

## Dam Repairs Finished Ahead of March Rains!

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Sometimes things work the way they're supposed to. Sometimes a major project is completed, on schedule, without surprises, and within your anticipated budget. Sometimes you get that new manifold gasket installed on your 1969 Ford pickup without stripping a single bolt . . . okay, well, now I'm starting to be unrealistic . . . but in the case of the SJRA's current repair project on the Lake Conroe dam, everything was completed ahead of schedule and just in time for the spring rains!

On Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, SJRA staff met with the engineer and contractor for an update on the status of the repair. The weather forecast predicted a significant rain chance starting later in the week, and the contractor felt he could beat it.

On Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, I drove down the dam at about 11:00 A.M. to check on the contractor. Raindrops were just starting to hit my windshield, and the radar showed significant rain on the way. When I reached the east end of the dam, the contractor was down to the last 20 feet of repair. You couldn't have scripted it any better. The contractor completed the last section with a light rain falling, and after he finished, it rained for five days!

Even though the lake only rose about four inches, every bit helps, and considering the severe drought that Texas is currently experiencing, this was a welcome sign.

### Dam Repair Stats:

- The contractor completed the rock repair well ahead of schedule . . . approximately four weeks. This is almost seven weeks ahead of the engineer's original schedule.
- The only work remaining is to repair the road on top of the dam and clean up around the site.
- The repair covered approximately 9,000 linear feet, however, all but approximately 500 feet was just spot repairs.
- The original bid for the project was \$978,268.50, and at the time of this writing, it appears we will finish within \$49,000.00 of that total, which is within the FEMA contingency amount.
- All FEMA-approved procedures have been followed and project worksheets have been finalized and submitted for reimbursement. It is anticipated that FEMA will reimburse at least 75 percent of the repair costs. (FEMA eventually reimbursed 100 percent of the costs following Hurricane Rita).