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TAWWA/WEAT

MAY-JUNE 2013

ISSUE 90

# SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

## e-Newsletter

## AFTER TEXAS LAWMAKERS GO HOME, WHAT'S NEXT FOR WATER?

KATE GALBRAITH | MAY 28, 2013

Water legislation seems to have assumed roughly its final shape. Assuming a few more loose ends get tied up, including Gov. Rick Perry's signature, Texas will draw \$2 billion from its Rainy Day Fund for water-supply projects. Also, in a November referendum, voters will decide whether to sign off on a pair of funds to administer the money.

But there is plenty of action still to come on water, even after lawmakers go home.

The most immediate issue is a shake-up of the Texas Water Development Board, which will oversee the administration of the extra money. State Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, was the driving force behind a change in the board's structure. Going forward, as the current plan has it, the agency will be led by three full-time board members, rather than six part-time members.

The governor would appoint those members, and Fraser said that he expects them to take an active role in visiting communities. As a hypothetical example, "If Dallas is going to be out of water in 20 years and they want to build a reservoir," Fraser said he wants the new board members out visiting the site and talking to people.

State Rep. Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, also envisions an active role for the water development board's leaders. The new water program "will only be as successful ... as the leadership of the agency," he said. "If we've got folks that are not actively promoting developing projects across the state of Texas, then I think we'll struggle in getting some of these projects built in the way that [State Rep. Allan Ritter, R-Nederland, the leading House member behind the water bill] envisioned."

The role of the executive director will also change. "What now is the executive director will become more likely a CFO," Fraser said. Overall, however, he said the changes to the agency were "not really that drastic."

Projects seeking state funding help will also need to be ranked. Prioritization is "obviously the key thing we've got to do," Fraser said. Regional planners, whose work underlies the wish list of projects in the state water plan, are "going to give us a one-through-ten," he said.

Laura Huffman, head of the Nature Conservancy in Texas, said that the water legislation spells out how to prioritize projects on both regional and state levels, with criteria including the urgency of need, the financial viability of the borrowers and the sustainability of the projects.

*Continued on page 3*

## SAVE THE DATE



### TAWWA/WEAT JULY MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 18, 2013  
 Time: 11:30 AM  
 Place: San Antonio Water System  
 Tower II, 1st Floor, RM C145  
 2800 US Highway 281 North  
 San Antonio, TX 78212  
 Speaker: Ila Drzymala, PhD, PE, San Antonio Water System/ Greg Swoboda, PE, HDR  
 Topic: Managing Solids at the SAWS Water Recycling Centers

### TAWWA/WEAT AUGUST MEETING

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2013  
 Time: 11:30 AM  
 Place: San Antonio Water System  
 Tower II, 1st Floor, RM C145  
 2800 US Highway 281 North  
 San Antonio, TX 78212  
 Speaker: Nieves Alfaro III, PE, KBR  
 Topic: Waller Creek Tunnel – UT Austin to Town Lake

EDITOR:  
 Lauren Hawa (lauren.hawa@freese.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our TAWWA and WEAT organizations are off to a great 2013!

Since our last newsletter we have had our May monthly meeting where Sheeba Thomas of the San Antonio River Authority presented on the San Antonio River Authority Martinez Nutrient Wastewater Study and the June monthly meeting where Greg Flores of the San Antonio Water System presented on the 2013 Texas Legislative Update. We have also had another successful Basura Bash in May, the Bowling Social to support the Brad Groves Scholarship Fund and a Young Professionals social. Thanks to everyone who supported these events by attending, sponsoring and/or organizing the events. We could not have done it without all of you and your great support!

Speaking of supporting, as Greg Flores presented at the June meeting, we will all have the opportunity to support the passage of the \$2 billion water fund in November 2013. As we are all aware, there is a great need in central and south central Texas for water infrastructure projects. The \$2 billion will be utilized by the Texas Water Development Water Board as a means to help municipalities and authorities across the state of Texas to fund much needed water and waste water projects. I am sure that there will be opportunities to help get the word out to our co-workers, neighbors and friends about the importance of the passage of this water funding measure.

Our organizations have been busy and there are still plenty of events on the calendar. There are many people working on our annual Summer Seminar that will take place in July. We want to thank all of those who have signed up to sponsor and if you have not, please consider sponsoring. We also have our Water for People Golf Tournament in August. There are many people who are working on this event to be able to provide thousands of dollars to support the development of locally sustainable

drinking water and sanitation facilities in developing countries. What a great opportunity for those in our profession to help people with the basic necessities of life.

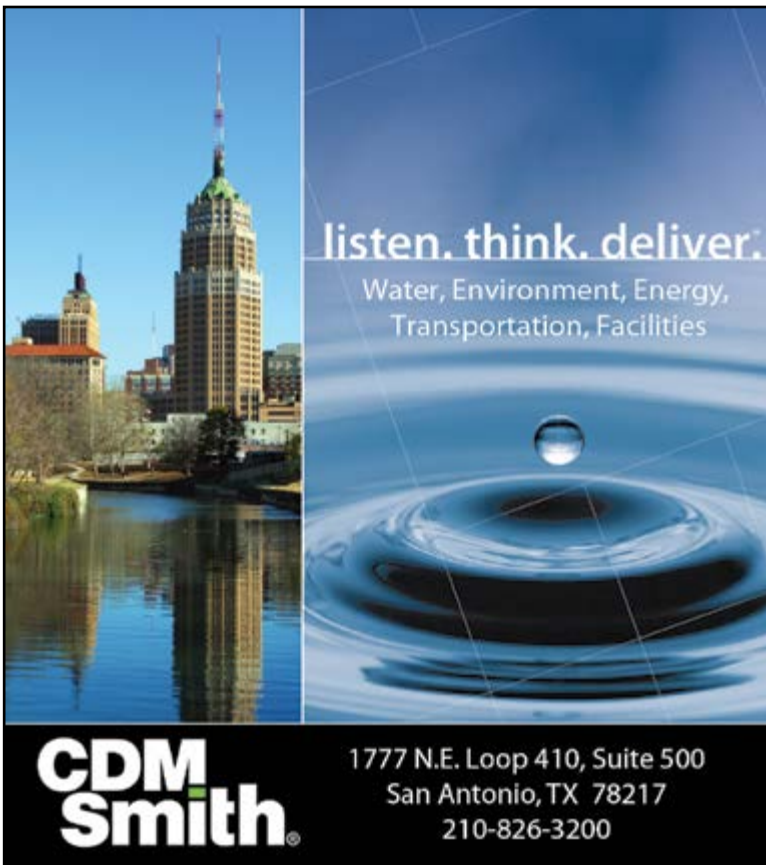
As I am writing this letter, summer is upon us. We have had some recent rain and the aquifer and lake levels increased some but they are beginning to drop quickly. Being in the profession that we are in, we are very aware of the water issues in central and south Texas. As always, let's all be good spokes persons and inform our friends and neighbors about being good stewards of our natural resources.

Hopefully, all of you are aware of our recent officer elections to our TAWWA and WEAT organizations. I want to thank all of those who ran for office. As David Bennett and I indicated at the meeting, if you were not elected or even if you did not run for office, there are many ways to get involved in our organizations. I want to congratulate all the elected officers and particularly Steve Renneker who is the newly elected president for the South Texas AWWA Chapter and Sterling Lee who is the newly elected president for the WEAT – San Antonio Section.

So I am writing my last "Message from the President." I want to thank everyone who has helped me this past year. It has been fun and a great learning experience. As I have said before, we are all fortunate to be in the water/wastewater profession that we are in and to serve the people in our community. There are still a number of events to happen in our organizations in 2013 –So please get involved! Let's all work together to keep our professions and local organizations strong.

Thanks for the opportunity,  
 Greg Swoboda, P.E.

President, South Texas AWWA Chapter



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This should allow Texas to “make sure that high-quality projects are funded first,” she said. “This was never just a blank check.”

Some fear, however, that the prioritization process could go awry as political interests dig in. “I’m fearful that somewhere down the road, these projects will be decided upon political connections and favoritism,” said State Rep. David Simpson, R-Longview, as the House debated Senate Joint Resolution 1, which puts the water fund to the voters.

Josiah Neeley, a policy analyst with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, guessed that it could be “a year or more” before the water funds started distributing loans.

Another looming issue for water is the November referendum that creates the funds to administer the water dollars.

Fraser noted that many interest groups, from the Farm Bureau to the Realtors, backed the new water spending. “We’re going to have an army of people promoting this issue,” he said, adding: “Since I’ve been in the Legislature, I’ve never had an issue that has had this much positive approval. ... If I go to the grocery store in Marble Falls, that’s all people want to talk about.”

Said Neeley: “It’s going to be this kind of a weird referendum in that the voters are going to decide whether or not to do something that’s going to happen anyway.” House Bill 4 also creates a new water fund, he said, so the real purpose of the referendum is to allow the transfer of \$2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund into the water fund without triggering the state’s spending cap.

Asked whether the Tea Party was likely to get involved in the referendum, Neeley said, “It’s quite possible.” That’s because in addition to water, it involves issues related to the constitutional spending limit and the Rainy Day Fund in addition to water, he said.

And two years from now, what will Texas lawmakers think of the great water session of 2013, with its \$2 billion spending and creation of special new funds? Much depends, Neeley noted, on the state’s revenue situation — how the Rainy Day Fund is doing, for example — and also on the weather.

Published by Evan Smith,

Texas Tribune [texas Tribune.org](http://texas Tribune.org)

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAY AND JUNE SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS:



Thank you to our speaker Dr. Sheeba Thomas with the San Antonio River Authority and Pure Technologies for sponsoring the May Meeting.



Thank you to our June speaker Mr. Greg Flores with San Antonio Water System and W WaterTech Servcies for sponsoring the June Meeting.

## SPEAKER FOR JULY MEETING:

**ILA DRZYMALA, PH.D, PE, PMP**  
ENGINEER, SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM

Ila E. Drzymala, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, is a project engineer/manager at the Recycle and Treatment Engineering Department of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). She has 9 years of experience in nutrient removal processes, biosolids treatment, evaluation, computer process modeling and design of wastewater treatment plants. Currently, she is managing various treatment projects for SAWS’ water recycling centers including headworks expansion, anaerobic digester upgrades, tertiary filter replacement, odor control facilities, and improvements/rehabilitation to various other treatment facilities. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Southern California (2003).

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## SPEAKER FOR AUGUST MEETING:

**NIEVES ALFARO, PE**  
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS DIRECTOR, KBR

Nieves Alfaro, KBR South Central Texas Director, graduated from UT-Austin in 1995 with a BSCE. He has over 18 years of experience in the design of wastewater collection and treatment/water distribution and production facilities. Nieves designed several sanitary sewer projects included in the City of Austin’s Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination project. He was an integral member of the SAWS LCRA Project engineering team that prepared preliminary site layouts to determine cost estimates for storage facilities for 200,000 acre feet of water, a 6,000 cfs intake pump station, 5 miles of twin 144-inch intake pipe and 20 miles of 84-inch transmission main from the proposed reservoir to the SAWS service area boundary. Nieves is currently the Project Manager for the Construction Management Team of the \$100M Waller Creek Tunnel Project which builds a 5,600 foot long, 26 foot diameter tunnel under downtown Austin. Project also includes an intake structure at the City’s Waterloo Park, outlet structure on Lake Lady Bird Johnson and recirculation facilities to maintain water quality in the above ground section of Waller Creek.

Sponsor:



## BASURA BASH

The local chapters of WEAT and TAWWA participated in another successful Spring Basura Bash River Clean-up in Olmos Park on May 18, 2013. Thanks to all who came out early to participate!



*Pictured: David Bennett, Trooper Smith and family, John Colquhoun, Charles Kucherka and daughter, Adam Payne, Vicente Garza and family*

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# SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

## 2013 TAWWA & WEAT Scholarship Applications



### **TAWWA**

The 2013 TAWWA scholarship applications have been posted. Go to <http://www.tawwa.org/Scholarship.htm> for more information. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, July 12, 2013. This applicant must be either a TAWWA member or immediate family member of a TAWWA member.



### **WEAT**

Scholarships will be awarded to local students with interested in Water related studies. Email Josh Marazzini at CP&Y ([jmarazzini@cpyi.com](mailto:jmarazzini@cpyi.com)) if you are interested in receiving an application or go to <http://www.weat.org/sanantonio/main/scholarships.php> for more information. The deadline for submission will be Friday, September 6, 2013.

## OLMOS BASIN ALLIANCE

The Olmos Basin Alliance (OBA) is a newly formed advisory committee to address the problem of man-made trash in Olmos Basin Park and the surrounding areas. The OBA includes representatives from the San Antonio River Authority, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, among many others. If you're interested in finding out more about the OBA or receiving the OBA's Good Neighbors to Nature newsletter, please contact Karen Bishop at 210-302-3642, or [kbishop@sara-tx.org](mailto:kbishop@sara-tx.org). More information can also be found on the OBA's Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance](http://www.Facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance).

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HAPPY HOUR

On June 20, 2013, approximately 30 people attended the Young Professionals Happy Hour at The Friendly Spot Ice House. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to Hobas for sponsoring the event!

## 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTH TEXAS TAWWA/ WEAT BOWLING SOCIAL

The local chapter of TAWWA/WEAT hosted its 11th Annual Bowling Social on May 31, 2013. Forty five bowlers attended and each bowled two full games, enjoyed pizza and appetizers, and some had an adult beverage courtesy of our sponsors: Arias, LNV, Medina Consulting, Pepper-Lawson Waterworks, SEA, and Tetra-Tech. The event raised over \$300 for the Brad Groves Scholarship Fund.

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 CALE UNDERBERG, PE – VICE PRESIDENT  
 HEATHER LINDNER, PE – SECRETARY  
 JAMES SCARDAMI – TREASURER

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
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 2013-2014 TAWWA SOUTH TEXAS  
 CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### CALE UNDERBERG, PE

WEAT Vice President  
**Hometown:** Sioux Falls, South Dakota

#### Educational Background:

B.S. Civil Engineering  
 South Dakota State University



#### Current Job/Work History:

Project Manager at HDR Engineering, Inc.  
 Fourteen years of experience in design of water and wastewater conveyance systems including large diameter trunk sewers and water mains, trenchless technologies, and inverted siphons; experience in water and wastewater treatment facility design and construction, lift station design and alternative delivery.

#### Why You Joined WEAT:

To meet other people within the water/wastewater industry; to be aware of the regulations which have a local influence; to learn about regionally available technology and products; and to assist WEAT in promoting the water/wastewater industry.

#### Hobbies:

Running/Exercising, Kayaking, Fly Fishing, Watching and Attending Sports Events

#### JAMES SCARDAMI

WEAT Treasurer  
**Hometown:** Lorain, Ohio

#### Educational Background:

AS in Liberal Arts, San Antonio College  
 Class "A" WW License  
 Pursuing BBA, Management, Howard Payne University



#### Current Job/Work History:

Operations Superintendent, Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority (5 Years) 11 Years in Wastewater including 6 years at the San Antonio River Authority. Before that served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps.

#### Why You Joined WEAT:

I enjoy the idea of public service and keeping up to date with environmental issues. As a Father of Boy/Girl Twins I find it important to ensure that our most precious resources are available well into my children's adult lives.

#### Hobbies:

Brewing Beer, Golf, Dove Hunting, and Riding motorcycles

THE TAWWA OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014 ARE:  
 STEVE RENNEKER, PE – PRESIDENT  
 ROB JENKINS, PE – VICE PRESIDENT  
 LAUREN HAWA, PE – SECRETARY  
 VICENTE GARZA, PE – TREASURER

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
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 CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### ROB JENKINS, PE

AWWA Vice President  
**Hometown:** South Jordan, Utah

#### Educational Background:

B.S. and M.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering  
 Brigham Young University



#### Current Job / Work History:

Program Leader | Project Engineer at San Antonio River Authority – Manage, design, and lead engineering projects and programs including a new reuse water system, and the capital improvement projects program. In nine years of experience has worked on a multitude of water and environmental projects ranging from R/O desalination, groundwater modeling, wastewater treatment, stream restoration, stormwater modeling, sanitary sewer collection lines and distribution system planning and modeling.

#### Why You Joined AWWA:

To network with the engineering community and for service opportunities with the Water For People Golf Tournament.

#### Hobbies:

Golf, Basketball and watching sports.

#### LAUREN HAWA, PE

AWWA Secretary  
**Hometown:** Beaumont, Texas

#### Educational Background:

B.S. Civil Engineering  
 Texas A&M University



#### Current Job/Work History:

Assistant Project Manager at Freese and Nichols, Inc.  
 Five years of experience in design of large-diameter pipelines, pump stations, and municipal utilities; experience in pipeline design, route selection, hydraulic analysis, pump station design, hydraulics and equipment selection.

#### Why You Joined AWWA:

To get involved in not only my industry, but my community as well. In addition, it is a great opportunity to meet other engineers, volunteer, and stay current on industry trends and technologies.

#### Hobbies:

Exploring San Antonio and the hill country, trying new things, reading, planning events, and travel



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## Water For People 5th Annual Golf Tournament

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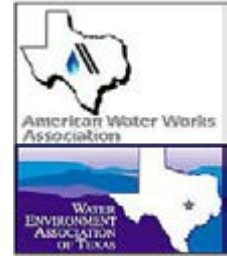
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# TAWWA / WEAT SOUTH TEXAS SECTION JULY MONTHLY MEETING



## When:

Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
11:30 A.M.

## Where:

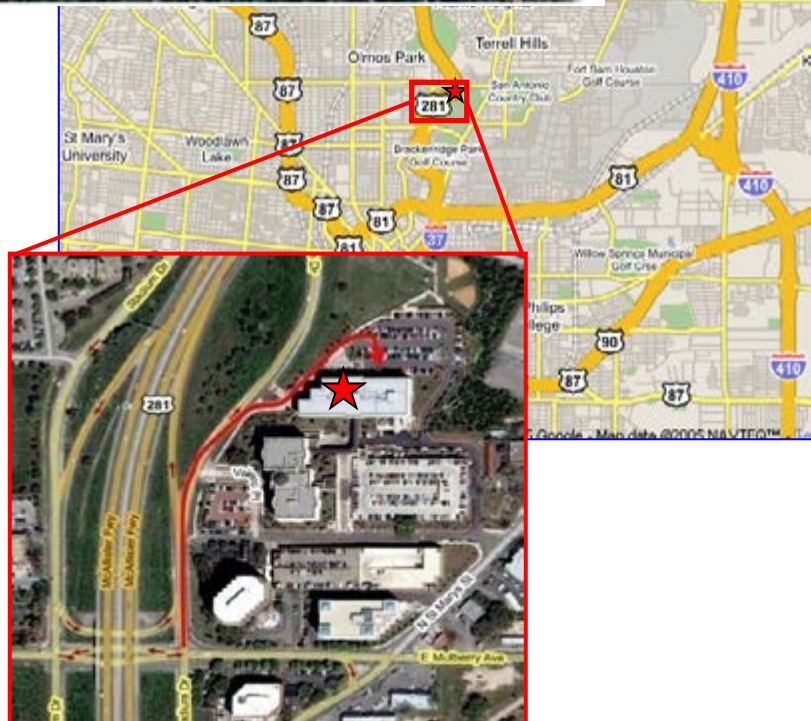
San Antonio Water System  
Tower II – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Room C145  
2800 US Hwy. 281 North  
San Antonio, Texas

## Speakers:

Ila Drzymala, PhD, PE  
San Antonio Water System

Greg Swoboda, PE,  
HDR

**Topic: “Managing  
Solids at the SAWS  
Water Recycling Centers”**



**\*\* Meeting approved for one (1) hour of Water and Wastewater Operator Credit \*\***

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**Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to:**  
Heather Lindner, Secretary, San Antonio Chapter, WEAT  
Email: [heather.lindner@hdrinc.com](mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com) Phone: 210-841-2826  
The price for lunch is **\$12.00** with RSVP, **\$15.00** without RSVP



SOUTH TEXAS AWWA/WEAT



# summer seminar 2013

## Emerging Issues in the Water/Wastewater Industry



Friday, July 26  
8 AM - 4 PM

### San Antonio Water System

Tower II, 1st Floor  
Rooms CR-145 & CR-154  
2800 US Hwy 281 North  
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If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please contact David Bennett at [dtb@freese.com](mailto:dtb@freese.com) for more details.

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### REGISTER NOW

Early Fee: \$65  
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To register, visit [weat.org](http://weat.org) and click on "Online Webinar and Conference Registration!"



# TAWWA/WEAT South Texas Chapter now on Facebook!

The South Texas Chapter of TAWWA and San Antonio Section of WEAT are now on Facebook!

Please go to the link below and "Like" South Texas Water Professionals to be connected and stay informed about upcoming events and activities.



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## LOCAL TAWWA / WEAT CONTACTS

## TAWWA, South Texas Chapter Officers

Office	Name	Day Phone	Fax No.	E-mail
President	Steve Renneker, P.E.	210-321-5327		<a href="mailto:steven.renneker@kbr.com">steven.renneker@kbr.com</a>
Past President	Greg Swoboda, P.E.	210-841-2800	210-841-2828	<a href="mailto:greg.swoboda@hdrinc.com">greg.swoboda@hdrinc.com</a>
Vice President	Robert Jenkins, P.E.	210-227-1373		<a href="mailto:rjenkins@sara-tx.org">rjenkins@sara-tx.org</a>
Secretary	Lauren Hawa, P.E.	210-298-3849	210-298-3801	<a href="mailto:lauren.hawa@freese.com">lauren.hawa@freese.com</a>
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Water For People Chair	Jonathan Vorheis, P.E.	210-321-6256	210-349-8944	<a href="mailto:jonathan.vorheis@CH2M.com">jonathan.vorheis@CH2M.com</a>
YP Representative	Adam Conner	210-233-3452	210-233-4862	<a href="mailto:aconner@saws.org">aconner@saws.org</a>
YP Representative	Kira Iles	210-404-1330	210-404-1370	<a href="mailto:llesK@BV.com">llesK@BV.com</a>

## WEAT, South Texas Section Officers

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Past President	David Bennett, P.E.	210-298-3829	210-298-3801	<a href="mailto:dtb@freese.com">dtb@freese.com</a>
Vice President	Cale Underberg, P.E.	210-841-2917	210-841-2828	<a href="mailto:cale.underberg@hdrinc.com">cale.underberg@hdrinc.com</a>
Secretary	Heather Lindner, P.E.	210-841-2826	210-841-2828	<a href="mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com">heather.lindner@hdrinc.com</a>
Treasurer	James Scardami	210-268-3434	210-658-5830	<a href="mailto:jscardami@ccmatx.org">jscardami@ccmatx.org</a>
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Scholarships Chair	Josh Marazzini, P.E.	210-494-8004	210-494-8286	<a href="mailto:jmarazzini@cpyi.com">jmarazzini@cpyi.com</a>
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LOGIC  
PUZZLE

		First Names				Tape				Candles			
		Lola	Morgan	Peyton	Zoey	duct tape	painters tape	paper tape	scotch tape	apple spice	eucalyptus	juniper berry	peppermint
Megapixels	1.8												
	4.0												
	5.2												
	6.0												
Candles	apple spice												
	eucalyptus												
	juniper berry												
	peppermint												
Tape	duct tape												
	painters tape												
	paper tape												
	scotch tape												



## CLUES

- The person who lit the apple spice candle didn't buy duct tape and is not Lola.
- The person who lit the peppermint candle has a camera with more megapixels than the person who bought paper tape.
- Lola has a camera with fewer megapixels than the person who lit the juniper berry candle.
- The person who lit the juniper berry candle didn't buy painters tape.
- Of the person who lit the eucalyptus candle and the person who bought scotch tape, one has the 4.0 megapixel camera and the other has the 5.2 megapixel camera.
- The person who lit the eucalyptus candle bought paper tape.
- Either the person who lit the eucalyptus candle or the person who lit the juniper berry candle is Peyton.
- Zoey didn't light the peppermint candle and didn't buy duct tape.
- The person with the 1.8 megapixel camera is not Peyton.
- The person with the 4.0 megapixel camera is not Morgan.
- The person who bought paper tape is Peyton.

Megapixels	First Names	Tape	Candles
1.8			
4.0			
5.2			
6.0			

Answer to logic puzzle on page 13:

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Topic/Presenter	Event Host	Location
July 12, 2013	Water Reuse in Texas Seminar	WEAT	Austin Convention Center Austin, TX
July 18, 2013	Managing Solids at the SAWS Water Recycling Centers	SAWS	Tower II, 1st Floor, RM C145 2800 US Highway 281 North San Antonio, TX 78212
July 26, 2013	Summer Seminar	SAWS	San Antonio Water System San Antonio, TX
July 31 - August 1, 2013	Biosolids & Odor Corrosion Conference	WEAT	Embassy Suites San Marcos, TX
August 15, 2013	Waller Creek Tunnel – UT Austin to Town Lake	SAWS	Tower II, 1st Floor, RM C145 2800 US Highway 281 North San Antonio, TX 78212
August 23, 2013	Water for People 5th Annual Golf Tournament	Water for People	Canyon Springs Golf Course San Antonio, TX
August 26-27, 2013	CMOM Conference	WEAT	Austin Convention Center Austin, TX
October 5-9, 2013	WEFTEC 2013	WEF	Chicago, IL

### CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!

In an attempt to better serve the Young Professional (YP) members, we are asking that all members under the age of 35, or less than 10 years in the industry, please e-mail Heather Lindner at: [heather.lindner@hdrinc.com](mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com) with their name, e-mail, and phone number.

If there are others in your offices who are not yet TAWWA/WEAT members, but might also be interested in participating in YP events and functions, please pass this request on to them.

Thanks!

### LOGIC PUZZLE ANSWERS

1.8	Zoey	Painters tape	Apple spice
4.0	Peyton	Paper tape	Eucalyptus
5.2	Lola	Scotch tape	Peppermint
6.0	Morgan	Duct tape	Juniper berry



### ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS E-NEWSLETTER IN ERROR?

Please e-mail Lauren Hawa ([lauren.hawa@freese.com](mailto:lauren.hawa@freese.com)) to be removed from the list.

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**Robin Dornfest**

[rdornfest@brierleyassociates.com](mailto:rdornfest@brierleyassociates.com)

[www.brierleyassociates.com](http://www.brierleyassociates.com)

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