



NORTH TEXAS SECTION—e-NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Volume 20, Number 6

November Meeting

- Date:** November 20, 2008
- Place:** TexasStar
- Topic:** “Build It and They Will Come” —
How Dallas Water Utilities Built
Their Own Mobile Asset
Management Solution
- Speaker:** Marc Cottingame
- Social Hour:** 5:30 pm
Dinner/Judging: 6:30 pm
- Dinner Tickets:** \$20 Members
\$10 Spouses & Guests

Some of the meeting costs have been
offset by the following meeting sponsors:

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(817) 740-5759 Fort Worth
Or mail: robinsonar@cdm.com for RSVPs.

Speaker

Marc Cottingame is Program Manager of the Utility Automation and Integration (UA&I) Division of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU). He is a graduate from Texas Tech University.

For the first decade of his engineering career, Marc worked for consulting engineering firms performing Master Planning, I/I Studies, and water/wastewater design and construction services for municipalities nationwide.

Marc joined Dallas Water Utilities in 2003 as a Project Manager in the Capital Improvement Pipeline Project Management Division.

In 2006, Marc was promoted to Program Manager of UA&I. Marc manages DWU's GIS Services Group and is accountable for DWU's technology developments.

President's Message



I was unable to attend WEFTEC in Chicago this year but heard many great things about the exhibits and technical presentations. I know WEAT was well represented. Congratulations to the TRA CReWSers winning their 3rd Overall Division 1 National Operations Challenge

Championship. The North Texas Section is very proud of this team's accomplishment and to have this team represent North Texas. For those of you who might not have heard, WEFTEC 09 will be held in Orlando.

As hurricane IKE barreled through Texas in September many Texas cities left devastated. The response WEAT-NTS received from local volunteers to assist the cities in restoring their water and wastewater service was amazing. Read on for more details about hurricane IKE recovery.

The E & I Committee bimonthly technical seminar held in September had a great turn out with about 60 people in attendance from various public entities, engineering firms, suppliers, and system integrators. Copies of the presentations are available on the WEAT-NTS website. The next seminar is scheduled for November 19th and will be about NEC changes. More details to follow or you can visit our website for more information.

The Scholarship Committee met last month to review scholarship applications submitted for the Fall 08 semester. We had several new great candidates this year and I am proud to announce that we will be awarding the most scholarships this year than ever before. Congratulations to each candidate.

Please join us for the Dinner Meeting November 20th at Texas Star to hear Marc Cottin-game's presentation on how DWU built their own Mobile Asset Management Solution. As part of the meeting agenda we will be voting on the proposed constitution and bylaw revisions.

The Annual February Seminar planning is in progress. The topic this year is "Sustainability: Making Your Brown... Greener." A great program is in store so save the date for February 10, 2009. If you would like to get involved, please contact Gilbert Trejo at GTrejo@PIRNIE.com.

If you would like to get involved in any Section activities or if there's anything that you would like to see happen, please contact me or another officer or committee chairperson. Contact information for the officers and committee chairs for the Section is listed in the newsletter or on our website. We are always looking for more people to help out.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Amy Robinson
President 2008-2009
WEAT-NTS
(817) 332-8727

TRA CReWSers Bring Home the National Operations Challenge Championship

For the third time in four years, the Trinity River Authority's CReWSers have won the extremely competitive Division I National Operations Challenge Championship. The team's performance at WEFTEC.08 was certainly not as dominating as they have been in the past but they showed poise under pressure and came through in the end.

"This win came right down to the wire. We knew it was going to be very close" said CReWSers Team Captain, Dale Burrow.

Near the end of the day everyone knew that the CReWSers were in good shape, but looming ahead was the always-challenging Collections System event. Poor Performances associated with leaks in this event has been responsible for costing the team more than one Championship and the CReWSers knew that they had to make a good run in order to keep their hopes alive. One of the most daunting challenges of the entire competition occurs near the end of the collections event. A four-inch saddle must be secured to a broken section of pipe. This saddle will later be pressure tested and it has proven to be the one part of the event that has caused much consternation for the CReWSers, as well as many other challenge teams.

Proving that nothing good ever comes easy, in the middle of attaching the saddle, the stainless steel band malfunctioned. You could have heard a pin drop in the audience when Dale Burrow shouted "bad band, bad band" to the judges, meaning the steel band was defective or had malfunctioned.



TRA CReWSers

Instead of giving up, the CReWSers pressed on and finished the event in 92 seconds, certainly not their best time. After a lengthy debate, the judges agreed that the band malfunction was not due to misuse by the team. The CReWSers finished 3rd overall in the Collections System event securing the National Championship.

The Dallas Aquatechs were the 2nd North Texas Team competition in this year's event. Although they did not manage to win a trophy this year, they still put on quite a show. Especially in the collections event where they ran the fastest raw time of any team (84 seconds). Unfortunately they had a leak that added penalty times to their raw score, this mishap put them out of trophy contention for the collections event.



Dallas Aquatechs

Our Texas teams, especially those from North Texas have continued to develop into some of the best in the nation. All eyes are on the Texas teams when they are competing and I am especially proud of how they handle themselves under pressure. The poise and dedication displayed by these guys are a testament to

TRA CReWSers (continued)

the long hour of training and comradery that is developed over the years. Many of these guys work rotating shifts that requires them to sacrifice their time off and alter their sleep schedule in order to hone their skills. Their dedication to this program is admirable and should serve

as a primer for anyone wanting to become the best at what they do.

Our next competition will be at Texas Water in Galveston and I hope we can all count on your continued support for these great bunch of guys.

Grinder Pumps in Pressure Sewers"

Free Webinar on December 11 at 1 PM Eastern Time

Presented by Pumps & Systems and the Submersible Wastewater Pump Association (SWPA)

Sponsored by Environment One Corporation and Emerson Motor Company

[Click here to register!](#)

Cost to Attendees: FREE

This introduction to pressure sewer systems is designed to educate engineers, builders, developers, homeowners, young consulting engineers inexperienced in grinder pump systems and system design, industry groups without knowledge of grinder pump systems and others. Click here to register.

Based on three Technical Resources published by SWPA (The Submersible Wastewater Pump Association): An Introduction to Grinder Pumps in Pressure Sewers (a PowerPoint Presentation) covering the basics of these products; Grinder Pumps in Pressure Sewers, a 50-page primer on these systems and the products that go into them; and the Association's Press Information Kit on Grinder Pumps in Pressure Sewers. In addition, SWPA is planning to present an in-depth Grinder Pumps in Pressure Sewers Training Seminar in the Spring of 2009. For additional information on these SWPA Technical Resources and the Training Program, visit the SWPA website at www.swpa.org.

The faciliator, Walt Erndt, is director of sales (US & Canada) for Environment One's (E/One) Sewer System Business. He joined the company as Sewer Systems national sales manager in 2003. A graduate of Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, with a BS in Electrical Engineering, he has previously served as senior national sales manager at Pentair Pump

Group-Hydromatic Pumps, Ashland, Ohio. An acknowledged expert in the field of pressure sewers with 24 years of experience, Erndt is also a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and assistant chairman, Technical Committee for the Submersible Wastewater Pump Association (SWPA).

TWDB State Revolving Fund (SRF) Financial Assistance Workshops

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will be conducting SRF workshops around the state to share information on low-cost financial assistance for water and wastewater construction projects. The focus of the workshop will be on the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs, including how to fill out required worksheets and forms to be included in the next funding cycle (FY 2010). Please consider this letter as an invitation to attend the workshop that will be held in your area.

TWDB would also appreciate your support by helping us advertise these workshops to neighboring cities, towns, counties, systems, authorities, consultants, etc. - any eligible entity that you think may be interested. The attached flyer has been prepared for advertising purposes.

For more information contact:

Bruce Crawford, bruce.crawford@twdb.state.tx.us
George Jones, george.jones@twdb.state.tx.us

See Flyer at the back of this newsletter.

Announcements

FROM THE D/FW METROPLEX

E&I Committee November Technical Seminar

The E&I Committee of WEAT will be sponsoring its fourth and last technical seminar of 2008 in November. This seminar will be on changes to the 2008 National Electric Code. In particular, it will address those changes that have the most impact in the water / wastewater arenas.

The meeting details are:

Date: Wednesday, 19 November 2008
Presentation 09:00AM – 12:00AM (Lunch provided by Schneider Electric following presentation)
Location: Graybar
 4601 Cambridge Road
 Fort Worth, Texas 76155
 Just south of D/FW Airport –
[click for Map](#)

Please put this on your calendar. For more information about this seminar, or about other activities of the WEAT E&I Committee, please contact any of those on the committee. Those currently on the WEAT E&I Committee are:

VK Gupta	vk Gupta@gaiconsulting.com
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Bill Sako	sakowd@cdm.com
Hossein Shahkarami	hossein.shahkarami@dallascityhall.com
Robert Williams	rwilliams@ntmwd.com

Please RSVP to George Luke if you will be able to attend this seminar.

UTRWD Announces New Employee

Upper Trinity Regional Water District is pleased to announce the addition of **Ronna P. Edwards, P.E.** as a Project Engineer.

Ms. Edwards recently relocated from Naples, Florida where she was a Project Manager with WilsonMiller, Inc.

Her project experience encompasses civil engineering in the areas of stormwater management design and permitting, environmental permitting, transportation design, and public works infrastructure.

A key initial assignment for Ronna will include Project Engineer duties related to the District's efforts to secure state & federal permits for the proposed Lake Ralph Hall reservoir.

AECOM New Hire Announcement

DALLAS, TEXAS — Sherri Van Der Wege has joined AECOM (Dallas office) as a Project Manager in the Water Department. A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Sherri is currently working on projects for the Trinity River Authority and the North Texas Municipal Water District.

Perkins Engineering Consultants Announces New Hire

Charlotte Smith has joined Perkins Engineering Consultants as a project manager in Arlington, Texas.

Announcements

Continued



**WATER ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

Preserving & Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas

Save the Date...

WEAT-NTS February Seminar

Topic:	Sustainability: Making Your Brown...Greener
Location:	City Place, Dallas
Date:	February 10, 2009
Time:	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Registration Cost:	\$120 (Registration Opens December 2008)
Sponsorship Cost:	\$250 (Contact Dawn Anderson, danderson@cpyi.com)

Seminar Will Include:

- **NACWA Update**
- **LEEDs Certification Process, Benefits, Cost**
- **Carbon Footprint Calculators / Analysis / National Trends**
- **Plant Process Optimization for Green Results**
- **Green Processes and Operations**
- **Emerging Technologies for Green Results**
- **Energy Management**
- **Sustainable Design**
- **Green Electrical Design**
- **Water Reuse**
- **Solids Processing for Beneficial Reuse / Green Results**

Watch for more information in the WEAT-NTS January Newsletter and the website.

2008-2009 WEAT-NTS Scholarships Awarded

The WEAT NTS Scholarship Committee is proud to announce a record number of scholarships awarded for the 2008-09 school year. Each student will receive a total of \$1,000 this year (\$500 per semester).

This year we have three returning students who have been in our scholarship program for the last several years:

Michael Longoria is the son of WEAT member Ray Longoria. Michael is a senior electrical engineering major at Texas A&M University.

Jordan Cherry is the daughter of WEAT member Dale Cherry. Jordan is a junior at the University of Texas at Austin Nursing School.

Jordan McIntyre is the daughter of WEAT member Randy McIntyre. Jordan is a senior at Texas A&M University and is studying Genetics.

In addition to our three returning students, we are proud to announce that we are awarding four additional scholarships for the coming year. Our new students are:

Jessica Davila is the daughter of WEAT member Rey Davila. Jessica is a sophomore Biology major at UTA.

Connor Hall is the son of WEAT member Ken Hall. Connor is a freshman at Texas Tech University and will be majoring in Civil Engineering.

Wes Fichera is the son of WEAT member Buster Fichera. Wes is a freshman Mechanical Engineering major at UT Dallas.

Sam Williams is the son of WEAT member Brian Williams. Sam is a freshman at Texas A&M University and is deciding between computer science or electrical engineering.

The scholarship committee would like to congratulate our returning students and our new recipients for this year. We are proud of your accomplishments and are looking forward to watching your growth and development as you pursue your chosen degree programs. Best of luck for this school year!

David Jackson

Scholarship Committee Chairman

North Texas WEAT Personnel Assist in Hurricane Recovery

In the early morning hours of Saturday, September 13, Hurricane Ike, packing 110 mile an hour winds and a strong storm surge, caused extensive damage to communities along the coast of Texas and Louisiana. Bayou Vista, a community of approximately 1,700 located next to Galveston Bay, endured hurricane force winds and a seven-foot storm surge. City officials estimated storm damage to Bayou Vista at \$79.5 million, which includes about \$65,000 per home and extensive damage to the city's infrastructure.

Damage to the infrastructure included a disabled water distribution system and wastewater lift stations. The compressor that pressurizes the water system's hydropneumatic tank was out, as was the system's SCADA. By far, the majority of the damage to the water distribution system was to residential water meters and service lines in residential streets. Many meters and pipes were broken and some were missing altogether.

An official request for assistance in restoring water and wastewater service to the Bayou Vista community was issued by Texas Water/Wastewater Response Network (TXWARN). Philip Topeck served as the local point of contact and provided information about the needed repairs. In response to the request, WEAT-NTS began soliciting volunteers to assist cities in the areas most affected by Hurricane Ike. By week's end, we had over 65 people ready to assist.

The TXWARN mission is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. TXWARN matches available resources to member's needs during an emergency. Through the online TXWARN database, member utilities can locate emergency equipment and trained personnel.


Steve Hodges, Electronic Technician II, and Andrew Esquibel, Maintenance Mechanic II, at the Trinity River Authority's Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System volunteered to travel to Bayou Vista to provide immediate assistance. The pair left on the morning of Thursday, September 25, 2008. Not knowing if shelter, food, or water would be available, they took a tent, sleeping bags, water, and non-perishable food. They would need everything they brought.

Hodges and Esquibel arrived in Bayou Vista at 2:00 pm on September 25. By 2:15 pm, city officials had given the men supplies and dispatched them to evaluate water service to the city's 780 homes. They went house-to-house, replacing water meters and repairing pipes as needed. Hodges and Esquibel put in 12 and 15 -hour days in hot, humid conditions. Nights, which were relatively cool, were spent sleeping in a tent across the street from the water plant. By Saturday, Hodges and Esquibel had attended to 250 homes, restoring water service to most of the residences. At the plant, they brought the compressor and SCADA back online.


Councilman Larry Jones expressed Bayou Vista's appreciation to all the volunteers involved in cleaning up and restoring the community. "The list of those who've helped is amazing," Larry Jones said. "They've kept Bayou Vista thriving during this time."

Since the original request for assistance at Bayou Vista, we have not received any further request. Regardless, the response from the consultants, manufacturers representatives, and utilities in the North Texas area was impressive and is a testament to the "can do" spirit that we all possess.

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Program	Darryl Corbin	(972) 239-9949	(972) 239-9117	dcorbin@carollo.com
Public Education/Science Fair	Rene Aguilar	(972) 239-9949	(972) 239-9117	raguilar@carollo.com
Scholarship Fund	David Jackson	(214) 217-2257	(214) 920-2565	drj@freese.com
Seminar	Gilbert Trejo	(817) 877-9978	(817) 885-8676	gtrejo@pirnie.com
Young Professionals	Meera Victor	(972) 239-9949	(972) 239-9117	mvector@carollo.com

WEAT-NTS Calendar of Events

November 20, 2008	TexasStar	WEAT-NTS	Dinner Meeting
January 15, 2009	CityPlace	WEAT-NTS	Dinner Meeting
February 10, 2009	CityPlace	WEAT-NTS	Annual Seminar "Going Green"
March 19, 2009	TexasStar	WEAT-NTS	Dinner Meeting
May 21, 2009	CityPlace	WEAT-NTS	Dinner Meeting
July 16, 2009	TexasStar	WEAT-NTS	Dinner Meeting

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THANKS

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PRESENTS

STATE REVOLVING FUND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS

The Texas Water Development Board (Board) is holding workshops around the state to share information on low-interest loans for water and wastewater construction projects. The workshops will focus on the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, including how to fill out required worksheets and forms for funding consideration in FY 2010 (Sep. 1, 2009 - Aug. 31, 2010).

ATTENDANCE IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host</u>
November 13, 2008 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Municipal Office Building 300 S. Texas Bryan, Texas	City of Bryan
November 18, 2008 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Globe News Center for the Performing Arts 500 S. Buchanan Street Amarillo, Texas	City of Amarillo
November 20, 2008 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library 1906 South Closser Edinburg, Texas	City of Edinburg
December 4, 2008 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Trinity River Authority (TRA) Central Regional Wastewater System 6500 W. Singleton Blvd. Dallas, Texas	Trinity River Authority
December 9, 2008 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) 3702 Loop 322 Abilene, Texas	City of Abilene
December 11, 2008 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Odessa Police Dept. Training Room 205 N. Grant Odessa, Texas	City of Odessa

Please RSVP to Barbara Vanecek at 512-463-7026 or barbara.vanecek@twddb.state.tx.us.

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PROJECT FINANCE & CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

For more information contact:

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