



ALAMO NEWS

Board of Directors

Karen L. Opiela, Chairperson
Wilson County

Albert Gamez, Vice Chairman
At-Large

Gerard Martelly, Sec./Treas.
At-Large

Michael Korus, Director
Atascosa County

Gene Camargo, Director
Bexar County

Alicia Machado, Director
Frio County

Roger Baenziger, Director
Guadalupe County

Robert Fitzgerald, Director
Medina County

Armand Martinez, Director
At-Large

Joe Ramos, Director
AACOG Representative

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the membership was held on December 12, 2007 at Alamo Café in San Antonio. The business meeting began at 10:30 a.m. The program followed with presentations from Tomas Dominguez, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Bertha T. Venegas, RC&D Coordinator for NRCS. Information was exchanged about the NRCS perspective on the RC&D program and an overview of

the years' successes for the Alamo RC&D Area. Marva Beck, President of the Texas Association of RC&D Councils was the guest speaker and provided information about the Texas RC&D Program and their priorities.

A Silent Auction was also part of the program and has become an annual fundraising event for the Council. Karen Opiela, Chairperson of the Alamo RC&D presented an award to Harold Gavitt who will be retiring from volunteer service to Alamo

RC&D. She presented awards to both Juan Estrada who served



Harold Gavitt received an award for serving as volunteer for the

as Chairman and Alma Aguirre who served as Vice Chairperson. The program ended with the closing of the silent auction and the awarding of a digital camera to one lucky participant.

Helping Communities keep A Safe, Clean Environment

The Alamo RC&D Area, Inc. received a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to cleanup illegal dumpsites in Atascosa County. Working with officials of



the County of Atascosa, numerous illegal dumps were cleaned up as part of this grant. The benefits gained by this project is the main-

taining of a safe and clean environment for the residents of Atascosa County. The project has been expanded to include a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event scheduled for September 13, 2008.

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Lakehills Civic Center

The Alamo RC&D Area, Inc. working in partnership with the Medina Lake Betterment Association (MLBA) received a **\$53,200 grant** from the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation for the renovation of the Lakehills Civic Center.

The MLBA has been in existence since 1969 and is dedicated to the enhancement and the well-being and quality of the Medina Lake Area citizens.

The Lakehills Civic Center was built in 1971 and now includes 4,700 sq. ft. building, a 3,900 sq. ft.



pavilion, a large gazebo, and food and beverage booths.

Programs available at the Lakehills Civic Center includes a senior lunch program where meals-on-wheels

lunches are served to seniors daily. Other activities include exercise classes, a wellness program, and health and nutrition classes.

The Youth Program has been expanded to

include dance classes, festive events and a summer program that includes outings such as swimming

and all meals are paid by MLBA.

The grant paid for the construction of an addition to the front of the current building, which will house ADA compliant restrooms, a storage room, a covered entryway to better accommodate the handicapped, a half-bath for the kitchen and the beginnings of future office space.

The primary fund-raiser for the MLBA is the annual Medina Lake Cajun Festival. Monies raised by the festival maintain the facilities and provide for the many cost-free programs they offer.

Conferences and Training

The **National Leadership Forum** was held February 24-28, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Karen L. Opiela and Gerard Martelly, both attended the Forum representing the Alamo RC&D Area. The training part of the workshop included sessions on communicating with legislatures, council sustainability, financial management, working with USDA agencies and partnerships and outreach. Time was set aside for participants to visit with their members of Congress. Joan Smith Freeman of California was elected as the President of the National Association of RC&D Councils.

The **Southwest States RC&D Conference** was held March 2-5, 2008 in Saint Louis, Missouri. Karen L. Opiela attended the conference on behalf of the Alamo RC&D Area and was accompanied by Bertha T. Venegas, NRCS RC&D Coordinator. Breakout sessions focused on board training, grant writing, water reclamation and reuse, green building, energy alternatives and others. Marva Beck, President of the Texas Association of RC&D Councils was elected President of the Southwest States RC&D Association.



The **Texas RC&D Conference** was held April 20-22, 2008 in Abilene, Texas. Representing Alamo RC&D was Karen L. Opiela, Gerard Martelly, Dr. Robert Fitzgerald, and Bertha T. Venegas, NRCS, RC&D Coordinator. The conference focused on programs like fire wise, carbon markets, hospitality training, wind energy and certified retirement communities. The dinner included a live auction. During the Business Meeting, Karen Opiela was elected Secretary/ Treasurer for the Association. Lenny Ansaldua was elected Zone Director for Zone III. The meeting concluded with a tour of Horse Hollow Wind Farm.

Upcoming Workshops/Events

Proposal Writing Workshops

June 10-11, 2008
San Antonio River Authority
Conference Room, 100 E.
Guenther, San Antonio

June 17-18, 2008
Historical Railroad Depot
1302 South Second Street
Floresville

Contact: (210) 735-3391

Kendall SWCD Stewardship Tour

June 27, 2008
Honoring the Hillingdon
Ranch
Contact: (830) 249-2821

Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

July 23, 2008
Frederich Park
San Antonio Texas
Contact: (210) 735-3391

Wildlife and EcoTourism Workshop

August 15, 2008
Location TBD
Contact: (210) 735-3391

Feral Hog Workshop

September 25, 2008
Helotes 4-H Activity Center
12132 Leslie Rd.
Helotes
Contact: (210) 467-6575

County of Wilson receives Grant

In partnership with the Alamo RC&D and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the County of Wilson received a Solid Waste Grant of \$27,715 from the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG).

The grant will be utilized to implement a Household Haz-

ardous Waste Collection Event in Stockdale for the residents of Wilson County. The event is scheduled for September 27, 2008.

In addition to household hazardous waste, plans are underway to

expand the event to include the collection of tires and e-waste.

Visit our website at www.alamorcd.org for updates on this event.



Dates to Remember

- **National RC&D Week**

September 15-19, 2008



- **National RC&D Conference**

Albuquerque, NM
June 14-17, 2009
Information available at
www.rcdnet.org

- **Alamo RC&D Meetings**

June 25, 2008
August 27, 2008
October 22, 2008

San Antonio River Authority Conference Room, 100 E. Guenther, San Antonio, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.**

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"Making Things Happen"

**We're on the web!
alamorcd.org**

Campaign Underway

The Outreach/Fundraising Committee developed a new brochure intended to encourage organizations, county government and individuals to be a part of the Alamo RC&D Area! The brochure gives individuals an opportunity to make a donation to the organization as well.

As part of the goals of the Outreach/Fundraising Committee, the brochure was sent out to



counties, cities, nonprofit organizations, volunteer fire departments and individuals.

The brochure will be available on our website at www.alamorcd.org or by contacting our office at (210) 735-3391.

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