



Building a Better World Through Partnerships

OCTOBER, 2001

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Rep. Judy Hawley, Sen. Judith Zaffirini, Field Rep. William Moreno and 2nd V.P. Marshall Holybee.

On August 28th De-Go-La RC&D hosted a Legislative Update. Guest speakers were William Moreno, field representative from Congressman Ruben Hinojosa's office, (dist. 15), State Senator Judith Zaffirini (dist. 21), and Judy Hawley (dist. 31). Each speaker addressed issues which are concerns for rural communities such as: legislative influence, rural health care

healthcare, and nature tourism. There were 33 people in attendance. Judy Hawley went over House Bill 7. She called it a landmark piece of legislation, which will incorporate a de-centralized rural health incentive agency. Judith Zaffirini covered the issue of re-districting, she brought to the attendees attention the effects it will have on rural communities and the amount of influ-

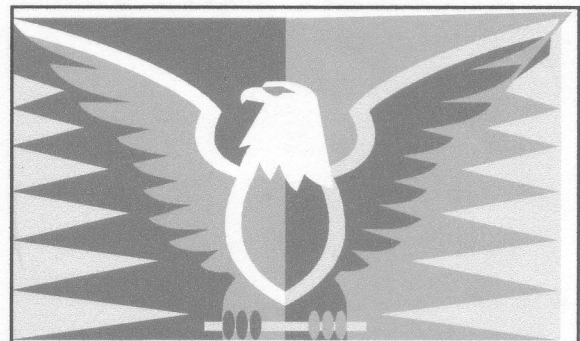
Rural communities will have in the Legislature. William Moreno addressed such subjects as NAFTA and the I-69 corridor. He also covered topics relating to rural healthcare and rural infrastructure.

The Legislative Update was a success. De-Go-La would like to thank the public officials whom participated.

(more photos on page 2)

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The meeting of the 77th Texas Legislature which adjourned on May 28th enacted a variety of environmental laws.

Chief among them was House Bill 2912 which will continue the missions and programs of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for another 12 years. This bill will establish new responsi-

bilities and requires the TNRCC to form new policies for compliance and enforcement of issues. Also passed was Senate Bill 5, the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan. This bill approves a variety of programs designed to cut pollution created by cars, trucks, and diesel construction equipment.

Funding for SB 5 will come from surcharges on the sale and lease of construction equipment and heavy diesel trucks, surcharges on heavy truck registrations, higher inspection fees for commercial vehicles and increased registration fees for vehicles new to Texas. SB 5 also established the

Diesel Emissions Reduction Incentive Program. This program provides grants to offset the incremental costs of projects that reduce air pollution from heavy trucks and construction equipment. Reauthorized and extended was the Petroleum and Storage Tank Remediation Program. The TNRCC has begun work on the implementation of these and other Bills.



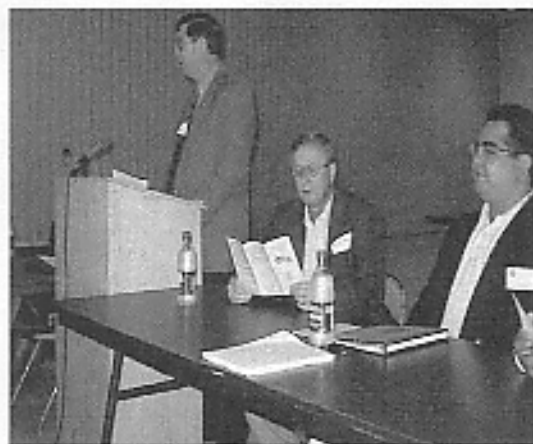
Senator Judith Zaffirini and William Moreno visit with participants at the Legislative Update.



Registration at the Legislative Update



Judy Hawley (left) looks on as Judith Zaffirini addresses the crowd.



Pictured left to right are Marshall Holybee, 2nd Vice Pres. of TX RC&D's, Ken Chesshir, Mayor of Beeville and William Moreno, Field Representative for Congressman Rubén Hinojosa.



From left to right: Judy Hawley, Marshall Holybee, Judith Zaffirini and William Moreno.



Gordon Porter who serves on the Board of Directors for De-Go-La RC&D with Nina Trevino, County Commissioner for San Patricio County.

A WORD FROM OUR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: MARSHALL HOLYBEE

As we move toward the end of the year a lot has happened. The events of September 11th have certainly effected us all in some way.

It has been a busy year for us in the Texas Legislature. We were not able to tag on to the Texas Dept. of Agriculture as we

had planned, but the passing of House Bill 7 will give us opportunities to work on more projects and receive more funding for them. As of this time I do not have the names of the nine people on that board, but they should be appointed soon. The U.S./Mexico RC&D Border Coa-

lition meeting that was held in Tucson Arizona on Sept. 27-29 was postponed due to the events of Sept. 11. It will be held at a later date. Hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting on October 6.

RC&D PROJECTS THROUGHOUT TEXAS

On January 4, 2001 Dan Glickman, Agriculture Secretary, appointed 33 new areas in 25 states as RC&D areas. One of the 33 is the Chihuahuan Desert RC&D which covers 6 counties stretching from the Big Bend National Park to the New Mexico border. Mark Do-

net is the coordinator for Chihuahuan Desert RC&D. Thus far Chihuahuan Desert RC&D has sponsored a Resource Team and other community improvement projects in their area of service. Big 8 RC&D, in cooperation with The Texas Dry Hydrant Com-

mittee assisted in a workshop to update participants of the progress and regulation changes in this field of service. De-Go-La RC&D planned to host a Resource Team for Calhoun Co. In wake of terrorists attacks this was canceled to a later date.


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




Bright Ideas!!!!!!!

In Ft. Mitchell, KY, during the 79th annual convention of the Izaak Walton League, the League partnered with the Drawbridge Inn to reduce waste. The inn offered guests three ways to reduce waste.

- 1) Hanging out the "Do not disturb" sign meant no housekeeping was needed.
- 2) By hanging the Leagues logo on the door  "Limited service" would be given. This meant the staff would clean the room, but only replace linens left on the floor.
- 3) If guests did nothing, full service was given.



In doing this the Inn saved:
2446 gallons of water = to enough water for 244 households for one day.
25 kilowatts of electricity = to the daily energy use of one household and the source of 7 pounds of air pollution.

Enough cubic feet of natural gas to operate the machines and 
17 pounds of laundry detergent.

Efforts to cut resource use by hotels is a growing movement. Lodging is the 2nd largest employer and the 4th most intensive user of energy in the U.S. commercial sector.

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



RC&D "Making
Things Happen"



The De-Go-La RC&D Board of Directors meets quarterly to conduct business. Anyone wishing to attend these meetings are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Your input is appreciated!

Projects, etc. By: Jerry Pearce, Coordinator

This newsletter is going out prior to our annual report. We have completed another successful year in the De-Go-La RC&D. This is the first year I am aware that the Board of Directors has had the opportunity to participate in a strategic planning session. During the session that was held last October, Directors were able to set new direction for the RC&D area. Major areas that will be addressed include Legislative Influence, Telecommunications, Nature Tourism, Rural Healthcare, Workforce Training, Grant Writing, Business/Industry Development. These are all areas that are important to the future of the rural communities we serve. It is important that the sponsors and others be aware of these and look for opportunities where the RC&D can serve as a catalyst to make things happen.

I am excited by what I see as opportunities for partnerships across the area. We see partnerships forming in areas and with partners that have never really worked together. I firmly believe that there are even more opportunities out there if we will only look for them.