



# *Awards Program*

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Tuesday, April 11  
11:30 a.m.**

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**TAWWA Awards**

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# Awards Luncheon — Tuesday, April 11, 2017

The following are presented during the Awards Breakfast  
on Tuesday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### DIVISION BEST PAPER AWARD MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DIVISION

...to recognize annually the author(s) of outstanding papers from each AWWA division published in *Journal AWWA* from January through December of the previous year.

#### David Switzer, Manuel P. Teodoro and Stuart Karasik

From the Management & Leadership Division: for the paper, “The Human Capital Resource Challenge: Recognizing and Overcoming Small Utility Workforce Obstacles,” published in the August 2016 issue of *Journal AWWA*.

Switzer is a Ph.D. Candidate at Texas A&M University. Teodoro is an associate professor Texas A&M University. Karasik is a principal at Training Excellence.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### AWARD of MERIT

...to recognize those outside the water profession who have demonstrated outstanding service in support of the principles of AWWA in providing better water for people.

#### John Ingle Times Record News, Wichita Falls, Texas

Wichita Falls had been in an historic drought of record since October 2010, resulting in a loss of almost a year and a half of rainfall since that time. The Times Record News made covering the water situation and the city’s response a priority in 2014, writing more than 260 stories on that topic alone.

Business and Metro Editor John Ingle was instrumental in covering just about every aspect of the drought on an almost daily basis. His articles ranged from the innovative direct potable reuse project to conservation efforts by residents, and from the stringent process with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the city’s largest employer, Sheppard Air Force Base, continuing to use potable water for outdoor swimming pools even when Stage 5 drought restrictions prohibited such practices.

John’s lead on water stories helped educate a public wary of introducing treated wastewater effluent to the public drinking water supply, and changed the majority of residents’ thinking to acceptance of the science behind the process and the new water source.

The Times Record, led by John Ingle, created a conservation effort as well as an educated citizenry that pledges, when Wichita Falls does get rain, that they will remain, much like during the Depression, a community that saves water even in a flood!

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### WATER INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME AWARD

**...to perpetuate the memory of those living and deceased who have made the most significant contributions to the field of public water supply.**

#### Carole Baker

Just ask anyone in the state of Texas handling water issues if they know the name “Carole Baker,” and they will undoubtedly say, “Yes!” She is affectionately known as the “Mother of Conservation” to many, having dedicated well-over 30 years of her life to protecting and preserving the state’s most precious natural resource: water.

Ms. Baker began her water career at the Harris Galveston Subsidence District where she served as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for over 21 years. In this role, she provided expertise as a legislative liaison to the entire Texas Legislature on critical water issues. She also handled the District’s Public Information and Outreach programs, assisting with conservation and drought planning.

Most notably, she spearheaded efforts to raise conservation standards in state water planning, developed thresholds for indoor and outdoor watering fixtures, obtained funding for conservation programming/research, and secured dedicated revolving funds for conservation implementation, just to name a few. Her accomplishments at the legislature have yielded a tremendous benefit in water conservation legislation that will undoubtedly outlive all of us.

In 2007, Ms. Baker became the founding Chair of the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), a national non-profit organization working to enhance the more efficient use of water. AWE has offices in Chicago and Washington, DC. AWE has worked closely with AWWA on many projects the past few years. She now serves as an ex-officio advisor to the Board.

Today, Ms. Baker serves as the President and CEO of the Texas Water Foundation, a statewide non-

profit organization whose mission is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Texans by mobilizing Texans to recognize the vital role water plays in protecting human health, supporting economic growth, and safeguarding natural resources. In this role, she has successfully created a public awareness campaign in partnership with the Texas Association of Broadcasters generating over \$3.175 million to-date in radio and television water educational announcements across the state.

As part of the Texas Water Foundation, she spearheads the Goldwater Project, an undertaking to quantify and measure ongoing conservation efforts across the state of Texas. Ms. Baker has organized and presented at dozens of workshops and conferences on water issues in Texas, nationally, and internationally, including a speech at the 2011 United Nations Global Water Initiative Conference in New York and the International Water Association Conference in Paris in 2009.

Ultimately, Ms. Baker is more than worthy of this prestigious recognition in the AWWA Water Industry Hall of Fame, not because of any educational diploma that she holds, but because her name is synonymous with preserving water conservation in the state of Texas and nationally.

Likewise, her work cannot be measured by profits or losses in one utility or municipality alone, but her work is showcased through the achievements of many at the local, regional, state, and national levels through broad sweeping changes in the philosophy of water management, shifting the paradigm in conservation, and preserving water resources for generations to come.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### DIVERSITY AWARD

**...to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity by establishing an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents.**

#### **Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.**

The overarching goal of the Lift Program is to increase the number of female practice builders with large practices by recruiting, developing, and retaining women.

Kimley-Horn has RECRUITED women by creating college-specific and senior-specific Lift materials, and stimulating conversation with target recruits.

Kimley-Horn has DEVELOPED women by hosting a special training session for women shareholders, holding Career Development Workshops for emerging leaders, and adding a "Gender Diversity in the Workplace" session to its introductory training courses.

Kimley-Horn has RETAINED women by supporting schedule flexibility, providing mentorship and networking opportunities, and partnering with Bright Horizons to offer back-up childcare.

This program was developed as a result of a business need. The dynamics of the business world are changing. An increasing number of top engineering graduates are women, and an increasing number of clients are women.

Women in client organizations are increasingly in decision-making roles, including consultant selection. However, within Kimley-Horn, like other firms in the industry, a disproportionate percentage of practice builders and leadership teams are male.

For Kimley-Horn to grow in the face of these changing demographics, the firm needed to increase the number of senior women in significant practice roles. Yet at all levels of practice, women were retained at a lower rate than men were retained. Over the years, this retention gap contributed to an imbalance at senior levels.

The Lift initiative was developed to address the needs of women and the firm in an attempt to break this cycle and reduce the retention gap. The focus is to increase the ranks of females leading significant practices by recruiting, developing, and retaining women.

The Lift initiative was recommended to the management committee in 2014. Prior to the recommendation, several employee-led committees met to evaluate Kimley-Horn's retention gap, scheduling and maternity leave process, ownership and spouse integration, pregnancy and childcare resources, and career development.

After months of planning, the Lift initiative was introduced to employees by Kimley-Horn's president and chairman at the firm's regional kickoff meetings. These presentations explained the business case for Lift and how achieving greater representation of women at various leadership levels would help the entire firm build better relationships, achieve a broader base of potential client interaction, and learn from differing perspectives.

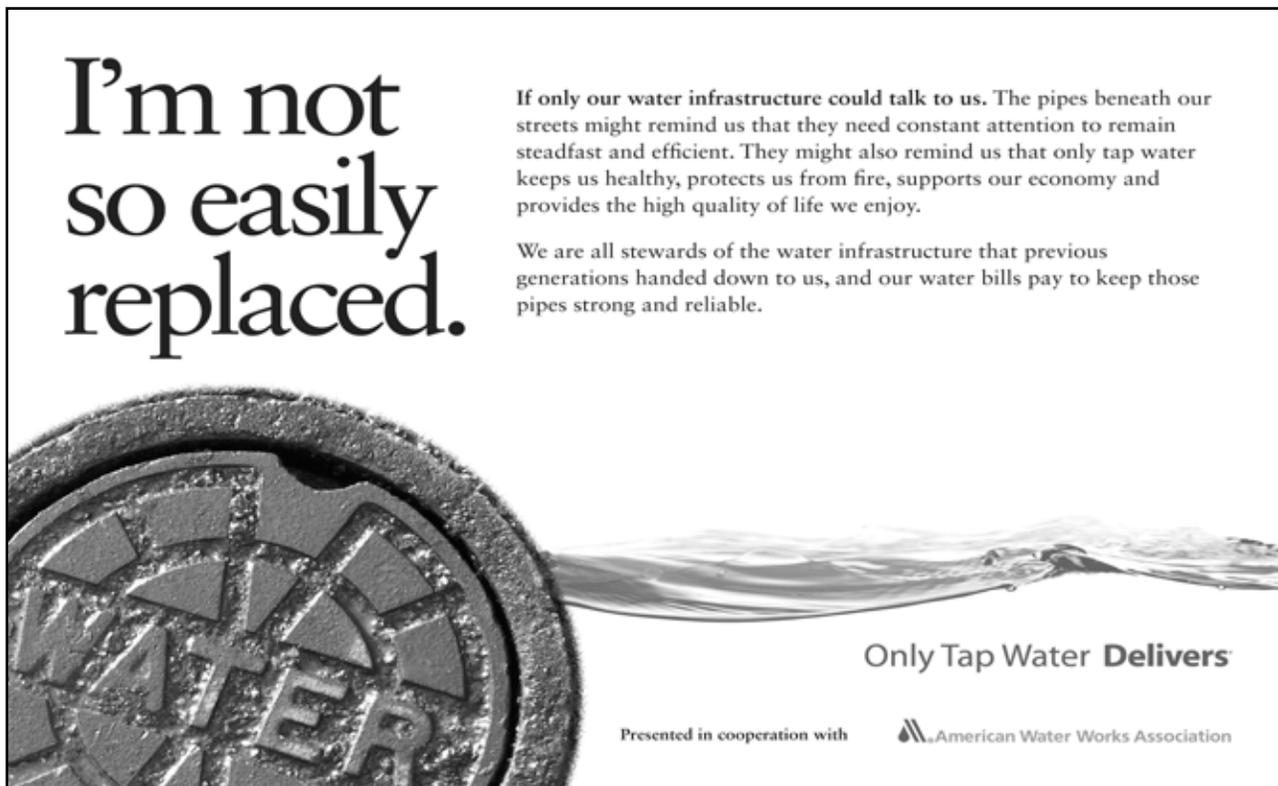
For Lift to be successful, employees had to

*(Continued)*

understand why the initiative was introduced, and how they would be affected (direct benefit; benefit by association; or indirect benefit).

Employees needed to realize this was a business-based decision, not one made for social reasons. Strong support from senior leadership was another important factor to success. They reinforced that Kimley-Horn's culture of excellence is a priority—and that increasing diversity, both gender and otherwise, is key to maintaining that excellence.

To further ensure the program's success, leadership continued to explain that the firm's actions were designed around closing the retention gap and addressing the issues raised by women in the firm. Through a series of presentations, the firm's leadership made it clear that Lift had nothing to do with quotas and that performance would continue to be judged the same way, regardless of an individual's gender. The initiative has also garnered positive feedback from both female and male employees.



**I'm not  
so easily  
replaced.**

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The pipes beneath our streets might remind us that they need constant attention to remain steadfast and efficient. They might also remind us that only tap water keeps us healthy, protects us from fire, supports our economy and provides the high quality of life we enjoy.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure that previous generations handed down to us, and our water bills pay to keep those pipes strong and reliable.

**Only Tap Water Delivers**

Presented in cooperation with  American Water Works Association

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**...to recognize individual AWWA members and/or member organizations for fostering and supporting the development of public outreach programs and integrating public affairs as a core element of utility planning and management. The award is intended to encourage utilities to incorporate public outreach into their operating plans, as well as to provide examples of successful public outreach programs and best practices.**

#### El Paso Water

In its mission to deliver a sustainable water supply and the highest quality water services to enhance the vitality of its city, El Paso Water treats and delivers 103 million gallons per day to a population of more than 800,000 people. Over the years, the city has successfully managed to meet the challenges of supplying this water in a desert region through a strategy of conserving water resources and diversifying its water supply.

EPW's conservation program was first implemented 25 years ago, and the utility is committed to ensuring that the community understands their water supply challenges through ongoing education and outreach. They expanded their strategy of regular communication and engagement when the utility began planning a new supply source – direct potable reuse.

EPW knew that the most challenging part of launching a direct potable reuse project was gaining public acceptance. Given that they have used communication to build public trust for many of their water management strategies over the years, the utility made outreach and education a crucial part of the reuse project from the beginning and crafted an ongoing multi-faceted, bilingual outreach program that began in 2013.

The direct potable reuse project was branded the Advanced Water Purification Facility as part of the communication strategy. The strategy incorporates many of the utility's existing communications tools, particularly those that target key stakeholder groups including elected officials, media, community groups, customers and employees.

The communications team set up tours of the successful pilot reuse facility that was built during the permitting process. Tour guides were given special scripts, and signs explaining the processes were placed throughout the pilot facility. Special tours were held for media and local leaders and regular tours were open to the public.

The utility created a speakers bureau and trained 15 employees to give presentations to community organizations, and the communications team was "relentless" in targeting local and trade media to cover the project.

EPW also dedicated a portion of their website's landing page to the program, posted regular updates and held conversations on social media, posted project videos on YouTube, and developed newsletters, brochures and fact sheets that were used for presentations and emailed to stakeholders.

Following EPW's communications efforts, acceptance of the Advanced Water Purification Project has been strong. Tour surveys showed that 94 percent of the participants were supportive of the project after they toured the pilot facility.

Results from a 2016 follow up phone survey show that 89 percent of residents supported plans for the project, compared to 84 percent in the initial 2013 survey. The utility has also received dozens of positive media mentions about the project in both local and environmental, health and water industry.

## TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

...to recognize the valuable contributions of local chapters as they strive to enrich, educate, and enlighten the AWWA membership.

#### Capital Area Chapter

To win this award, the chapter must submit in each of the five individual project award categories: Chapter Communications, Community Service, Educational Offerings, Fundraising Efforts and Membership Recruitment and Retention.

The Capital Area Chapter serves AWWA members and water professionals in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties. The highlights of their achievements this past year are in the Communications, Community Service, and Educational Offerings categories.

The Capital Area Chapter is committed to communicating with members in various ways including a bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter includes upcoming events, awards, contact information for committee members and sponsors.

In 2016, the chapter worked with the Texas Section to develop and maintain an email distribution list that contains all the members interested in receiving chapter communications. Working with the Section has improved the chapter's ability to send out communications in a timely manner and increased traffic to the Section's

website. The chapter also maintains a Facebook page that is used to promote events.

To encourage participation from its members, the chapter sponsors community service events with the local WEAT Chapter. The annual Water for People charity volleyball tournament raised \$8,230 for the organization. The Pints for People annual event to raise money for Water for People raised \$17,200. The chapter's young professionals participated in the Junior League of Austin's Coats for Kids event. About 35,000 coats were distributed to children in need in Central Texas.

To promote educational offerings, the Chapter holds bimonthly meetings and hosts an annual one-day seminar in which the membership has the opportunity to hear about leading edge projects, learn from the experts and network with colleagues. The 2016 seminar was entitled, "The Future of Utility Infrastructure" included a series of presentations concerning projects, solutions and approaches related to the convergence of water and energy in Texas. The seminar was attended by water professionals from the Central Texas region.



# Only Tap Water Delivers<sup>SM</sup>

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## TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### CHAPTER INDIVIDUAL PROJECT CATEGORY: FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

#### North Central Texas Chapter

The winner of an individual project category chapter award is the North Central Texas Chapter. This chapter serves the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The highlights of their achievements this past year are in the Fundraising Efforts category.

Fundraising efforts for the benefit of the North Central Texas Chapter occur at multiple events held throughout the year. In 2016, the Chapter generated revenue from its bi-monthly meetings,

fundraising events, annual holiday dinner and annual drinking water seminar.

The Chapter held two major fundraising events that raised \$29,300 in funds for Water for People. The Chapter's fundraising efforts also included awarding \$6,000 in local scholarships and contributing \$4,000 to the Texas Section scholarship fund.

## TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### CHAPTER INDIVIDUAL PROJECT CATEGORY: MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

#### South Texas Chapter

The winner of an individual project category chapter award is the South Texas Chapter. This chapter serves the San Antonio area. The highlights of their achievements this past year are in the Membership Recruitment and Retention category.

The South Texas Chapter is only as good as its membership. The Chapter knows that bringing in new members, while retaining current members, is vital to the Chapter's success. In 2016, the Chapter recruited eleven new Texas Section AWWA members.

The South Texas Chapter started several new initiatives for membership recruitment and retention. The new member initiative recognizes

new Texas Section members to local chapter meetings. The Chapter arranges for first-time members to attend the monthly meeting to introduce them to other members and provides information about the Chapter's activities. The new members receive follow-up correspondence and information on all chapter events to encourage chapter involvement.

The Utility Operator's Committee is another new membership initiative whose goal is to recruit and retain utility operators. The Chapter receives input from utility operators on how the local chapter can offer education and social activities that appeal to utility operators.

## TEXAS SECTION – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### WILLIAM T. “DOC” BALLARD AWARD

William T. “Doc” Ballard was one of those people who not only was the consummate professional in his work, but also a mentor to many, and a friend to all. As a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin in 1946, and later with a Masters in Engineering from Georgia Tech, “Doc” began his career as a professional engineer with the State Public Health Department. He was assigned to the Tyler District Office and remained in Tyler working for the Department of Health, and later with LaGlonia Oil and Gas. He returned to the Department of Health as regional engineer of the Tyler office until his retirement in 1987. “Doc” was a consultant in water and wastewater treatment until his death in November 1999.

Many knew “Doc” from his work with utilities, his many scholarly and practical writings published in a variety of professional publications and his active role with organizations such as AWWA, WEF, WEAT and TWUA. And, he was a Texas Section AWWA Fuller Award Winner in 1991. For all that “Doc” did, those who knew him best remember

him for what he did for others. As a public health professional, he remained committed throughout his long and productive career to helping us in the water profession do our jobs better and more effectively. And, “Doc” did it with a personal touch that made him a great mentor, teacher and welcome friend.

In 1999, the Texas Section AWWA created the W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award to recognize those Texas Section members who have distinguished themselves in our profession by using their personal influence to shape the course of change in our profession by helping utilities and individuals serve the profession better.

This award is not presented every year and only to those whose selfless contributions to the industry, beyond all others, deserves recognition.

The recipient of this award is kept secret until announced publicly.

## Junior Meter Madness Contest

**1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Exhibit Hall**

The Junior Meter Madness Contest matches students from high school environmental programs for a test of their meter-assembling skills and dexterity in the Exhibit Hall from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please support these “future water professionals” by attending on Tuesday.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### SILVER WATER DROP AWARDS

The AWWA Life Membership Awards are given to those members who have achieved 30 years of service to the water community and AWWA.

Sam A. Arnaout	Grand Prairie	Joseph W. Jenkins	Austin
Carole D. Baker	Austin	Mike Jossa	Jonestown
Mark R. Berry	Fort Worth	Danny J. Masella	Irving
Randy P. Brock	El Paso	Owen V. Matherne	Stafford
David C. Canady	Irving	Kyle Reed	Houston
John D. Collins	Nash	Robert E. Reeves	Grapevine
Alicia C. Diehl	Dripping Springs	Fernando Rico	El Paso
Randel L. Dobbs	Richardson	Dennis Shumard	Katy
William S. Forbes	Frisco	Michael E. Smith	Eastland
Neil A. Graff	Austin	Elizabeth A. Turner	Wylie
Leroy W. Graham	Palacios	Coy M. Veach	Burleson
Pamela P. Hickman	Coldspring	George O. Westhoff Jr.	Fort Worth
Mike Howe	Austin	Randy S. Williams	Flower Mound

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The AWWA Life Membership Awards are given to those members who previously achieved Silver Water Drop Award status and are now at least 65 years old.

David L. Bowman	Itasca	David M. Mason	The Woodlands
Jack R. Evans Jr.	Dumas	Louis T. Rosenberg	Floresville
Bart Hines	Fort Worth	Bill R. Smith	Duncanville
Charles P. Laws	Buda	Alan V. Thompson	Boerne

### GOLD WATER DROP AWARDS

The AWWA Gold Water Drop Awards are given to those members who have achieved 50 years of service to the water community and AWWA. The Texas Section AWWA honors one member as a Gold Water Drop Award winner.

Frederick L. Doll

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## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

One of the most prestigious awards in the water profession is the George Warren Fuller Award for distinguished service to the water supply field in “commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent and the constructive leadership, which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller.”

This award winner is selected by previous Fuller Award winners, and kept a tightly guarded secret until the Texas Water Luncheon. In a unique ceremonial process, the current Chair of the Fuller Award Selection Committee of the Texas Section AWWA will call all Fuller Award Winners

in attendance to assemble in the front of the room. He will then direct the group to begin searching the room for the person known only to the committee members as this year’s Fuller Awardee. Slowly, as a brief highlight of this year’s awardee is read, the group will begin converging on this year’s winner’s location in the room. As the group converges, the detail in the awardee’s career highlights will become more and more specific.

See if you or the awardee realizes at the last moment who the awardee is for the Texas Section American Water Works Association 2017 Fuller Award.

#### TEXAS SECTION – AWWA GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD WINNERS

1972	Robert P. Van Dyke	1995	Katie McCain
1973	Haskell R. Street*	1996	Jack A. Renfro
1974	Richard G. Toler*	1997	Randy J. Goss
1975	David R. Smallhorst*	1998	Ronny Hyde
1976	John H. Stacha*	1999	Steve Walden
1977	J.L. Robinson*	2000	Carole Baker
1978	John T. Hickerson	2001	Mark Lowry
1979	Otis Goldman*	2002	Bill Riley
1980	George O. Muller	2003	Gary Smith
1981	Charles K. Foster*	2004	Jeannie Wiginton
1982	Glen Doty*	2005	Charles Anderson
1983	John Kubala*	2006	Glenda Dunn
1984	Phil Kosub	2007	Bill Smith
1985	James H. Bailey*	2008	Dean Sharp
1986	Thomas D. Tiner	2009	Mike Howe
1987	Michael K. Tubbs	2010	Charles Maddox
1988	Michael Meadows	2011	Mary L. Gugliuzza
1989	Kay Kutchins	2012	Richard Talley
1990	Dennis L. Allen	2013	Daniel Nix
1991	W. T. “Doc” Ballard*	2014	Donna Howe
1992	Lee. C. Bradley, Jr.	2015	Ron Tamada
1994	F. Warren Norris	2016	Dave Scholler

\* *Deceased*

For a complete description on the career of George Warren Fuller, read the following pages.

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

### GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

*“Little can be said about George Warren Fuller without recalling a thousand and one connections which he has had with sanitary engineering practice in this country and abroad. Amazingly active mentally, he always catalyzed those individuals who were fortunate enough to work with him. An enthusiasm tempered by seasoned judgment and reinforced by a remarkable technical knowledge, accounting for the fact that his name is identified with almost every important sanitary advance in this country in the last four decades. Many, however, are born at the right time who are either ill equipped or are lacking in sufficient vision to make the most of that good fortune. In Mr. Fuller’s case, heredity and environmental influence, coupled with remarkable energy, all contributed to the development of a practitioner of outstanding stature. He will be remembered long in the future, as much for his distinctive personal characteristics as for his long list of contributions to sanitary science and practice.”* So wrote Abel Wolman editorially in *Municipal Sanitation* after Fuller’s death on June 15, 1934.

George Warren Fuller was born in Franklin, Massachusetts, December 21, 1868, on the farm which was part of the land acquired by the family during the Revolutionary period. Three or four Fullers came to Massachusetts from England before the middle of the Seventeenth Century. The one with whom we are concerned was Ensign Thomas Fuller, who, in 1642, by vote of the people of Dedham, was “admitted” - a prerequisite to citizenship at that time - to the purchase of Martin Phillips’ lot. He seems to have been a capable and versatile man. He was a surveyor for several years after 1660 and selectman for fourteen years; he repeatedly represented the community at the general court, was co-trustee of money bequeathed for the establishment of a Latin school and laid out the road to Cambridge as well as many minor ones. He kept the town’s ammunition, for which he was paid ten shillings a year, but had considerable trouble in collecting the fee, and at one time remitted part of it in order to obtain settlement. In the succeeding line, down through Grandfather Asa Fuller, who was a Minute Man, there continues to be activity of a civic nature—service as selectmen, court representatives, and the like.

George Warren Fuller was at the head of his class when he attended the Dedham schools. His scholarship was,

of course, a source of great satisfaction to his mother. At sixteen he passed the examination for entrance at MIT but, his father having died a few weeks before, it was thought best for him to have a fourth year in high school, after which he was graduated at the head of his class and with the highest marks given up to that time. At MIT he met and came under the influence of such people as William T. Sedgwick, Ellen H. Richards, and Hiram F. Mills, all enthusiastically interested in the new science of public health.

Their influence was felt throughout his life. Following his graduation, he spent a year at the University of Berlin and in the office of Piefke, engineer of the Berlin water works. On his return to Massachusetts, the state board of health employed him for some five years, during the latter part of the period being in charge of the Lawrence Experiment Station where he extended the experimental work and studies started by another famous chemist and engineer, Allen Hazen. The Lawrence Experiment Station was then recognized as leading in research on the purification of water supplies and treatment of sewage in this country. Fuller’s brilliant achievements in this field attracted such attention to his ability that he was selected in 1895 to take charge of the experiments at Louisville, Kentucky, in the use of rapid filtration. Immediately after he had accomplished this work, he was offered a similar engagement in Cincinnati, Ohio. These experiments served to remove the questions, which had been raised about the adequacy of rapid filtration compared with slow sand filtration for these municipalities, and, at the same time, established the value of mechanical filtration where conditions were such as to warrant its use.

During his 34 years of practice as a consulting engineer, following the opening of his New York office and, later, the opening of branch offices in Kansas City, Missouri; Toledo, Ohio; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fuller advised more than 150 cities, commissions, and corporations on their water supply and sewerage problems. The outstanding engagements, including among others: Washington, D.C.; New Orleans, Louisiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; Kansas City, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Wilmington, Delaware; New Haven, Connecticut; Lexington, Kentucky; Minneapolis and St. Paul,

*(Continued)*

Minnesota; Montreal, Quebec; the Shanghai, China, Water Company; the International Joint Commission (Canada and United States boundary waters); the New Jersey Water Policy Commission; the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission; the Hackensack Valley Sewerage Commission; and the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission of Rhode Island. For many of these engagements, his service included full control over all engineering work involved in the preparation of plans and contracts, as well as the actual construction.

Notwithstanding a busy life in active practice, Fuller gave freely of his time and energy to the advancement of his chosen profession through participation in the activities of technical societies, through contributions to the engineering press, and through educational activities. His record in this respect is outstanding. He was a member of the American Water Works Association (President); the American Public Health Association (President); the Engineering Foundation (Chair); the American Society of Civil Engineers (Vice-President); the American Institute of Consulting Engineers; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain; the American Chemical Society; the American Society of Bacteriologists; the Engineering Institute of Canada; the Vereines Duetscher Ingenieure; the Association Generale des Hygienistes et Techniciens Municipaux of France; and the Franklin Institute.

Perhaps the most significant of Fuller's characteristics was his belief in organization and his devotion to standardization.

In 1920, at the Montreal Convention of the AWWA, Fuller negotiated the organization of a committee to codify and standardize water works practice. The Association before that time had developed a few specification Documents, but its relation to the preparation of those Documents was that of cooperative participation rather than leadership. The group under his leadership and chairmanship was first called the Standardization Council, later the Committee on Water Works Practice. He continued to be a dominant influence in the AWWA during the time its constitution and bylaws were being substantially revised.

At the New York Convention of the AWWA early in June 1934 (only a week before his death), Fuller was in constant attendance, participating in the sessions and continuing even then his stimulation of the activities of the Association and its elected leaders.

With the AWWA, APHA, ASCE and FSWA alone, more

than 45,000 professional and technical men in North America are indebted to Fuller for the guidance of their organizational readjustments in the 1920-30 period, which made possible the standing that these associations have today.

George Warren Fuller was first of all a capable engineer, equipped with a mind that never closed a channel to new ideas. He was an inventive technician—first in the laboratory field, later in engineering and design. He was a skilled negotiator; a public relations counsel who never called himself one, but who by such skill persuaded reluctant city officials that they were very wise and right to authorize sanitary improvements. He was a loyal citizen who found himself able and willing to render service to his country during World War I. He was uncannily able to give ear to the ideas and aspirations of younger men in the field and to inspire in them some measure of the spirit of leadership that he possessed. He believed in the organization and assembly of technical and professional men and devoted himself fully to the advancement of their associations and societies to the end that they serve better through planned action and cooperation.

Fitting indeed were the words of M. N. Baker, in his editorial tribute in the Engineering News Record:

*History will be better able than we are to appraise the contributions of George W. Fuller to the art of water purification, but history will not be so well able to appraise Mr. Fuller's personal qualities of understanding, kindness, sound judgment and tact as are we who have been fortunate enough to have frequent contact with him in our daily work. Here also should be recorded an acknowledgment of the debt the profession owes to Mr. Fuller, especially his chosen branch of the profession, for his liberal contributions of time and energy to its professional societies. It can be said without fear of contradiction that it was chiefly through his efforts that the American Water Works Association has been raised from the level of a social group to its present high standing as a technical organization. Mr. Fuller's passing also serves to re-emphasize the youthfulness of sanitary engineering and the fundamental nature of the contributions made by a generation of notable men, now largely departed—work that centered around the Lawrence experiments and laid the foundation for present design methods and practices of water filtration. Fuller's achievements and those of others of his generation are a legacy to be utilized by the present generation to carry the art forward to greater perfection.*

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### WILLIAM D. HATFIELD AWARD

**...to recognize an operator of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism.**

#### **Sterling Lee**

Sterling Lee joined the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) in August of 1987, after his tenure in the United States Air Force. Sterling was considering a career in the civil service industry, so he accepted a position as a wastewater crewman until a position at Kelly Air Force Base was available.

During his first wastewater class, Sterling was impressed by an instructor that was a former plant operator. The instructor emphasized the importance of what operators do on a daily basis to protect the public and environment from waterborne diseases caused by improperly treated water. Sterling wanted to do something to make a positive contribution with his life, so after that class Sterling decided that this was the career choice for him.

During his tenure at SARA, Sterling has held numerous leadership positions. He is currently the assistant operations superintendent. Sterling holds various certifications and licenses that include a Class "A" Wastewater license, Class "C" Groundwater license and he is also a registered environmental manager (REM).

Sterling's leadership skills have been recognized and respected throughout SARA and other cities that he has worked to assist. He has been recognized at several City Council meetings for the assistance that he has provided these cities. Sterling's ability to lead, teach and mentor has been very instrumental to his success.

Sterling is an ambassador for all operators. He is always looking for opportunities to educate the

public on the extraordinary things that operators do for their communities. Sterling and his team sponsors tour and training sessions for UTSA students and local high school students. He also provides quarterly tours for local military soldiers from Fort Sam Houston Army Base.

Sterling is part of several recruitment programs to introduce people to the possibilities of working in the water industry. Sterling is a member of the North West Vista College Advisory Committee to review curriculum for the advanced water course. To complete the course, students must do a six week internship at a treatment facility. Sterling and his team provides intern opportunities for the students.

After graduation the students were able to find jobs in the water industry including with SARA. Sterling has been approached by an instructor with the US Army to help develop a water and wastewater program for military personnel. The program would allow them to get treatment licenses so they will be able to have employment opportunities once they leave the military.

Sterling is a member of WEF and is very involved with WEAT, serving as the Past President of the San Antonio Chapter. He has been a presenter at monthly meetings and has been responsible for the Operator's Corner Segment for the monthly meetings. Sterling has co-authored several abstracts that have been accepted for Texas Water and featured in the Texas WET publication.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### GEORGE W. BURKE, JR. AWARD

...to recognize municipal and industrial wastewater facilities or individuals for active and effective safety.

#### Dallas Water Utilities Central Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) Central Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWWTP) has been in operation for more than 100 years. The plant has an extensive overall safety program in place and is ISO 18001 certified.

There are several safety programs implemented at the CWWTP including fall protection, ergonomics, working around machinery and power tools, material (solid, liquid and chemicals) handling, electrical safety, special programs for working on energized equipment, fire prevention, confined space entry, and a culture of safety development.

Evidence of good safety records are demonstrated by zero productive time-losses in the past two years and zero loss of productive time due to any accidents or injuries. The CWWTP has been using a Computerized Maintenance Management

System (CMMS) for the last two decades that initiates work orders periodically for inspections, calibrations, and repairs. Periodic preventive maintenance has allowed plant staff to keep equipment in good working and safe condition.

CWWTP has a 99 percent success rate in training the staff in City of Dallas' Big Six safety initiative. The initiative includes confined space training, lock-out/tag-out, crane and hoist protection, hearing protection, respirator protection, and trenching and shoring protection.

CWWTP has a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) management team with ten members that are HazMat technician trained with an 8-hour annual refresher requirement, CPR/AED/first aid certified, confined space rescue certified, confined space rescue trained, and basic life support instructors.

**Use #txwater17  
when posting about the  
conference on social media.**

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### SIDNEY L. ALLISON AWARD

**...to recognize a person or organization that has made significant contributions to the engineering, science, and/or operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations with the mission to transport wastewater to a treatment plant.**

#### Hugh Kelso

Hugh Kelso is a graduate of Mississippi State University and has worked in the environmental engineering field for over 40 years. His primary focus is on wastewater collection system condition assessment and rehabilitation to mitigate sanitary sewer overflows in helping clients bring their collection system into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Hugh has served as a Senior Vice President for RJN Group, Inc. for over 30 years working in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Georgia and Florida. He worked most of his career partnering with municipalities and agencies to solve issues in their collection systems.

Hugh has the unique ability to figure out complex problem and is often requested by clients. He

has also mentored many Engineers and field inspection staff throughout his career and shared his knowledge willingly.

Clients throughout the country attest to his knowledge in solving unique problems and imparting this on young professionals.

Hugh served on committees with the EPA during the 1990's developing procedures for SSO Reduction and is a member of Water Environment Federation, Water Environmental Association of Texas, and APWA.

Hugh and Donna have two sons, Barrett, who attends Southern Arkansas University and Miles, who is graduating from high school in May. Miles will attend Louisiana Tech University in the fall.



## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD

...to recognize an elected official or regulator who has actively promoted sound science in policy and regulations affecting water environment issues within the State of Texas through documented, significant contributions in the areas of legislation, public policy, government service, and/or other area of public prominence.

#### Louis C. Herrin, III, P.E.

Louis C. Herrin, III received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in December 1980 and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas.

He started employment with the Texas Department of Water Resources, later to become the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in February 1981. He is currently working for the Water Quality Division of the TCEQ.

His work at the agency has included drafting over 1,000 wastewater permits for cities, industrial facilities, and agriculture operations and he has testified as an expert witness in over a hundred public hearings and also testified in state and federal courts for the commission. He started the domestic wastewater sludge program for TCEQ in 1992, when the program was transferred from the Texas Department of Health.

Mr. Herrin has served as the division engineer for

the Water Quality Division of the TCEQ since 1990. In 1994, he took over the responsibility for the TCEQ's domestic wastewater plans and specifications and the state domestic water reuse programs. Some of his other duties within the TCEQ are Homeland Security Coordinator for the Water Quality Division, Innovative Technologies Coordinator for the water program, and troubleshooting for wastewater treatment systems.

Mr. Herrin has been in charge of several major rules packages for the commission including: Chapter 312 (Sludge Use, Disposal, and Transportation); Chapter 217 (Design Criteria for Wastewater Systems); and Chapter 210 (Use of Reclaimed Water).

He is a member of WEAT and participates actively with WEAT on program development for the Texas Water Conference, the annual Water Reuse conference, and webinars and seminars on varied topics through WEAT.

*Join us at the Awards Breakfast  
on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:15 a.m.  
for presentation of additional awards.*

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

**...to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession, to the Federation and its Member Associations.**

#### David Jackson, P.E., BCEE

Mr. Jackson is a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M University, receiving both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Civil Engineering, specializing in Environmental Engineering.

Upon graduation in May 1993, he joined the firm of Freese and Nichols as an entry level engineer in their water and wastewater treatment group. Mr. Jackson has been with Freese and Nichols for his entire 24-year career, and is now a Principal and Vice President. He currently serves as the company's Water and Wastewater Treatment Practice Leader, and North Texas Treatment Group Manager. In these roles, he leads the firm's North Texas treatment design team in Dallas and Fort Worth, and coordinates business development efforts for the entire Treatment Practice company-wide.

Mr. Jackson has served as the project manager or engineer on more than 100 different treatment facility projects, totaling more than \$500 million in constructed water purification and resource recovery facilities throughout the State of Texas. Mr. Jackson is a licensed professional engineer in Texas and North Carolina, and is Board Certified in Environmental Engineering by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He particularly enjoys working with his clients to customize solutions in water resource recovery and water purification facility master planning, design, and construction services.

Mr. Jackson is an active member of both the Water Environment Federation and the American Water Works Association. He began his service with the

Water Environment Association of Texas in 1999, when encouraged by WEAT Past-President Ray Longoria to sign up as the North Texas Section Secretary. As David says – “It was one of the best decisions Ray ever made for me!”

As an officer in the North Texas Section, David served as Secretary, Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Past President from 1999-2005. He also served as chair of the NTS Executive Committee, Bylaws Committee, Program Committee, and Scholarship Committee at various periods during this time. During his time as NTS Scholarship Committee Chair, he helped grow the scholarship from a \$20,000 fund to more than \$200,000, and coordinated the award of dozens of scholarships to deserving students and WEAT members.

Mr. Jackson has been a member of the WEAT Executive Board since 2004, first serving as Chair of the WEAT Constitution and Bylaws Committee and as WEAT Parliamentarian from 2004-2011. He has since served as WEAT Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect and President from 2012-2017.

During the last 15 years, Mr. Jackson has served WEAT as a member of a variety of committees including the Municipal Resource Recovery Design Committee, Texas Water Program Committee, Texas Water Planning Committee, Committee Leadership Council, Management Review Committee, Nominating Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee. He has Chaired the WEAT CLC, WEAT Strategic Planning Committee, WEAT MRC, Constitution

*(Continued)*

and Bylaws Committee, and Audit and Budget Committees at various times throughout his WEAT tenure. He is a staunch supporter of the Operations Challenge program, serving in a variety of support roles and helping promote the outstanding men and women who serve our utilities in operations, maintenance, and laboratory services. Through the last 18 years, he has dedicated thousands of hours of his own personal time to help achieve the Mission and Vision of the Water Environment Association of Texas.

David feels very blessed to receive this award and would like to acknowledge the support he has received from many others throughout his WEAT tenure. He has been blessed to be surrounded by a great team of officers and leaders, including Julie Nahrgang, Jeff Sober, Jenna Covington, Buster

Fichera, Sharon Miller, and Leigh Cerda. These dedicated officers all do their jobs very well and have made the role as WEAT President much easier.

He would also like to thank John Bennett and David Briggs for their great advice and friendship through the years, especially during his year as President. Special thanks also to Freese and Nichols for their generous support of David and of WEAT, especially Ray Longoria, Gordon Wells, Erin Flanagan, Chad Simmons, and the entire North Texas Treatment Team. Finally, but certainly not least, David would like to thank his loving wife Melissa, and his children Grayson, Brendan, and Kaylin, for their unending support, love and patience.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

**... to recognize individuals who have been a member of WEF for 35 or more consecutive years, and are age 65 or older.**

William L. Tatum	Arlington
Bruce L. Wiland	Austin
Richard Collins	Gonzales

## PILLARS OF THE PROFESSION AWARD

**...to recognize an individual with a long and distinguished career in the wastewater treatment or water quality industry who has demonstrated meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment and who has had a positive impact on the success and growth of WEAT.**

### Walter Chiang, P.E.

In 1967, Walter received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Chung Yuan Christian University in Taiwan. He came to Texas in 1968 where he was an Engineering Research Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin from 1968 to 1971 under Dr. Gloyna, Dr. Malina, and Dr. Eckenfelder. He received his Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering in 1970 from the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Chiang has over 40 years of design and project management experience in both environmental and civil engineering projects. Walter's extensive and distinguished engineering career has focused on water quality and treatment technologies. He has managed projects throughout Texas, other parts of the US, and internationally in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mongolia, India, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Mexico. In 1980, Walter founded his own firm, Chiang and Associates, Inc. (now CP&Y) in Arlington, Texas. Under Walter's leadership, CP&Y has become one of the fastest growing engineering firms in the Southwestern US.

Walter still serves on both UT and UTA's Civil Engineering Advisory Boards. He has been teaching short courses since 1976 and still frequently teaches water and wastewater treatment short courses at UTA. He has been invited as a guest speaker and lecturer at universities across the US and China. Walter has also authored, coauthored and contributed to dozens of technical papers and books regarding wastewater treatment and water quality.

He is a lifetime member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and he was the original Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Committee for the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). Walter is still an active member of both organizations. With his deep understanding and support of treatment plant operations staff, he regularly sponsors the Maintenance Event for the WEAT Operations Challenge held annually at the Texas Water Conference.

## ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD

**...to recognize extraordinary personal service to the Water Environment Association of Texas. The honoree must be a member of WEAT and should exemplify organizational leadership, administrative service, membership activity, stimulation of technical functions, or similar contributions to WEAT.**

### Jenna Covington

Jenna Covington is Assistant Deputy Director – Wastewater for North Texas Municipal Water District. She is a licensed professional engineer and holds a Bachelor's and Masters of Environmental Engineering from Texas Tech University.

Jenna joined North Texas Municipal Water District in 2015 as Assistant Deputy Director – Wastewater, where she oversees a staff of over 185 people, 14 wastewater treatment facilities, and an annual budget in excess of \$100 million to provide wholesale wastewater services for 24 cities and one million people in the North Texas area. Prior to her current role, Covington served in various roles with CH2M HILL, including Vice President, Client Portfolio Manager, and Project Manager.

Jenna's first engagement with the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) began as a student in 1998. She was instrumental in the development of the Society of Environmental Professionals, the first Student Chapter of WEAT, serving as Founding President for 1998-1999 and Vice President for 1999-2000.

Since graduation, she has served in numerous positions within WEAT including: Membership Committee Chair 2002-2008; Long Range Planning Committee 2002-2005; Committee Leadership Council Chair 2006-2008; Secretary 2008-2010; Management Review Committee 2007-2010 and 2013-2017, Water Reuse Committee Chair 2012-2015; Strategic Planning

Committee Chair 2014-2015; Vice President 2013-2014; President-Elect 2014-2015, President 2015-2016, and currently finishing her term as past president Ms. Covington was the 2006 recipient of the WEAT Emerging Leaders Award for outstanding service in support of the Association by a young member.

While Jenna is a passionate water professional, there are a number of other dimensions to her. She is a Christ follower, wife, and mother of three. Her and her family are actively engaged in their church, First Baptist Church of Allen. Jenna serves as Bible Fellowship Group teacher for high school senior girls and has been with them since their sophomore year. As the senior girls will be graduating, Jenna and her husband, Paul, are transitioning in as Directors of their adult Bible Fellowship Group. Additionally, Jenna is currently coaching U7 girls' soccer. Jenna enjoys spending time with her husband Paul and their three children: Greyson (9), Piper (6), and Claire (4).

Jenna is a forward looking leader who has a passion for the water industry. During her year as president, WEAT focused on continuing to deliver the value our members have come to expect and identified and made progress on two strategic objectives: 1) development of an operator training program targeting continuing education of our highest licensed operators, and 2) development of communication plans to identify how we can most effectively communicate with Texans. Great progress has been made in the past year, and the future looks bright.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD WINNERS**

1949	Victor Marcus Ehlers	1990	Earnest F. Gloyna
1952	Winfred S. Mahlie	1991	Stephen M. Jenkins
1955	J.H. Sorrels	1992	Robert T. McMillon
1958	Roger Moehlman	1993	Ron L. Mayo
1959	C.H. Connell	1994	Paul Roach
1961	A.C. Bryan	1995	Joe King II
1963	David F. Smallhorst	1996	Patricia M. Cleveland
1964	David G. Chase	1997	Foster Crowell
1965	John P. Wold	1998	Raj Bhattarai
1967	Albert H. Ullrich	1999	Alan Plummer
1968	G. R. Herzik, Jr.	2000	Ron Sieger
1969	Pearl Goodwin	2001	Betty Jordon
1970	Jack E. Huppert	2002	Betty Carol Mayo
1971	Sam L. Warrington	2003	Mary Evans
1972	Clayton H. Billings	2004	Cathy Henderson
1973	Joe Driskell	2005	Raymond R. Longoria
1974	Joe P. Teller	2006	Jim Taafe
1975	J.L. Robinson	2007	Carolyn Ahrens Wieland
1976	John B. Scott	2008	Richard Eason
1977	A.E. Holcomb	2009	Carol Batterton
1978	Ernest F. Cross	2010	Brad Castleberry
1979	W.S. Sam Hutton	2011	John Bennett
1980	S.A. Garza	2012	Ronald Dale Carlson
1981	Robert L. Nichols	2013	Jody Zabolio
1982	P.D. Parks	2014	Dawn Anderson
1983	Dick Whittington	2015	David Briggs
1984	Joseph F. Malins, Jr.	2016	Julie Nahrgang
1985	Marshall L. Haney		
1986	Sharon D'Orsie		
1987	Bert H. Bates, Jr.		
1988	William Goloby		
1989	Rhonda Harris		

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**...to recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated continual and tireless contributions toward the improvement of the water environment throughout a long and distinguished career in the wastewater treatment industry and in WEAT and WEF. The nominee shall be a person of proven preeminence in numerous WEAT activities and shall have held positions of leadership in the WEAT organization.**

#### Rhonda Harris

Rhonda Harris, P.E., MBA, WEF Fellow, is a vice president at Tata and Howard, Inc. She has over 40 years experience in managing and administering a variety of facilities and programs in the water environment industry. Ms. Harris is a licensed Texas Class "A" Water and Class "A" Wastewater Operator, and an approved operations trainer in Texas. Her experience includes development and implementation of technical training programs for operations personnel, and authoring and implementation of regulations/rules for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She has an extensive experience in design, construction, management, and management consulting for public and private water sector, worldwide.

Rhonda joined the Water Pollution Control Federation and the Texas Water Pollution Control Association in 1982, as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. She was on the steering committee to create the North Texas Section of TWPCA in 1983 and was active in getting the section approved at the WPCF meeting in 1984 in New Orleans. She became the membership chair for TWPCA in 1985 and was elected a director representing TWPCA on the WPCF Board of Directors in 1989. She served on the board through the name change process to the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Association of Texas. She served on the WEF Executive Committee (now called the Board of Trustees) in 1992-93.

In 1994, Rhonda was elected vice president of WEAT and served as president in 1996-1997.

She was a leader on the original task force that created the Texas Water conference, which is now the largest regional water conference in North America. She served as exhibits chair from 2003 to 2013, during a period of extreme growth for the conference exhibits. Rhonda was also elected vice president of WEF in 1996, while serving as president of WEAT. She served as president of WEF in 1998-99. As past president, she was instrumental in creating the Water Associations Worldwide, an international forum of the major global water associations, and served as its convenor for the first three years of its 10 year existence.

Rhonda was elected as a member of the International Water Academy, a forum of the top 500 water professionals worldwide, in 2000. In 2001, she received an Honorary Membership in the American Waterworks Association. She served as the chair of the Executive Committee for IWRN from 2008 through 2012, and is still a member (emeritus) on the Board.

Currently, Rhonda is a director on the Board of the Water Technology Acceleration Project (WaterTAP), a provincially funded organization in the province of Ontario, Canada, to assist new water technologies to market. In addition, she serves on the Board of Advisors for the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. With 35 years of active membership in WEF and WEAT, she continues to actively mentor young professionals in the water sector and looks forward to many more years of participation.

**The following are presented during the Awards Breakfast  
on Wednesday, April 12, 7:15 a.m.**

**TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

The Texas Section AWWA recognizes three members for their outstanding recruitment efforts that help maintain the Texas Section's leadership as the largest single state Section of AWWA's forty-three Sections. The Section's continued growth is a testimony to meeting the needs of water professionals statewide.

<b>Sally Mills-Wright</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Melissa Bryant</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Jennifer Elms</b>	<b>5</b>

**TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MAVERICK AWARD**

This year, the Texas Section AWWA will continue what will become a long tradition in recognizing one of our Young Professionals as an up and coming leader of the organization. The Maverick Award recognizes an outstanding Young Professional within the Texas Section of AWWA who exemplifies exceptional qualities in the following areas: Volunteerism, Community Involvement, Leadership, and Outstanding Service in

the science of water supply, treatment, operations, and quality. Young Professionals are those individuals who are a member of AWWA under the age of 35 who work or are involved in the water industry.

This award is kept a secret until the moment of the announcement at the awards ceremony.

**TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**WATER CONSERVATION AND REUSE AWARDS**

Each year, the Texas Section AWWA Conservation and Reuse Division recognizes those who have demonstrated excellence in Water Conservation and Reuse Practices.

*Large Utility Indirect & Bob*

*Derrington Reuse Award*

**City of Abilene**

**Hamby Water Reclamation Facility  
(WRF) and Reuse Project**

With chronic droughts reducing reservoir levels to 30 percent capacity or less in the West Texas City of Abilene, the city recently completed the

installation of an advanced water treatment system as part of a major upgrade project to the city's Hamby Water Reclamation Facility. The new system is the largest Membrane Bioreactor facility in Texas.

The plant directly pumps up to nine million gallons per day of highly treated wastewater effluent into Lake Fort Phantom Hill to increase clean water supplies for the city's residents and

*(Continued)*

businesses. This helps protect the city from future drought conditions.

The Hamby WRF and Reuse Project is the first part of a multi-phase drought response initiative aimed at addressing the city's alarmingly low raw water supplies. The \$85 million construction project was placed online in less than 12 months. By contrast, typical projects of this size normally take 24 to 36 months to complete.

### Non-Utility Indirect

#### **North Fort Bend Water Authority Larry's Toolbox**

The North Fort Bend Water Authority created Larry's Toolbox in 2016 as a way to promote water conservation programs to Municipal Utility Districts within their boundary in order to make water conservation a long-term water supply solution. The toolbox consists of nine water saving initiatives, such as irrigation system evaluations and retrofits, tiered water rates, customer education, and more – that are all worth a set number of points. If a MUD enrolls in and meets the goals of enough initiatives throughout the year to collect seven points, that MUD receives a \$0.10/1,000 gallon rebate on their usage the following year.

The first year of the toolbox ended December 31, 2016 and the results show that MUDs are moving toward being more water conscious. The authority is requiring data as part of each initiative and will use this to track per capita usage trends. The toolbox is proving to be the landmark water conservation program for the Authority and Fort Bend County.

### Small Utility Direct

#### **City of Lago Vista Water Conservation Programs & Projects**

The City of Lago Vista recognizes that water conservation is essential to long-term sustainability of water supply in the Highland Lakes. It has aggressively pursued various water conservation programs and projects to meet the water needs of its growing population. In 2009, the City of Lago Vista created a task force to find multiple operational methods to reduce its 35 percent water loss to an acceptable level. The task force was encouraged to look "outside the box" for innovative solutions and identified four main strategies that it could use to reduce water loss: 1) looping dead end waterlines, 2) replacing aged direct read water meters, 3) switching to fused High Density Polyethylene pipe for all future line installations and replacements, and 4) reducing the need to flush the ground storage tanks. Looking to reduce its dependence for raw water from Lake Travis to irrigate its two golf courses, the city designed a cross town effluent piping system to serve the Highland Lakes Golf Course that was brought into service in late 2015. The HLGC previously was irrigated with only raw water from Lake Travis. Now it meets 59.2 percent of its irrigation needs by using reuse water from the wastewater treatment plant.

### Small Utility Indirect

#### **City of Round Rock Smart Meter project**

The City of Round Rock knew that something needed to be done to address the continuing increasing high water use that was happening in the summer months. Its population was continuing to grow, and with that growth came new homes with irrigation systems and new residents unfamiliar with the local climate. They had secured an additional water source, but resources were getting stretched in terms of meter readers, the costs associated with them, along with the amount of time spent dealing with high bill complaints, stopped meters, meter testing, and general customer education about how much water

*(Continued)*

irrigation systems use. They needed a better way to account for water being used and educating their customers about how much water they are using. They started the transition to a smarter water meter in 2010 with an AMR system and moved to an AMI system starting in 2014. The AMI system was over 90 percent completed by December 2016. The new meter technology has helped them more effectively communicate with their customers in a much quicker time-frame. They are able to provide daily and hourly water use data to their customers the day they ask for the information. The ability for their customers to see when their water is being used has helped resolve concerns about leaks, billing mistakes, or other problems. Their residents have been happy to see this information, and are appreciative of the technology to provide it to them.

### Honorable Mention

#### **City of Allen**

#### **Earth Kind Demonstration Garden**

When the Allen Public Library courtyard landscape had become such an eyesore that it drew

many complaints from residents, the city water conservation manager, along with the county horticulture extension agent, found a win-win solution by approaching the library director with an idea to renovate the area into a research and demonstration garden. Through working with several city departments, county master gardeners, and other clubs and agencies, an idea was launched to create a research and demonstration garden that would help to educate the residents on Earth-Kind® landscaping principles and practices that can create beautiful, easy-care landscapes, while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment. After several months of planning and agreements with several different city departments and outside agencies, the garden became a reality with planting day in October of 2015. The library courtyard was transformed from a high water use landscape that was struggling, to a low water, low maintenance demonstration and research garden consisting of shrubs, perennials, and annuals that is now visited by thousands of residents each day, and has even drawn the attention of other state extension offices to replicate in their area.

## **WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS & TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

### **KEN MILLER WATER FOR PEOPLE FOUNDER'S AWARD**

The Kenneth J. Miller Founder's Award was established in 2001 by the Board of Directors of Water For People to honor outstanding volunteer service to this international humanitarian effort. Water For People was conceived as a North American response to the water, sanitation and health needs of millions living in the developing world.

From its beginnings, Water For People was envisioned to be a volunteer effort of the North American water community. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) leaders who organized Water For People believed that water professionals would recognize the urgent necessity to support

such a cause by contributing their financial assistance, organizational skills and professional expertise. As the organization grew and began accomplishing its vision, it became evident that extraordinary volunteer efforts were being made at the local level that should be publicly acknowledged and honored. The Ken Miller Water for People Founder's Award was established to do this.

This is the tenth year this award is given jointly by the Texas Section AWWA and WEAT. The winner is recognized by Water for People at the AWWA Annual Conference in Anaheim. This winner is kept secret until announced at the award's ceremony.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
&  
TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**WATERMARK AWARDS  
FOR COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE**

**MEMBER AWARDS**

The Watermark Award for communications excellence recognizes Texas Section AWWA and WEAT members who have produced top quality communications. Effective internal and external communication is essential to a member's ability to provide excellent service. Today's water resource professionals must communicate with a variety of audiences to achieve success. Through these awards, Texas Section AWWA and WEAT hope to heighten awareness among all water resource professionals about the importance of effective communication.

**Category I: Communications programs: internal campaigns, external campaigns, crisis communications, community relations**

*Non-Utility*

**Glass House Strategies  
Randy and Larry Team Up**

Glass House Strategies and its client, the North Fort Bend Water Authority, wanted to build on the tremendous popularity of the Larry the Talking Sprinkler character. The team had been working with Randy Lemmon of Gardenline, a well-respected expert. For this year's campaign, Lemmon was invited to be part of the messaging. Using a few technological tricks, Glass House Strategies created TV spots and videos where real-life Randy could interact with animated Larry. The resulting videos will be used as TV commercials, web videos, pre-roll ads and educational videos. In addition, GHS produced Randy and Larry radio commercials to run on terrestrial radio and Pandora digital radio. The "sneak peak" releases of the TV spots quickly garnered over 10,000 views.

*Small Utility*

**City of Mansfield  
H2O Water Olympics**

After the tragic ambush of Dallas Police officers in July 2016, Mansfield Water Utilities created an event called H2Olympics. The goal was not only to show support for Mansfield PD, but also to have employees walk a mile in each other's shoes to make one another more aware of their respective daily duties and to build camaraderie both within and between departments.

H2Olympics was a two-day event that involved PD officers competing against one another in water events: repairing a main break, pipe tapping, and installing a curb stop. The water teams then competed against one another in PD events: obstacle course, shoot/don't shoot simulator, and active shooter scenario.

Each participant gained a deeper understanding of what the other did, a new respect for one another, and recognized the common thread of public service that united them.

*(Continued)*

### River Authorities or Districts

#### **Tarrant Regional Water District with partner City of Dallas Water Utilities**

The campaign, which debuted in North Texas in June 2016, is a part of a region-wide effort to teach residents about the small changes they can make at home to be more water efficient. For five years, the entities conducted “The Lawn Whisperer” campaign, which focused primarily on reducing outdoor water use. Last year, TRWD and DWU made a strategic decision to freshen things up and, in 2016 launched a new awareness campaign entitled “Water is Awesome.” The goal is to encourage the adoption of water saving behaviors. But to do so in an inviting manner – Use it. Enjoy it. Just don’t waste it.

### Large Utility

#### **San Antonio Water System Rain to Drain Experience**

It started in 2005 as a tour called, From Rain to Drain, for area high school students. They were invited to journey with SAWS water experts to an Edwards Aquifer recharge cave, drinking water pump station and water recycling center. In 2007, SAWS Education saw the need to reach out to neighborhood groups and community organizations. Because of the all-day commitment, staff believed that the first year might result in a maximum of 100-150 community members so three tours were scheduled. All three tours were completely full with a waiting list forming after just a few weeks of advertising. Tours were added to the 2007 schedule and those filled promptly.

The tour is designed so citizens take pride in their water system, understand the real water resource challenges facing a community and show how they could participate in their ongoing water story. The trip was re-imagined and “Disneyfied” in 2011 to become the current Rain to Drain Experience.

Over 3,800 people have participated to date.

Traditional marketing ended years ago. Trips fill up months in advance from people recommending that their friends and family members participate.

### Honorable Mention

#### **San Antonio Water System SAWS: Making San Antonio Waterful**

While SAWS has made significant inroads in diversifying San Antonio’s water resources, and improving infrastructure, most businesses and residents are unaware of the progress. The utility developed a broad, extendable messaging campaign to bring awareness to the importance of San Antonio’s infrastructure and humanizes the importance of the needs for water, which is usually taken for granted. SAWS was able to use non-traditional media to reach new, younger markets, as well as extend the budget.

## **Category II. Periodicals: magazines or newsletters**

### Small Utility

#### **City of McAllen Public Utility Internal Newsletter**

Effective internal communication is critical to the success of any organization. It reinforces the organization’s vision, mission and values, connects employees to the business, fosters process improvement, facilitates change and drives business results by influencing employee behavior. MPU News is a regular publication of McAllen Public Utility. Its purpose is to improve internal communications by keeping all employees informed about important citywide, operational, organizational and community/social news. The target audience is over 200 MPU employees. When deciding which articles may be included in the newsletter, the basic questions that should be addressed are the strategic purpose of the article and its benefit or interest to employees. Information ranges from interdepartmental

*(Continued)*

news to training opportunities to employee bios to community involvement opportunities to organizational plans to city-wide initiatives. There are 13 departments housed within MPU, and an employee of the month is selected from specific departments.

The editorial team takes great pride in putting out a newsletter that's informative and appealing to everyone who reads it. The team works hard to provide a better newsletter each year.

### River Authorities or Districts

#### **San Antonio River Authority River Reach Newsletter**

In 2016, the San Antonio River Authority recognized the opportunity to provide regular communication updates to a four county jurisdiction of constituents by disseminating information in an easy to read newsletter format. Shortly thereafter, SARA's community newsletter entitled the River Reach was born. It is a quarterly, 12-page newsletter designed to enlighten SARA's constituents about the agency's mission and vision in addition to providing updates on the agency's ongoing activities and projects.

The River Reach is mailed directly to over 9,000 households and emailed to more than 6,500 recipients, as well as shared to over 20,000 followers on SARA social media channels via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It is designed to inform constituents about SARA's many projects, share how SARA employees are inspiring actions and serves as a communication vehicle for SARA's Board of Directors which helps to foster a sense of unity and identity among all constituents. With the creation of the River Reach, SARA has been able to accomplish inspiring actions for healthy creeks and rivers for a constituent base that encompasses over 3,600 square miles of territory.

Interested in signing up to receive the River Reach

by mail or email? Visit [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org) to sign up today!

### **Category III. Publications: annual reports, annual water quality reports, brochures, direct mail materials and other multi-page publications**

#### Large Utility

#### **City of Fort Worth Water Department Annual Water Quality Report**

The bilingual report is not just another required document the utility must create. It is considered an important tool for educating customers and consumers on the things that affect our "fountain of life" - water. In addition to the required data, the report offers information on issues that are at the forefront for our customers and consumers. In this edition, lead in drinking water is the focal topic. The report also includes a graphic of how homeowners can easily identify lead water lines in their home and what they can do if any are found. Furthermore, people are informed of what the city is doing when lead lines are found and how the shared responsibility of service lines works. Customers were made aware of the report's availability through a bill insert and bill message. Apartment dwellers were notified about the report by postcard. A special email is sent to customers opting out of paper bills.

#### Non-Utility

#### **Texas A&M AgriLife Card Deck: Top 100 Water Efficient Plants**

The "Top 100 Plants for North Texas" collection is a playing card-style deck of 100 cards that provide the characteristics and care information for 100 plants that are native or adapted to North Texas.

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The deck is color coded to place each North Texas plant into one of 11 categories. Each card features one plant and includes the plant's photo, water and light requirements, blooming season, size, growth rate, and wildlife attraction. It also includes whether the plant is deciduous or evergreen and whether it is a Texas native.

The "Top 100 Native Plants for North Texas" deck, created by the Dallas-based Water University program of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, is intended primarily as a tool for far reaching water conservation. Wide distribution to regional landscape professionals, businesses and homeowners aims to provide the masses an opportunity to select plants based purely on whether they are environmentally friendly while spurring a significant boost in water use efficiency.

To date, 10,000 decks have been printed and distributed to public partner organizations and homeowners, drawing strong interest wherever Water University engages the masses: trade shows, conferences, free public conservation courses, and large-scale public events.

#### River Authorities or Districts

##### **San Antonio River Authority 2016 Clean Rivers Program Basin Highlight Report**

The San Antonio River Authority's Environmental Sciences Department is responsible for the administration of the Clean Rivers Program to collect and monitor surface water data within the San Antonio River Basin. There is additional funding for the program provided by SARA and other entities. The 2016 Clean Rivers Program Basin Highlight Report utilizes the TCEQ 2014 Integrated Report to describe the water quality conditions and represents a periodic snapshot of water quality conditions over a 7-10 year period.

The San Antonio River Basin is broken down into over 13 segments. Included in the report is

information for each segment, including maps, sub-watershed descriptions, monitoring stations, and any actions to address water quality issues. Details of the impairments and concerns for each watershed are included in table format at the end of each watershed section.

#### Honorable Mention

##### **City of Mansfield Water Utilities Annual Water Quality Report**

Mansfield Water Utilities uses its annual water quality report as a key piece of their education and outreach efforts. In 2016, the water quality report was titled GoSip magazine. Meant to be a play on the word "gossip", the magazine allowed Mansfield to address hot button issues in a more engaging, relatable context. The magazine proved successful based on feedback from multiple residents who took the time to contact the water director via phone calls, emails and handwritten letters to express their praise for the magazine. Staff also conducted an online scavenger hunt to encourage further engagement.

##### **Category IV. Online communications: websites, Facebook, Twitter, online newsletters, etc.**

#### Non-Utility

##### **Texas AgriLife Extension Water University Viral Videos**

The 2016 social media promotional videos of Texas A&M AgriLife's Dallas-based Water University program were written and produced in-house at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center of Dallas. The purpose is to expand the program's regional message of protecting our most precious natural resource.

The videos have delivered valuable information on water conservation and use efficiency to more than

*(Continued)*

three million viewers over the past year, helping to garner upward of 10,000 Facebook followers in 2016 alone. Videos in the series provide a wealth of water conservation information, including instructions on how to select water-efficient native and adapted trees and plants; planting instructions for gardening success; and selecting plants that grow in the shade. Copies of the video source files have been delivered to partner organizations and across the departments of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension for wider distribution.

Additionally, Water University's social media videos are now online and added to its growing library of YouTube videos, where they will help to continue building public instructional video resources throughout 2017 and beyond.

### Small Utility

#### **City of Round Rock Internal Newsletter**

*The Water Spot* blog is just one more way for Round Rock to reach out and connect with its customers about their water supply. *The Water Spot* made its debut in September 2013 with a discussion on water-wise landscapes and landscape conversions. The original goal was to publish two blogs per month on timely subject matter that would appeal to residents and water customers. This has happened, more or less!

To date, topics have included water-wise landscapes, rainwater collection, efficient toilets, efficient showerheads, the appropriate time to water, water restrictions, Senate Bill 198, and mulching with leaves, toilet leaks, meter leaks, Smart Irrigation Month, tax-exempt weekend, and much more! The blog was accessed over 8,000 times in 2016; and social media posts that have promoted the blog have reached anywhere from 2,000 – 12,000 people! The blog has provided Round Rock an easy and inexpensive way to reach out and connect with people it may not ordinarily connect with otherwise.

### River Authorities or Districts

#### **Tarrant Regional Water District Website Development**

In early 2016, the Tarrant Regional Water District was looking to improve one of its most vital communication tools – trwd.com. While the old site had served the district well, it had become cluttered and needed a new focus.

It was also time to incorporate the new practices and technologies online visitors had come to expect from an organization's website. That's when a team from TRWD's communications and recreation departments jumped into action and built a user-friendly, people-first website that incorporated dynamic content and images that engage visitors and effectively communicate the district's vision, mission and goals. Built entirely in-house, the site also features an improved navigational structure that is aligned with TRWD's three primary missions: water supply, flood protection and recreation.

### Large Utility

#### **City of Dallas Water Utilities Defend Your Drains: Fry Good, Do Good Contest**

Dallas Water Utilities launched Defend Your Drains as a broader campaign to help Dallas residents discern the proper way to dispose of items that are capable of being flushed or put down kitchen drains, but can damage wastewater infrastructure and impair wastewater treatment. Dallas Water Utilities built a social media following and strategically engaged their followers with the Fry Good, Do Good Facebook contest.

Dallas Water Utilities teamed up with El Centro College Food and Hospitality Institute and celebrity chef Abel Gonzales to offer a fun and unique cooking class. To win the cooking class prize, participants shared weekly tips on their

*(Continued)*

Facebook pages and were selected at random for a spot in the extreme frying fun.

A water bill insert and a small Facebook media buy supported the contest, which led to 25,680 unique Facebook users. Dallas Water Utilities also live streamed parts of the class and encouraged the winners to tweet and post about the class while they were making fried ribeye steak with ratatouille and fried sopapilla cheesecake.

## **Category V. School Curriculums**

### *Small Utility*

#### **McAllen Public Utility 2016 Water Camps**

McAllen Public Utility works hard to educate the public, especially its students on the issues surrounding water use and conservation. The utility hosts four water-related camps for kids in the 3rd to 5th grades.

The camps are geared toward the science, technology engineering, art and mathematics fields. There is a March Madness Camp during spring break, a beginners summer camp, an advanced summer camp and a winter camp during Christmas break. Each camp ranges from 20-40 campers, lasts about four hours each day, and has four to six activities. For the Advanced Summer Water Camp and the Winter STEM camp, MPU partnered with Nerdvana, a local technology learning center that provided hands-on experiences with robots, virtual reality, and quadcopters.

Campers were not only from the City of McAllen but surrounding cities as well. MPU tries to keep them not only educational but entertaining as well. Besides camper attendance staying consistent, most of the feedback received was from parents. Some of the best comments are “my kid doesn’t like waking up for school but for your camp they will wake up on their own and earlier, despite being on vacation.”

### *Large Utility*

#### **El Paso Water**

#### **Celebrating National Engineers Week: Encouraging Students to Pursue Engineering Careers While Celebrating our Own Engineers**

El Paso Water has an aging workforce and is facing a shortage of trained and skilled people to replace experienced retirement-age employees. EPW’s TechH2O Learning Center collaborated with the engineering, operations and communications departments at the water utility to develop an educational outreach program during National Engineers Week 2016.

The goals were to engage students and spark interest in El Paso Water career opportunities – especially in the engineering fields, and to recognize our engineers and their accomplishments. EPW implemented several activities including a Saturday DiscoverE family day at the TechH2O Center; high school field trips to our water production plants; profiles of six of our engineers that were featured on the intranet, social media and posters at El Paso Water facilities; sponsorship of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers’ National Engineers Week newspaper supplement; and a large amount of media relations and publicity on all activities.

More than 300 students, educators and family members participated. Two television stations showed up to cover the high school field trips, and the newspaper supplement gave us publicity on engineering accomplishments. Finally, the profiled engineers received positive feedback from colleagues and friends, reinforcing an important objective and message – that El Paso Water values its engineers.

*(Continued)*

## **Category VI. Writing releases, features, scripts, speeches, public service announcements, etc.**

### Large Utility

#### **El Paso Water Public Service Board Opinion Editorials**

With media budgets declining, many journalists carry a growing burden to deliver more stories in less time. This translates into coverage that often doesn't give audiences the full story. The communications team saw an opportunity to provide needed background and context for key issues through guest editorials on topical water issues. The editorials also provided an opportunity to demonstrate that Public Service Board members are informed, engaged and watching out for the interests of the community. It also gave greater visibility to the Public Service Board members, who have governance authority over the utility.

There were three editorials published in the daily newspaper, two of which were also picked up in the El Paso business newspaper. The first focused on rising water rates, the second on conservation, and the third on the utility's water importation program. El Paso Water amplified the visibility of the editorials with social media posts linking to the columns. In each case, board members indicated they received very positive feedback from the community.

### Small Utility

#### **City of Horseshoe Bay New Release about Irrigation School for Residents**

Horseshoe Bay is a town of not quite 7,000 residents. It's a golf resort community with many large residences. The property owners association requires all homes have sprinkler systems, so

irrigation is an intense activity. The city hired Bill Teeter, a former newspaper journalist with master's degree in public administration, as its water conservation inspector in February 2014.

He also does public communications work by writing water-related news stories which are submitted to the local papers, The Beacon and The Highlander. A story last May promoted a two-hour irrigation school. About 20 residents attended and learned about irrigation operation, maintenance, sprinkler timing, lawn maintenance, the effects of irrigation on the water system and the need for working backflow prevention on sprinkler systems.

The seminar resulted in two irrigation audits and a backflow investigation that revealed a system did not have one, but has since had it installed.

### Non-Utility

#### **Texas A&M AgriLife Water University TXIA Water News**

A series of three articles published in the Texas Irrigation Association's monthly newsletter reviews the best management practices for installing and maintaining irrigation systems for conserving water resources. The articles are written by Patrick Dickinson, a TCEQ-licensed irrigation expert and horticulturist of Texas A&M AgriLife research's Dallas-based Water University program. Dickinson in his series covers the importance of designing irrigation systems for water use efficiency, installing irrigation systems to meet design criteria, and managing water resources in the landscape. The articles ran between April and October 2016 in the magazine-format newsletter, which specifically targets irrigation experts in Texas. The publication maintains "a circulation of over 6,000 irrigation professionals across the state," according to TXIA.

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## **Category VII. Audio and visual: videos, DVDs, slide shows, Power Point presentations, etc.**

### *Large Utility*

#### **El Paso Water**

#### **Austin Pond Project Video**

El Paso Water has an aging workforce and is facing a shortage of trained and skilled people to replace experienced retirement-age employees. EPW's Tech2O Learning Center collaborated with the utility's engineering, operations and communications departments to develop an educational outreach program during National Engineers Week 2016. The goals were to engage students and spark interest in El Paso Water career opportunities – especially in the engineering fields, and to recognize our engineers and their accomplishments. EPW implemented several activities including a Saturday DiscoverE family day at the Tech2O Center; high school field trips to its water production plants; profiles of six EPW engineers that were featured on the intranet, social media posts, posters at El Paso Water facilities; sponsorship of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers' National Engineers Week newspaper supplement; and a large amount of media relations and publicity on all activities. More than 300 students, educators and family members participated in the events. Two TV stations covered the high school field trips, and the newspaper supplement gave us publicity on engineering accomplishments. Finally, the profiled engineers received positive feedback from colleagues and friends, reinforcing an important objective and message – that El Paso Water values its engineers.

### *River Authorities or Districts*

#### **Tarrant Regional Water District Intergrated Pipeline Video**

The video, "The Integrated Pipeline: Securing a Reliable Water Supply," was produced by the

Tarrant Regional Water District. The 150-mile pipeline is a joint project between Dallas Water Utilities and TRWD. It is designed to help meet the region's water needs for the next several decades. TRWD created the video to answer key questions about the project. The video explains how the IPL came to be, why it's needed, and what it does to ensure a reliable water supply for millions of North Texas residents. Written by TRWD Conservation and Creative Manager, Mark Olson, the stop-motion video features illustrations created by Fort Worth production company, Immotion Studios.

## **Category VIII. Miscellaneous: photography, logos, one-time advertisements, posters, illustrations, invitations**

### *Small Utility*

#### **City of Allen**

#### **Sprinkler Math Publication**

High water bill calls, as well as wide spread media coverage on the large increase of water bills in August and September of 2015 prompted a need to educate the public on the real reason for the high bills. The city was accused of faulty meters, inaccurate reads, and other items in both newspapers and news broadcasts. The city spent numerous hours on meter tests, leak detections, and resident calls and emails on the high water bill issue. Most meters were found to be correct with no apparent leaks. The real culprit of the high water bills was the automatic sprinkler system. The summer of 2014 had water restrictions that limited the use of sprinklers in Allen to one time every two weeks. In May of 2015, this restriction was lifted, and sprinkler use was allowed up to two times each week. It was very hard to convince residents that the sprinkler system used this much water. To combat calls in the summer of 2016, the Sprinkler Math illustration was developed.

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### River Authorities or Districts

#### **Trinity River Authority of Texas Aerial Photography's New Flight Path**

Documenting services and processes using photos adds an immediate descriptive and informative component to communications. For the Trinity River Authority of Texas, the communications could be reports, print communications, PowerPoint presentations for advisory and board meetings and other audiences, and the organization's website. The photographs were taken as part of an ongoing effort to build and maintain a collection of high-quality stock photos of the Trinity River Authority's facilities. The photos elevate water and wastewater treatment equipment and processes by presenting them in an attractive, eye-catching format. The quality of the images expands their use further for applications such as enlargements and re-colored photographs. They maintain their clarity in these uses, and their addition to the database serves as a useful resource for TRA's internal and external communication needs.

### Non-Utility

#### **Texas A&M AgriLife Water University #WaterUDoing Logo**

The #WaterUDoing? logo is the official mark of the #WaterUDoing? marketing campaign by Texas A&M AgriLife Research's Dallas-based Water University program. This travelling campaign moves across Texas in a branded recreational vehicle, reaching hundreds of thousands of patrons each year with crucial information on water conservation and use efficiency. The #WaterUDoing? logo is designed as a multifunction tool to serve as a social media hashtag, a distinct call to action, and a visually exciting brand marking. In 2016, the first year of this campaign, #WaterUDoing? has reached an estimated two million people at 21 events all over the state of Texas. Each promotional giveaway,

publication, and online production of the initiative carries the #WaterUDoing? logo – a symbol for mobilizing Texans to be more considerate of water use efficiency and conservation.

### Large Utility

#### **San Antonio Water System SAWS Desal Opening Invitations**

The SAWS H2Oaks Center is the single largest water treatment facility ever built in San Antonio and the region's first-ever groundwater desalination plant. The magnitude of the occasion itself demanded an invitation of equal significance, necessitating a level of design elegance and quality of execution usually reserved for formal galas and black-tie affairs. Since the invitation was the first "branded" item needed for the event, its design would also become the foundation for the look and feel of all other collateral materials produced, from fact sheets to signage to 20-foot-tall curtains that would shroud the building itself prior to its unveiling. An abstract representation of water was used to create a bit of mystery surrounding the event while adding to the desired air of elegance. A somewhat mysterious tag line was also devised, with key words "on tap" emphasized to hint at the introduction of a new water source. In addition to a traditional paper invitation, a VIP "message in a bottle" version was hand delivered to key stakeholders. An email "save the date" version was also created, along with a follow-up reminder email that provided one-click access to the online RSVP.

### Honorable Mention

#### **El Paso Water Modernization of Logo and Branding Communication Program**

While El Paso Water Utilities is regarded as a leader in water resource innovation, its decades-old logo failed to convey the image of a modern utility. The communications team set out to transform the logo and branding with maximum acceptance.

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Key objectives included simplifying the name to El Paso Water and introducing a new modern logo that worked better for digital communication. A crowd-source marketing platform— 99designs.com – was used to solicit logo designs from graphic artists around the world. About 30 designers competed with hundreds of concepts. Surveys enabled internal and external stakeholders to provide feedback and preferences, and the new

design was chosen for a mere price tag of \$700. Internal communication to achieve buy-in from employees was important throughout the process. The logo was officially unveiled at one of El Paso’s popular minor league baseball games with a live shot between innings. The rollout earned positive media and social media attention. One local blogger even posted a story congratulating the utility for joining the 21st century.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### LABORATORY ANALYST EXCELLENCE AWARD

**...to recognize an individual for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.**

#### Jody Whitcomb

Jody Whitcomb works for Dallas Water Utilities, Pretreatment & Laboratory Services Division. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Life-Earth Sciences from Angelo State University.

Ms. Whitcomb holds a B wastewater license, is a registered Sanitarian, and is certified in Management, Public Administration, and Geospatial Technology. Jody has 24 years of experience in water and wastewater treatment, including sampling, laboratory analysis, water quality assessment, data management, and regulatory reporting. Ms. Whitcomb has been with the City of Dallas for 19 years. She began her career with DWU as a Chemist, promoted to Sr. Chemist, and then Quality Assurance Coordinator.

Jody supervises the QAQC section. Under her supervision, the QAQC group performs data review, facilitates staff proficiency testing, and performs laboratory audits. She investigates anomalies and guides root cause analysis and corrective action in three laboratories. Ms. Whitcomb serves as Quality Manager for Dallas’ NELAP accredited Analytical Laboratory. The proficiency testing program she manages has been integral to obtaining and maintaining Analytical Lab’s NELAP accreditation.

In addition to laboratory oversight duties, Ms. Whitcomb serves as an instructor for Dallas’ WW Ops Training Program and provides technical support to other groups in DWU wastewater operations. As project manager for the Low Level Hg sampling project, operations and laboratory staff received training in the specialized sampling technique. She supported staff through the transition from guided sampling to independent sampling and secured resources to support both treatment plants.

Jody managed a project to implement NetDMR reporting, successfully completing the transition ahead of schedule; she handled administrative tasks for management and provided training for users. During the Central plant’s permit renewal, she reviewed and compiled data for the management team and provided all the laboratory documentation supporting the application.

Her assistance has been valuable to DWU plant management and her willingness to support others in the department has made her an important asset to Dallas Water Utilities. Ms. Whitcomb embraces her role in the protection of water resources and aquatic habitats.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

# MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR Category 1 (<1 MGD)

**...to recognize a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.**

## First Responders Academy WWTP San Antonio River Authority

The San Antonio River Authority began operating the First Responders Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant in June, 2014. The FRA WWTP is located in Atascosa, Texas in Bexar County.

The FRAWWTP serves the First Responders Academy, which trains firefighters, police, and EMS personnel from Texas in general response to fires, terrorism, and rescue. The permit limits for the plant are 10 mg/L BOD, 15 mg/L TSS, *E.coli*, CFU or MPN/100 ml of 126, Ammonia Nitrogen 3mg/L, and a two hour peak flow of 69 gpm.

The treatment process consists of mechanical fine screening, aerobic pretreatment, membrane bio filtration, aerated waste sludge holding, and UV disinfection, constructed in two phases. The first phase of operation is capable of treating 25,000 gallons per day, measured on an ADF basis. The second will increase its capacity to 50,000 GPD. The First Responders Academy WWTP has had zero permit violations during the past two years.

Mike Martinez is the lead operator and performs all daily duties, maintenance and process control. Mike holds a Class C Wastewater License. He

oversees training of David Inouye who helps on weekend duty, holidays and after hour emergencies. David also holds a Class C License.

Every Friday the operators are required to report to the San Antonio Main Facilities for activated sludge training, including microscopic analysis of plant microorganisms, and review plant parameters included in the TPDES permit.

The FRAWWTP is checked seven days a week. All operators are on call 24 hours a day, and make weekend checks on a rotating basis. The plant is also equipped with a SCADA system that can be monitored from all SARA facilities or by RAT (Remote Access Tablets).

SAFETY is the #1 priority at SARA; any accident is investigated by the supervisor and the safety committee. The employees meet monthly with other SARA departments for safety meeting and safety discussion's concerning daily activities. Since SARA has taken over operations of the FRAWWTP workers have ZERO lost time accidents.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR

#### Category 3 (>15 MGD)

...to recognize a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

#### Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Dallas Water Utilities

The City of Dallas's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant is a conventional activated sludge plant with trickling filters. The Dallas Water Utilities Central WWTP has been in operation for more than 100 years and has gone through various changes throughout those years. Most prominently, after the introduction of the Clean Water Act, activated sludge was introduced to the treatment process along with trickling filters.

The DWU CWWTP is divided into three major sections: the Dallas Plant, the White Rock Plant, and the Activated Sludge Plant. Wastewater flows from various sections of the city through the Cadiz pump station or via the White Rock interceptors to both the Dallas Plant and the White Rock Plant.

After the primary treatment process including bar screens, primary clarifications and trickling filters at both the Dallas Plant and the White Rock

Plant, flow is combined at the Activated Sludge Influent Pump Station, which is then diverted to Complex A and Complex B for activated sludge processing. Effluent of the activated sludge process passes through secondary clarification and is then disinfected using gaseous chlorine in chlorine contact chambers.

After disinfection, effluent is filtered through dual-media gravity filters and de-chlorinated before discharging into the Trinity River. DWU CWWTP pumps sludge to the DWU Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant for the anaerobic digestion.

The DWU CWWPT provides Type II reuse water to a city park and two city-owned golf courses. The DWU CWWTP has an ISO 180001 certified safety program and has six Class A, seven Class B, fourteen Class C, and five Class D operators on staff.



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**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**  
**OUTSTANDING OPERATOR OF THE YEAR**

**...to recognize an operator and member of WEAT who has provided dedication, years of faithful service, and professionalism at their facility.**

**Clifford Creeks, Jr.**

Clifford Creeks has worked for the City of Dallas at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant for the past 20 years. He was born two minutes away from the plant and practiced little league football as a child across the street from the plant.

Eventually Clifford interviewed for a job at the plant and started out as an Apprentice Wastewater Operator and later acquired his Class C and D wastewater licenses. He was then promoted to Wastewater Operator and worked 12 hour night shifts in order to continue his education and earned an Associate's Degree. Clifford earned his Class A wastewater license and as a result had the opportunity to train as Section Supervisor of the Operations Section.

As Section Supervisor Clifford is responsible for being the liaison from the Operations section to all the other sections of the plant including management, maintenance, laboratory and inspections sections. Clifford works closely with four shifts (four supervisors, 28 operators), to maintain 24/7 operation of a plant permitted for 150 MGD.

Clifford is responsible for insuring that the plant is in compliance with the standards set by TCEQ and EPA, providing direction and oversight of the

work schedule and budget, and monitoring the cost of operations including chemicals, supplies, and power usage.

Clifford also works closely with city project managers and inspectors to continue progress in the Capital Improvements Program. Each and every day presents challenges due to the many simultaneous capital improvements projects. The sole responsibility of treating wastewater becomes very challenging when you consider various process interruptions and shut downs to complete these construction projects.

Clifford is active in educating others in the area of water conservation through plant tours for both the public and other departments within the city. Clifford is an assistant instructor in the City of Dallas teaching corp administering classes for the City and other municipalities in order for operators and others to qualify for their various water/wastewater licenses.

Clifford is an honorably discharged U.S. Marine. He is a member of WEF and WEAT. He has been married to his wife Angelia for 26 years and has one daughter attending University of Southern California (USC).

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### EMERGING LEADER AWARD

...to recognize a young member of WEAT who has provided outstanding service in support of the Association in the form of committee involvement, recruiting, volunteer time, event participation, or other contributions.

#### Matt Jalbert

Matthew Scott Jalbert received his Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University in Civil Engineering in 2006. Matthew received his Masters of Engineering in Civil Engineering in May 2012, while working full-time. He started the first eight years of his career as a Project Engineer and Project Manager for three different design and consulting firms.

In January of 2015, he was hired by the Trinity River Authority as the Northern Region Engineer for Planning and Development and in 2016, moved into Operations as the Central Regional Wastewater System Engineering Manager. Matthew has also been selected as a participant in the 2017 Authority Leadership Academy for the Trinity River Authority Professional Management Development. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and is currently pursuing his Class A Wastewater TCEQ Operators License.

Matthew has been heavily involved with the North Texas Section of Water Environment Association of Texas. Not only did he serve as the chair and co-chair of the North Texas Section Scholarship Committee from 2007 until 2014, he was also a past recipient of the WEAT-North Texas Section scholarship, which helped him through his undergraduate career at Texas A&M University and helped pave his way into the water/wastewater industry.

In 2015 and 2016, he served as the Vice-President and President-Elect of the North Texas Section. Matt will step into the role as the North Texas Section President in 2017. Matthew is also an active member in the Water Environment Federation Disinfection Committee, as well as participating in the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation Leader Innovation Forum for Technology group.

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## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### EXEMPLARY EMPLOYER AWARD

**...to recognize a Texas employer that supports and facilitates employee involvement and activities within the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation.**

#### **Gupta and Associates, Inc.**

VK Gupta started his engineering design firm, Gupta and Associates, Inc. (GAI) in 2000. From the beginning his business model was to provide electrical distribution and controls as well as instrumentation and controls design services to the water and wastewater market. Since then he has grown his firm to 43 employees and three offices.

VK has instilled in his employees the commitment to doing what is right for the Client/Owner first and foremost. And he has been instrumental in encouraging the development of his employees both technically as well as professionally.

One way he has done this is by his individual effort to organize and promote the WEAT Electrical and Instrumentation Technical Subcommittee. This subcommittee has provided over 50 technical seminars in the D/FW area at no cost to the participants since its inception over ten years ago.

GAI encourages its employees to actively participate in, as well as lead this WEAT E&I Committee, with GAI employees serving as active

members of the committee for over 10 years. To encourage employees in taking the initial steps of joining WEAT and to later take on active roles, GAI provides reimbursement for all costs associated with membership, inclusive of their time for activities held during normal business hours. And GAI encourages volunteerism at various technical seminars in the Dallas area, again without the individual having to take time off without pay. Additionally, GAI encourages staff to not only attend the many technical seminars, but also contribute to the technical presentations at these events to share their knowledge with the industry. This has resulted in more than a dozen abstracts submitted to Texas Water since 2010.

In 2015, GAI developed and sponsored a first-of-its-kind electrical demonstration event under the Operations Challenge which gives the competitors a chance to demonstrate the electrical safety and troubleshooting skills. GAI employees developed the demonstration and then orchestrated it at both the 2015 and 2016 Texas Water conferences, as well as at this years conference.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### RONALD B. SIEGER BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT AWARD

...to recognize a WEAT member, an engineering firm, a specific project, a municipality, or a specific municipal or industrial facility that has made significant accomplishments in the field of biosolids technology and management practices within the boundaries of the State of Texas.

#### City of Denton - Dyno Dirt

The City of Denton has been successfully marketing its Dyno Dirt biosolids compost since 1997, and over the ensuing 20 years, has developed a sophisticated approach to marketing that leverages the benefits of biosolids for Texas soils and water conservation, and diverts organic wastes from landfills.

The initial product line has expanded from two products (Dyno Dirt compost and Dyno Chips, a mulch) to a total of nine products (including three variations of Dyno Dirt), and sales have increased from \$19,000 in 1997 to over \$6 million since the program's inception, while diverting more than one million cubic yards of material from the landfill.

The Dyno Dirt product begins with biosolids generated at the City of Denton's Pecan Creek Water Reclamation Plant, yard wastes from city residents and clean woodwastes. Wastewater solids from the wastewater treatment process are anaerobically digested, dewatered and conveyed by front end loaders to the plant's composting area

for wind row composting. The blended materials remain in 400-foot long piles for about 28 days to meet EPA and TCEQ stabilization requirements. At the end of that period, the compost is transported to static piles for curing and then screening.

The products are marketed to a diverse customer base that includes homeowners, landscapers, nurseries, community gardens, schools, TxDOT, city departments (such as Parks and Recreation), and other municipalities. A key to Dyno Dirt's success is the broad based – and creative – educational effort led by Gayla Wright.

In addition to brochures, articles in city newsletters and advertisements in publications, the products are featured on YouTube, and even in movie theater advertisements. These outreach efforts are supplemented by promotional materials distributed through a variety of venues, including festivals and other events.

**Use #txwater17  
when posting about the  
conference on social media.**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**  
**SUSAN B. HIER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**  
**IN EDUCATION & LICENSING**

**...to recognize a WEAT member that has participated in the advancement of the wastewater or water profession through mentoring professional operators, assisted wastewater professionals in the advancement of their license, trained operators in the art and science of water or wastewater treatment, served the TCEQ as a subject matter expert, and provided a service or assistance to the Operations Challenge Program.**

**John Bennett**

John Bennett has been employed by the Trinity River Authority since the day after he graduated from high school. Originally hired as a seasonal grounds care employee June 1, 1986, he currently serves as the project manager for the Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System (DCRWS); an 11.5MGD advanced secondary and tertiary treatment facility. He holds a Class A Wastewater license, graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Tarrant County college in 2003 and from the Dallas Baptist University in 2016 with a Bachelors of Business Studies with a minor in Management.

John joined the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) in 1994. In 1995, he became the Trinity River Authority Operations Challenge team Captain. In 1997 he became the co-chair of the WEAT Safety Committee and served as the PWO Chair from 2004 – 2010. He has served the WEAT North Texas Section as vice president, president elect and president, as well as the WEAT state board as vice president and president. He is

now serving WEAT as their representative on the WEF's House of Delegates and became the WEF Operations Challenge Co-Chair in 2016.

He is responsible for the creation and serves as a technical advisor for the TRA DCRWS Waste Warriors, Operations Challenge team who competed in the 2016 WEFTEC National Operations Challenge competition and placed third overall in Division II.

John has served as an instructor at the Texas Water Utilities Association, is an approved instructor for TCEQ accredited courses and he organized a joint training and testing program that paired a 40-hour Wastewater Technologies Course (instructed by TEEX) with an on-site TCEQ testing day immediately following the training. The success of this program is apparent with 23 of the 32 attendees from North Texas earning Class "A" Certification. The pass rate for this training/testing day has been 72%, as opposed to the state average of 19% for the same time frame.

**[www.waterforjobs.org](http://www.waterforjobs.org)**

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### SELECT SOCIETY OF SANITARY SLUDGE SHOVELERS

The Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers was founded by the Arizona Member Association in 1940. It originated to encourage members to get involved. You cannot join the society – you must be “selected” on the basis of merit. Within WEAT, induction into the prestigious society is based on “Outstanding, meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty by recruiting at least five new members. Shovels may also be awarded for exceptional service as established by the WEAT Board.

**Heather Cooke**  
**Heather Harris**  
**Rick Hidalgo**  
**Jennifer Moore**  
**Janet Sims**

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### DENNIS R. LASKOWSKI RECRUITMENT AWARD

**...to recognize a member of WEAT for his/her outstanding recruitment effort.**

#### **Jennifer Moore**

Jennifer Moore holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and is responsible for the management of TRA’s multijurisdictional Pretreatment Programs for five wastewater treatment plants. She began her career with TRA in 2004 as an Environmental Inspector, becoming the Coordinator for TRA’s Pretreatment Division in 2008.

She is currently serving as the chair for WEAT’s Pretreatment Knowledge Committee. It is in this capacity that she recruited 14 new members for WEAT in 2016.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### RECRUITMENT RECOGNITION

#### Mary Evans

Mary Evans is currently responsible for marketing and sales of magnesium hydroxide for use in water and wastewater treatment plant applications in the South Central Region. As such, she routinely works with plant managers and operators on determining in-plant alkalinity needs associated with influent ammonia, in-plant odor and corrosion projects, plant operations optimizations, bio-solids management, collection system odor

and corrosion, and numerous other applications relevant to magnesium hydroxide use.

Mary has received numerous awards from WEAT and TWUA. She is a past recipient of the Bedell Award, Laboratory Analyst Award, 5S Award, and is a Past President of WEAT. Mary recruited 12 new members to WEAT through her work with WEAT's Operator Training Program.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### RECRUITMENT RECOGNITION

#### Gary Sober

Gary Sober has been active in WEAT for over 35 years, beginning with his participation in Central Texas WEAT. Gary is also a member of the Texas Water Utilities Association, and past President of the Capitol Area District of TWUA. More recently, Gary has been an active member of WEAT in the North East Texas Section (NE-WEAT). Gary was instrumental in getting NE-WEAT back to an active section after moving to east Texas in 2003.

Over the past seven years, Gary has served NE-WEAT as the Vice President, President, and most recently Section Representative. Gary was

influential in promoting and organizing the NEWEAT Biennial Seminar, which brought together Operators, Engineers, Manufacturers, Equipment Reps and Industrial representatives.

NE-WEAT has grown in membership under his direction and guidance, and has some of the highest attendance in the State among industrial members. Gary is also on the Operations Challenge Committee for WEAT, where he serves as a laboratory event judge and fundraising captain. Gary recruited 12 new members to WEAT through his work with WEAT's Operator Training Program.

## WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### RIVER CLEANUP CHALLENGE AWARDS

The WEAT Texas River Cleanup Challenge is an opportunity for all sections to participate in local river basin cleanup programs to see who can collect the most litter and compete for the ultimate title of the Most Trashiest Section. Other awards include: Most Interesting Trash, Best Trashy Photo, Best Trashy Site, and Best Section Spirit.

Four sections and one student chapter participated in this year's challenge, including the sections of Central Texas, North Texas, San Antonio and Southeast. The student chapter participant was the Lubbock Section-Texas Tech University Society of Environmental Professionals.

The Central Texas Section promoted "Keep Austin Clean" by hosting its first annual Lady Bird Lake Kayak Cleanup in conjunction with the local TAWWA chapter. To cover more ground, the team was split between kayakers and shore walkers. Cleaning up trash and working on rowing skills makes for a hungry group! A social lunch was held immediately following to reward all volunteers for their hard work.

The North Texas Section participated in the city-wide Trinity River Trash Bash in Fort Worth hosted by Tarrant Regional Water District and hosted its own 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Redeem the Stream cleanup along the Trinity River in Dallas. Between the two events, WEAT-NTS volunteers collected over 2.5 tons of trash! Volunteers were given shirts stating Challenge Accepted and featured the Redeem the Stream mascot, Trinity the Crab.

The San Antonio Section participated in the city-wide Spring Basura Bash, and hosted its own

Fall Basura Bash to clean the waterway at the San Antonio Olmos Basin Park. The combined effort collected over 27.7 tons of trash, just shy of one ton of metal recycle and 205 tires! The volunteers, consisting of section members, family and friends are dedicated to keeping San Antonio waterways clean.

The Southeast Section joined forces with the young professional sections of the local chapters of TAWWA and ASCE to host a trash cleanup at the Eleanor Tinsley Park along Buffalo Bayou in Houston. Besides picking up trash, volunteers lent their hands (and backs) to assist in gardening activities at the park. The Southeast Section also participated in the city-wide trash bash River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous at the Terry Hershey Park along Buffalo Bayou.

The student organization, Texas Tech Chapter of the Society of Environmental Professionals, co-hosted a park/river clean up in Lubbock's Clapp Park with a local recycling business, Good Earth Recycling. The group collected over 2,000 gallons of trash which was sorted by Good Earth Recycling and taken to the Texas Tech Recycling Center. A local news station provided coverage of the event including interviews of the officers. The clean-up was a huge success, and truly gave back to the Lubbock community.

Listen for the award winners to be introduced during the Texas Water Award Breakfast.

**The following takes place at the Conference Night Out  
at the Mexican American Cultural Center on Wednesday, April 12  
Gavel Ceremony: 6:15 p.m.  
Dinner: 6 :30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**CHAIR'S SERVICE AWARDS**

Each year the outgoing chair of the Texas Section AWWA recognizes section members for their service to the section during the chair's term. This year, outgoing Chair Daniel Nix will recognize a group of key members who have served the section during the past year.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

**PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARDS**

Each year the outgoing president of WEAT recognizes members for their service to the organization during the president's term. This year, outgoing President David Jackson will recognize members for their service during the past year.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
&  
TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP**

Outgoing TAWWA Chair Daniel Nix and outgoing WEAT President David Jackson will welcome their successors – Bruce Curtis for TAWWA and Jeff Sober for WEAT – into their new leadership roles.

**Texas Water 2018™  
San Antonio  
April 23-26**

## **Water Environment Association of Texas Competitions**

- **Texas Shootout (Tuesday)**
- **Operations Challenge (Tuesday & Wednesday)**
  - **Process Control**
  - **Laboratory**
  - **Pump Maintenance**
  - **Safety**
  - **Collection System**

The awards ceremony is at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Top Ops/Best Tasting Drinking Water competition area in Exhibit Hall.

## **Texas Section American Water Works Association Competitions**

- **Junior Meter Madness (Tuesday)**
- **Meter Madness (Tuesday)**
- **Pipe Tapping (Wednesday)**
- **Top Ops (Wednesday)**
- **Best Tasting Drinking Water (Wednesday)**
- **Hydrant Hysteria (Wednesday)**

The above awards are presented at the competition location following each competition.

Congratulations  
to all  
our winners!

