

THE TEXAS RESOLUTION CONNECTION

Volume 23, Issue 1

First Quarter 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Wind Power In Texas</i>	1
<i>New Dimensions in Juvenile Justice</i>	1
<i>Lubbock County in Focus</i>	2
<i>Where are they Now?</i>	2
<i>Meet the Staff and Board</i>	2
<i>Training Calendar</i>	3
<i>Winter Mediation Training</i>	3
<i>Travels Around Texas</i>	4

Texas Dispute Resolution System™
Phone: (806) 775-1720
or 1-866-329-3522
E-mail: drc@co.lubbock.tx.us
Web Site: www.co.lubbock.tx.us

WIND POWER IN TEXAS...

The sight of massive wind turbines in the rural areas of west Texas, in particular the Panhandle/South Plains region continues to grow. These wind powering machines have helped make Texas one of the top wind producers in the country. West Texas alone can produce enough electricity to power 1 million homes. This is great, right? Many of us know what wind turbines do and are aware that they are somehow benefitting our communities as well as the entire state, but what exactly are the positive and negative effects of wind power on rural Texas?



"I may be a little biased because I really don't see anything negative about the wind turbines," said Glenn Patton, Director of Development for the American Wind Power Center and Museum in Lubbock, Texas. Patton goes on to say that wind power has really provided a needed economic boost in struggling communities.

Wind power has benefitted rural Texas in a number of ways. Here are just a few of the benefits of wind energy: Wind turbines capture abundant wind that can produce emission-free electricity and send it to populous areas like Dallas and Fort Worth. Wind is cheap and it does not pollute, emit greenhouse gases or use water for cooling, improving the health of our environment. Wind power is a "homegrown" energy that can extend our non-renewable energy sources, which helps to secure our energy future, reduces energy costs and reduces our dependence on imported foreign oil. Wind power also directly and indirectly creates jobs, allowing more money to be pumped back into local economies. This money can help build new schools, roads and bridges.

Along with these benefits is another very critical effect of wind energy on rural Texas that is still in the works.

Story continued on page 3

NEW DIMENSIONS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE...

"A System like this would not be possible without a collaborative effort from all directions...a perfect example is the Lubbock County JP Courts who have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for a program like this."

-Cheryl Pitre, Juvenile Representative

When one thinks of juvenile crime, often thoughts of juvenile hall come to mind. Today, the outlook is much brighter. Fortunately for West Texas, educators and the juvenile justice community have eagerly partnered in an initiative centered on systematic problem-solving. The result is an integrated and centralized approach to juvenile struggles that deals with the underlying issues, while still addressing the needs of the victims as well as those of the community. Whether the offending behavior (the "symptom") is truancy, vandalism, assault, gang activity, or something else, it is the underlying issues – often also criminal in nature – that frequently trigger this behavior and yet go undetected.

This program accepts institutional referrals and offers a wide array of juvenile-centered services, e.g., intervention, problem-solving, life goals/skills, peer mediation, restoration planning and referrals for other services as needed. The approach thrives on collaborative thinking in order to explore opportunities to help youth properly design and follow a successful plan of action. This collaborative effort among numerous agencies to address the various

Story continued on page 4

LUBBOCK COUNTY IN FOCUS- COMMISSIONER BILL McCAY



**Lubbock County
Commissioner
Bill McCay**

Lubbock County Commissioner Bill McCay is no stranger to public service, nor does he have only an outsider's view of the issues facing rural Texans.

"My county background first began when I was a child," said McCay. "My dad was a deputy sheriff in a rural part of the state."

McCay, like his father, is a dedicated public servant. In November of 2004, Lubbock County voters elected McCay as the County Commissioner for Precinct 1. Just this past November, the voters spoke again re-electing McCay for a second term.

"My dad was the only sheriff deputy (in Comanche County)," said McCay. "My family and I lived on the first floor of the Comanche County Jail and this experience prompted me to have a heart for public service and its heritage."

McCay says his number one goal for his second term is to transition into Lubbock County's new detention center as quickly as possible. He also admits that completing the jail on time and under budget could be the biggest issue that he will have to tackle.

Outside of Lubbock, McCay is aware of the problems facing farmers and ranchers, and acknowledges that a thriving rural Texas is vital to bigger cities, like Lubbock, Dallas, Houston, etc., staying afloat.

"The state of Texas depends on sales tax for a large portion of revenue, and agri-business is still big business in Texas," said McCay.

The commissioner believes the biggest issue facing agriculture producers is the challenge of doing more with less. He went on to say that the cost of operations continues to increase, yet revenues are not increasing with those operation costs. Despite the issues facing Texans, including the current economic crisis, McCay remains optimistic about the state's future.

"Texas is and will always be more resilient than other states by nature," said McCay.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?? JUDGE JOSEFINA RENDON

Have you ever been asked the question, "what ever happened to...?" Maybe we can help you out.

Many of our past staff, board members and mediators have been very instrumental in the promotion and execution of our programs. Last issue we highlighted Judge William "Bill" Smith of the 110th District

This issue, we would like to recognize the newly elected Honorable Josefina Rendon, 110th District Judge for the State of Texas.

Judge Rendon, a former Houston Municipal Judge, was sworn in on January 1st as the 110th District Judge after winning the election in November.

One of the original USDA Agriculture Mediators for TRMS, Judge Rendon has been a friend of TRMS and Dispute Resolution for many years.

Judge Rendon is a past president of the Texas Association of Mediators. In addition, Judge Rendon is a former editor of the Texas Mediator and has authored numerous articles on mediation including, "Collaborative Law: What it Means to Texas Mediators" and "Under the Justice Radar? Prejudice in Mediation and Settlement Negotiations."



**Honorable
Josefina Rendon**

"Judge Rendon has become the third person of our original Agriculture Mediators to be elected to office."

-D. Gene Valentini, Director

MEET THE STAFF AND BOARD...



**Linda
Shoemaker**

Photo courtesy of Mark
Kneubuhl/
sanangelolive.com

Linda Shoemaker is Chair of the Dispute Resolution Rural Committee. A long time partner of Dispute Resolution, Linda is a past president of the Dispute Resolution Advisory Board as well as serving in other capacities. Linda, a retired attorney and High School Government teacher, remains engaged in various activities in Tom Green County and the city of San Angelo. She provides a very knowledgeable voice for the Rural Committee. Her service is highly significant and sincerely appreciated.

Riki Hernandez is Case Coordinator for Community Intervention Services at Dispute Resolution. Riki has been with Dispute Resolution in a full time capacity since April of 2008. Prior to 2008, she served in various roles for the department.

Riki has a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics from Texas A&M University and is currently a senior psychology major at Lubbock Christian University. Riki, a Registered Nurse for 14 years, enjoys taking time to read a good book and spending time with her nephew Dade.



**Riki
Hernandez**

WIND POWER (CON'T)

(Continued from page 1)

ORCA, along with Texas Tech University and the Texas Water Development Board, have granted more than \$1 million to the city of Seminole for a pilot project that will utilize wind power to desalinate groundwater in West Texas. "We are slowly moving forward and are figuring out our financing issues, but construction on the project is moving along," said Travis Brown, Renewable Energy and Community Development Specialist for the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). If this project proves successful, rural communities in West Texas and the Panhandle will have a roadmap for how to use wind power to help meet future water needs. This is very important for areas that are in desperate need of new sources of drinking water.

Just as wind power has endless benefits to rural Texas; it also has its fair share of negatives as well. The main criticisms of using wind energy to power Texas homes are issues of reliability and cost. In order to transmit energy from rural West Texas to North Texas, South Texas and possibly Houston, transmission lines must be built. These transmission lines, also known as the grid, could cost billions of dollars to build, and these costs will be passed on to consumers. In addition, labor, material costs and financing costs during construction will also be passed on to customers. Another big concern is reliability. The wind blows hardest before the sun comes up, when people are not using as much power, and tends to die down during the afternoon, especially in the summer, when the demand for power is high. Also, too much wind can cause problems for wind turbine generators. A further concern is that wind powered electricity currently cannot be stored on a commercial scale.

In order to understand the current problems associated with wind power, we must first understand the role of transmission lines in the continual expansion of converting wind into electricity. The costs that consumers must pay related to wind energy are directly affected by the building of more transmission lines, and the use of transmission lines are affected by the amount of wind that blows across West Texas.

Another major concern for electricity executives is the trouble with accommodating too much wind. According to a report titled "Texas Wind Energy: Past, Present and Future," published by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, because electricity made from wind power cannot be stored and the wind does not always blow, wind-generating units must be backed up by units that generate electricity from natural gas, costing consumers more money. Some electricity executives worry that older plants that cannot fire up quickly are not flexible enough to provide backup for wind, and new generators may not be built because natural gas plants now have to compete with cheap wind power. This concern is heightened as it is expected that developers will boost the wind energy capacity from 5,000 megawatts to 9,000 megawatts by the end of this year, and maybe even to as much as 15,000 megawatts in the next few years. This much wind power may be too much for the grid to handle.

Whether you agree or disagree with using wind power as an alternative energy source, it looks like it is here to stay. If you would like more information about wind energy or other forms of renewable energy and alternative fuels, visit the State Energy Conservation Office's website at www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us.

DID YOU KNOW...

- An average one megawatt wind turbine can produce enough energy for the annual needs of 350 average households
- The actual space that a turbine tower occupies is usually less than 100 square feet.
- Overhead high-voltage power lines and automobiles pose a significantly greater threat to birds than do wind turbines.

www.cielowind.com

TRAINING



Tyler was host to the Winter Basic Mediation Training Course. This was the first opportunity for Dispute Resolution to train in Tyler. Dispute Resolution continues to seek opportunities not only in East Texas, but throughout the state.

-An answer to "What did you like most about the training?"

"Gene made being in a group...discussing procedure and law fun...A good experience...better than the CLE I normally get"

-2008 Tyler Basic Mediation Training

TRAINING IN 2009

Basic Mediation Training

March 2-6, South Padre Island

April 27-May 1, Salado

August 10-14, Lubbock

September 14-18, Ruidoso, NM

Family Mediation Training

October 19-21, Kerrville

ADR Professional Continuing Education

Confidentiality, February 7, Lubbock

Family: Caucus/No Caucus, March 28, Lubbock

Case Law and Legislative Update, September 5, Lubbock

Guardianship, November 14, Lubbock

Elder Law:

Estate and Transition Planning: Underlying Issues

April 17, El Paso

April 30, Salado

September 24, Longview

October 8, Wichita Falls

November 5, Seminole

Health Care:

Is CAHPS a New Tool for Litigators?

April 16, El Paso

October 22, Kerrville

Rural/Agriculture Continuing Education

State Bar of Texas Agriculture Law Course 2009*

May 14-15, Lubbock

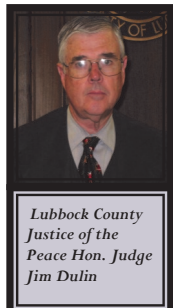
To register for any of the trainings, please visit our Web site at <http://www.co.lubbock.tx.us/drc/training.htm>.

*Co-sponsored by the State Bar of Texas
NOTE: Reciprocal Continuing Education Credit available for many other professions

NEW DIMENSIONS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE (CON'T)

(Continued from page 1)

underlying triggers of juvenile crime aids Lubbock County in reducing juvenile criminal behavior, recidivism (repeat offenders), and drop-out



Lubbock County
Justice of the
Peace Hon. Judge
Jim Dulin

rates—an explorative model for other Texas counties.

Programs like this thrive on communication between the offender and those affected, in the basic idea of restorative justice. In addition, long term planning and goal setting are paramount. Now, as far as juvenile delinquency in West Texas, communication and planning is the answer.



Lubbock County Justices of the
Peace (Pictured L to R) Hon.
Jean Ann Stratton, Hon. Jim
Hansen and Hon. Aurora
Chadis-Hernandez.

TRAVELS AROUND TEXAS...

In the coming months, staff will be visiting and participating in many different activities around the state of Texas. Booths will be on display throughout different Farm and Ranch shows and many other conventions and conferences. Below is a list of different places you can find us in the new year:

January 15: Rural South Plains Coalition...Levelland

January 27-29: Southwest Farm and Ranch Show...Lubbock

January 29: Rural Committee Meeting...Austin

February 27-29: The Texoma Farm and Ranch Show...Wichita Falls

March 27: Juvenile Law Symposium...Lubbock



BOARD OF JUDGES

Honorable Ruben G. Reyes	Honorable Sam Medina
Honorable William C. Sowder	Honorable Bradley S. Underwood
Honorable Cecil G. Puryear	Honorable Larry B. "Rusty" Ladd
Honorable Jim B. Darnell	Honorable Drue Farmer

Honorable Judy Parker

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Honorable Stephen Johnson	Honorable Patricia Moseley
Honorable Melissa McNamara	Honorable Kevin Hart

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill McCay	Gilbert Flores
Mark Heinrich	Patti Jones

DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Wilson Chair of the Board	Hon. Jan Matthews Vice Chair of the Board
Hon. Jim Dulin	Carolyn Moore
Ramon Gallegos	Joe Nagy
Hon. Jim Hansen	Hon. Lee Norman
Kim Hayes	Marisela Olivas
David Hazelwood	Sherry Phillips
Rod Knott	Marta Rosas
Hon. Al Mann	Brian Shannon
Tom Mann	Linda Shoemaker
Dwight McDonald	Larry Spain

C. Mike Ward

Dispute Resolution
916 Main - Suite 702
P.O. Box 10536
Lubbock, TX 79408-3536

