



House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties
District & Capitol Interim Report
November 2016

Around House District 1. *Texas Water Development Board-Region D.* Region D met November 2nd where the director of the Goldwater Project, Stephen Cortes, gave a presentation on how the project would measure local municipalities' water conservation efforts. The Goldwater Project is an initiative of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) that will study municipalities in regions across Texas that has included water conservation in their water plan. Paris and Texarkana are the only two cities in our district that qualified to be included in the study. The project was designed to help water planning groups understand what water conservation measures are being taken across the state, the effectiveness of those measures and how those measures are being implemented. The project is scheduled to be finished by August 2017.

Sulphur River Basin Authority (SRBA). On November 15th, SRBA held their regularly scheduled board meeting to hear presentations from Becky Griffith, program manager with Freese and Nichols consulting firm, and Danny Allen, an Army Corps of Engineers wildlife biologist. Griffith gave a presentation on a feasibility study conducted by the Sulphur Basin Group and the Army Corps of Engineers that concluded there is less water in Lake Wright Patman than other studies have suggested. Griffith noted that the discrepancies between studies could have resulted from numerous factors including the fact that the Corps and the TWDB use two different models with different sets of data. Allen spoke on how the environment would be impacted if the lake's water level was raised, ultimately concluding that wildlife has the ability to react to such a change but that vegetation in the area would have a harder time.

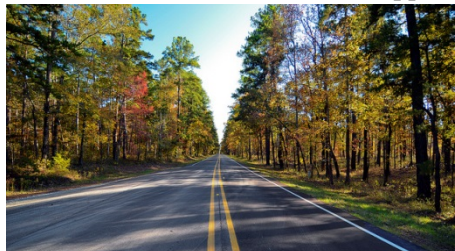


Riverbend Water Resources District. Riverbend met on November 16th for their regularly scheduled board meeting after hosting a town hall meeting on November 9th, in New Boston that was attended by interested citizens, members of local water districts, TWDB member Kathleen Jackson and state officials, including myself. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a study Riverbend is conducting to assess the state of the local water infrastructure including the way in which water is treated and distributed. The study will also be beneficial to those charged with creating water plans throughout our district including consultant, Ms. Susan Roth, who stressed the importance of hearing comments directly from local interested parties.

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Mount Vernon Music. The Mount Vernon Music Association recently informed my office that it has received two additional grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts that will help fund activities and events during its 2016-17 season. These grants will help fund the Association's outreach efforts by providing performances and clinics for students in pre-K through high school, as well as performing concerts for residents in long-term care facilities. Congratulations to Mount Vernon!

TxDOT to resurface NE Texas highways. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently announced that it will resurface approximately 160 miles of highways in Northeast Texas next summer.



Bowie County roads that will be resurfaced include: FM 991 (6.8 miles); SH 8 (8.3 miles); SH 93 (3.4 miles); IH 369 northbound frontage road (2.9 miles); IH 369 southbound frontage road (2.9 miles) SH 98 (6.3 miles); IH 30 (15 miles); and FM 2516 (6.5 miles). Though inconvenient while the resurfacing is being done, it will make the surfaces watertight, improve skid resistance and preserve the pavement structure.

Around the Capitol. On November 16th, I participated on the education panel at the Texas Association of Business's K-12 conference. Rep. Mary Gonzalez (Clint), Senate Education Committee Chairman, Larry Taylor (Friendswood), and I had a thorough discussion regarding the state's public school A-F rating system. I stressed the importance of parent involvement and giving accurate feedback to parents who want to provide the best education for their children. As we head into the 85th legislative session, public education is sure to be one of its main priorities, and I look forward in continuing my fight for public schools.



Pictured from l-r. Rep. VanDeaver, Rep. Gonzalez (Clint) Sen. Taylor (Friendswood) and moderator- Sandy Kress

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). As Texans prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, the DPS has offered the following tips for safe travel and calls on residents to celebrate responsibly:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Slow down – especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle – it's the law.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles.
- Don't drive fatigued – get plenty of rest before trips or take breaks as needed.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.

Thanksgiving wishes. As Americans, we are blessed in so many ways that people in other countries can only dream about. I want to wish everyone in House District 1, a safe, happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

My office is here to help. I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.

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