

Should we

Construct

the

Conduit **or**

Get Rid

of the

Grid?



MADISONVILLE FFA CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 879

MADISONVILLE, TEXAS 77864

(936) 349-8002

Texas Qualifying Contest: Dec. 2-3, 2016



ISSUE SUMMARY

1. List course(s) in which instruction occurred.

- Energy and Natural Resources Technology (36 students) – discussed the water cycle and the development of the state water plan in Texas, researched ownership and regulation of groundwater vs. surface water, and explored methods and costs of cleansing water.
- Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (79 students) – studied the process of bills becoming law and the organizational structure of our state and national government, emphasizing duties and actions of elected officials who represent our congressional districts.
- Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management (43 students) – identified significant developments in environmental law and state and federal agencies that serve as resources for landowners and are involved with regulation and enforcement. We took water samples and determined some of the impacts of pollutants on aquatic life. The class further explored the creation and management of Texas lakes for drinking and recreational purposes.
- Professional Communications (31 students) – practiced professional interviewing etiquette and developed oral presentation and written communication skills.
- Business Information Management (9 students) – covered online research techniques, source credibility, and the use of Microsoft PowerPoint® software.

2. Why is this issue important now?

As Texas' population continues to grow at a rate twice the national average (Dearman, 2016), the need to expand our state's infrastructure is a constant challenge (Texas Municipal League, 2008). One particularly difficult need to provide is water. Texas has what Representative Lyle Larson called "bipolar" weather, meaning that it is not uncommon to have one portion of the state experiencing flooding (as we have personally experienced with Hurricane Harvey this week) while other parts of the state are abnormally dry (Johnson & Davies, 2017). One solution proposed to address both of these challenges is the creation of a state water grid, a network of pipes that will allow for water to be readily transferred across the state (Horne, 2015). House Bill 3298, which was considered during the 2015 Texas legislative session, called for a two million dollar feasibility study on the creation of a state water grid (Texas Water Journal, 2015). After passing by an overwhelming majority in the State House of Representatives, the bill stalled in the Senate (LegiScan, 2015). The lack of a legislative mandate however, has not halted major cities from taking the matter into their own hands. Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and the city of San Antonio have major pipeline projects already underway (Tarrant Regional Water District, 2017)(San Antonio Water System, 2017). Decisions made during the next few years regarding the transfer of water across our state will, without question, impact every Texan's accessibility to water.

3. What is the nature of this issue?

At first glance, the idea of transferring water from areas that have it to areas that do not sounds like basic common sense. The logistics of accomplishing this however, are extremely complex. Building pipelines is expensive (Satija, 2014) and in a state where 95% of the land is private property (Tomascik, 2016), this always involves purchasing right-of-way. Determining how much water to transfer can be tricky, especially in seasons where water is less abundant at the point of origin. Securing the right to transfer surface water requires permits from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the river authority in charge of that particular river basin (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 2017). Groundwater requires purchase from property owners (Texas Legislature Online, 2011) and is subject to regulation by local ground water districts. Finally, energy is required to pump the water and maintain suitable pressure throughout the system (Kramer, 2015). All of these challenges however, have not deterred many lawmakers on the state and municipal level from considering water grid systems as a viable strategy for securing needed water. Water grid proponents claim that without transferring water, Texas has no hope of meeting the statewide projected demand for 20 million acre feet in 2050 (Texas Water Development Board, 2016) and that building a grid of water conduits across Texas is vital to securing our future (Phillips, Rodrigue, & Yucel, 2013).

4. Who is involved in the issue?

The current state water plan, published by the Texas Water Development Board, calls for 20 to 30 percent of the water needed in fifty years to come from intrastate water relocation (Texas Water Development Board, 2016). If this occurs, it would have a tremendous impact on all entities that manage water in the state of Texas, including regional water planning groups, municipal utility districts, river authorities, and groundwater conservation districts (Kaiser, personal communication, 2016). The Texas Legislature may also tremendously influence this issue as they continue to make decisions regarding infrastructure funding and water management (Pickens, 2016). As the largest user of water in the state, the agricultural industry is heavily impacted by all water policy decisions (Texas Water Development Board, 2016). Because state law allows for the private ownership of water beneath their land, property holders also have a vested interest in this fight (Texas Legislature Online, 2011). Finally, as the need for water is universal, every Texan will be impacted by decisions concerning the allocation of this essential resource.

5. How can the issue be defined?

This forum falls under the topic areas of "Environmental Issues" and "Policy Issues" as listed in the *Focusing on Agricultural Issues* instructional materials (The Council for Agricultural Education, 2014). The issue can be defined in

its simplest terms by asking: Is building a state water grid in the best interest of Texas? This simple question, however, has spurred a flurry of public opinions on both sides (Larson, F., 2015). Representative Larson and other proponents of a state water grid feel that having the ability to transfer water easily across the state will allow optimal use of available water resources (Larson, L., 2015). They argue that such transfers will provide revenue to property owners and rural communities (Texas House of Representatives, 2016). They further insist that treating water as a commodity that can be readily bought and sold will encourage conservation, as reducing water use will result in direct savings to end users (Texas House of Representatives, 2016). However, opponents, such as the state representative for our district, Trent Ashby, believe that placing water on the market will make it difficult for ag producers to compete for their share (Texas House of Representatives, 2016). One farmer needing to irrigate 20 acres cannot cost share the price of water in the same manner as multiple residents living on 20 acres. Thus, it will be difficult for ag producers to pay as much as municipalities for water (Kramer, 2015). Opponents also feel that the state is infringing on citizens' rights to manage natural resources under their care and that water marketing can lead to inhabitants and regions taking advantage of one another (Schladen, 2016). Additionally, opponents believe the state grid will not encourage conservation as areas with wasteful habits will simply import water without feeling the pinch of limited supplies (Kramer, 2015). Finally, opponents are concerned that transferring water will alter natural river flow rates, (Rosen, 2014) harming aquatic wildlife (Stokes & Lowe, 2013). Should we construct the conduit or get rid of the grid? The question is simple but the answer is not.

6. What is the historical background of the issue and what caused it?

A combination of factors led to the proposal of HB 3298 and the consideration of building a state water grid. During the last 15 years, 67% of Texas' population growth has occurred in the ten most populous counties (Lopez, 2014). Densely populated cities require large volumes of water within a small geographic area, straining regional supplies (Phillips, Rodrigue, & Yucel, 2013). A severe drought in 2011 showed the vulnerability of water supply systems across Texas and prompted lawmakers and city planners to actively seek alternative solutions to meet water needs (Gammon, 2012). Finally, the ease of transferring electricity across the state over Texas' well-established electrical grid has served as an inspiration for creating a similar system for water (Galbraith, 2011). Significant dates relevant to this discussion on the ownership and transfer of water are:

- 1840 – The Republic of Texas adopts the English law of “Riparian Rights”, allowing adjoining land owners to use streams as long as a specified flow rate is delivered downstream (Texas Water Development Board, n.d.).
- 1904 – The Texas Supreme Court establishes the “Rule of Capture”, giving each Texas property owner the right to extract groundwater from beneath his or her own land (Texas Water Development Board, n.d.).
- 1949 – The Texas Legislature approves the Texas Groundwater Act, authorizing the formation of local groundwater conservation districts to regulate groundwater (Texas Water Development Board, n.d.).
- 1967 – The Texas Legislature passes the Adjudication Act, requiring all surface water users to obtain a permit from the state (Texas Water Development Board, n.d.).
- June 17, 2011 – Governor Rick Perry signs Senate Bill 332, clarifying that a landowner owns the water below the surface of his or her land as “real property” (Texas Legislature Online, 2011).
- July 2014 – Construction begins on the Integrated Pipeline (IPL), a project that will eventually span 149 miles, transferring water from Lake Palestine to Dallas and Fort Worth (Tarrant Regional Water District, 2017).
- March 12, 2015 – House Bill 3298 is introduced in the Texas House of Representatives (LegiScan, 2015).
- May 11, 2015 – After being successfully passed in the House, HB 3298 legislation is received in the Texas Senate. The bill never makes it to a vote on the Senate floor (LegiScan, 2015).
- February 2, 2016 – The Texas House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee hears six hours of testimony regarding the state water grid during a hearing (Texas House of Representatives, 2016).
- November 3, 2016 – San Antonio closes final negotiations to build the Vista Ridge Pipeline, a 142 mile conduit that will transfer water from Burleson County to San Antonio (San Antonio Water System, 2017).
- 2018 – The first phase of the IPL is expected to be completed (Tarrant Regional Water District, 2017).
- 2020 – The Vista Ridge Pipeline is scheduled to be conveying water (San Antonio Water System, 2017).

7. What are the risks?

Opponents of the state water grid:

- Believe that rural East Texas will be targeted to repeatedly give up local water reserves.
- Argue that water transfers will support wasteful habits by making water supplies seem unlimited.
- Allege heavy pumping will cause conflicts with neighbors when surrounding wells go dry.
- Maintain that aquatic wildlife will be harmed as water transfers alter normal river flow rates.
- Encourage desalination and conservation as better approaches for expanding water supplies.

8. What are the benefits?

Supporters of the state water grid:

- Emphasize that Texas must build new infrastructure in order to meet future water demands.
- Affirm that transfers will allow us to make use of water currently lost to evaporation or runoff.
- Stress that rural land owners will benefit financially by selling water.
- Insist that marketing water will provide a financial incentive for conservation.
- Predict that a blend of strategies, including resource relocation, will be required to provide all Texans with water.



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Additional Assistance

Portfolio Layout - Yvonne Morgan, Retired Art Teacher
Bibliography Page - Christy Whitten, English Teacher
Personal Communication - All Individuals Listed in Forums



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATIONS

When	Where	To Whom	# Present
September 22, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madison County Farm Bureau	89
September 27, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madisonville Area Revitalization Initiative	8
October 2, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Methodist Church Breakfast	41
October 6, 2016	Austin, TX	Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assoc.	4
October 6, 2016	Austin, TX	Shannon Houston - Staff of Rep. Lyle Larson	1
October 6, 2016	Austin, TX	Texas Public Policy Foundation	16
October 6, 2016	Austin, TX	Texas Water Development Board	20
October 6, 2016	Austin, TX	Texas Department of Agriculture	1
October 11, 2016	Milano, TX	Groundwater Management Area 12	17
October 11, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madisonville CISD School Board	28
October 15, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madison County Tea Party	11
October 27, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madisonville Noon Lions Club	12
November 1, 2016	Madisonville, TX	KMVL Radio	2 + Listeners
November 1, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Representative Trent Ashby and Linda Parker	2
November 3, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Daughters of the Republic of Texas	18
November 3, 2016	Conroe, TX	San Jacinto River Authority	4
November 7, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Bedias Creek Soil & Water Conservation District	12
November 7, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madisonville FFA Open House	35
November 14, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority	16
November 14, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Mayor Bill Parten and Madisonville City Council	11
November 16, 2016	Madisonville, TX	Madison County Beef and Forage Committee	15
November 17, 2016	Temple, TX	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	44
November 22, 2016	San Antonio, TX	San Antonio Water Supply System	2
December 2-3, 2016	Huntsville, TX	Texas State Contest	Approx. 90

Madison County Farm Bureau / Rep. Trent Ashby
September 22, 2016 – Kimbro Community Center, 6:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 89



We were glad to speak to a room full of local farmers and ranchers. Mayor Bill Parten and State Representative Trent Ashby were in attendance.



402 W Main St
 Madisonville, TX 77864-1911

O 936.348.2753
 F 936.348.3267

Dear Judges of the FFA Ag Issues Contest:

On September 22, 2016, the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues team performed at the Madison County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. at the Madisonville Kimbro Center. There were 89 Farm Bureau members in attendance. The heated debate over the "Texas Water Grid" was very informative to our members.

Shirley Perry - Office Manager



Madisonville Area Revitalization Initiative
September 27, 2016 – Woodbine Hotel, 12:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 8



MARI is a group focused on the Economic Development of Madisonville. They asked several questions about the financial impact selling water would have.



MARI

MADISONVILLE AREA REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

P.O. BOX 229 • MADISONVILLE, TX 77864 • (936)348-2132

Dear Judges of the Ag Issues Event:

On September 27, 2016 at noon, 8 members of the Madisonville Area Revitalization Initiative were happy to host Madisonville FFA Ag Issues team at the Woodbine Hotel in Madisonville. We learned about legislation to build water pipelines across Texas. All left the meeting well informed about this issue. The Madisonville FFA is invited to any future meetings as we are always blessed by their presence.

Sharon Phelps
 MARI President

Sharon Phelps

Methodist Church Breakfast
October 2, 2016 – Methodist Church Wesley Hall, 7:30 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 41



This group asked questions about the types of pollutants that commonly impact surface water and how pumping can deplete aquifers and impact private wells.



First United Methodist Church

Madisonville, Texas

Subject: FFA Agricultural Issues Presentation – 41 Present
 First United Methodist Church – Prayer Breakfast, Oct. 2, 2016, 7:30 A.M.

Thank you for your passionate presentation of the issues surrounding the water shortages our state is facing. The team's presentation and responses to questions demonstrated excellent understanding of the topic. This FFA program provides a springboard for the development of educated citizens. We commend your great work.

Jim Madole

Jim Madole

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
October 6, 2016 – TSCRA Office - Austin, 8:00 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 4



TSCRA was an excellent venue to discuss landowners' rights to sell groundwater and problems that may arise when aggressive pumping impacts neighbors' wells.



Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

1301 W. SEVENTH ST. • SUITE 201 • FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-2665
 817-332-7064 • 800-242-7829 • F:817-332-6441 • WWW.TSCRA.ORG

Cattleman

INSURANCE
 SERVICES, INC.

Dear Judges,

I am writing to confirm that the Madisonville FFA Agricultural Issues Team gave a presentation on the state water grid proposal to representatives of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA). The presentation was held on October 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the TSCRA office conference room, with four staff members in attendance. The Madisonville FFA Team did a phenomenal job presenting the opposing viewpoints, capturing perspectives of municipal developers as well as rural landowners. Our office will be monitoring this issue closely during the upcoming legislative session, as this topic will undoubtedly influence our members and all agricultural producers in Texas.

Respectfully,

Kaleb McLaurin

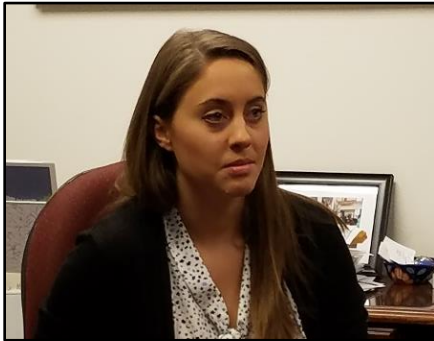
Kaleb McLaurin – Director of Government Affairs, TSCRA



Shannon Houston, Staff of Representative Lyle Larson
October 6, 2016 – Rep. Lyle Larson's Office, 10:30 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 1



Rep. Lyle Larson was the author of HB 3298 and he is a major proponent for the grid. Shannon Houston met with us in his behalf and explained his viewpoint to us.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LYLE LARSON

DISTRICT 122

Dear Judges of the Ag Issues FFA Competition:

This letter certifies that the Madisonville CISD FFA team made a presentation to my staff on October 6, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. Knowing our young Texans are interested in the welfare of our state and the important topics facing our future is gratifying. Keep up the good work.

Best,

Lyle Larson

P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0646 • (512) 463-0893 fax

Texas Public Policy Foundation
October 6, 2016 – Texas Public Policy Office, 1:00 PM
Number in Attendance: 16



This organization provides research to political agencies and leaders. They challenged us to further research the financial feasibility of various water supply options.



901 Congress Avenue
 Austin, TX 78701



(512) 472-2700 phone
 (512) 472-2728 fax
info@texaspolicy.com

To the Judges of the Agricultural Issues Forum Contest:

It was our pleasure to host the Madisonville FFA team on 10-6-16 at our office on Congress Avenue in Austin at 1:00 P.M. As a professional research organization, we appreciate the development of tomorrow's leaders. The 16 individuals present thoroughly enjoyed the presentation on the feasibility of a state water grid and the following discussion. The students were well-versed in the material. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Most respectfully,

Jaimie Ailshire – Office Manager



Texas Water Development Board
October 6, 2016 – TWDB Office, Austin, 3:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 20



This was an instructive forum for us as we visited with a room full of hydrologists. Director Kathleen Jackson, a governor appointee to the TWDB, was in attendance.



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
 Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
 Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

Our Mission

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

Dear Honorable Judges of the Agricultural Issues Forum Event:

On October 6, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., staff from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) participated in a meeting with the Madisonville High School FFA Ag Issues Team. Nineteen staff members and I provided feedback to the FFA team as the discussion focused on marketing water and transferring both ground and surface water across the state. Participating in discussions with exemplary students like the Madisonville High School Team helps us know there are eager and knowledgeable Texans that care about water for the future.

Sincerely, Kathleen Jackson
 Board Member



Texas Department of Agriculture
October 6, 2016 – TDA Office, Austin, 4:30 P.M.
Number In Attendance: 1



We met with TDA Program Specialist, Ilissa Nolan, on behalf of Commissioner Sid Miller. We discussed how marketing could impact access to irrigation water.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Dear Judges of the Ag Issues FFA Competition:

Madisonville FFA students delivered an outstanding presentation to staff of the Texas Department of Agriculture on October 6, 2016 at 4:30 P.M. Ms. Nolan reported that significant time has obviously been invested. Your dedication to inform the public about key issues within the agricultural industry is commendable. Keep up the great work as future leaders of Texas.

Sincerely,
 Sid Miller

P.O. Box 12847
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TEXASAGRICULTURE.GOV

(512) 463-7476
 FAX: (888) 223-8861

Groundwater Management Area 12
October 11, 2016 – Milano Community Center, 2:00 P.M.
Number In Attendance: 17



GMA 12 is a collective group of area Groundwater Conservation Districts. They were very knowledgeable about groundwater extraction and recharge rates.



Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District

P. O. Box 477
 Madisonville, TX 77864
 Phone: 936-348-3212

RE: Ag Issues Forum Team – 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the professionalism that the Ag Issues Forum students exemplified at the Groundwater Management Area 12 meeting on October 11, 2016 at 2:00 PM. At this particular meeting held at the Milano Community Center there were 17 people in attendance. All were very impressed by the students' command of information and the ability to answer all questions.

David M. Bailey

General Manager, METGCD

Madisonville CISD School Board
October 11, 2016 – MCISD Central Office, 5:30 P.M.
Number In Attendance: 28



The Board of Trustees was very helpful in their feedback. They wanted to know how much financial compensation rural Texas citizens could get for water.

THE MADISONVILLE METEOR
 VOLUME 122 • NO. 42 WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19, 2016
Ag issues team tackles water supply
 By April Towery
 editor@madisonvillemeteor.com



A group of Madisonville teenagers spends their afternoons researching national water issues and debating their merits. The students – enrolled in MHS ag science teacher Lynita Foster's popular course – say the experience has groomed them for college and the workforce. Students Matthew Longoria, Mia Caperton, Pheaktra Ly, Bethany Bullard and Morgan Manning will compete in district on Nov. 10.

While the kids were clearly practicing for their upcoming competition, it was evident they'd done their homework.

"Ag is a great program to get into," Smith said. "It will be very beneficial to you as you move into your careers."

The students said they enjoyed digging into the topic of water because "it's relevant to our county and state," according to Ly.

■ SEE WATER, PAGE 7

WATER

Continued from page 1

Foster, the group's faculty adviser, said the class offers an opportunity for young people to learn how to "organize and defend their thoughts."

Caperton, whose father Chadd Caperton is the Madison County extension agent, said agricultural issues are frequently discussed in her home.

"I've been exposed to ag all my life," she said. "It has taught me so much."

Ly said she doesn't have a family background in the ag business – "unless you count flour from doughnuts" – but she fell in love with it.



The Madisonville High School ag issues team presented before the school board on Tuesday. Pictured from left are Matthew Longoria, Mia Caperton, Pheaktra Ly, Bethany Bullard, Morgan Manning and ag science teacher Lynita Foster. The group attends district competition on Nov. 10.

"I tried out and Ms. Foster said to give it two weeks," Ly said. "I grew to love ag and FFA. You get to know a lot about

animals and plants and what's going on in your community." The ag issues team has historically performed

well in competition, and local graduates of the program frequently return to their hometown to participate in ag-related events.

Madison County Tea Party
October 15, 2016 – Kimbro Community Center, 6:00 P.M.
Number In Attendance: 11



In attendance was county judge, C.E. "Butch" McDaniel. Questions centered on the merits of state control vs. local control of water resources.



Madison County Tea Party

PO Box 84 Madisonville, TX 77864

Dear Judges of the FFA Ag Issues Contest:

On October 15, 2016 students from the Madisonville FFA discussed water marketing with 11 individuals at the Madison County Tea Party Meeting held at the Kimbro Center at 6:00 P.M. This topic will certainly be watched by concerned citizens. We need to be vigilant in monitoring the actions of our elected officials. We commend these young people on their involvement in political issues of importance.

Betty Ann Reynolds, Secretary

Madisonville Noon Lions Club
October 27, 2016 –Woodbine Hotel, 12:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 12



The Lions Club was glad to host our team. We discussed the conservation measures being enacted in various cities to deal with water shortages.



On October 27, 2016, the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues Team presented to the Madisonville Noon Lions Club at 12:00 p.m. at the Woodbine Hotel. There were 12 Lions Club members present. The presentation titled, "Should we construct the conduit or get rid of the grid?" was educational and enjoyed by all.

Tammy Hoke

Treasurer, Madisonville Noon Lions Club

Tammy Hoke

KMVL Radio
November 1, 2016 – KMVL Studio, 8:30 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 2 + Listeners



KMVL FM broadcasts on 13,000 watts, extending in a 70 mile radius into parts of twelve counties. The AM station covers Walker, Grimes, and Madison counties.



102 West Main Street
 Madisonville, Texas 77864

(936) 348-9200
 FAX: (936) 348-9201

Dear Judges:

This letter is documentation that Madisonville FFA Ag Issues Team members were guests on KMVL's morning show from 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. They participated in a live broadcast from the KMVL studio with morning show hosts, Paul Wright and Bill Cavill. The students provided information and answered caller questions on the management of water in Texas.

Paul Wright

Paul Wright

Representative Trent Ashby and Assistant Linda Parker
November 1, 2016 – MCISD Central Office, 1:30 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 2



Rep. Ashby is vice-chair of the Natural Resources Committee and opposes the grid. He wanted to meet again with more time to discuss this topic in detail.



STATE OF TEXAS
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



TRENT ASHBY
 District 57

Dear Judges of the FFA Ag Issues Contest:

I would like to compliment the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues team for a fantastic job covering a topic of great importance. Rep. Larson and I both serve on the House Natural Resources Committee and on the matter of the state grid, we have completely opposite viewpoints. I will continue to fight for equitable allocation of our state's water resources and oppose any plan that unjustly targets the citizens I represent. The students and I met on November 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the MCISD central office with my legislative assistant Linda Parker also present. I congratulate you on an impressive performance and wish all of you much success.

Trent Ashby

Trent Ashby

Daughters of the Republic of Texas
November 3, 2016 – Madison County Museum, 10:00 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 18



These ladies are civically minded and asked how the grid could specifically impact the water quality of surrounding rivers, lakes, and aquifers.

The Madisonville Meteor

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016

Daughters hear from FFA



Members of Madisonville High School's FFA Ag Issues Team, from left, Bethany Bullard, Morgan Manning and Pheakra Ly, presented during a Daughters of the Republic of Texas meeting at the Madison County Museum on Thursday.

Photos by Ann Lomax



Daughters of the Republic of Texas

On behalf of the Rev. John Haynie Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, thank you so much for presenting the program on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the Madison County Museum Stephen F. Austin birthday celebration. There were 18 persons in attendance who became better informed about the water issues facing our great state. The students were well prepared and very professional in their presentation. We wish you much success in contests.

Masie Temme, President

Masie Temme

San Jacinto River Authority
November 3, 2016 – SJRA Office, 3:30 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 4



We had the chance to not only address our issue but to tour a surface water cleansing plant. The tour gave us insight into the difficulty of supplying municipal water.



San Jacinto River Authority

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
 P.O. Box 329 • Conroe, Texas 77305
 (713) 936-588.3111 • (F) 936-588.3043

On November 3, 2016 at 3:30 p.m., the Madisonville Ag Issues Team visited with four individuals at the San Jacinto River Authority office in Conroe, Texas. As part of their visit, they discussed the challenges of supplying Texans with water. We concluded the visit with a tour of our surface water treatment facility.

Matt Corley
 Customer Service & Compliance Supervisor

Bedias Creek Soil and Water Conservation District
November 7, 2016 – Madisonville City Hall, 9:00 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 12



This board works directly with ranchers to establish conservation practices. Three specialists with the Natural Resource Conservation Service were present.



BEDIAS CREEK

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT #428

120 South Elm, Suite #110, Madisonville, Texas 77864 (936) 348-2173
 Post Office Box 217, Centerville, Texas 75833 (903) 536-2940

Dear Ag Issues Team Members,

The **Bedias Creek Soil & Water Conservation District** would like to thank you for your presentation titled **"Should we construct the conduit or get rid of the grid?"** on Monday, November 7, 2016 at the Madisonville City Hall at 9:00 A.M. The team was very well researched in each point of view; well-articulated in their expression of those points and gave a wonderful informative presentation. The 12 individuals present were honored to hear the presentation.

Thank you again!

Charlie Price, Chairman



Madisonville FFA Community Open House
November 7, 2016 – MHS Ag Building, 6:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 35



The attendees asked 25 minutes of questions. They were very interested to know the next steps of the process and how they could have input on this issue.



To the esteemed judges of the Ag Issues FFA Competition:

It was my privilege to attend the Madisonville FFA community open house on November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Madisonville High School Ag Building. During the program, I listened to the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues Team discuss water marketing in Texas. The team has shown advancing understanding of the issue each time I have heard them. Particularly impressive was the team's ability to handle the multitude of questions presented to them. The discussion truly made an impression on the thirty five individuals present. MCISD is proud of them and wishes them well in future competitions.

Keith W. Smith
 Superintendent

P.O. Box 879 • Madisonville, Texas 77864 • Phone (936) 348-2797 • Fax (936) 348-2751



Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority
November 14, 2016 – MHS Library, 4:30 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 16



The ladies of the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority had some excellent questions regarding the economic impact of droughts and the pros and cons of marketing water.



ALPHA DELTA KAPPA



Dear Ag Issues Competition Judges,

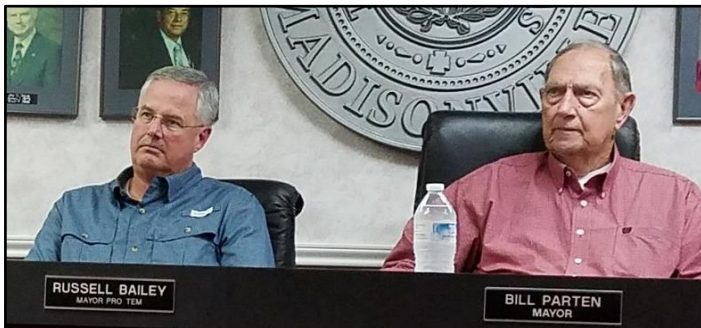
The Texas Epsilon Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa was most pleased to host the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues team at 4:30 p.m. on November 14th at our meeting in the Madisonville High School Library. The sixteen individuals present were blessed with an informative program regarding water use and transferring water across the state. Thank you for your presentation and responding to our questions on this topic.

Dena Abernathy

Madisonville City Council
November 14, 2016 – Madisonville City Hall, 6:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 11



We were pleased to visit with our mayor and city council. They had great questions about the economic impact water marketing could have on small, rural towns.



City of Madisonville

210 West Cottonwood • MADISONVILLE, TEXAS 77864
 Phone (936) 348-2748 • FAX (936) 348-3815

To the Judges of the Ag Issues Contest:

On behalf of the City of Madisonville and the City Council, I would like to certify we listened to the MHS Ag Issues team on November 14, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Eleven were present for the presentation.

Bill Parten, Mayor

Madison County Beef and Forage Committee
November 16, 2016 – McKenzie's BBQ, 12:00 P.M.
Number in Attendance: 15



The Beef and Forage Committee meeting provided us another chance to gain perspective from local agricultural producers. This group was quite opposed to state control.



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



To the Judges of the Ag Issues Contest:

The Madison County Beef and Forage Committee was pleased to listen to the Madisonville FFA Ag Issues team on November 16, 2016 at 12:00 P.M. The meeting was held at McKenzie's Bar-B-Que in Madisonville. An audience of 15 including committee members and guests asked multiple questions, resulting in a discussion on water regulation which was stimulating and insightful.

Chadd Caperton

County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
November 17, 2016 – TSSWCB Office, 8:00 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 44



The TSSWCB consists of 5 members elected from Conservation Districts and 2 governor appointees. We were excited to learn from water law experts in Texas.



Marty H. Graham, *Chairman*
 Scott Buckles, *Vice-Chairman*
 Jose Dodier, Jr., *Member*
 Jerry D. Nichols, *Member*



Barry Mahler, *Member*
 Joe L. Ward, *Member*
 Larry D. Jacobs, *Member*
 Rex Isom, *Executive Director*

TSSWCB
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources for Tomorrow

Dear Judges,

The Madisonville FFA Team Ag Issues Team presented a forum at the TSSWCB meeting at the TSSWCB office in Temple, Texas on November 17, 2016 at 8:00 A.M. The forty-four individuals in attendance were impressed with their knowledge and demeanor. We were honored to assist the Madisonville FFA students during this visit.

Rex Isom, Executive Director TSSWCB

San Antonio Water System
November 22, 2016 – SAWS Building, 9:30 A.M.
Number in Attendance: 2



Security stipulations did not allow pictures inside the building. SAWS just finalized a contract to buy water from a pipeline being built from Burleson County.



2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North
 San Antonio, Texas 78212

San Antonio Water System was glad to host representatives from Madisonville FFA at our main office at 2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North in San Antonio, Texas on at 9:30 AM on November 22, 2016. The topic of discussion was the Vista Ridge pipeline, a project to transfer water from Burleson County to serve the residents of San Antonio. We were glad to clarify questions regarding this project.

Denise De La Rosa
 Executive Administrative Assistant

