

Q2 · 2024

# AQUA WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

NEWSLETTER



## 2023 Annual Meeting Recap

On Friday, March 23, 2024 we held our Annual Membership meeting at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Rockne. A total of 63 members gathered to enjoy a spread of kolaches and beverages. To add to the excitement, Aqua WSC provided special gifts and conducted door prize giveaways, adding an extra layer of fun to the event.

The meeting kicked off with a warm welcome from Aqua WSC's President, David Glass. David began by reviewing the accomplishments and challenges of 2023, highlighting the dedication and hard work of our members and staff. He expressed his gratitude for the continued support and active participation of our membership.

One of the key points of Mr. Glass' address was the introduction of several exciting projects planned for 2024. He detailed upcoming initiatives aimed at improving our services and infrastructure. These projects are designed to enhance the overall efficiency and sustainability of our operations, ensuring that Aqua WSC remains at the forefront of providing high-quality water services to our members.

An essential part of the meeting was the open forum, where members had the opportunity to speak publicly on topics related to Aqua WSC. This segment fostered an open and constructive dialogue, with members sharing their insights, raising concerns, and offering suggestions.

The feedback received during this session is invaluable, as it helps guide our future decisions and ensures that we are meeting the needs and expectations of our members.

We are looking forward to our next Annual Membership Meeting! Please save the date: Friday, April 4, 2025 at Holtman Hall in Rockne, located next to the Sacred Heart Parish Hall.



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# BREAKING GROUND IN 2024



On Tuesday, May 21st, 2024, Aqua WSC, in collaboration with Quiddity Engineering and the Owens family, proudly broke ground on the Owens Elevated Storage Tank. This significant project honors Fred “Alan” Owens, a dedicated Aqua WSC employee for 18 years.

Alan joined Aqua WSC in 1998 as a meter reader, quickly excelling in the electronics field. He was promoted to Systems Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Manager, where he managed the telemetry systems and operations of Aqua WSC’s water production, storage, and pumping systems. Alan’s expertise and commitment were instrumental to our company’s success.

After a courageous battle with multiple myeloma cancer, Alan sadly passed away in 2016. His loss left a profound void in our hearts. When the opportunity arose to honor his memory by naming this project after him, we were thrilled. The Owens Elevated Storage Tank stands as a testament to his enduring legacy.

Located off Highway 95 in the Camp Swift area, the Owens Elevated Storage Tank will stand 150 feet tall and hold 1 million gallons of water. The project is scheduled for completion in September 2025.

We invite you to follow the progress of this project by visiting our website and following us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Join us as we honor Alan’s legacy and advance our community’s water infrastructure.

## Capital Improvement Projects:

PROJECT	LOCATION & APPROX. COST
DELHI WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES	NORTH CALDWELL COUNTY \$11.4 MILLION
HWY 71 EAST WATERLINE REPLACEMENT	NORMA JEAN BLVD. TO PINE HILL LOOP \$4.5 MILLION
MONKEY ROAD WATER LINE REPLACEMENT	SOUTH OF ELGIN \$5 MILLION
AQUA WSC BOARD ROOM	ADJACENT TO AQUA WSC MAIN OFFICE \$1.4 MILLION
HT TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES	HWY. 71 - PINE HILL LOOP \$6 MILLION





# CONSERVATION

## Xeriscaping Aqua WSC

We are excited to announce the successful completion of Phase I of our proactive Xeriscaping project at our main office! This initiative is a significant step forward in our commitment to water conservation and sustainable landscaping.

### What is Xeriscaping?

Xeriscaping involves landscaping with drought-resistant plants and implementing efficient irrigation techniques. This approach not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of our surroundings but also significantly reduces water usage—a crucial benefit in our efforts to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.

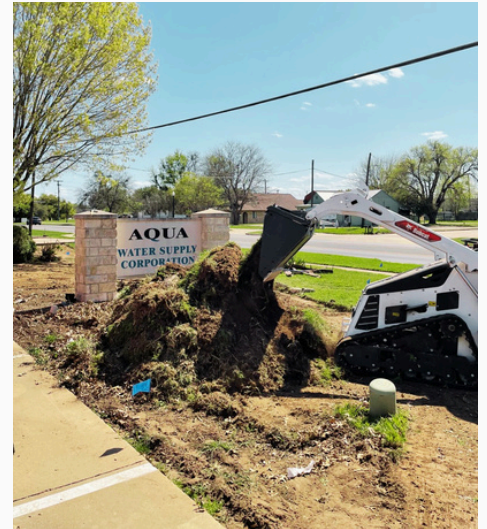
### Benefits of the Xeriscaping Project

1. **Water Conservation:** By using drought-resistant plants, we are drastically cutting down on the amount of water needed for irrigation.
2. **Low Maintenance:** These plants require less maintenance compared to traditional landscaping, reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides, which can have harmful environmental effects.
3. **Enhanced Beauty:** The diverse and vibrant range of drought-resistant plants adds unique beauty to our office grounds, creating a pleasant environment for staff and visitors alike.
4. **Cost Efficiency:** Over time, the reduction in water usage and maintenance needs will lead to cost savings, making this an economically sound project as well.

As we celebrate the completion of Phase I, we are already starting the next phases of the project. Future phases will expand the use of xeriscaping techniques throughout our facilities, further promoting conservation and sustainability.

We invite all members and the community to join us in our commitment to water conservation. By adopting xeriscaping practices at home and in the community, we can collectively make a significant impact on preserving our precious water resources.

Stay tuned for more updates on our Xeriscaping project and other conservation initiatives. Together, we can create a greener, more sustainable future.





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Cheri Hilbig: Celebrating 40 Years

In 1984, Cheri began her career with Aqua WSC in the mail room, opening mail and processing customer applications. She quickly advanced to customer service and later to accounting in the early 2000s. By 2003, Cheri had become the Warehouse Manager. Today, she holds the title of Operations Administrator, overseeing all administrative functions of the operations department.

We would like to recognize Cheri for her invaluable contributions to Aqua Water Supply Corporation every single day. Cheri not only manages the operations department but also serves as a vital asset throughout the company. She manages licensing for all our field personnel, produces well reports, and serves on our internal events committee, ensuring our team enjoys the best celebrations with her personal touches and attention to detail.

Thank you, Cheri, for the dedication, heart, and soul you have put into your work for 40 years. We are incredibly grateful for all you do.

### DYK?:

IT TAKES ABOUT 2,000 GALLONS OF WATER TO MAKE THOSE FAVORITE PAIR OF BLUE JEANS THAT YOU'RE SPORTING. THAT INCLUDES THE WATER FOR COTTON AND MANUFACTURING.

FOR MORE FUN WATER FACTS VISIT:

[TEXASRUNSONWATER.ORG](http://TEXASRUNSONWATER.ORG)

“IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO GROW WITH THE COMPANY AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SUCCESS. I CHERISH THE RELATIONSHIPS AND MEMORIES I'VE BUILT ALONG THE WAY.”







# SMART METERS

## Understanding the Safety & Security of the AMI Smart Meters

As we transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Smart Water Meters, we recognize that some customers have concerns about their safety and security. This article aims to address concerns by providing information, helping to ensure peace of mind as we embrace this advanced technology.

### What are AMI Smart Meters?

AMI Smart Meters are advanced devices that digitally measure water usage and communicate this information back to the utility company in real-time. These meters provide several benefits, including more accurate billing, better leakage detection, and enhanced water conservation for consumers.

### Safety & Security of AMI Smart Meters

**Health and Radiation Concerns:** One concern about AMI Smart Meters is the potential health risk due to electromagnetic radiation. It's important to note that AMI Smart Meters use low-power radio frequency (RF) signals to transmit data. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and World Health Organization (WHO), the RF exposure from these meters is well below the levels considered harmful. In fact, the RF emissions from a smart meter are typically much lower than those from common household devices like cell phones and Wi-Fi routers.

**Electrical Safety:** AMI Smart Meters are subject to rigorous testing and standards to ensure they are safe for installation and operation. These standards are set by recognized bodies such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL). The meters are designed to meet or exceed these safety standards, reducing the risk of electrical fires or malfunctions.

**Data Security:** The meter display is visible for members to be able to check their consumption, just like the the old ones. All information transmitted by the meter uses military-grade, SSL encryption. No personal information (i.e. Member's information) is stored in the meter.

The deployment of AMI Smart Meters brings significant benefits to both our members and staff, including improved efficiency, enhanced leakage response, and more accurate billing. While concerns about safety and security are understandable, extensive research and rigorous standards ensure that these meters are safe to use and that the data they collect is secure. By staying informed and understanding the measures in place, you can confidently embrace the advantages of this advanced technology.

Visit [www.AquaWSC.com/ami-smart-meters/](http://www.AquaWSC.com/ami-smart-meters/) to learn more about this sustainable project!

# EVENTS

## Aqua WSC Events



### July Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Beginning at 9am

Aqua WSC Main Office - Board Room

### Aqua WSC Upcoming Office Closures:

#### Early Closure:

Wednesday, July 3rd at 3pm

#### Closed:

Thursday, July 4th

Friday, July 5th

## Aqua WSC Job Openings

- Development Services Administrator
- Customer Service Inspector
- Assistant Equipment Operator I
- Site Maintenance Technician I
- Production Operator I

### Aqua WSC offers the following benefits:

- Health and prescription insurance coverage
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account
- Flexible Dependent Care Account
- Life Insurance
- Short and Long-term disability
- Paid holidays, vacation, sick leave
- 401(k) plan
- Work/Life balance, incentive bonuses



To learn more about what positions are open and to apply visit:

<https://www.aquawsc.com/about-us/careers/>



# CONTACT US

## Aqua WSC Board of Directors:

### ZONE 1

CRAIG WILLIAMS

### ZONE 2

LINDA GARCIA

### ZONE 3

DAVID GLASS  
PRESIDENT

### ZONE 4

MARK MCARTHUR

### ZONE 5

EARL STEINBACH  
VICE PRESIDENT

### ZONE 6

BARRY BARKER

### ZONE 7

PAM HARKINS

### ZONE 8

BILL TOMSU

### ZONE 9

HOWARD MCCALL

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## Follow Us!



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

CALLING AQUA WSC BEFORE YOU DIG  
IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. IT CAN  
PREVENT WATER LOSS & SERVICE  
INTERRUPTIONS.

**512.303.3943**

