



Heartbeat of the Hickory

District Activities

81st Legislative Session

After much tension and breath-holding, we can relax... maybe. The 81st Legislative Session is over. The Governor called a Special Session, but water should NOT be a topic. Those issues to be addressed are:

- Extending the existence of several state agencies subject to sunset.
- Issuance of bonds for highway improvement and creation of the Texas Transportation Revolving Fund.
- Legislation relating to the date on which the authority of TxDOT and a regional mobility authority enter into a development agreement expires.

There was a push this legislative session to give the Texas Water Development Board greater authority over the management practices of local groundwater conservation districts. This is probably going to happen again in future sessions. Texas Farm Bureau's Bill Howe wrote in the legislative wrap-up featured on the organizations web-site:

It will take a concerted effort from the grassroots of Texas Farm Bureau to maintain groundwater management with these local districts. Legislators will need to hear from their constituents that they do not want the Texas Water Development Board, or any other state agency, controlling their groundwater.

Start now letting your elected officials know that you oppose this trend. In our District, the citizens petitioned for the formation of the groundwater district. The choice to govern groundwater at a local level was the preference of the people. Let those who represent you know that you wish to keep it that way.

Saving Taxpayer Money

If you would prefer to receive this quarterly newsletter via e-mail in PDF, just drop us a line at hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com or call us 325-597-2785.

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*To understand water is to understand the cosmos, the
marvels of nature, and life itself.*
— Masaru Emoto in *The Hidden Messages in Water*

Texas Summer Conservation Tips

In Texas, groundwater provides 59 percent of all freshwater used. Notoriously dry conditions during Texas summers mean there is no water going into the aquifer but plenty being removed. So what can we each do to conserve water?

In the summer, anywhere from 50 to 80 percent of home water use is outdoor. Inefficient watering practices is the number one reason.

- ◆ Water when top two inches of the soil has dried out.
- ◆ Water early in the morning or in the evening.
- ◆ Water one inch of water every five days for most grasses.
- ◆ Don't water sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Water slowly on slopes to avoid runoff.
- ◆ Harvest rainwater.
- ◆ Drip irrigation is the most efficient means of irrigation.
- ◆ Design a water-wise landscape. Learn more about drought-tolerant plants and xeriscaping.

Of course, year-round we can all benefit from practicing water conservation indoors.

- ◆ Toilets account for 30% of indoor water consumption. When replacing your toilet, consider a high-efficiency toilet.
- ◆ Replace showerheads with water efficient models.
- ◆ Wash full loads of laundry.
- ◆ Don't use your toilet as a trash can.
- ◆ Take shorter showers and consider taking a shower instead of a bath.
- ◆ Only run dishwasher when you have a full load.

Texas Legislature Historical Statistics



Regular Sessions

Session	Introduced	Passed	Vetoed	Percent Passed
81st - 2009	12,238	5,908	38	48%
80th - 2007	10,990	5,842	54	53%
79th - 2005	9,347	4,970	19	53%
78th-2003	9,232	4,724	48	51%
77th-2001	8,847	4,631	82	52%
76th-1999	5,766	1,622	31	28%
75th-1997	5,561	1,487	36	27%
74th-1995	8,182	3,940	25	48%
73rd-1993	6,979	3,303	26	47%

*Special Sessions are not listed. For more information, visit <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/General.aspx>