River Conservation Coalition, a group that I think includes Ms. Walton & was originally concerned with just that part of the river upstream from the Granbury reservoir. But the current objective (of both groups, I think) is to extend the "John Graves Scenic Riverway" on down through Hood & Somervell Counties.

Their main problem as I see it is that the BRA's wholesale cessions of water rights have been legal & not easily canceled, so that even the mild restrictions now in force on the upstream JG Riverway might not be possible downstream. Furthermore the BRA, as I understand it, is now trying to push through legislation that would give it control over all the river's tributary creeks, etc. The legal status of water in Texas is ridiculous & badly needs changing. Lawyers & lawsuits, plus organizations like Friends of the Brazos & The Brazos River Conservation Coalition might help to bring about such change, & I hope they do.