

September 30, 2015 8:00 a.m.

Lower Elgin Rd. Bridge Meeting with Bastrop County

In Attendance:

Paul Pape
Carolyn Dill
Ernie Nance
Duncan Charlton
Debra Ferguson
Linda Nance
Day Walker
Bubba Snowden (at end of meeting)

Movies were made that featured the bridge a couple of years ago ('Exists' and 'Joe'); bridge has also been used for TV show 'Resurrection' and for Kevin Costner/Clint Eastwood movie ('A Perfect World').

Possibilities may exist for turning this into a park. County will check into land availability for this; may have to acquire more. The land that would have to be acquired is in a floodplain. The area may have possible recreational value (kayak to the river by way of the creek).

Meeting determined that the bridge and surrounding area may have historical value. Coats family cemetery and the old slave cemetery may also be components of this project. Because of the exceptional water quality of Wilbarger Creek, it also used by students to assess water quality, as well as plant and animal life (including snakes).

County has agreed to clean up the area. Some residents have expressed a willingness to help with clean up by the bridge, but the County said that because the bridge access is restricted, then the residents should leave the cleanup to the county.

Carolyn Dill has tried to get the last TxDot inspection report for the bridge, but has not gotten it yet. Before one of the recent movies was filmed, the bridge was inspected by the movie company to determine whether or not the bridge would support being driven on. Carolyn also wants to see this engineering report.

Judge Pape said that if this becomes a park, then the area residents will have to be watchful for activity that shouldn't be there and notify law enforcement. The discussion included issues with illegal dumping at the bridge. The possibility of putting up cameras was also discussed. Commissioner Snowden said he had several large projects going on now, but will look into getting the area cleaned up.

Judge Pape will look into getting available funding from tourism development. He is interested in articles written about the project, and asked that we continue researching and documenting the findings.

The next meeting about the bridge will be 10/28 at 9:00 a.m.