



*Building a Better World Through Partnerships*

December, 2002

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chairman

Marshall Holybee

### Vice Chairman

Kenneth Finster  
Calhoun County

### Secretary/Treasurer

Darrell Blaschke  
Karnes County

### Directors

Frank Montez-Bee  
Kenneth Finster-Calhoun  
Wallace Beck -DeWitt  
Lawrence Friedrich-  
Fayette  
Linda Koehler-Goliad  
David Kuntschik-  
Gonzales  
Buddy Remmers-Gonzales  
Larry Deyton-Jackson  
Darrell Blaschke-Karnes  
Daniel Rother-Lavaca  
Richard Lee-Live Oak  
Larry L. Miles-McMullen  
Richard Martinez-Refugio  
Gordon Porter-San Patricio  
Chris Rivera-Victoria  
Hernan Jaso-at large  
Marshall Holybee-at large

### Coordinator

Jerry Pearce  
Executive Assistant  
Joyce May  
Administrative Assistant  
Mary L. Green

*Have a Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!*



### OFFICE LOCATION:

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The next scheduled meeting  
for the De-Go-La Board of  
Directors : Thursday, Febru-  
ary 6, 2003, 9:30 a.m. in  
Goliad at the Blue Quail Deli.

# ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of sponsorship for De-Go-La was a SUCCESS!!!! The meeting was held in Port O'Connor Texas at the community center.

Henry Pongratz, Vice President for the Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce, welcomed us to Port O'Connor (POC) and thanked us for using their facility. The community center was a project of De-Go-La during Rindle Wilson's' service as coordinator. Some of the funding for the community center came through De-Go-La and the rest came from the fund-raising efforts of the citizens of POC. After one year and twenty-two days the community was using the center.

Charlie Stone, former county judge of Refugio County, who is now employed with the Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), provided a presentation to attendees. Mr. Stone informed the group of programs offered by the new agency that was created during the last session of the legislature. Topics included rural healthcare initiatives, community development block grants and countywide fire protection. Mr. Stone also informed the group that ORCA plans to eventually locate a portion of its personnel in more rural locations in order to be more accessible to the rural communities they serve.

The RC&D Council also recognized several individuals for their service to the organization. Frank Montez, representing Bee County, was recognized with an award for providing extra effort to help the council achieve its' goals. Commissioners Richard Martinez (Refugio Co.) and Gordon Porter (San Patricio Co.) were both recognized for their dedicated service to the council. Mr. Heinie Bade of Cuero was also recognized with a Lifetime Service Award. Mr. Bade was involved in the creation of De-Go-La RC&D back in 1966 and was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors when the RC&D area was funded in 1973. Mr. Bade was also recognized for providing a total of 36 years of service and support to the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

In other action, the Council elected officers to serve for the next year. Marshall Holybee, of Bayside, was elected as Chairman. Kenneth Finster, from Seadrift, was selected to serve as Vice-Chairman. Darrell Blaschke, of Kenedy, was re-elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the organization.

**DE-GO-LA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the RC&D area is to provide leadership and coordination,  
to provide a quality life and a quality environment for people living in  
rural communities**

# ANNUAL MEETING



Charlie Stone (standing) with ORCA  
Seated from left to right: Henry Pongratz, Marshall Holybee, Kenneth Finster, Joyce May and Darrell Blaschke



From left to right:  
Richard Martinez, Gordon Porter and Frank Montez



Frieda and Heinie Bade

**Website**

De-Go-La will soon have its' own website. It will be on line after the New Year. Plans are to have information available that is useful and informative for the communities we serve. The council will also consider hosting websites for non-profit organizations and communities that are interested. More information to come.



**HELPFUL WEBSITES**  
Office of Rural Community Affairs: [www.orca.state.tx.us](http://www.orca.state.tx.us)  
National Environmental Services Center: [www.ncsc.wvu.edu](http://www.ncsc.wvu.edu)  
Texas Rural Partners: [www.trdc.org](http://www.trdc.org)  
Texas Department of Agriculture: [www.agr.stste.tx.us](http://www.agr.stste.tx.us)  
Secretary of the State of Texas: [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

**De-Go-La RC&D**  
**568 Big Bend Drive**  
**Victoria, Texas 77904**



**RC&D "Making  
Things Happen"**

### **Jerry's Corner**

It's been another great year for the De-Go-La RC&D Council. We have started many new projects that promise to benefit the citizens in our area. Most noteworthy of these are the two Resource Team visits we sponsored jointly with the Texas Rural Development Council (TRDC). The Calhoun Team visit took place in January 2002 and involved 15 team members for 3 days. The Live Oak Team visit took place in May and involved one team of 5 members. Both team visits were well received by the community and received a great deal of input from citizens. These were both great efforts and produced two detailed reports that were sent back to the communities visited. Follow-up on these reports has produced many new projects in the communities

The council instituted a matching grant program and awarded \$4,700.00 to local organizations for such projects as conservation education, fire fighting equipment, and economic development. The program was so well received that the council is planning to do it again this next year.

A contract was signed with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program to restore 100 acres of riparian habitat in Refugio and San Patricio Counties. Producers entering the program also receive help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and TX Parks and Wildlife Department to develop and implement habitat restoration plans. This is another good example of RC&D bringing together partnerships to accomplish a goal.

While we accomplished many good things this past year, we cannot rest on these past accomplishments. There are many more challenges ahead. The RC&D area has expanded to include Nueces County and Corpus Christi. This promises many more opportunities to make partnerships that will work for the betterment of all. I am looking forward to the coming year and the many exciting things in store including the National Association of RC&Ds National Conference to be held in San Antonio in July 2003. Hope to see many of you there.