

# Conroe Courier

## Front Page Coverage – March 9, 2016

### **LCCN presents petition to Groundwater District**



**Submitted Photo**

Several members of the Lake Conroe Communities Network showed up at the LSGCD board meeting Tuesday in support of a petition.

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By **Stephen Green**

Members of the public filled the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District boardroom Tuesday morning, with many in support of a petition hoping to stop restrictions on groundwater use.

Dr. Michael Massey, a board member of the Lake Conroe Communities Network, spoke to the board, presenting a petition with more than 3,100 signatures that sought to: 1. “suspend restrictive 2016 groundwater use regulations that are driving complete dependence on alternative, and very expensive, water for most existing and virtually all new water demand;” and 2. “re-assess the health, environmental and economically practical/sustainable capacity of Lake Conroe ... this time with the real and complete participation of the local community.”

Starting this year, restrictions agreed to years ago by several entities went into effect, requiring a reduction in water use by 30 percent. LSGCD General Manager Kathy Turner Jones said in January that there were no entities that didn't meet the requirement.

Massey and others opposed to the restrictions flatly deny the need for restrictions.

“Furthermore, the community rejects Lone Star's reliance on a set of ‘alternative water’ resources and scenarios for their supply, which devastate all traditional aspects of the county's water resource management system and severely threaten the health and economic development potential of the county and region,” Massey said.

The alternative water source Massey refers to is Lake Conroe. With a limitation on groundwater in effect, entities had to start using more surface water — capped at 100,000 acre-feet per year. Massey said this will have a negative impact on the Lake Conroe economy with no scientific support backing LSGCD's claims to the necessity.

However, LSGCD and LCCN have experts who back up each opinion.

SJRA General Manager and LSGCD board member Jace Houston, earlier in the meeting, repeated a brief presentation about Harris and Galveston counties' steps to reduce groundwater use to as low as 10 percent in some areas. Massey, however, said these are false comparisons due to the differing depths of the aquifers in Montgomery County compared to the others.