**FACT SHEET**

**Water Resources and Environmental Sources for Texans**

**WATER for WEST TEXANS!........is a Cooperative Program for District 6**
Texas AgriLife Extension Service -West Texas and the Texas Water Resources Institute

“AGUA ES VIDA!” or “WATER IS LIFE!”

by: Mike Mecke
Extension Water Programs Specialist, Texas Water Resources Institute
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University System

**West Texas!**  What a wild, scenic and yes, often desolate area it is.  And what a rugged, self-sustaining and pioneering-type of person lived there!  From the earliest paleo-Indians, Apaches, Comanche, Jumanos or Pueblos - to the Spanish and Mexican settlers, then to early Anglo ranchers – all learned to respect and preserve the rare and precious waters or perish.  West Texans never had to be taught or told that their water resources, whether flowing in the Pecos or Rio Grande Rivers, from a spring or lying below ground, were valuable – this is instinctive to people living and working in dry, arid climates and in deserts.  Truly here, “Water IS Life!”

**Sustainability** is such a popular and yet relevant term today, regarding water and other natural resources. While not called that, making sure your water, food, livestock forage and other vital resources were used wisely, with the future always in mind, was a daily way of life for these people who settled Texas.  Early Texans were as rugged and enduring as the land they loved and they cared for the land and the waters, while working for the future of their children and grandchildren.  *How can we who follow do less?*

Fortunately, we do not have to do it alone as early Texans often did.  We now have many agencies and organizations in our region and across Texas and the nation ready and willing to answer questions and help either on the internet, by phone or mail.

**Following is a listing of key water resource & environmental assistance/information resources for all Texans:**

### WATER RESOURCES

**WORLD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Water Page</th>
<th>United Nations Educational, Scientific &amp; Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Policy International, LTD.</td>
<td>Information, events, books, glossary, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide general water facts, educational, etc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unesco.org/water/">http://www.unesco.org/water/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNITED STATES**

**FEDERAL AGENCIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Geological Survey (USGS)</th>
<th>US - EPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Interior</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reston, VA</td>
<td>Office of Water (4101M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>888/ASK-USGS</td>
<td>1202 Pennsylvania Ave. NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, geology, maps, biology, educational services</td>
<td>Washington, DC 20460 - 202/564-0303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://water.usgs.gov">http://water.usgs.gov</a></td>
<td>Water, environmental issues, educational, wastewater American Indians, wetlands, groundwater, water science, watersheds, and pollution incidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.epa.gov/water/programs.html">http://www.epa.gov/water/programs.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Forest Service - USDA</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC – TX is in two regions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource management, research &amp; information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/">http://www.fs.fed.us/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
US Department of Agriculture
Attn: Conservation Communications Staff
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013
202/720-3210
Provide conservation assistance/information
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - HQ
Kingman Bldg. 7701
Telegraph Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22315
703/428-7389
Provide quality, responsive engineering services to nation: manage, construct dams and other water-related structures
http://www.usace.army.mil/

Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Water, agricultural, foods, etc. research

Water Wise: A Well of Facts
US Agency for International Development
http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0399/ijge/gj-07b.htm

National Science Foundation
Independent Federal agency promoting science through research, also science/engineering education pre-K through graduate school and beyond.
http://www.nsf.gov/index.jsp

NON-GOVT. GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Water Resources Association
P.O. Box 1626
Middleburg, VA 20118
540/687-8390 Very diverse membership. Hold water, riparian, watershed conferences
http://www.awra.org/

The Groundwater Foundation
P.O. Box 22558
Lincoln, NE 68542
1-800/858-4844
Professionals dedicated to groundwater protection, education and information
http://www.groundwater.org/

Digital Universe Foundation
“The vision of the Digital Universe is to organize the sum total of knowledge and make it available to everyone.”
http://www.dufoundation.org/

Smart Growth America
1707 L St NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20036
Support citizen-driven planning coordinating development, transportation, revitalization of older areas and preservation of open space and the environment.

American Water Works Association
6666 W. Quincy Ave.
Denver, CO 80235
303/794-7711 Primarily membership is from utilities: water, engineering, wastewater conferences
http://www.awwa.org/

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable
USGS Sponsored
Collaborative effort of all levels of government, citizens, Education, publications, youth activities, conferences
http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/swrr/

National Council for Science and the Environment
Dedicated to improving the scientific basis for environmental decision making.
1707 H Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006
3918 | Phone: 202-530-5810
http://ncseonline.org/
American Rivers  
1025 Vermont Ave NW, S – 720  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/347-9240  
Public info, assistance on protecting/restoring rivers  
http://www.americanrivers.org/  

Environmental Defense  
Partner with communities, businesses and governments to find solutions to water or other resource issues.  
1875 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20009 - 1-800-684-3322  
http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm  

WATER SCIENCE FOR SCHOOLS  
http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/  

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
TEXAS WATER MATTERS – a Texas partnership to provide the public and officials water info/education  
http://www.texaswatermatters.org/  

Water Environment Federation  
601 Wythe St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
1-800/666-0206  
Technical & educational group dedicated to protection of global water environment, specialists in waste water  
http://www.wef.org  

THE INFINITE POWER OF TEXAS –  
Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)  
Promotes renewable energy & sustainable building through demonstrations, education and hands-on instruction. Help w/financing and incentives.  
http://www.infinitepower.org/  

TEXAS – FEDERAL OFFICES  

US Geological Survey (USGS), Dept. of Interior  
5563 De Zavalla Rd., S-290  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
210/691-9200  
Data gathering, analysis, distribution of surface & ground-water statistics, lab analysis – quantity and quality, geology, maps and biology  
http://txwww.cr.usgs.gov/  

International Boundary & Water Commission – US  
Rio Grande Basin  
4171 North Mesa, C-100  
El Paso, TX 79902-1441  
1-800-262-8857  
Manages, with Mexico, Rio Grande River waters under treaties  
http://www.ibwc.state.gov/  

US - EPA - Region 6 Office  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water (4101M)  
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202  
214/665-6444  
Water quality issues and prob  
http://www.epa.gov/region6  

EPA – Border Liaison Office  
4050 Rio Bravo, Suite 100  
El Paso, TX 79902  
Border environmental and water issues, education  
http://www.epa.gov/r6border/index.htm  

US Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), Dept. of Interior  
700 E. San Antonio Ave. (Rio Grande Basin)  
El Paso, TX 79901-7020  
915/534-6300  
Manages municipal, industrial, irrigation from BoR dams  
http://www.uc.usbr.gov/contactus_uc/elpaso.html  

US Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. of Interior  
300 E. 8th St., Room 801 (TX–OK Area Office)  
Austin, TX 78701-3225  
512/916-5641  
Manages water projects in upper Rio Grande basin  
http://www.gp.usbr.gov/otao.htm
TEXAS STATE OFFICES

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB)
AUSTIN - conservation, surface/groundwater info, pubs, water conservation loans/grants, etc.
http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPT. (TPWD)
AUSTIN – rivers, lakes, bays, aquatic life data collection, pubs, technical assistance/investigation
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TWRI)
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION - info, brochures, assistance
http://twri.tamu.edu/

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPT. (TPWD)
AUSTIN – conservation, surface/groundwater info, pubs, water conservation loans/grants, etc.
http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp

TEXAS COMMISSION on ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) – AUSTIN - water/air/land investigations, testing, permits, etc.
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/index.html

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (TNRIS) - AUSTIN - maps & data (connected to Texas Water Development Board)
http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TWRI)
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION - info, brochures, assistance
http://twri.tamu.edu/

TEXAS WATER: Water Resources Education
TAMU web site – information, education
http://texaswater.tamu.edu/index.html

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TWRI)
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION - info, brochures, assistance
http://twri.tamu.edu/

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (TNRIS) - AUSTIN - maps & data
http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/

SOIL, WATER & FORAGE TESTING LABORATORY
TAMU – COLLEGE STATION – lab tests & analysis
http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/

AGGIE HORTICULTURE
TAMU – Horticulture Dept. website -Xeriscape, plants, etc.
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/

IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC)
TAMU – training - soon to be in San Antonio
Dr. Guy Fipps, Dir. http://itc.tamu.edu/

EL PASO RESEARCH CENTER - TAMU
Specializing in water research
http://elpaso.tamu.edu/Research/Index.htm

TEXAS SEA GRANT PROGRAM
TAMU – GALVESTON - bays, estuaries, coastal wetlands Education and information programs.
http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/

TEXAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ASSOC. (TSWCD) - info & education
Provide local employees for NRCS offices. Operate under TSWCB in Temple.
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcd/association.html

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS (RWPG)
TWDB – set up for each state region – data & plans
http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/rwpg/group_info.asp

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES – TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – San Marcos
http://www.swt.edu/iiswr/iiswr_what.html

TEXAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
(TSWCB) Partner w/NRCS in most counties, grants, assistance
PO Box 658, Temple, TX 76503-0658
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/

TEXAS WILDCAPES
TPWD – info on water-saving landscape plans
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wildscapes/

TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
(TSWCB) Partner w/NRCS in most counties, grants, assistance
PO Box 658, Temple, TX 76503-0658
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - WEST
TEXAS DISTRICT 6 CENTER. Info & Education
Fort Stockton http://farwest.tamu.edu/

TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
(TSWCB) Partner w/NRCS in most counties, grants, assistance
PO Box 658, Temple, TX 76503-0658
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/

RIVER AUTHORITIES: Such as Colorado, Brazos, Nueces, San Antonio, Guadalupe, etc. Manage river basins, river parks, flood control, water supplies, power, water quality, etc. Google river name.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK – A coalition of several organizations, agencies and Associations which assists local governments to find environmental management, planning, funding & regulatory information
http://www.lgean.org/index.cfm

GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
Found in many Texas counties, monitor, manage and protect aquifers. Provide education, information. Check w/TX Alliance of Groundwater Districts
http://www.texasgroundwater.org/

TX WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS
Units of local government authorized to engage in water programs. Contact local offices for details of status and functions.
PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
TEXAS WATER MATTERS – info/education
http://www.texaswatermatters.org/

WATER SCIENCE FOR SCHOOLS
http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/

THE INFINITE POWER OF TEXAS
Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
Demonstration practices & education to accelerate the acceptance of renewable energy in Texas. Access to financing, incentives and policies through education and information.
http://www.infinitepower.org/