



Heartbeat of the Hickory

80th Texas Legislative Session

HB 556, introduced into the House on January 11 by Representative Hilderbran was heard by the House Natural Resource Committee on April 4. Caroline Runge, Consulting Manager for the District, testified. On April 11 it was voted favorably out of committee and is expected to be carried in the Senate by Senator Troy Fraser.

The bill would allow the Hickory Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, under certain circumstances, to use a voting station that does not meet the require-

ments for accessibility under 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3). The board of directors would be required in that circumstance to notify the Secretary of State if the district does not provide at least one voting station at each polling place used in the election that meets the 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3) requirements.

The bill would take effect immediately if it were to receive the required two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

As of April 17, we were still unsure of the bill's status on the Senate side. Anybody interested in receiving an update on this issue, please, contact the District office at 325-597-2785 or email hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com.



We still need Water Use Reports

So far we've received over 70% of our water use reports, but that means 30% are **LATE**. The forms are typically mailed at the beginning of each calendar year. The District Rules require these forms be completed and returned to the District by **March 15** each year. A stipulation of permits is the submittal of annual water use reports. All permits are reviewed every three years. If ad-

ministrative requirements, including water use reports, are not met, the permit is subject to cancellation. As with all data collected by the District, this information is not being gathered to infringe upon the rights of the landowner. Just the opposite is true. Accurate data will be necessary in the future to protect water rights. Please, if you've

received a water use report, complete it and return it. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us.

These forms are only required for permitted wells—those are wells used for irrigation, industrial or municipal use. If you have a registered well for domestic or stock use, you do NOT have to submit these forms the way the law is now written.

Directors

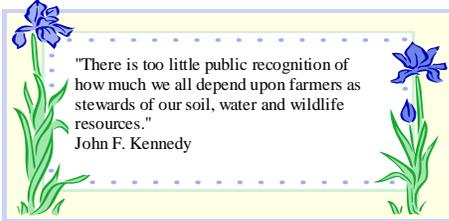
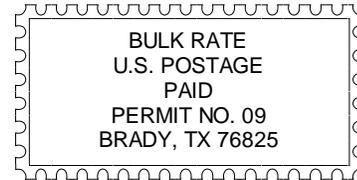
- Owen Parks.....President
- Bill Sloan.....Vice-President
- Bert Striegler.....Secretary
- Wendell Moody.....Director
- Larry Lehmborg.....Director

Staff

- David Huie.....Manager
- Caroline Runge.....Consulting Manager
- Angelina B. Deans.....Assistant Manager
- Ronnie Moore.....Field/Lab Technician

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New Field/Lab Tech

There's a fresh face at the District office. We would like to welcome Ronnie Moore, to the Hickory UWCD Staff. Ronnie and his wife, Candy, live near the community of Lohn, where Ronnie is on the Lohn Volunteer Fire Department and Lohn Valley Im-

provement Association. He is also a director for the McCulloch County Farm Bureau and for the McCulloch County Livestock Association.

Ronnie worked for Lohn Co-op for the past 17 years, but the water district is not completely new

to him. He worked for the Hickory UWCD in 1993 and 1994.

Because of the recent staff changes, we are getting a late start on Winter/Spring water levels. You will probably see Ronnie out and about, measuring these levels. Don't hesitate to say "Howdy."

If you have a well within the District boundary and you don't think its registered or permitted, please, contact us either by phone (325) 597-2785, email: hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com or in person at 111 East Main in Brady.

Education is one of our goals!

Every year the District tries to sponsor at least two students to attend the State Youth Water Camp. Texas State Youth Water Camp teaches high school youth about the importance of water stewardship. This five day educational camp uses hands-on experiences, guest speakers, and field trips to train youth in water conservation and preservation and show them how our water resources are being used by industry, agriculture and municipalities. Texas State Youth Water Camp is held in July each year, at the 50-acre George

and Opal Bentley 4-H Center in Monahans, TX. Camp begins Sunday afternoon and concludes with a luncheon the following Thursday. This year the dates are July 8 through 12. The District will pay the \$150 tuition for the winners of the annual scholarship. We select the students based on a brief essay. Forms can be picked up at 111 East Main in Brady or by calling us 325-597-2785. Membership in 4-H is not a requirement. The only requirement is that the student be of high school age at the time of the camp.

We are also taking orders now for Major Rivers. Major Rivers is a 4th grade water education curriculum designed to teach students about Texas' major water resources, how water is treated and delivered to their homes and schools, how to care for their water resources, and how to use them wisely. We provide these educational sets to area teachers **free** of charge. Interested teachers or parents of home-schooled students are invited to contact the District Office.