

Alamo RC&D Area
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Alamo News

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FALL 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman
Frio County

Alma Aguirre
Vice Chairperson
Kendall County

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David Caballero
Atascosa County

Staff

Bertha T. Venegas
RC&D Coordinator

Rosie Flores
Administrative
Assistant

National RC&D Conference

The National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils hosted the National RC&D Conference, June 18-22, 2006 in Savannah, Georgia. Juan Estrada and Karen Opiela representing Alamo RC&D attended the conference accompanied by Bertha Venegas, Alamo RC&D Coordinator. The general session opened with keynote speaker Steven Gower "The art of killing kudzu." Numerous sessions were presented cov-

ering a wide area of topics focusing on nonprofit management. Tuesday and



Bertha Venegas and Karen Opiela attend the banquet in Savannah, GA.

Wednesday included council success stories like the "Plugging Abandoned Wa-

ter Wells" presented by Bertha Venegas. A boat ride and dinner along the

Savannah river concluded the Tuesday evening. The Awards Banquet closed out the national conference on Wednesday night with Bill Yoast, "Remember the Titans" coach, as motivational speaker. Alamo RC&D was recognized for being inducted into the Circle of Diamonds.

Circle of Success

The "Circle of Success" 2006 Celebration Annual Meeting/Fundraiser of the Alamo RC&D Area, Inc. is scheduled for December 6, 2006 at Alamo Café Bowie Room at 14250 U.S. Hwy. 281 N, in San Antonio, Texas. The regularly scheduled board meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and is open to the public. The Program will begin at 11:30 a.m. with

registration. This will be the Second Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser and everyone is encouraged to donate an item, buy one or both! This year's keynote speaker will be Nancy Robinson Masters. Nancy is an author/explorer/pilot. She is an entertaining speaker and award winning writer whose warmth, wit and "down-home"

charm have touched thousands of listeners and readers of all ages. Nancy is described as "a combination Erma Bombeck and Reba McEntire with wings." Register by December 1st. Information is available at our website www.alamorcd.org or by contacting our office at (210) 735-3391. COME JOIN US!

Proposal Writing Workshops



A two day proposal writing workshop was conducted in two locations in the area. The first one was June 7-8, 2006 at the Dilley ISD conference room in Dilley and the second was conducted June 29-30, 2006 at St. Francis Education Hall in Boerne.

The goal of the proposal writing workshops was to equip participants with the tools necessary to research funding organizations and develop a proposal.

These dynamic workshops provide participants with an in-depth learning experience on how to begin the grant proposal process.



Alma Aguirre with Kendall RC&D talks to the Workshop participants in Boerne.

Participants explored and discovered the resources available to them to effectively research foundations. They learned the components of the grant proposal and its organization.

The second day provided participants with a hands-on opportunity to write a grant proposal with the assistance of the instructor. Participants used their working knowledge of their organization to begin developing each component of a winning proposal.

The workshops were taught by Mrs. Amelia Nieto-Duval, nonprofit consultant and a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Maintaining Healthy Watersheds

The Maintaining Healthy Watersheds Project was developed to address environmental factors that affect a health watershed like debris along the rivers and creeks that collects from flooding and illegal dumping of trash. As part of this project a outreach campaign was developed to distribute technical information concerning watersheds. News releases were distributed throughout the area, workshops were held and information distributed. A fact sheet highlighting environmental projects the Alamo RC&D Area is involved in each year was developed. The fact sheet highlights those projects that help maintain a clean environment and the environmental impact of these projects in our RC&D area. The fact sheet is available on our website at <http://www.alamorcd.org> both in English and Spanish or contact our office for additional information at (210) 735-3391.

**ALAMO RC&D
AREA INC.**

Serving Atascosa,
Bandera, Bexar, Co-
mal, Frio, Guada-
lupe, Kendall, Kerr,
Medina and Wilson
Counties.

Board Development Training

Mr. Richard Alvarado, Nonprofit Consultant, provided training on the responsibilities of board of directors. Many questions were answered on nonprofit management including bylaws, tax



Commissioner Albert Gamez participated in the training.

requirements, budget and accounting. The event was hosted by the Alamo RC&D Area, Inc. and followed the regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2006. All directors, council members and regular members were invited to attend. Bertha Venegas, RC&D

Coordinator, provided the board training on roles and responsibilities of RC&D councils, technical and financial assistance to councils, general policy, civil rights and outreach. The group enjoyed lunch catered by the Guenther House.

Land Resources Seminar

A Natural Resource-Land Stewardship Seminar was conducted on October 20, 2006 at the Kendall County Fair Grounds in Boerne, Texas. The seminar was intended for new land-owners who recently moved to the hill country area, acquired land or for those wanting to learn more about the resources available to them.

A total of 80 people attended the conference with some of them coming from as far as Houston. "It was excellent and exciting especially for those of us who love the land and don't know anything about it," said Wendy Swan who traveled

from Cibolo to be a participant. Twelve presenters spoke on a variety of topics including



Participants at the Land Resources Seminar.

prescribed burning, NRCS programs, Land trust, nature conservancy, oak wilt, conservation easements, rain water harvesting, habitat

management, resource conservation and development, eco-tourism and livestock on small acreage.

The seminar was sponsored by the Alamo RC&D Area, Kendall Soil and Water Conservation District, Texas Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Nature Conservancy the Kendall County RC&D Committee and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI). The Capital Farm Credit Corporation sponsored the meal catered by the Hungry Horse in Boerne.

"It was excellent and exciting especially for those of us who love the land"

Upcoming Events

- **Youth Watershed Awareness Workshop**, Boerne, Texas. This workshop is for the youth in the Boys and Girls Club of the Texas Hill Country in Boerne.
- **Proposal Writing Workshops**. This dynamic workshop provides participants with an in-depth learning experience on how to begin the grant proposal process.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup**, Floresville, Texas.

For additional information on any of these events contact the Alamo RC&D office at (210) 735-3391 or email alamorcd@sbcglobal.net. Information will be posted at www.alamorcd.org.

Funding Search Available

One of the services available to members of the Alamo RC&D Area is a grant search. The four easy steps to getting a grant search for your project are:

1. Become a member of Alamo RC&D
2. Fill out the Project Proposal Form and Grant Search Form (available on our website www.alamorcd.org)
3. Contact our office
4. Attend the board of Directors Meeting

If your project is supported by the board of directors, a search of funding sources will be sent to you. Projects are adopted based on the mission and vision of our organization.

Contact our office at (210) 735-3391 for additional information or visit our website at www.alamorcd.org.

www.alamord.org

Visit us on the web at www.alamorcd.org to get the latest information of ongoing projects in our area. You will be able to check our calendar for dates on upcoming meetings and workshops. The latest information on the upcoming workshops is available. You will find information on the Farmers and Ranchers, Private

Water Well Owners and the Proposal writing workshops.

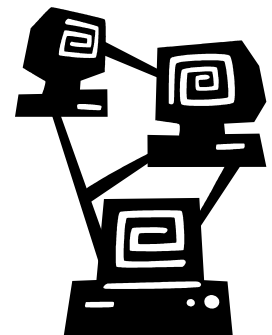
Forms to get your project started are available including contact information.

VISIT US NOW!

Read about the success stories in your county and other counties in our RC&D area. Get connected with the people who have

successfully made an impact in their community by getting financial assistance for their projects.

Be a volunteer and make things happen in your community!



Grants Resources Corner

Local and National Organizations Funded

[The Allstate Foundation](#)

The Allstate Foundation provides support to national programs as well as local programs in communities served by the company. Proposals must address needs within one of the following three focus areas to be considered for funding: Tolerance, Inclusion, and Diversity, with emphasis on ending hate crimes, alleviating discrimination, and teaching tolerance; Safe and Vital Communities, with emphasis on anti-violence, teen driving, disaster response, and neighborhood revitalization; and Economic Empowerment, with emphasis on financial literacy, insurance education, and empowering domestic violence victims. Proposals may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above for detailed application information.

Funds for K-12 School Libraries

[Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#)

The goal of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is to provide print books to the school libraries and students throughout the U.S. that most need them. Grants of up to \$5,000 are made to update, extend, and diversify the book collections of school libraries. Preference is given to elementary, middle, or high schools in which 90% or more of the school population receives free or reduced lunch. Foundation grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities. The application deadline is December 30, 2006. Visit the website listed above for online application information.

Support for Environmental Programs

[Waste Management Charitable Giving Program](#)

The Waste Management Charitable Giving Program is committed to making company communities safer, cleaner, and better places to live and work. (Information on company locations is available on the Waste Management website.) One of the primary focus areas of the Charitable Giving Program is the environment. The company is committed to helping provide renewable resources to reduce our nation's dependence on fossil fuels, and to conserving and maintaining wetlands, wildlife habitats and green spaces for people's enjoyment. Support is also provided to environmental education programs, including environmental and science related projects targeted to middle and high school students. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines and forms.

"Funding sources for community projects readily available"

Calendar of Meetings

- **Alamo RC&D Board of Directors ANNUAL Meeting**, December 6, Alamo Café Bowie Room, San Antonio, Texas, 10:30 a.m.
- **Southwest States RC&D Regional Conference**, February 18-21, 2007, Lafayette Hilton, Lafayette, Louisiana
- **National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARCDC) Leadership Forum**, February 26-28, 2007, Holiday Inn on the Hill, Washington, D.C.
- **Texas Association of RC&D Councils State Meeting**, April 17-19, 2007 (Tentative), Eagle Pass, Texas
- **Alamo RC&D Area Board of Directors Meetings 2007**, February 28, April 25, June 27, August 22, October 24, Koger Center—Bonham Bldg. Room #145, San Antonio, 9:00 a.m.
- **Kendall County RC&D Committee Meetings 2007**, July 20, September 21, November 16, 6:00 p.m., location to be announced.



