LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DEMANDED

The LEADer



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE WITH FERC

FERC with your flood stories Post Cards and Letters

for information:

www.leadagency.org

What is FERC?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines as well as licensing hydropower projects.

FERC licenses hydro dams because they produce energy. Hydro-dams are given 30 to 50 year licenses to operate.

What does FERC do that could concern us?

Licenses and inspects private, municipal, and state hydroelectric projects

Enforces FERC regulatory requirements through imposition of civil penalties and other means

Oversees environmental matters related to natural gas and hydroelectricity projects and other matters

FERC issues the license for GRDA's Pensacola Dam that is up for renewal now.

What we know:

There is already flooding. Flooding that is dam-caused. There is contamination in and added to the lake everyday. There are fish advisories for lead in both the Spring and Neosho River and in Grand Lake. GRDA ignores this.

What's in the license? Renewal asks to raise the lake level by 2 feet in the standard pool during normal time.

What do I do? What can you do?

Write / Say you are concerned. LEAD Agency can help. Check our Facebook and website to find out how you can write comments, Call us / see our comments you can base yours on ours. Attend City Council Meetings, Intertribal Council Meetings, County Commissioners Meetings, Tribal meetings, encourage your friends to act.

Address the lake level and the contaminants of concern in your comments. Tell your story.

"ALWAYS ASK YOURSELF: "WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NOTHING?" — KAMAND KOJOURI



DO IT NOW AND HAVE NO REGRETS

After the Town Hall in February the takeaway for me was, run as fast as you can, dance every dance, do what you will, but do it NOW. The days may be numbered to influence the protection of your homes, your property, your ability to sleep through the night knowing when you pull your foot out from under the covers to put it on the floor, that your toes won't get wet.

I saw courage when you entered the Coleman on a bitterly cold evening to hear what kind of hope we can muster against an entity that has no soul, only wears and uses AUTHORITY. To many, that AUTHORITY has been abused.

We listened for hours to facts and figures stating you guys are winners in the Courts. You are winning. You can believe there is a future, hang in there and do your part.

There is not much a single person can do. I know that. But you have a chance to do those single acts now. This is when. Later you will have no regrets. You will know you did something, maybe lots of somethings.

The one extra thing we learned at the Town Hall from Shannon O'Neil was FERC hasn't had community members speak up for themselves. Usually, all the FERC officials receive are the official back and forths from attorneys. What they are receiving this round are your own messages on POSTCARDS. They are posting them every day. Write another one. Come by LEAD Agency and get more. Use ones you stashed from your trip to the Grand Canyon, the back is all they post, your words to FERC. The messages are moving, and real.

Use a full sheet of paper, tell and share a thing that happened, a single precious item lost to the flood. There in no way to squish everything on a postcard. Spread out your story. Send whole single pages, fill them with the what and how you FELT and feel even yet about what happens when you are flooded. If you have so far been spared, you have seen what happened across the street. You have missed wages because you could not GET HERE because the roads were closed. You filled sandbags. You know deeply what suffering is.

Don't hold back. Dig in, pull those memories forward. Write them down and mail them to FERC. They are a Commission and do not have capacity to come interview you. But they can know more. They are the DESIDER in how GRDA's license for the next 30 to 50 years will be.

My dad once would have said, "See you in the funny pages," but this isn't funny. We are playing for keeps with the big guys.

I want you to know you did a thing, you did too speak up. Say something on your postcard, tell your story in a letter, fill out the flood survey if you live in the 100 year (1%) flood plain. I have sent 2 postcards and a 5 page letter, so far.

—Your Tar Creekkeeper, Rebecca Jim

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STARTS WITH YOU

THE LEADER FIRST QUARTER 2023



Winners of the Big Screen TV and \$100 giftcards: Letha Perry, Ronnie Crow, Maranda Reeves

LEAD IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS THAT PROMOTED THE LAUNCH OF OUR FLOOD SURVEYS

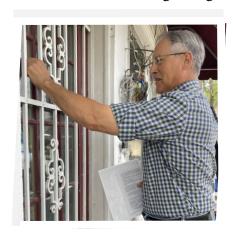
AND

FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS TAKEN TIME TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

A Donation came in to print postcards and postage for the cards to be mailed to FERC And for promotion on Electric Signage

FLOOD SURVEY CONTINUES IN MIAMI

With guidance and support from *Buy-In* and *Climigration*, LEAD Agency has been conducting the Flood Survey of residents who live in the 100 year floodplain. Over 200 households have participated thus far, answering a series of questions about their experience with flooding. Data will be compiled and shared with neighborhoods as the survey comes closer to completion. The data will be available for city, county and tribal governments to use to find funding to address the needs and wishes of the impacted residents. This may be to provide assistance to improve residential resilience with adaptations to save the homeowner from expensive repairs or may provide numbers of residents who are ready for a buyout of their already compromised homes and the cost that might require. We encourage you to answer the door or do it on line at *www.leadagency.org*.



Paul Marquez and other LEAD surveyors are knocking on doors throughout the 100 year floodplain in and near Miami, OK.

Climigration

COMPLETE your Holl Complete Survey Survey

"YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE SILENCED." — JAMES DEVITA

THE LEADER FIRST QUARTER 2023

DREAMSTARTER AWARDED TO LOREN WATERS

"It takes a dream to fix broken wings," were the words the young Billy Mills heard from his father after the death of his mother. So he began dreaming of winning an Olympic Metal, and in the 1964 Olympics won the 10,000 meter race.

Since then he became a businessman and a national spokesperson on Native issues and established the non-profit Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

Fifty years after winning the gold metal, he began the **Dreamstarter Grant Program** based on Billy's belief dreams can and do come true. The 2023 recipients each received \$20,000 to fund their projects.

These dreams come true through a combination of financial support, hands-on mentorship, networking, and communications training.

Each year, Running Strong has awarded Dreamstarter grants to 10 Native youth through their non-profit Mentor organizations to implement a project inspired by a dream they have for their community.

This year LEAD Agency serves as the Mentor organization for **Loren Waters** and is proud that a former LEAD Intern, **McKalee Steen** also was chosen to be a recipient with her project for increasing Native youth representation in academia and to support "Landback" initiatives.



JESSICA TRAN PHD RESEARCH BEGINS HERE

We were proud to learn Jessica Tran, who has been our guide through the process with the Thriving Earth Exchange in the development of our Flood Map, has recently received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship which will fund her Natural Resource Science and Management phD studies at the University of Minnesota.

Much of her work will be focused on how effective community science can be and how it has impacted members of our own community, with her project, Exploring the Connections between Community Based Research and Environmental Justice at the Tar Creek Superfund Site.

After two years of working with Jessica on our mapping project she was finally able to make a site visit, just in time for the TOWN HALL on FLOODING and helped us prepare for LEAD's involvement at the event.



RUNNING STRONG

Rebecca Jim, Mentor, Loren Waters, Dreamstarter and Billy Mills during the award ceremony at the Dreamstarter Academy.

Jhサ分 O必の (Meet Me At The Creek) Project

Loren's dream is to increase visibility of Indigenous environmental efforts, like the clean-up of Tar Creek. Loren already works at the intersection of film and Indigenous storytelling. "Cherokee elders believe that what happens to water happens to us. It is our job to protect it. We must teach our children to honor water. Without it, we cannot move culture forward and we cannot exist here."



LEAD'S YOUTH ACTIVIST CAMP

This year's, 2 and 3-Day camps, will focus on youth who have an interest in the environment and want to make a difference!

Let's come together to make a change while we learn about the many things we can do to show the planet that we care!

Here are some of the exciting things we have planned:

Social Media & Environmentalism, Growing plants and flowers

Impacts of the Tar Creek Superfund Site

How you can be Mother Nature's voice? And so much more!

MAY 22-23 MONDAY & TUESDAY 10 AM - 4 PM GRADES K-5 MAY 24, 25, & 26 WED-THUR-FRIDAY 10 AM - 4 PM GRADES 6-12

REGISTER ON-LINE WWW.LEADAGENCY.ORG
OR CALL 918-542-9399

'YOU NEED A DREAM TO FIX BROKEN WINGS.'

THE LEADER SPRING ISSUE 2023



WHAT DID WE LEARN AT THE TOWN HALL?

WE LEARNED OUR FLOODS ARE DAM-CAUSED

BACK WATER
GETS US

LAWYERS SPOKE AND WE LISTENED

Charts, graphs and images were projected on the stage at the Coleman Theatre during the second Town Hall on flooding held there since June 2022. Attorneys who have taken on the litigation for the City and for over 400 local residents over the damages from the 2007 flood have waited 16 years to have compensation for their losses. The attorneys reviewed the background on the history of flooding in the area and proceeded to celebrate with the audience on the many wins the courts have provided through the years on their behalf, which have proved that the local flooding is dam caused.

The same attorneys have taken on the relicensing application GRDA has submitted in hopes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will pay attention to the request to change the rule curve for the next 30 to 50 year license period, in order to protect the upstream properties from the flooding that could cause. The Miami City Council, Mayor, City Manager and the City's attorney as well as former City Mayors shared the stage for the event. *LEAD Agency was encouraged by the City to have a presence at the event, outside and inside.*

EMPOWERING PEOPLE IS OPP'S JOB

The mission of FERC **Office of Public Participation (OPP)** is to empower, promote, and support public voices at the Commission. OPP can support you in your efforts to: Understand the industries FERC regulates and the limits of FERC jurisdiction; Find the FERC matter by docket number; File a comment, intervene, and participate in a FERC matter; Determine filing deadlines and understand FERC processes; and Find documents filed at FERC and previous FERC decisions. For information or to contact them directly:

OPP@ferc.gov or at 202-502-6595.



How do we stop our flooding? We can't. And it is **not** our Fault. WE HAVE TO PRESSURE POWERFUL AGENCIES TO STOP IT

THE LEADER FIRST QUARTER 2023

STUDENT RESEARCH CONTINUES

Sagarika Nambiar, a Master of Urban Design student at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, thesis topic: 'Abandoned Spaces and Infrastructure in the city'.

"What began with me observing 'underutilized' spaces under flyovers back in my hometown Mumbai, India, led me to

explore 'forgotten" spaces at different scales, from an individual building to a piece of connecting infrastructure and further to large islands. What intrigued me the most about such spaces, is the nostalgia/memories attached and the stories lost with each of these spaces. Through this thesis, my main aim is to understand how design can be used to speculate new realities for such spaces, without exerting power or its desire onto the space.



Jenna Randall The two motivating questions for my research are: how do we improve the regulatory framework of pollution? and how can impacted communities play a larger, more formal role in the remediation process? Community involvement is critical to true remediation. If the government is not remediating a place to the standards, goals, and desires of the people who live there, who are they doing it for?

Community-led activism is the best, and sometimes the only, method of community involvement with environmental remediation in the United States. My goal for this research is to make recommendations to amend the regulatory process to give more space at the table for community voices to be heard in the

planning and implementation of remediation. The current framework functions on rigid guidelines that do not formally make space for people who have spent their lives existing and loving places they've shared with pollution. "LEAD Agency has done a remarkable job capturing the joy of Tar Creek and fostering hope for the future." I hope to bridge the gap between the current regulatory framework and community desires for a nontoxic hometown. Community activism efforts WORK and are credited for many breakthroughs in the remediation journey. "I hope my research does justice for our lovely Tar Creek!"

Valerie Doormbos

Master of Science in Geography and Environmental Sustainability from the University of Oklahoma, 2023

From the Graveyard Shift to the Benzene Plume: Visualizing Embodied Work Experience at the Former B.F. Goodrich Tire Factory in Miami, Oklahoma

I am so honored and thankful to have been given the opportunity to focus my thesis research on the former BF Goodrich Tire Factory in Miami, OK. Many masters students do not get the opportunity to concentrate on a topic that they love, but I found a project that I am passionate about. I thoroughly enjoyed interviewing community members and listening to their Air, Water, and Work stories. My main takeaway from this experience was a better understanding of what it was like to interact with and work at this plant. I hope to draw on this experience and do similar work in my future career. I am deeply appreciative of everyone who took the time to make sure that my project was a success!



Masters in Geography and Environmental Sustainability Summer 2023

THE BEST RESEARCH YOU CAN DO IS TO TALK TO PEOPLE - TERRY PRATCHETT



PECAN TREES FOR MIAMI

Over the last 3 seasons LEAD's Community Garden's most diligent volunteers were our local squirrels who were planting pecans in every garden bed. Their effort resulted with nearly 100 healthy trees coming up! Last fall before the leaves came off, we marked each with a blue tag to identify the pecan trees.

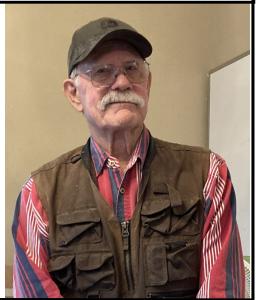
In order to kick off our return to the garden, the City of Miami has removed the trees and will be transplanting them throughout the city especially to replace pecan trees that have been lost in the Riverview Park. Pecans are healthy and bring people together during harvest times in the fall.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROVIDED TO LEAD



LEAD has partnered with CREWS. **Bob Nairn** delivered a newly calibrated hydrolab and waterproof case to us.

Local resident Ed Keheley brought maps and documents to add to our Toxic Library for use by any researchers and others interested in knowing more about the past that influences so much of our lives now.



Bob Nairn with Hydolab and case

NEO A&M College students joined LEAD in honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s memory

MLK JR NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

during the National Day of Service.
With our AmeriCorps/VISTA Lucas Freeman's leadership, we took on our office garage / garden center. After hours of working together the place is ready for the upcoming gardening season with tools and equipment stored and easy to retrieve for work days. "It was great to have students come help us before their semester had even started, on one of their last days off. This is going to help our community garden be easier to maintain so everyone will be

able to benefit from it."



PLANT ~ HARVEST TOMORROW

LEAD Agency, Inc. 223 A. St. S.E. Miami, OK 74354



L.E.A.D. AGENCY, INC.

Leading the way for Environmental Justice

Tar Creek Superfund Site

Tar Creek may contain high levels of lead, cadmium, and other heavy metals from past mining activities



Fish Consumption Discouraged



How to Participate in DEQ's **Residential Property Cleanup Program**

- Call DEQ Hotline (1-800-522-0206) to sign up.
- · DEQ will sample your property for lead or determine if your property has been previously sampled or cleaned.
- · If contamination is not present, DEQ will provide a letter stating that your property is clean.
- If contamination is present, DEQ will cleanup your property FREE OF COST TO YOU.