

TWDB Hosts Water Summit 2007

By: Leslie Anderson

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is hosting a comprehensive water summit at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas on December 2-4, 2007. Reflections, Water Summit 2007 will provide an overview of current challenges, issues, topics, and new opportunities for the future of water in Texas and around the globe. Nationally and internationally recognized speakers will be featured on a wide variety of topics covering science and technology, infrastructure financing, planning and economics, water conservation and water law. The December TWDB Board meeting will be held immediately following the water summit.

Special guest speakers include The Honorable Kip Averitt, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee, and Member of the Senate Finance Committee; The Honorable Robert Duncan, Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee, and Member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and Senate Finance Committee; The Honorable Robert Puente, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee; and The Honorable Phil Wilson, Texas Secretary of State. Speaker information is available

at www.twdb.state.tx.us/about/watersummit/guests.htm and information regarding featured keynote speakers will soon be available on the event website.

“This summit will bring together some of the leading authorities on water-related issues not only in Texas, but throughout the U.S. and the world,” said Kevin Ward, TWDB Executive Administrator. “There will be something for everyone at the Water Summit 2007.”

REFLECTIONS
PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE
WATER SUMMIT 2007

PRESENTED BY THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the TWDB's dedication to the responsible development of water for Texas. Reflections, Water Summit 2007 will offer an unparalleled educational opportunity for all those committed to ensuring safe and adequate water for today and the generations to come.

For conference registration, hotel, transportation and convention center information, sponsorship information, as well as the pre-event brochure, visit www.twdb.state.tx.us and click on the Water Summit 2007 link. Seating will be limited for this special event, so early registration is encouraged.

For inquiries, please contact Leslie Anderson at 512-463-7855 or at leslie.anderson@twdb.state.tx.us.

TWDB Launches the “Texas Rain Catcher Award” Rainwater Harvesting Competition and Recognition Program

By: Dr. Hari J. Krishna, P.E.
Innovative Water Technologies

On October 1, 2007, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) launched the Texas Rain Catcher Award program to promote rainwater harvesting in Texas, educate the public, and recognize excellence in the application of rainwater harvesting systems. The competition is open to all individuals, companies, organizations, municipalities, and other state and local governmental entities in Texas.

To apply for this award, owners of rainwater harvesting systems in Texas must submit applications describing their systems. These applications will be judged by a team consisting of TWDB staff and outside expert(s), and winners will be publicly recognized on the TWDB web site for at least two years.

The competition will be conducted in two stages: a quarterly competition and an end-of-year competition. **Applicants may submit their entries from October 1 until December 15, 2007, for the first quarterly award.**

For details on how to apply and to see the judging criteria, please visit TWDB’s Rainwater Harvesting page at www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/rainwater.asp.



Texas GIS Forum Addresses Expanding Role of Digital Mapping

By: Kathleen Mack

The 17th annual Texas Geographic Information System (GIS) Forum was held at the University of Texas J.J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin on October 1–5, 2007. Forum highlights included locally and nationally known speakers, sponsors and exhibitors from industry-leading organizations.

TNRIS employee and Conference Chairperson, Richard Wade, indicated that interest and participation exceeded previous years. “We had over 300 conference registrants and more than 255 participants in the 16 workshops. GIS professionals from all across Texas came to this year’s Forum. This kind of attendance validates the expanding needs of the GIS community and for us to continue to offer the GIS Forum,” he explained.

This year’s theme, “Create Connections – Build Communities,” was selected to highlight opportunities the current state of interactive mapping has created to publish information, share data, leverage web services, and integrate these capabilities throughout our daily life. Once the domain of technical professionals, access and use of geographic data has taken hold in the mainstream consumer market, driving expectations for its use across a wide range of government services. Changing trends involving geospatial information are enabling us to literally “create connections” and help us build more compelling and more sustainable communities and relationships.

Forum workshop, presentation, and panel discussion topics included:

- GIS Advances in Real World Applications
- GIS at the Federal Level
- Partnerships in Government
- Technical GIS Trends
- GPS and Geodetics
- Local GIS Solutions
- Development of Alternative Mapping
- Image Processing Techniques
- Texas Elevation Program
- Introduction to National Hydrography Dataset

TWDB's New Chief Financial Officer

Melanie L. Callahan

By: *Carla Daws*



Melanie L. Callahan

On August 1, 2007 Melanie Callahan was named as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Ms. Callahan has served the TWDB since September 2001 in overseeing accounting and budget functions.

She has also served as acting CFO at various times, including the period of

November 2005 through May 2006 when the CFO was on temporary assignment to the Governor's Office.

Ms. Callahan has 25 years of experience in Texas state government in various financial administration positions. Most notably, Ms. Callahan served as Director of Finance for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Director of Financial Administration for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Chief Financial Officer for the Texas Air Control Board, and Assistant State Auditor at the State Auditor's Office.

Ms. Callahan received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from Baylor University in 1982 and has been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant since 1984.



Regional Water and Wastewater Facility Planning Grants Available

By: *David Meesey*

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) published a request for applications in the Texas Register on October 5, 2007 for planning grants to evaluate the feasibility of regional water facilities and distribution lines and/or regional wastewater treatment plants and collection systems. The grants require a 50 percent local match (25 percent for qualified low-income communities). Evaluations relating to water supply planning are not eligible for regional facility planning grants.

TWDB currently has \$1 million available for regional water and wastewater facility planning grants. The deadline for application submittal to the TWDB is 5:00 PM, December 20, 2007.

For additional information, please contact David Meesey at (512) 936-0852 or david.meesey@twdb.state.tx.us.

Proposed November 6, 2007 Constitutional Amendment

Proposition No. 16

By: *Robert Ruiz*

During the 80th Legislative Session, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representative Norma Chavez sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 20, which will appear as Proposition 16 on the November 6, 2007 ballot.

Proposition 16, if approved by Texas voters, would authorize the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to issue up to \$250 million in additional general obligation bonds for the statewide Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). If approved, TWDB will use bond proceeds to issue approximately \$87 million dollars during the next two years in grants and/or low-interest loans for water and/or wastewater projects in economically distressed communities all across Texas. It should be noted that TWDB's current EDAP bond authorization will be exhausted in the coming year.

Since 1989, the TWDB has operated EDAP to improve water and wastewater services to economically distressed areas of Texas, including colonia neighborhoods in counties adjoining the Texas-Mexico border. This program was long-perceived to be a border-only program, but in 2005 the Legislature expanded EDAP to apply to all 254 counties statewide in order to serve water and wastewater needs in economically distressed areas.

In order to qualify for EDAP funding, an area to be served (not the entire city or county) must have a median household income not greater than 75 percent of state median household income and also must demonstrate that their current water and wastewater services are inadequate to meet the minimal needs of residents. Based on the 2000 Census, 75 percent of the median state household income is approximately \$29,948. In addition, cities and counties who have an area that is approved to be served by EDAP funding must adopt and ensure compliance with Model Subdivision Rules (which address residential subdivision platting and are intended to prevent future substandard residential developments).

Since 1989, the TWDB has awarded more than \$4.7 million in planning grants and more than \$517 million for EDAP construction projects to install or upgrade water and wastewater services in 617 colonias in 22 Texas border and non-border counties.

The TWDB is the largest water-related infrastructure lender in Texas. Since 1957, TWDB has committed more than \$10.1 billion from its various state and federal programs to more than 3,250 projects benefiting more than 1,380 communities throughout the state.

Flood Protection Planning Funding Available

By: Tom Tagliabue

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is seeking applications for Flood Protection Planning grants to evaluate structural and nonstructural solutions to flooding problems and to consider flood protection needs of a region that includes an entire watershed. The flood protection planning grants will provide a 50/50 match with local sponsors to conduct drainage studies and develop cost-effective, technically-feasible flood control alternatives.

Eligible planning activities for planning grants may include studies and analyses to:

- Determine and describe problems resulting from or relating to flooding;
- Determine the views and needs of the affected public relating to flooding problems;
- Identify potential solutions;
- Estimate benefits and costs of potential solutions, including structural and nonstructural measures;
- Recommend feasible solutions to flood protection problems; and
- Determine that any proposed solutions are consistent with appropriate regional or statewide water plans and relevant laws and regulations.

Activities directly related to the preparation of applications for state or federal permits or other approvals and activities associated with administrative or legal proceedings by regulatory agencies are not eligible for flood protection planning grant assistance. Planning grant funds may not be used to construct the project.

Political subdivisions of the State of Texas with the legal authority to plan for and implement flood protection measures, and that are members of the National Flood Insurance Program are eligible to apply. Political subdivisions include cities, counties, districts or authorities created under the Texas Constitution, Article III, Section 52, or Article XVI, Section 59; any other political subdivision of the State; any interstate compact commission to which the State is a party; and any nonprofit water supply corporation created and operating under Texas Civil Statutes Article 1434a.

The TWDB has \$1 million available for Flood Protection Planning grants in this funding cycle. The deadline for a community to submit an application is January 4, 2008, at 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Gilbert Ward, by phone at (512) 463-6418 or by e-mail at gilbert.ward@twdb.state.tx.us.

Flood Program Transfers to TWDB

By: Tom Tagliabue

In September 2007, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) assumed responsibility for coordinating the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Legislature appropriated \$6.1 million to administer the new program. The new TWDB NFIP staff are: Mike Howard, Manager and NFIP State Coordinator, Rachel Andrews and Gayle Williams.

The NFIP state coordinator acts as the liaison between the federal government, state agencies and local communities and provides guidance and education to communities in meeting and maintaining the federal eligibility requirements to participate in the NFIP.

There are currently 1,127 political subdivisions in Texas listed as participating communities. Another 330 political subdivisions in Texas are estimated to be eligible to participate.

The NFIP, created by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government that states if a community will adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to reduce flood risks in Special Flood Hazard Areas, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. This insurance is designed to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods.

To join the NFIP, the community must submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) an application and a resolution committing the community to floodplain management. The community must adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance or court order, which must include all of the FEMA minimum requirements or reflect the FEMA model ordinance. The community can choose to adopt higher regulatory standards. To maintain participating status, the community must develop and maintain a floodplain permitting system. The community could include floodplain information on existing development permits or could choose to create a permit solely for development in the floodplain.

The best way to determine flood risk is by using the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FEMA's Map Modernization is an initiative to update and maintain these maps by creating Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). Texas Natural Resource Information System (TNRIS), a division of the TWDB, can assist with flood map information. Additional information on the NFIP is available at www.twdb.state.tx.us/planning/flood/fmp.asp.

LOAN/GRANT COMMITMENTS			
JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2007			
Organization	County	Fund	Amount
July			
Orange County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1	Orange	CWSRF	\$27,225,000
Westwood Shores Municipal Utility District	Trinity	RWAF	\$ 2,255,000
North Kaufman Water Supply Corporation	Kaufman	RWAF	\$ 1,225,000
Greater Texoma Utility Authority on behalf of the Argyle Water Supply Corporation	Grayson, Fannin and Denton	RWAF	\$ 5,155,000
Bell-Milam-Falls Water Supply Corporation	Bell, Milam, Falls and Williamson	RWAF	\$ 1,225,000
Trinity River Authority for Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System	Dallas and Ellis	CWSRF	\$50,000,000
Trinity River Authority for Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System	Tarrant and Denton	CWSRF	\$50,000,000
August			
Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 89	Harris	CWSRF	\$ 7,565,000
City of Los Fresnos	Cameron	CWSRF	\$ 4,975,000
September			
No new commitments			
Total July - September 2007			\$149,625,000

CWSRF: Clean Water State Revolving Fund
RWAF: Rural Water Assistance Fund

LATEST RESEARCH & PLANNING FUND GRANTS		
MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Contract	Description	Date
2004483016	GIS Tools for Instream Modeling - Mapping and extrapolating physical attributes of river channels	August 2007
2005483029	FY 2005 Assessment of IHA Hydrological Software	June 2007
2005483546	Flood Protection Study for the City of Pasadena	June 2007
2005483562	Supplement Existing Biological Data for San Antonio River Authority	June 2007
95483082	Flood Protection Study for the City of Brownwood	June 2007

Project Solicitation for the FY 2009 State Revolving Funds

By: Suzanne Lucignani

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will soon begin soliciting for water and wastewater projects to be listed in the FY 2009 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Intended Use Plans (IUP). Entities with water or wastewater projects that wish to obtain an SRF loan must have their project(s) listed in the IUP in order to be invited to apply for financing through the SRF program. This financing is specifically for the FY 2009 funding year which runs from September 2008 through August 2009.

The FY 2009 solicitation packets contain the forms that are required to be submitted in order for a project to be considered for inclusion in each IUP. The forms for water projects are included in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) solicitation packets which will be available October 26, 2007 and due January 25, 2008. The forms for wastewater projects are included in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) solicitation packets which will be available November 2, 2007 and due February 1, 2008.

TWDB staff will be conducting technical assistance workshops around the state to discuss the SRF programs, answer questions, and assist entities in filling out the

forms. Detailed information regarding workshop times and locations is available by clicking on the State Revolving Fund Workshops link under Hot Topics at www.twdb.state.tx.us.

Technical Assistance Workshops	
Date	City
November 13	Lubbock
November 15	Conroe
November 27	San Antonio
November 29	San Angelo
December 6	Nacogdoches
December 11	Dallas

More information about the SRF loan programs is available online on the DWSRF Home Page www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/dwsrf.asp and CWSRF Home Page www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/cwsrffund.asp or by phone at 512-463-0991.

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For more information, please call 512-463-7847.

Our Mission: *To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.*

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