

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF THE
COUNTY OF MARION, TEXAS OPPOSING THE SALE OF
WATER RIGHTS BY THE NORTHEAST TEXAS MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT (NETMWD) FROM LAKE O' THE PINES.**

WHEREAS, Lake O' the Pines is contained primarily within Marion County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jefferson is the county seat and primary economic driver for Marion County; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson is a member city of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District (NETMWD) which was established by the people of Jefferson and six other cities who elected to pay for the District's formation and ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson is the part of NETMWD that is in the closest proximity to Caddo Lake and whose longterm economic viability is most closely dependent on the longterm, environmental and recreational viability of Caddo Lake and Lake O' The Pines; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in Texas, the largest cypress forest in the world, and an internationally recognized wetland ecosystem that represents some of the greatest ecological diversity of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, before the construction of Lake O' the Pines and other lakes, all "excess" water that is currently captured and diverted had flowed through Caddo Lake as part of the natural ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Lake O' The Pines' "excess" water and flows are a crucial source of the remaining water feeding Caddo Lake and without which Caddo Lake's longterm viability will be severely threatened; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Lake's water sources and flows are not otherwise protected by statute, agreement, or treaty; and

WHEREAS, the sale of water rights and control to far away interests, such as North Texas Municipal Water District or the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, removes Jefferson and Marion County's control over their own futures; and

WHEREAS, overallocation of "excess" water may lead to the depletion of local water resources, increased costs for residents in the future, and reduced longterm economic prospects for Marion County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the county has a vested interest in ensuring that local water resources are protected for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF MARION COUNTY, TEXAS:

That the Marion County Commissioners Court formally opposes any sale or transfer of water rights or overallocation of water from Lake O' the Pines by NETMWD because it would negatively impact longterm local water availability and economic sustainability of Northeast Texas.

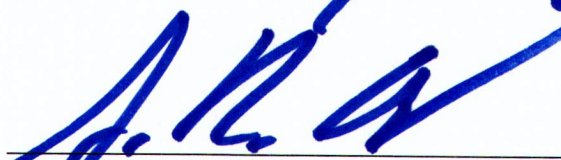
That the Commissioners Court strongly urges NETMWD to reject any agreements that would permanently sell water rights to interests outside northeast Texas or enter into agreements that, whether through outright sale or long-term commitments, would have the same practical effect of diminishing local control of water resources and harming the communities that rely on them.


That the Commissioners Court encourages the City Council of Jefferson as they represent Marion County's only city and an important part of NETMWD to take a firm stance against sales of water rights or additional allocation of water that would be detrimental to local interests.

That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), all member cities of NETMWD, and the Commissioners Courts of Camp, Morris, Cass, and Upshur, which contain those member cities.

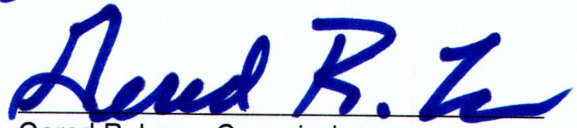
Passed and approved this 14th day of February, 2025
MARION COUNTY, TEXAS

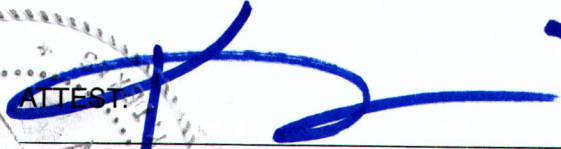

Leward J. LaFleur, County Judge Marion County, Texas

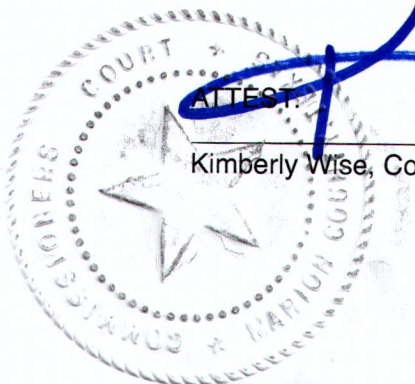

J.R. Ashley – Commissioner


Jacob Pattison – Commissioner


Paul D. Webb – Commissioner


Gered R. Lee – Commissioner


Kimberly Wise, County Clerk



Handwritten signatures and text, including "J. F. Smith" and "J. F. Smith" written vertically.

