



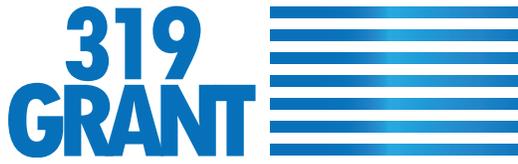
WINTER 2014/2015

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# TRA's 2015 budget guides growth, maintains stability

The Trinity River Authority's fiscal year 2015 budget was approved by our board of directors at its regular October meeting. The approval of the budget marks the beginning of another year of work on projects and activities that will help TRA continue to provide the best possible services to the communities that we serve.

Each TRA wastewater and water treatment facility operates as an independent financial body that is supported by its customers based on the services provided. Before the budget is submitted to the board, staff presents each individual facilities project budget to its customer city representatives for their input and discussion. The customer's feedback is important to the process and important toward TRA maintaining and reaching its goals. Finally, we seek our board's sound advice and guidance before finalizing the budget. These steps keep us in line with our core values, mission and vision.

The Authority's annual operating budget serves two basic purposes. It is a planning device that quantifies the cost of the work that the Authority plans to accomplish during the upcoming fiscal year, and it serves as a fiscal control device.

For FY 2015, it is anticipated that TRA will collect \$256 million. Total expenditures will be \$254 million. This includes a 9.4 percent increase in personal services to hire additional staff to fill

# inTRA

**Our shared vision**

The Trinity River Authority of Texas is an innovative, adaptive leader, enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans.

**The TRA mission**

The Trinity River Authority's mission is to promote conservation, reclamation, protection and development of the natural resources of the river basin for the benefit of the public.

[trinityra.org](http://trinityra.org)

grant-funded positions and staff to expand our Geographic Information System capabilities and security. Our Northern and Southern region operations will add staff related to professional positions and the expansion of services, respectively.

New information technology staff also will be added in 2015. These approved additions will bring our total staff to 454.

A substantial change to the 2015 budget was the creation of a Collection System Group, which will operate out of our Central Regional Wastewater System, to help streamline and more effectively manage all of TRA's waste collection activities. Additionally, expenditures for the enterprise fund for CRWS are expected to increase, primarily due to an increase in chemical costs and sludge disposal costs.

### Select Southern and Northern Region projects for 2015

TRA is a key partner in the 24-megawatt hydropower project at Lake Livingston. Some initial preparation has taken place, and construction is expected to begin during 2015. The project has been developed through the cooperative efforts of East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the city of Houston.

The Livingston Regional Water Supply System will undergo an expansion from 2 million gallons per day to 5.0 MGD. Improvements and enlargements of the LRWSS will include plant treatment components, a new raw water intake and pump station, and a parallel raw water line addition.

CRWS will continue with the implementation of our solids master plan as well as testing alternate disinfection and biological nutrient removal techniques to prepare for stricter discharge limits on phosphorus and nitrogen. CRWS also will fully activate the on-site stormwater storage basin, which allows storage of any wastewater reaching the plant that cannot be treated due to wet-weather flows or a temporary issue with treatment trains.

Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System staff will continue to operate the South Creek Ranch Reuse Project. Additional construction will include plant rehabilitation improvements.

At Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System, construction is in progress on the Kirkwood and Cade Branch pump stations' project and the Henrietta Creek HC1 relief project also will be underway.



**General Manager J. Kevin Ward**

The Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater System will be involved in design and construction on the Red Oak interceptor, which is included in its capital improvement plan.

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## THESE STEPS KEEP US IN LINE WITH OUR CORE VALUES, MISSION AND VISION.

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Progress and growth related to ongoing construction projects and the capital improvement plans for the coming years, mean that we also must anticipate annual increases in the debt service component of our budget. Execution of the 2015 budget goals will ensure that TRA continues to provide the highest level of customer service to the cities we serve.

As we end one year and move toward the next, I want to acknowledge the countless staff, board and customer time and involvement required to prepare and approve a budget. It is a committed process that is much appreciated.



## Happy Happenstance, New Beginnings ...and the Trinity River Authority

*This is a story about circumstances, being open to where life leads you, past remembrances, and life's connections*

### Past circumstances

It is March 2, 1978, and Jay is ready. It's his birthday, and his in-laws have planned a ski trip to Durango, Colorado, to celebrate the joyous occasion. There is planning, packing and excitement. Jay Paul's wife, Cindy, and her parents enjoy excursions like this. They have readied themselves many times in the past. Cindy's parents own a local business. Jay and Cindy met while she was attending Texas Wesleyan University. Jay is Gene Paul's big brother, 14 years his senior, at age 27. Gene is not going on the trip. The couple's 7-year-old son, Robby, and toddler daughter, Jennifer, stayed behind as well.

The four passengers board a private airplane. It's wheels up, and Cindy's dad is ready to pilot his plane. The route is a familiar one. He has made the trip many times. His passengers have included family and friends. On average, it takes about 3.5 hours to make the 700-mile trip. The trip starts out like the others. Then bad weather ensues, and the unthinkable happens. A search is organized for the lost plane. Family and friends hold on to their faith and hope.

Hope soon begins to fade. The outcome is not good. The news is delivered that the passengers perished when the plane crashed before reaching its destination.

The loss was gripping, and the memory of that fateful day and the loved ones lost lingers for those who were old enough to understand. For the two young children, now left without parents and grandparents on their mother's side of the family, the memory of those lost is shadowy for Robby and nonexistent for Jennifer.

Life had other changes in store for Gene, Robby and Jennifer. The children, who were now wards of the state, were adopted and raised by Gene's parents. To him, they were his brother and sister, which is how they all grew up referring to each other. "Jennifer only knows my parents as her mom and dad," stated Gene.

Life moved on for the combined family; the three children grew up and began lives of their own.

*Pictured above: Jennifer, Patty and Gene.*

## Being open

Move forward 30-something years, Gene is working for the Trinity River Authority as its training coordinator. Life is good. He felt at times that he was led to TRA; he did not have an explanation for the feeling. He enjoys a work culture that allows him to grow, be a part of something rewarding, and he enjoys the support of an organization that subscribes to working as a team. But he still felt an oddness that cropped up every now and then.

Two years go by. As he regularly did, Gene was conducting a training class at Central Regional Wastewater System. Now for the irregular. Patty Cleveland, assistant northern region manager of planning and development pulled him aside. She said, "I've been meaning to ask you a question. Are you related to a Jay Paul?" He was really taken aback by the question, and the color drained from his face. His response to her was "Well, dead or alive?" He did not know why that came out. Then she said, "unfortunately dead." Gene was stunned. "He was my brother," Gene said through tears. The emotions of the past and future were present. Gene and Patty shared tears at CRWS.

## Past remembrances

Patty could not explain why she had never asked Gene that question. She also could not explain what compelled her to leave a meeting and follow him that day. "Gene walked by, and I looked out and saw him and thought for some reason or another about the name Paul," recalled Patty.

A flood of memories rose to the surface when Gene asked Patty how she knew Jay. "I am sorry to say that your brother Jay Paul was killed in a plane crash with a close friend of mine, Cindy, and her parents," Patty responded. The air

was sucked out of the room; they were speechless. More emotions rose to the surface.

When they regrouped, Patty began to tell her story. She grew up with Cindy and knew her from church. Cindy was a year older. Growing up they saw each other at camp and other functions. They became friends; their families knew each other, too. Life marched on for both girls.

And then, one day after Patty had gone off to college, Cindy showed up on the campus of Texas Wesleyan. She was enrolled and attending college there. They reconnected as friends. Cindy was a single mother at the time.

"I also got to know young Robby," said Patty. "There were times when we would pick him up and go get something to eat." Patty shared that Robby liked to sing the song *Hit the Road Jack* by Ray Charles.

Patty also recalled how one New Year's Day she was asked to join Cindy and her parents for a ski trip. "Her dad's plane was kept in Arlington. I went with them on that plane, and we went skiing and came back."

"For about a year, Cindy and I were in the same class; the next year it was a couple of classes, and we began studying together," remembers Patty. She shared that she was there when Cindy met Jay. "I don't think he was a student at the college," Patty said with uncertainty. She was sure, though, that his best friend was a student there. Patty also remembered that Jay and Cindy met each other in the student union building.

Patty reminisced that it did not seem to take long for love to form between his brother and Cindy. "They began dating, and soon it seemed they were

married. I remember that Robby was in the wedding, and then they moved to Memphis," said Patty. "We did our best to stay connected. I remember when she had Jennifer, and I remember seeing Jennifer as a baby." Patty tried to keep tabs on her friend by catching up on her goings-on whenever she ran into Cindy's parents.

Once again, the friends lost touch. This time it would be permanent.

Patty described with sadness the day she learned that they would never see each other again. She remembers that she was working in the lab at CRWS when she got a call from a church member. The airplane carrying Cindy, Jay and her parents was lost, and a search party was looking for signs of the plane and its passengers. "It wasn't too long after that I learned the plane and their bodies had been found," said Patty.

Gene continued to listen as Patty shared her intimate memories of that sad day. Tears welled. They comforted each other.

Patty said that the loss of Cindy, her family and Jay was compounded because they had lost touch with each other. It left a void that she thought would never be filled. She had no other real connection to tap into for information about what happened to the children. She often wondered how Robby and Jennifer were doing. What happened to them? How did they look? She had resigned herself to never knowing answers to her questions.

She told Gene that even though his name struck her as oddly familiar, she did not give it much thought. She also clung to not noticing any physical resemblance to the Jay Paul her friend married.

"I never saw any familiar features or characteristics between Gene and Jay. I thought, if anything, he might be a cousin," she said. Patty also was dealing with how she would react if he turned out to be more than a cousin. The possibility gave her a gut-wrenching feeling.

"I was compelled beyond reason that day to confront a fellow TRA staff member, with fear and uncertainly looming in my heart and mind," Patty declared.

"I was elated when I learned that he was Jay's brother."

Patty and Gene are glad that she was compelled.

"It was not about me, the loss, or mine and my brother's relationship," recounts Gene. "But I knew this was a potential connection for Robby and Jennifer. I was excited about the possibility for them to get to know someone who knew their mom and her family."

### Life's connections

Gene told Patty that Cindy's daughter lived in Hurst and asked if she would be willing to meet her.

"Yes!" exclaimed Patty.

He told Patty that Jennifer is a stay-at-home-mom with three little ones to watch after.

They planned a lunch meeting. Robby, who now lives in Austin, was not able to make the meeting.

The three of them were anxious.

Tears, hugs, and memories characterize the lunch.

"What can you tell me about my mother?" Jennifer asked Patty.

"Your mother enjoyed skiing; she loved music; she was stubborn, strong willed and very talkative," Patty told Jennifer. "She loved her children, was very smart, and she was a good debater."

The list of questions also included: What were her likes? How did she meet my dad? Was she tall?

Gene sat in amazement. It was awesome that Jennifer was meeting someone who knew her mother. With Patty in her life, she had a past connection and a way to learn things about her mother that she could share with her children.

Jennifer and Patty shared photos of Cindy. Gene looked on. Patty had some of Cindy as a junior camp counselor, church

camp pictures and her high school senior picture, in Patty's high school annual. Jennifer shared photos of her children.

"I see Cindy in her daughter," Patty said warmly. "Cindy would be proud of who her daughter has grown up to be. She is a good family role model and a good citizen."

Both women are happy for this opportunity.

"Meeting Patty was such a blessing to me," said Jennifer. "To know that my mom is still loved and remembered by her friends 36 years after her death speaks highly of the person she was and the friendships she had."

Jennifer said she loved hearing Patty describe her mom and special things about her personality. She was delighted that many of the things Patty mentioned are traits that she and her children inherited.

"Patty gave me an incredible gift by simply telling me her memories and love for my mom. I am forever grateful," Jennifer said.

Gene, Patty and Jennifer's coming together was serendipitous.

They all agreed that the whole experience has been a gift and that it's not about closure but about new beginnings and future possibilities. They all have been in touch and hope to plan another meeting that may include Jennifer's brother.

The gift of happenstance keeps giving. Patty helped Jennifer connect through Facebook to others who knew her mother.



*Jennifer's daughter, Kate Ryan, joined her when she stopped by TRA.*

# A partnership for watershed protection

The Trinity River Authority recently teamed up with the cities of Arlington, Burleson, Joshua, Crowley, Forest Hill, Everman, Cross Timber, Briar Oaks, Rendon (a census-designated place in Tarrant County) and Tarrant and Johnson counties to address water quality concerns related to Lake Arlington.

“For some time, there had been a concern about the rate at which the lake was developing and the impact that development might have in the future,” said Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA’s manager of planning and environmental services. Through the development of a Lake Arlington master plan, the city and county representatives hoped to formulate ways to guide future development and protect the water quality of Lake Arlington.

Around 2012, the state did an assessment of the lake’s water quality parameters and tested them against state standards. The results showed that portions of Village Creek, which was impounded to create Lake Arlington, did not meet the criteria for bacteria, specifically, E.coli. That got the lake placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Water Act, section 303 (d) list, which denotes a water quality problem.

#### *On the EPA website:*

*The term “303(d) list” is short for the list of impaired and threatened waters (stream/river segments, lakes) that the Clean Water Act requires all states to submit for EPA approval every two years on even-numbered years. The states identify all waters where required pollution controls are not sufficient to attain or maintain applicable water quality standards, and establish priorities for development of TMDLs, which is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that load among the various sources of that pollutant.*

The master plan’s stakeholders began looking for solutions. They agreed to apply for a federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant, which is awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The stakeholders invited TRA to partner with them in applying for the grant, which requires a 40 percent match.

Following a competitive process, the partners were notified by TCEQ that the EPA had selected the project to receive a 319 grant.

The grant award is approximately \$475,000 with the match, which will be provided by the city of Arlington. The grant will cover a three-year period.

#### *On the EPA website:*

*The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Section 319 addresses the need for greater federal leadership to help focus state and local nonpoint source efforts. Under Section 319, states, territories and tribes receive grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.*



The 319 grant will be used to develop a watershed protection plan, which can be used in lieu of a TMDL for the 319 listing. “The benefit of a watershed protection plan is that the partners can take a holistic approach and look for anything that can affect the water quality of the reservoir, not just E. coli,” noted Clingenpeel. “This approach also will add the additional benefit of expanding and continuing the holistic scope of the master plan,” he noted.

A full-time watershed coordinator (environmental scientist) will be hired to develop the plan and report findings and results to the partners. TRA will contribute a significant amount of labor, staff time and expertise. Tarleton State University staff also may be involved to add expertise about developing watershed protection plans and TMDLs.

The primary grant deliverable will be the watershed protection plan, which will attempt to identify sources of E.coli, provide a detailed SWOT model, based on the watershed, and quantify all sources of current and potential contamination. It also will identify and estimate the cost of different solutions.

At the end of the grant process, specific best management practices will have been identified that can be used to positively affect the watershed by identifying problems and science-based solutions. Lessons learned may be applicable to other watersheds that are facing similar water quality issues.

The next step will be to seek implementation dollars.

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James Williams, GO  
Steven Wilson, CRWS  
Michael Wilson, LRF  
Quintin Winters, CRWS  
Christa Wood, SRSS  
David Woodcock, GO  
Brandon Wooddell, CRWS  
Clifford Woods, DCRWS  
Michael Woolsey, CRWS  
James Wright, GO  
Hong Wu, GO  
Graciela Yielding, GO  
Michael Young, CRWS  
Jacob Young, LLP  
Elvis Young, TCWSP  
Silvia Zavala, CRWS

*Current as of Jan. 9, 2015*



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Cloise Miller, CRWS  
Michael Minkley, TMC  
David Monroe, CRWS  
Marcus Montbriand, CRWS  
Jennifer Moore, CRWS  
Andrew Moore, DCRWS  
Michael Moore, TMC  
Bernard Moozhayil, CRWS  
Christian Morales, CRWS  
J. Moreno Villa Gomez,  
TCWSP  
Timmy Morgan, CSG  
Jimmie Morgan, CRWS  
Matthew Moriak, DCRWS  
Douglas Morris, LLP  
Kristie Munoz, LLP

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## Retreating to the possibilities

In late October, the Trinity River Authority held a retreat for its board of directors tied to its 2013-2018 strategic plan. The retreat engaged the board across a range of key policy issues for the purpose of identifying high-priority challenges, issues and strategic initiatives that TRA will address in the near to mid-term. Staff presentations for the retreat included informational briefings and concurrent sessions that covered topics such as business opportunities, financial transparency, communications, human resources and future opportunities.



Board members and staff participated in a house-of-cards exercise to illustrate the need for a plan and the right tools to execute it. The activity was an excellent icebreaker and segue to the presentations prepared for the retreat.

## Appreciated for what comes naturally



Peggy English and Lee Shaffer, who work in administration at Central Regional Wastewater System, wanted to say a special thank-you to Malcolm “Evert” Cowdin, maintenance mechanic II, and here’s why:

For years now, every morning when Evert arrives at work he takes their ice chest, gets ice and brings it back to the coffee bar area. When the office started using a refillable water cooler, he realized the water bottles were too heavy for them to carry. He goes by regularly, checks their water coolers and refills them when they get empty. For his birthday on Oct. 22, they celebrated his birthday, as planned, gave him a special certificate of appreciation and bought his lunch.

“Most importantly we wanted to express our sincere thanks to him for always thinking of us,” remarked English and Shaffer. “He liked everything, but we think he especially liked his certificate of appreciation!”

Pictured: Lynn Hall-Alley, JoAnn Clapper, Malcolm Evert Cowdin, Peggy English, Elaine Sambel, Lee Shaffer and Sally Snyder.

## Recognizing CRWS military veterans



Pictured:

**Richard Norris**, Army, 6 years

**Bruce Austin**, Navy, 4 years

**Phillip Skelly**, Army & the Army National Guard, 11 years

**Ed Harris**, Navy, 23 years

**C.J. Patton**, Navy, 4 years

**Will Fluary**, Army, 3 years

**Carl Huckleberry**, Navy, 12 years

**Michael Moore** (TMCRWS), Army, 6 years

**Paul Carter**, Navy, 6 years

**Malcolm Evert Cowdin**, Texas State Guard Reserve Corps, 15 years

**Michael Welch**, Air Force, 11 years

**Jonathan Townsend**, Marines, 9 years

**Jimmy Hines**, Navy, 6 years

Not pictured:

**Rudy Hinkle**, Marines, 4 years

**Gene Brownlow**, Air Force, 20 years

**Omar Maisonet**, Navy, 11 years

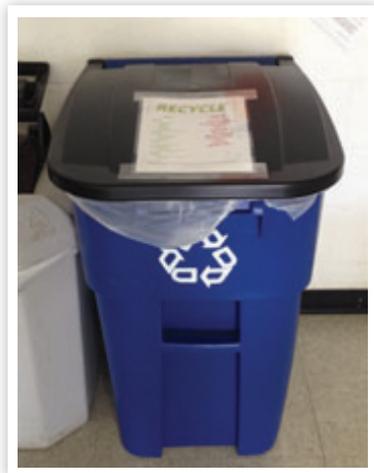
**James Thomas**, Marine & Marine Reserves, 3 years

**Steve Conway**, Army, 3 years active and 3 years inactive

**Jay Bowen**, Coast Guard, 4 years

**Brad Beeching** (DCRWS), Army, 4 years

## CRWS is recycling, *indoors and out*



At CRWS, employees called recyclable champions spearhead the leadership for its recycling program. They are responsible for encouraging employee participation, monitoring the bins to make sure waste isn't accidentally thrown in and making sure that the recyclables make it from the bins to the dumpster. News about their program has been shared through an email from Bill Tatum,

CRWS project manager, and through their safety newsletter. Plans also are in the works for a short video.

Each inside recyclable bin has an assigned champion to take it to the dumpster.

The group developed questions and answers about their program that may be useful to others considering a recycling program.

### Why recycle?

Recycling is an easy way to strengthen the CRWS commitment to environmental stewardship. In this case, the benefits associated with recycling far outweigh the cost of the service.

### What can be recycled?

**Plastics** – plastic bags, shrink-wrap, any plastic labeled 1-7

**Glass** – bottles of any color are acceptable

**Paper** – paperboard, phonebooks, magazines, office paper, shredded paper

**Metal** – aluminum cans, tin and steel containers

**Cardboard** – clean/dry old corrugated cardboard, waxed cardboard

### What can't be recycled?

No food waste (or material contaminated by food), toilet tissue, ceramic products, electronics, Styrofoam, or grass clippings

### What about documents that contain sensitive information?

Documents that contain sensitive information should never be thrown away or recycled intact. If the documents

cannot be easily shredded, they should be delivered to the maintenance tool crib where they will be stored. They will be destroyed later.

Sensitive information may include (but is not limited to) project drawings, specifications, and procedures. Use good judgment when deciding if a document contains sensitive information, and ask for clarification if needed.

### Where are the indoor collection areas?

Blue mobile recycling containers are located throughout the CRWS facility. They have flyers with allowable materials posted on the lid. They are located in maintenance, solids, metering, lab, E&E, purchasing and administration.

Other bins are being used for recyclables as well. A bin is for 'RECYCLABLES ONLY' if it is BLUE and/or has the recycling EMBLEM on it. Trash should never be thrown into these bins.

### How are recyclables collected?

In order to quickly implement the recycling initiative, members of the recycling committee agreed to police the indoor collection areas and take the bins to the outside dumpsters when they get full.

### Where are the outdoor collection areas?

There are two GREEN recyclables-only dumpsters. One is in front of the warehouse receiving office. The other is located in the parking lot that is southeast of the administration building.

### What measures have been taken to eliminate trash contamination?

Signs that say RECYCLABLES ONLY are attached to the side doors of the dumpster.

For more information about CRWS' recycling initiative, contact Mark Reeves at [reevesm@trinityra.org](mailto:reevesm@trinityra.org).



## TRA's Waste Warriors ready to meet the challenge

Esprit de corps tops the list in conversations about the Trinity River Authority's Operations teams. The Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System Waste Warriors is the newest team, joining TRA's multi-award-winning CREWSers from Central Regional Wastewater System.

The Waste Warriors' first competition was last April at Texas Water 2014 in Dallas. The team waited patiently to showcase their skills, originally only planning to enter two to three events. A team from Austin dropped out, and the Warriors were able to compete in Division 2 in all five events. Competing against seasoned teams, they earned second place overall, and second place in the lab and maintenance competitions. "What I learned with this opportunity is that we all have the ability to be taught things," commented Team Captain Andrew Moore, sr. operator. "It is up to us to grasp knowledge from more seasoned operators, retain that knowledge and improve ourselves so that we can pass on knowledge."

Winning at Texas Water opened the door for the team to compete nationally. Last October, they traveled to New Orleans for WEFTEC 2014, the Water Environment Federation's national conference. To help prepare for this event, team member, Matthew Moriak, attended a



competition hosted by New Jersey called the Spring Fling Operations Challenge 2014. Moriak, a Dallas Water Utilities' employee and two CREWSers earned a third-place Division 1 process control win in New Jersey.

When they moved on to WEFTEC, the DCRWS' team competed against 33 other Division 2 teams and finished 15th overall. "At nationals, my favorite part was the look in the eyes of guys who have been doing this for years; it is the look that we, as a team, strive for," said team member Clifford Woods.

DCRWS Project Manager John Bennett is proud of his facility's team. Bennett stated that as a former operations challenge competitor, with the CREWSers, he understands what is involved. "It takes commitment, and I am very proud of the support that all members of the facility have demonstrated in helping these guys practice and prepare," explained Bennett. The team's commitment also made an impression on the chair of Texas' competitions.

"It was a real pleasure working with these four men. They stepped up to the plate and were amazing ambassadors at the national competition," remarked Jeff Sober, chair of Texas' competitions. "They proved to be tough competition in their first year out of the gate. The Water Environment Association of Texas is proud of their leadership and accomplishments."

Up next: Texas Water 2015 in Corpus Christi, Texas, in April.

### TRA's Waste Warriors team:

Andrew Moore, senior operator, captain  
Clifford Woods, operator II  
Matthew Moriak, operator I  
Andrew Esquibel, maintenance mechanic II



## Employee appreciation events



Southern Region

The Trinity River Authority's General Manager Kevin Ward had an opportunity to personally thank employees at two separate events. The Southern Region offices held their event on Dec. 9. Fog nearly prevented Ward and his team from making the trip, but patience and better weather prevailed. The Northern Region event was held on Dec. 12.



Northern Region

**Tyler Mott**, TCWSP operator II, received his C surface water license.

**Carlos DelaCruz**, TCWSP maintenance mechanic chief, received his C surface water license.

**Kevin Condra**, TCWSP maintenance mechanic II, received his C surface water license.

**Hector Garcia**, TCWSP maintenance mechanic II, received his C surface water license.

**Kevin Burks**, TCWSP O&M chief, received his B surface water license.

**Misty Barnett**, TCRWSS operator I, received her D water license.

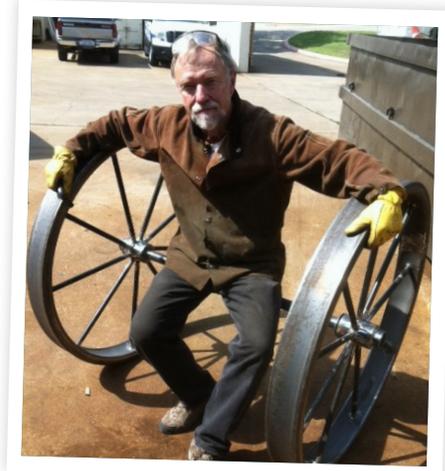


**David Holquin**, electrical and electronics division chief at CRWS, received his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in Applied Technology and Performance Improvement from the University of North Texas on Aug. 9, 2014.



**Connie Jones**, GO executive secretary, and husband, **Gary**, celebrated 40 years of marriage on Oct. 18. Their son, **Timothy D. Jones**, logistics support, returned on Dec. 5 from a 10-month deployment on the USS O'Kane (DDG-77). He is stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI.

**Robertus van der Wege**, husband of **Sherri van der Wege**, senior engineer for planning and development, was one of 50 emerging artists selected by the city of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program in November for public art commission work and project involvement.



**Brooke Munoz**, daughter of **Kristie Munoz**, LLP office coordinator, competed in the TAAF State Track and Field meet in College Station, Texas. She finished third in the long jump, making her the first female athlete from the city of Conroe to ever medal at the state games. As a result, she received the Female Athlete of the Year award from the city of Conroe in September. In October, **Munoz** and her daughter also participated in the Dye for Dogs run in New Waverly, Texas.





**Howard S. Slobodin**, general counsel, and his wife, Nikki, celebrated the birth of their son, Henry, on Oct. 13.



The CRWS metering department has now become the **Collection System Group, CSG**, as of Dec. 1. Their official logo "TRAPS" embodies the team's values: Teamwork, Reliability, Accuracy, Professionalism and Safety. The logo and mascot aim to continue to raise the bar within the Trinity River Authority community by lifting moral and enthusiasm.

Pictured: **James Thomas, Michael S. Miller, Jeffrey Ramsey, Cameron Smith, Christopher Gonzales, Omar Maisonet**, and **Nicholas Padilla**.

**Basilio M. Chavez**, CRWS maintenance mechanic chief, and daughter, **Summer Lily**, ran Fort Worth's Backlight Run in November.

**Bonnie Crawford**, TCWSP senior secretary, received her diving certificate and plans to go open-water diving in the Caribbean at the fine age of 62.



**Maximiliano Ramirez**, son of **Marco Ramirez**, engineer for planning and development, a freshman at Mansfield High School was selected for the cross-country varsity team. Max is in the top 60 runners statewide and is the fourth fastest runner on his team.



TRA board member, at large, **John W. Jenkins** of Hankamer, Texas, and his family welcomed grandson, Jack Walker Jenkins, born Dec. 31. Jack weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces. His parents are **Justin Jenkins** and **Mattie Edwards**.

**Anthony Chavarria**, CSG maintenance mechanic chief, and his family enjoyed a trip to St. Louis to see the Dallas Cowboys and St. Louis Cardinals game in September.



**Run, runners, run!**

General Manager **Kevin Ward**, Northern Region Manager **Fiona Allen**, and Planning and Environmental Services Manager **Glenn Clingenpeel** competed in the relay portion of the 2014 MetroPCS Dallas Marathon. PES Special Studies and Assessments Manager **Webster Mangham** competed in the half marathon. **Craig Mackey**, who stood in for his wife, **Alison**, TRA's chief financial officer, joined them. Kudos also goes to a CRWS' team called H50. Their Dallas Marathon team included **Raudel Juarez, Dale Burrow, Mark Reeves, Rachel Amaro**, and team member **George Garcia** who works at TRA's Tarrant County Water Supply Project.



**Craig Mackey**, husband of TRA's Chief Financial Officer **Alison Mackey**, Northern Region Manager **Fiona Allen**, General Manager **Kevin Ward** and PES Manager **Glenn Clingenpeel**.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:****40 YEARS**

Mike Knight, water quality supervisor, LLP

**35 YEARS**

Edmund Mach, manager, TMCRRWS

**30 YEARS**

Marci Kilgore, buyer, CRWS

**25 YEARS**

Mark Waters, manager, LLP

**20 YEARS**

Martin Madaras, maintenance mechanic senior, TMCRRWS

**15 YEARS**

Miguel Chavez, operator I, CRWS

Willie Cobb, maintenance mechanic senior, CRWS

Rosario Saldivar, operator II, DCRWS

Shalyn Shourds, biologist senior, CRWS

Clancy McKernan, maintenance mechanic senior, CRWS

Alexander Teboh, electrician senior, CRWS

**10 YEARS**

Jennifer Whitaker, lab supervisor, CRWS

Sam Thomas, clerk/messenger, GO

Sally Snyder, secretary senior, CRWS

David Johnson, inspector II, CSS

Carlos DelaCruz, maintenance mechanic chief, TCWSP

**5 YEARS**

Thomas Baker, maintenance mechanic II, TMCRRWS

Jonathan O'Bryant, operator II, CRWS

Belen Campos, clerk, CSS

Eric Jones, field technician, CRWS

Jeff Blankenship, maintenance mechanic II, LLP

**3 YEARS**

Todd Bacon, inspector II, CSS

Jesse Reed, inspector II, CSS

Jonathan Sivernell, inspector II, CSS

Turk Gibson, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS

Melissa Saniuk, senior accountant, GO

Jesus Gomez-Longoria, maintenance mechanic I, GO

Patrick Wagnon, maintenance mechanic I, DCRWS

Lucas Janiszewski, biologist, CRWS

Debra Davis, lab technician II, CRWS

Christa Wood, accounting clerk, SRSS

Matthew Quate, operator II, CRWS

Mark Reeves, engineer maintenance I, CRWS

Robert Sweet, park ranger senior, LRF

Stacie Dowell, paralegal, GO

**WELCOME TO THESE NEW HIRES:****CRWS**

Edward Harris, maintenance mechanic II

Isidro Cruz, operator I

Christian Morales, operator I

Richard Norris, electrician I

Michael Welch, electronic technician II

**CSG**

Kevin Holmes, collection systems technician I

**DCRWS**

David Macelvaine, electronics technician senior

**GO**

Kelly Davis, engineer planning and development

Steve Hunt, information technology support technician

**LLP**

Chad Holton, land/emergency management coordinator

**TCWSP**

Kyle Bussinger, operator I

Ronald Newman, operator I

Ian Skeen, operator I

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION:****CRWS**

Cathy Henderson-Sieger, quality assurance and security coordinator

Raudel Juarez, maintenance mechanic chief

Erik Sanders, maintenance mechanic senior

Mark Reeves, engineer maintenance I

**CSG**

Jorge Chaheine, interceptor systems specialist

**HRWSS**

Keaton Ogden, operator I

**TCWSP**

Mark Carter, operator II

Tyler Mott, operator II

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