

I rose to comment at your meeting here in San Angelo. A few items have come to my attention since then that I thought might be worth passing on. Shortly after the meeting I attended, I ran into Yantis Green of the Millersview Doole Water District, and expressed some surprise he had not been at your function.

At any rate, It developed we were in synch on at least some issues, especially the regional water system idea I tossed out. As it developed after that conversation, one can see why Green and the rural water users in general might be desperately searching for an alternative. The whole system had to shut down for a couple days. My employer is at the end of that line out on Hwy. 277 just south of San Angelo, and we had been experiencing no water pressure two to three times a week for over a month.

It strikes me that looking at the anticipated irrigation component of current and future water needs, the Legislature must address this issue. One thing I mentioned to Yantis was the sight I still come across, especially on Lipan Flats along the canals, is of farmers using the old flood the field irrigation, just because they can and it is easier than installing a more efficient drip or even pivot system. Green agreed we were past a point we can pretend one man's water use does not affect his neighbors. The idea that whatever water happens to be beneath a piece of real estate at a given moment is indisputably the property of a farmer to be wasted at will is no longer supportable, scientifically or legally. One owners' waste can and will help drain an entire aquifer.

Conservation is a goal, and you are correct to view conservation savings as "new" water. One thing San Angelo can be fairly proud of, our current per capita use, only 150 Gal. per day, is getting close to the state goal.

Sincerely,

Jim Ryan

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