

# Comments

A Publication of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

GCA

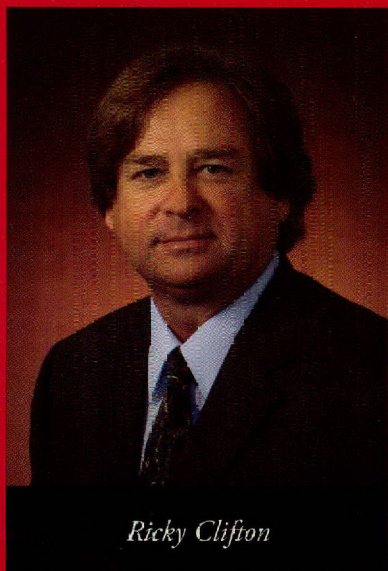
June 2009

## GM Announces GCA Management Reorganization

**R**icky Clifton has been named Assistant General Manager. All other positions report through Clifton. Clifton's promotion was part of a larger reorganization of management responsibilities announced by General Manager Charlie Ganze. All changes were effective as of March 1.

Lori Gernhardt is now Manager of Operations. Reporting to her are the three Houston Area Industrial Wastewater Treatment Operations, Campbell Bayou Industrial Solid Waste Landfill and Central Laboratory.

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*Ricky Clifton*



*Ricky Clifton, GCA Assistant General Manager (center), receives the Plant of the Year Award on behalf of the Bayport Regional Industrial Treatment Facility. Clifton is flanked to his left by Brad Castleberry, outgoing president of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), and on his right by Paul Freedman, president-elect of the national Water Environment Federation.*

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## WEAT awards "Plant of the Year" to Bayport

**T**he Bayport Central Wastewater Treatment Facility has been awarded one of the top awards offered annually by the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT): the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year.

Plant of the Year is presented to an industrial wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty, according to WEAT.

The WEAT Awards Committee noted efforts made by the staff at Bayport in getting the facility back in service within "only four days following Hurricane Ike, which was a significant accomplishment." Bayport has also achieved perfect compliance with its discharge permit for the last two years, "reflecting the experience and

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*Board Members past (P) and current (C) attending the 40th Anniversary Reception were: Standing(left to right) -- Randy Jarrell (C), James A. "Ossie" Matthews, Jr., Secretary, (C), Sam Dell'Olio (P), Roy Byerly (P), Chairman J.M. "Mark" Schultz (C), Richard Ferguson (P), Lamont Meaux (C), Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr., (C), Dr. Irvin Osborne-Lee, Treasurer (C), State Rep. Wayne Smith (P), Dr. Frank Fisher (P). Seated (left to right) -- Original Member and longtime Vice Chairman Judge (ret.) John Wildenthal (P), Vice Chair Rita Standridge (C), Zoe Barinaga (C), and Shirley Seale (P).*

## GCA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

**T**his year Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. The Texas Legislature created the unique organization in 1969, modeling it somewhat after the Ruhr Valley Authority in Germany and organizing it under a statute similar to that of a Texas river authority.

In recognition of this milestone, a reception was held to honor those who helped build the organization from a concept to a reality. General Manager Charles (Charlie) Ganze welcomed the 122 guests to the event and introduced both current and former members of the GCWDA Board in attendance and several other guests. He then introduced long-time Chairman of the Board Mark Schultz.

Schultz paid special notice to the original Board and the vision that that group demonstrated in

creating a new organization with the idea of providing regional solutions for waste management. He especially drew attention to two men who are no longer with us: the first Board Chairman Gen. Royal Hatch, and the first General Manager, Jack Davis. "Without the leadership of these people, we would not be here tonight," Schultz commented. He also drew attention to the dates when the operating facilities of GCWDA were first brought on-line and to the Platinum Awards for excellence in wastewater treatment which have been earned by two of those facilities.

Former Board Chairman Dr. Frank Fisher was also invited to make remarks. He made a special point of explaining that regional treatment, the concept of bringing two or more wastewater streams together to be treated jointly, was not universally accepted back in the late 60's and early 70's. "But Gulf Coast Authority has proved that regional treatment works and works well," he said.



Former Board Members present for the reception were:

- **The Hon. John Wildenthal**, *retired Houston Municipal Court Judge and a charter member of that former Board of Directors*
- **Dr. Frank Fisher**, *professor emeritus at Rice University.*
- **The Hon. Wayne Smith**, *formerly the head of his own engineering company and currently a State Representative for District 128*
- **Roy Byerly**, *formerly Engineering Specialist for Monsanto*
- **Richard Ferguson**, *attorney from Winnie, Texas*
- **Shirley Seale**, *currently a member of the Board at the Trinity River Authority and owner/operator of an office of Edward Jones Investments*
- **Sam Dell'Olio**, *President/Marketing Director at Texas First Bank, active in the Catholic Church, earned a degree in theology and is now a Deacon in the church.*

Current Board Members present were:

- **J.M. Mark Schultz**, *Chairman*
- **Rita Standridge**, *Vice Chair*
- **James "Ossie" Matthews**, *Secretary*
- **Franklin D.R. Jones**
- **Randy Jarrell**
- **Zoe Barinaga**
- **Dr. Irvin Osborne-Lee**, *Treasurer*
- **Lamont Meaux**.

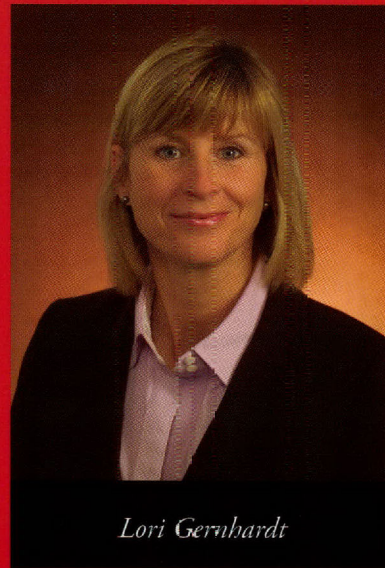
Also present were current and retired Gulf Coast Authority managers and department heads and valued consultants who have supported the Authority with their expertise, some for almost the entire history of GCA. Several guests represented industries and communities which work in partnership with GCWDA.

"It was a real pleasure to have this gathering of people who are professional colleagues, and sometimes also good friends, to celebrate 40 years of protecting the waters of Texas," Ganze concluded.

GCWDA is a special district of the State of Texas and operates on revenues generated through the services it provides. The district collects no taxes.

## Reorganization *continued from page 1*

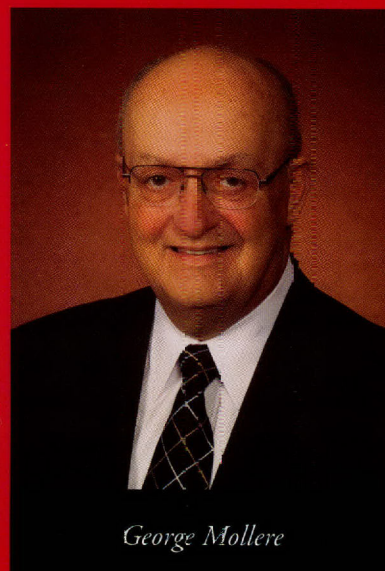
Jim Cooksey picks up the Municipal Services Section and continues as manager of Finance, Information Technology and Equipment Services. Equipment Services functions as an internal leasing operation. Municipal



*Lori Gerubardt*



*Jim Cooksey*



*George Mollere*

Services includes the Blackhawk Regional Sewage Treatment Facility and Cedar Bayou Sewage Treatment Facility.

George Mollere joins Senior Staff as Manager of General Administration. Mollere has been Human Resources Director. His area now includes Public Information, Safety & Health, Permit Compliance and Central Office Building Management. He maintains Human Resources and Staff Services.

Clifton will maintain direct responsibility for the Odessa South Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Technical Services Group.

Ganze indicated that he had made these decisions after consulting the GCA Board of Directors and in anticipation of his retirement in 2010. "I believe this reorganization places experienced people with strong backgrounds in their areas of responsibility so that GCA can continue with its strong commitment to serving the waste management needs of its customers and protecting the environment."





## CAFR Receives Achievement for Excellence Certificate

The Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority has once again received

the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 21st year in a row that the CAFR has earned this recognition.

GCA Board Chairman Mark Schultz presented the Award Certificate to Leah Babitz, Controller, in recognition of the quality work done by the GCA Finance Department in presenting the annual financial statement.

In a news release announcing the award, the Association stated, "The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR."

*WEAT continued from page 1*

dedication of the Bayport plant operations team." Employees also achieved a year clear of lost time accidents.

Recent improvements at the facility include air emission control for the four-step aeration basin. This has resulted in a 70 percent reduction of emission of volatile organics. WEAT also noted GCA's long-time involvement with the annual Rivers, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash, one of the state's largest volunteer efforts to preserve and protect water quality from Bastrop to Houston to Galveston.

Bayport serves the wastewater treatment needs of 63 largely petrochemical industries in the Bayport Industrial District, as well as two nearby municipalities. The facility has a treatment capacity of 25 million gallons of water per day utilizing an activated sludge process.

Jack Wahlstrom is Facility Manager at Bayport.

## Comments

### Board of Directors

#### Harris County

Dr. Irvin Osborne-Lee, Treasurer - M  
Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr., Member - C  
Zoe Barinaga, Member - G

#### Galveston County

James A. Matthews, Jr., Secretary - C  
Ron Crowder, Member - M  
Randy Jarrell, Member - G

#### Chambers County

J.M. "Mark" Schultz, Chairman - C  
Rita E. Standridge, Vice Chair - M  
Lamont Mealy, Member - G  
C - County Commissioners Court Appointee  
M - Mayors Council Appointee  
G - Governor's Appointee

#### Administration

Charlie W. Ganze  
General Manager

Ricky Clifton  
Assistant General Manager

Lori Roussel Gernhardt  
Manager of Operations

James L. Cocksey  
Financial Services Manager

George Mollere  
Manager of General Administration

Rhea Hernandez/Charles Goode  
Editors

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