



Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

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May 1991

Board Gets First Look At Newly Opened Lab



Central Laboratory Manager - Jack Wahlstrom points out new equipment to Board Secretary James A. Matthews (c) and Chairman Mark Schultz.

EV 2000 Aims To Clean Up Through Education, Action

For years, many environmental groups have had a reputation for their confrontational approach to cleaning up their surroundings. But, the use of such negative methods of achieving change may not be the best way, according to GCA Central Laboratory Lab Tech Barbara Erwin.

Erwin recently organized Environment 2000, a diverse, non-profit group aimed at addressing environmental issues in Galveston County. "Environmentalists traditionally came together to oppose issues," said Erwir. "Through EV 2000 we want to see positive results, based on a positive plan."

Public education on environmental matters is key to this plan. "We are trying to incorporate groups that have never really been a part of the environmental movement before," Erwin said. "We want working class people; a broad range of participants with a common goal." That goal, she says, is clean air and

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Following the recent meeting of GCA's Board of Directors, members were given a sneak preview of the newly completed Central Laboratory. Proudly summing up the \$1.45 million project, GCA General Manager, Dick Brown said, "I'd put our labs and lab personnel up against anybody's . . . and that includes commercial labs."

Central Laboratory Manager, Jack Wahlstrom, echoed those remarks. "By consolidating our labs into one central location, we now can expect better quality and expertise in testing and much quicker turnaround than ever before."

The new laboratory, located on Bay Area Boulevard in Bayport, currently conducts conventional testing in areas such as oxygen demand, nutrients, and total suspended solids, as well as routine and low level analysis for heavy metals. Organic analysis is also being done to a limited degree, and according to Wahlstrom, enhanced computer capability is in the near future to provide better data management.

Cost for the 10,000 square foot laboratory building was \$600,000, with an additional \$850,000 alloted for equipment and furnishings. The Central Laboratory supports 19 chemists and technicians.

News Briefs _

TWCA Elects Brown To Board of Directors

Dick Brown, GCA General Manager, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Texas Water Conservation Association for the 1991-92 term.

In notifying Brown of his election, TWCA general manager, Leroy Goodson said, "We look forward to working with you, and having your input to our organization."

The Texas Water Conservation Association was organized in 1944 as a citizens group to, among other things, promote and support the conservation of the State's water resources. Today, the statewide association participates in various activities involving every phase of water development, conservation and use.

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water, but not at the expense of jobs. "Environmental concerns affect us all; the plants and the community."

EV 2000 has what Erwin calls a "good neighbor" policy when it comes to industry. "We're not anti-growth or anti-industry. We actually encourage non-polluting industry in our community." Until now there was no forum for speaking to industry and expressing environmental concerns. EV 2000 hopes to provide that opportunity through activities such as "town meetings" where policitians, and would-be politicians, business leaders and others would be invited to take part in the discussions, and eventually, the solutions.

Knowing the wide range of issues available to them, Environment 2000 will be concentrating its initial efforts on two agendas; recycling and eliminating the use of chlorine gas in the community. "We have chosen what we consider to be two major problem areas where we can make a change," said Erwin. "Our goal with recycling is for curbside recycling in our neighborhoods, handled by local businesses, industrial recycling and municipal recycling, beginning with Texas City. We are studying similar programs in other areas, such as Austin, so as to develop our own plan."

Stores of chlorine gas, used in the purification of water, are also a concern, according to Erwin. "Chlorine gas is used in industry, by municipalities and in residential areas. There are safer substitutes being used successfully today, and EV 2000 intends to educate the public on those alternatives."

EV 2000 has sited their targets, and is taking aim. "We will develop plans for solving these problems, then go to whatever authority necessary and say,'we have a problem, and this is what we can do to correct it. Now let's get to work!"



From left to right: Member Oscar Weir, Secretary James Matthews and Jack Wahlstrom.



From left to right: Vice Chairman Dr. Frank Fisher, Jr. and Jack Wahlstrom.



From left to right: Joe Teller and Member Jerry Pennington

Board Tours New Bayport Lab





GCA Treasurer Gail Bradley

From left to right: Mary Junek, Dr. Frank Fisher and Jack Wahlstrom.



Board Member Philip Werner



From left to right: Doris Haydon, George Meriwether and Member Richard Ferguson

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At meetings held in March and April, the Board of Directors of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority discussed and took action on the following:

The Board:

- awarded bid to Advanced Systems for supply of computer equipment for its bid amount of \$42,750.
- awarded bid to WESCO for two 480 Volt Load Centers to be used at the Bayport Facility in the amount of \$268,279.
- approved a Resolution authorizing the termination of contracts for financing and operation of regional waste treatment and disposal facilities by and between GCWDA, Tattor Road Municipal District, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 43, Wood Municipal Utility District, Timber Lane Utility District, and Aldine Independent School District.

News Briefs

Teller Named To Council

The Texas Board of Health has appointed Joe Teller to fill an unexpired term on the Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council. Teller, Manager of Special Projects for GCA, will be the Council's representative from a "public solid waste district or authority," and will hold the position through August 31, 1991. The announcement was made by Robert Berstein, M.D., F.A.C.P., Commissioner of Health.

Kemler Addresses Solid Waste Group

"Recycling Alternatives for Municipalities" was the subject of a talk recently presented by Vance Kemler, Director-Municipal Services, at a meeting of the Southwestern Regional Solid Waste Symposium.

The event was sponsored by the Government Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA).

GULF COAST COMMENTS

Board of Directors

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Dr. Frank M. Fisher, Jr., Vice-Chairman — C Hon. John Wildenthal, Member — M Jerry Pennington, Member — G

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James A. Matthews, Jr., Secretary — C Gail G. Bradley, Treasurer — M Philip A. Werner, Member — G

Chambers County

Mark Schultz, Chairman — C Richard Y. Ferguson, Member — M Oscar G. Weir, Member — G

C — County Commissioners' Court Appointee M — Mayor's Council Appointee G — Governor's Appointee

Administration

Dick Brown General Manager Jerry R. Dunn Assistant General Manager Joe P. Teller Manager Special Projects Charles W. Ganze Manager Industrial Operations Luanne Goin Editor Charles Goode Managing Editor

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