

WATER DROPS

**Harris County
Municipal Utility
District 132
Board of Directors**

Tim Stine
President

Don House
Vice President

Jerrel E. Holder
Secretary

Lloyd Lentz
Assistant Secretary

Michael Whitaker
Assistant Secretary

MUD 132 Board Member Spotlight: Michael Whitaker

In May of this year, MUD 132 proudly welcomed our newest Board member, Petroleum Engineer and Pinehurst resident, Michael Whitaker. Now serving as Assistant Secretary, Whitaker filled the open seat left by our long-time, valued and most recent board president, Bobby Haney, who recently moved to the Texas hill country.

When asked how he became interested in serving on the MUD 132 board, Whitaker replied: "My work has required me to design water well and hydraulic systems. I took note of some of the past local system improvement projects in the District and found the processes incorporated interesting. I had also worked with Bobby Haney, who outlined some of the methods and procedures. As a consequence, it occurred to me that my experience might be helpful to the District."

Whitaker also shares the same goals and values as his fellow board members in regards to the Board's role in the community.

"I am proud to be a part of an organization so concerned about the community and committed to its growth and well-being," said Whitaker. "We all believe the District should ensure the quality and quantity of services to the community, while maintaining the highest regard for environmental safety and conservation. It's also very important to us all that these efforts be addressed with an eye toward overall system efficiency to maximize the value of all expenditures."

Whitaker's professional experience, as a Petroleum Engineer and owner of Cimarcon Associates, LLC (involved in consulting and property operations services), brings a wealth of knowledge much appreciated by the Board and this community. His work designing fresh water well drilling plans and hydraulic distribution systems in Louisiana and Mississippi have required him to interface with regulatory agencies via permitting and compliance. The aquifers encountered and the issues involved in these areas are essentially the same as found in our District. This experience will no doubt be helpful as the Board addresses any short term issues and/or long



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NEW ELECTRICAL PROVIDER FOR MUD 132 PROVIDES AN ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS OF \$21,000/YEAR

In anticipation of the contract expiration date with MUD 132's electricity provider, the Board of Directors recently requested bids from a number of providers. Due to generational low numbers in the price of natural gas, the District was able to secure a plan with Green Mountain Energy that would lower total energy costs. The four-year contract (which began on September 23rd) reduces the kwh rate from the previous .07403 to .0577 – resulting in an estimated cost savings of \$21,000 / year.

term goals.

“The MUD 132 Board and District residents are very fortunate to have someone with Michael’s vast knowledge and experience working with us,” stated MUD 132 Board president, Tim Stine. “We are grateful for his desire to serve this District and we look forward to working together in the years to come.”

Whitaker feels that the Board and its service providers have the District’s mechanical system in good shape with provisions to meet any unexpected events. In regards to any issues the District might be tackling in the near and distant future, he states:

“I think that regional demands in the years ahead will require us to cooperate with other localities as we all endeavor

to protect our aquifer reserves. I have been truly impressed with the professional business manner in which the Board and its associates conduct themselves. All of the service providers that I have encountered (including accounting, tax, legal, communications, operations, and engineering) are obviously well-informed, capable and committed. It’s rewarding to be associated with such a group effort.”

Whitaker and his wife of 39 years, Vickie, have lived in the area for over 20 years. They both enjoy playing tennis and spending time with their three children – Keri (33) – a Physical Therapist, Justin (31) – a Mechanical Engineer, and Curtis (29) – also a Mechanical Engineer. He and Vickie are also proud grandparents to Colton (4) and Allie (1), children of his son, Justin and his wife, Jennifer.

THE WATERWORKS EDUCATION CENTER – A WONDERFUL RESOURCE IN OUR OWN BACK YARD

If it wasn’t on your mind before, the recent and extensive drought most likely got you thinking about the importance of water, the finite amount we all share, and the role each of us plays in conserving this precious resource.

For a number of years, MUD 132 has communicated (via bill inserts, newsletters, and on our District website) the significance of practicing conservation measures in our everyday lives. We have passed on many tips for conserving water in your home and yard, and you can easily access those past conservation articles in our archived newsletters on the District website (www.hcmud132.com).

In the development stage of this newsletter, we did some research to find the latest and greatest in water conservation news to pass on to you. What we found during that research was something very exciting...a one-of-a-kind destination whose mission is “to promote water education, conservation and stewardship”. And it’s right in our own neck of the woods!

WaterWorks Education Center

Located near the shores of Lake Houston at the City of Houston’s Northeast Water Purification Plant, the WaterWorks Education Center (“WaterWorks”) is a resource that all of us – young and old – should surely take advantage of. If you’re a teacher, homeschooler, parent or just someone interested in learning more about one of our most precious natural resources, The WaterWorks Education Center is an entertaining and educational experience that shouldn’t be missed. The center, which opened in October

of 2010, “offers visitors an innovative environment for creative learning with interactive exhibits, demonstrations and tours.”*

We reached out to the wonderful staff at WaterWorks, and asked them a few questions in an effort to provide you with facts about the center and information on how to book field trips or tours. This is what they had to say:

What do you feel is the main purpose/goal of the WaterWorks Education Center?

WaterWorks provides the education people, and especially children need to make a difference in the world’s water resources by inspiring lifelong stewardship. We only need to turn on the television to see how water

affects us all. Water is life!

You mentioned educating children. Is there a specific age group that fits best with the information taught at WaterWorks? Can interested adults set up a tour as well?

Of course! We welcome ALL age ranges. For children, the optimum age range is the 3rd through 8th grade age group. They are studying the subject of water in their school classes and our information reinforces their classroom studies. But our exhibits do not lend themselves to just our younger visitors. Many senior groups, college classes, business groups, engineering professionals and horticulture enthusiasts have toured WaterWorks and left with



MUD 132 Increases Storage Capacity at Water Plants



Photo: Pressure Tank #3 at Water Plant #1 (on Rebawood)

Increasing storage capacity at two of MUD 132’s water plants was a decision the Board of Directors made based on two very important issues: (1) meeting increased demand during times of drought and (2) increasing the life of the District’s equipment.

This most recent drought reminded us all of the importance of respecting our water resources and the responsibility we must share in conserving our planet’s limited water supply each and every day. Conservation practices, in conjunction with the recent storage tank additions, will help to ensure we have the necessary water supply well into the future.

Our New Additions

A new storage tank and pressure tank at Water Plant Number One (8502 Rebawood) went online in the fall of last year. The ground storage tank added 420,000 gallons of storage capacity, and the pressure tank added another 20,000 gallons. Water Plant Number One also received upgrades to its electrical and control systems. This spring, a new ground storage tank came online at Water Plant Number Two (19441 West lake Houston Parkway), also adding 420,000 gallons in storage capacity.

Benefits to Storage Increases

As stated above, recent and future drought concerns were an important reason the decision to increase storage capacity was made. During times of dry spells and/or drought, there is an increase in quick, instant demands for water, and the additional tanks can help to meet that demand and take a lot of pressure off of the pumps, motors and other electrical equipment.

Instead of shutting equipment on and off for short cycles (as was necessary in the past), they can now run for longer periods and also be shut off for longer periods. This explains a second, very important reason for adding the new tanks: the decrease in constant stops and starts on motors and pumps will reduce wear and tear and will extend the life of the equipment, therefore saving money for the District and our customers.

No Tax Increase Necessary

MUD 132 has a long history of not only avoiding tax

increases, but also decreasing taxes. Typical sources of revenue for municipal utility districts – to fund capital improvements such as those outlined here – often include only property taxes and water/sewer bills. But MUD 132 is no typical District. Thanks to our Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the City of Houston, the District receives a portion of sales taxes from businesses in our area, in exchange for not being annexed into the City of Houston. Those additional funds help us to make such improvements without raising taxes on you, our customers. It’s just another way we work to provide you with the highest quality of service, while keeping taxes as low as possible. As always, if you have any questions regarding these projects or any other MUD-related issues, feel free to call our District office at 281-209-2100.



Photo: Ground Storage Tank #2 at Water Plant #1 (on Rebawood)

Rainfall Statistics: January 2010 – August 2012 (Total Inches/Month)

For the latest rainfall statistics (by month), visit our website anytime at www.hcmud132.com and click on the “Rainfall Statistics” link.

Month	2010	2011	2012
January	2.45	5.50	4.65
February	3.87	1.05	9.20
March	2.92	0.55	6.95
April	1.35	0.00	2.75
May	3.50	0.40	1.25
June	1.95	2.30	1.60
July	10.15	3.10	5.70
August	0.60	0.40	2.95
September	6.50	0.75	4.40
October	0.00	4.35	
November	5.86	3.15	
December	3.85	6.70	

Total In./Yr... 43.00 29.25 39.45 (to date)

*Source: Severn Trent Services (STS) Rain Gauge at Sewer Plant #109

Harris County MUD No. 132
c/o Fulbright & Jaworski LLP
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, TX 77101-3095

PRSRT STD
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TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 296

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a new appreciation for drinking water.

If a school does not approve a field trip, can parents bring their children on their own?

Absolutely! Individual families or groups with advanced reservations are always welcome.

How are school field trips usually coordinated?

In most cases, a field trip is coordinated by the individual teacher or a field trip coordinator. It's usually by class, as we cannot ordinarily accommodate whole grade levels or whole school visits at one time. The WaterWorks staff will work with a field trip coordinator to stretch our limits as much as our staffing and physical size will allow. Just have them give us a call and we'll try to make it work. We want visitors to come and learn!

Do you often work with home school groups as well?

Home school groups have been consistent and welcome guests at WaterWorks since the center's opening in October of 2010. We have discovered that homeschoolers are usually members of a home school co-op and participate in field trips to the education center as a group. Whether they come to the center as a group for a field trip or a special event (such as our week-long Water Week), or as individuals for a quick tour, they are always important to our mission of educating the public about water conservation and stewardship.

Are there handouts provided on the tours so that attendees have something to remind them how they can start making positive changes in their own homes/lawns?

Yes. There are age appropriate handouts that are given to all WaterWorks visitors. There are student activity books, landscaping and irrigation brochures and much more, and these will also be available in Spanish. We will also have Teacher/Educator Workshops 2-3 times a year, which will give educators another tool to use in the classroom.

What do you feel is the most important takeaway for those that attend a field trip or tour?

WaterWorks visitors have a new appreciation for THEIR water resources and an understanding of how each of us can protect and conserve water in our own communities.

We would like to thank the staff at the WaterWorks Education Center for bringing our community this wonderful resource and for taking the time to tell us about it! If you would like to find out more about booking a field trip or tour for your classroom or group, you can call the center at 832-395-3791, email them at waterworks@houstontx.gov or visit their website at www.houstonwaterworks.org. The WaterWorks Education Center is located at 12121 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Humble, TX, 77396. Admission is free and by appointment only and they are open for field trips Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We hope all of our MUD 132 residents visit WaterWorks very soon!

**www.houstonwaterworks.org*

Who to Call...

Water, sewer and drainage questions:

Harris County MUD 132
Customer Service Office
283 Lockhaven, Suite 208
Houston, TX 77073
Billing Questions:
281.579.4500
Services or Emergencies:
281.209.2100

NOTE: If you have water or sewer related problems, PLEASE CALL US BEFORE YOU CALL THE PLUMBER! We will investigate the problem at no cost to you. If it is found to be a water district-related problem, we will arrange to correct it. If it is not a water district issue, we will provide our advice. Remember, we are here to help!

HCMUD 132 Tax Questions

Bob Leared Interests
713.932.9011
(Ask for the HCMUD 132 representative)

Garbage Service
Waste Management
713.686.6666

HCMUD 132 Board Meetings

The Harris County MUD 132 Board generally meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For meeting location, please check the District website.

Visit us online:
www.hcmud132.com