

UPDATE FROM COMMISSIONER PETER JONES

At a meeting this morning, Monday January 7, 2019, with LCRA and TXDOT present the following current information was provided.

Lake LBJ Lake Lowering: The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) started to draw down Lake LBJ on January 2nd but due to recent rains the drawdown has been paused. Lake LBJ is down 2.3 feet at this time to a level of 822.15. LCRA opened one floodgate at Tom Miller Dam which is expected to close at 6 am Tuesday January 8, 2019. When closed the drawdown will continue until the 820 level is reached, reducing the level by 4 feet and possibly slightly more. Due to this delay LCRA will keep Lake LBJ lowered 5 days longer than expected with a plan to raise the lake level starting February 24th completing February 28th depending on rains experienced during the lake draw down. During the period that the lake is lowered LCRA will mark navigation hazards in the navigable waterways of the Llano River and Lake LBJ.

2900 Bridge progress: The contract to rebuild the 2900 bridge across the Llano River that was destroyed by the October 2018 flood was awarded by The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) on November 5 2018 with a commitment to complete in 150 days to achieve an April 2019 opening to traffic. Today marks the 63rd day of this contract at a cost of \$19,634,703. As you would imagine when dealing with underwater construction the contractor has discovered issues not previously expected and is revising the construction approach. I called TXDOT today and was advised that construction is still on schedule.

A web cam has been set up to allow viewing of the bridge construction 24/7 and can be viewed at www.325internet.com and click on bridge cam.

CR307 Slab Road: TXDOT advised that the CR307 slab low water crossing is open but it has been closed periodically depending upon the rains and amount of water running over the crossing. Anyone using this crossing should do so with care and to go slow since it is a long low water crossing and vehicles pass each other in the middle. As well parts of the crossing that have water flowing across can send up a lot of spray to other vehicles. TXDOT was asked to put up signs of this danger and to also indicated if the slab low water crossing is closed or open with signs at the Kingsland side and at Hwy 71/CR307. The slab low water crossing has experienced some damage of concrete bumpers and has a crack in one section that TXDOT will repair when the water level lowers. TXDOT inspection confirms that the slab crossing is safe to cross when open but to do so with caution. As well CR307 is an open-range county road with livestock free to roam the road, so any who drive this road should slow down and look for livestock.

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