



202 W. Omega; PO Box 75 • Henrietta, TX 76365 • 940/558-5261 • hccchamber.com

March 31, 2022

Office of the Chief Clerk
MC 105, TCEQ
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

To the Chief Clerk,

This letter is a follow-up to the Henrietta Clay County Chamber of Commerce's request letter dated February 24, 2020 (see attached) requesting a contested case hearing on WRPERM 13404, the application by the City of Wichita Falls for a large water right, use of the bed and banks of the Little Wichita River, and the construction of the proposed Lake Ringgold.

If the request has been recommended for denial on the basis that an economic interest is not adequate, we would like to direct your attention to Section 55.256 (a) of the Commission's rules:

a. "For any application, an affected person is one who has a personal justiciable interest related to a legal right, duty, privilege, power, or economic interest affected by the application. An interest common to members of the general public does not qualify as a personal justiciable interest." 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 55.256 (a).

We feel the contested case hearing is justified and commercial (i.e. economic) interests are within the Commission's jurisdiction based on the Code.

Further, the Executive Director asserts that the Chamber's request letter "does not identify members", only identifies the names of owners of ranches that host Turkey Fest. The Chamber cited the owners of ranches who host the Turkey Fest in its letter because they *are* members of the Chamber.

The Executive Director is recommending granting of the requests of Chamber members Emry Birdwell and Deborah Clark of the Birdwell and Clark Ranch and of Chris Wellborn. In addition, Lyle Horwood, named in our original letter, is a family member of the Horwood Ranches, which are also recommended by the Executive Director under the names of Larry and Lonnie Horwood. The Chamber's request should be granted because of the inundation of the land of these Chamber members.

Sincerely,

Billy Carlton
Board of Directors President

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February 24, 2020



**HENRIETTA &
CLAY COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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The Henrietta Clay County Chamber of Commerce requests a contested case hearing on WRPERM 13404, the application by the City of Wichita Falls for a large water right, use of the bed and banks of the Little Wichita River, and the construction of the proposed Lake Ringgold.

The footprint of the proposed Lake Ringgold adversely affects Clay County chamber members who derive their livelihood from ranching and hunting operations on the land. Turkey Fest is the largest fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce and the lake will eliminate the current turkey hunting opportunities and several host ranches for this event. Affected ranches include F Bar Ranch (Diaz Murray), Horwood Springs Ranch (Lyn Howard), Boddy Ranch (Mason Boddy), Henrietta Farms (Justin O'Malley), BD Cattle Company (Brent & Heidi Burnham) and Birdwell-Clark Ranch (Deborah Clark & Emry Birdwell). The Lake Ringgold proposal eliminates prime ranch land in Clay County. Many of the ranches have historical significance and Birdwell-Clark has achieved world-wide notoriety for their regenerative soil and grazing practices. The Wellborn 2R Ranch (Chris and Jason Wellborn) is an affected ranch that is historic as well as innovative in their direct to consumer beef sales.

The growth of Wichita Falls is stagnant, and we do not feel our hunting trade, wildlife habitat, history, and agricultural industries should be sacrificed for the good of an unproven idea. We feel the costs to the county and community of losing property tax dollars far outweigh any benefits derived from this lake.

Please give us the opportunity to be heard before allowing this project to continue. Our membership and Board also respectfully request a public comment hearing on the proposed project to be held in the City of Wichita Falls.

Respectfully,

Lynda Cannedy
2020 HCCC Board President

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