

# A Message from the Executive Director

By Carol Batterton, Executive Director



## 82nd Session Texas Legislature

The 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 11, 2011. State budget shortfalls are expected to drive much of the discussion in this session as well as the Sunset Review of TCEQ and TWDB. Important dates in this session include:

- November 8, 2010: Pre-filing of bills begins.
- January 11, 2011: Session begins.
- May 30, 2011: Last day of session.
- June 19, 2011: Last day the governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular session.

WEAT will be monitoring bills filed in the session and providing reports as we have done in the past. This year we will be posting weekly reports on legislative actions and WEAT testimony on the WEAT website. Members will receive an email notifying you that updated information is available.

## **Sublethal WET permit limits**

WEAT is continuing to collaborate with the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) and Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) on the implementation of sub-lethal whole effluent toxicity (WET) limits in Texas discharge permits. Our coalition has advocated that implementation of sublethal effluent limits has been delayed until:

- The frequency and magnitude of effluent sublethal test failures that are a meaningful predictor of adverse impacts on aquatic life in the receiving waters are identified, and
- It can be demonstrated that there are reliable scientific methods that permittees can use to identify and eliminate the cause of sublethal test failures.

In addition to our past meetings with TCEQ and EPA Region 6, our coalition met over the summer with a number of elected state officials to express our concern about how EPA Region 6 is asking TCEQ to implement this program, and the potential monetary impact on Texas permittees.

As a result of our meetings at the Capitol, two letters from state officials have gone to EPA. Rep. Bill Callegari and Rep. Brandon Creighton jointly signed a letter to EPA Administrator Al Armendariz and Senator Glenn Hegar sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. Copies of these letters are available on the WEAT website along with the response from EPA Region 6. The regional administrator continues to maintain their position that the WET test is as valid for sublethal effects and it is for lethal. The water coalition will continue to advocate for a reasonable implementation strategy for this unproven application.

## **Watershed Principles**

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has worked with a number of other organizations, including WEF, to develop twelve Principles for a Viable Watershed Approach. The principles recognize that while significant progress has been made over the past 40 years of regulation under the federal Clean Water Act, serious barriers remain to fully protect and restore the nation's waters. The principles state "What is needed now is a broader holistic approach that will prioritize and address the most significant current impacts on water quality in the most effective and responsible way". The principles were developed to guide the ongoing and future development of legislation and policies to address these problems. WEF has adopted these principles and they can be viewed on the WEF website at:

[http://www.wef.org/GovernmentAffairs/page\\_cs.aspx?id=7849&terms=NACWA+watershed+principles](http://www.wef.org/GovernmentAffairs/page_cs.aspx?id=7849&terms=NACWA+watershed+principles)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2010

November 4	Water For People Fundraiser , Houston, TX
November 4	Texas Water Environment Legislative and Regulatory Horizon, Austin, TX
November 6	Fall River Cleanup and Barbeque (Basura Bash), San Antonio, TX
November 16	WEAT/TAWWWA YP Seminar, San Antonio, TX
November 16	Central Texas Section Meeting, Austin, TX
November 18	Dallas/Fort Worth Section Meeting, Euless, TX
November 18	Houston/Galveston Section Meeting, Houston, TX
November 30	WEAT and WEF Awards State Level Nomination Deadline
December 2	San Antonio Section Scholarship Dinner, San Antonio, TX

### 2011

January 12-13	The 4M's of Collection System Management Workshop and Exposition, San Marcos, TX
January 18	Central Texas Section Meeting, Austin, TX
January 20	Dallas/Fort Worth Section Dinner Meeting, Grapevine, TX
January 28	Water Reuse in Texas: Extending our Water Frontier Conference, San Antonio, TX
February 22	NTS Seminar "Condition Assessment and Corrosion Control in Wastewater Systems", Dallas, TX
March 15	Central Texas Section Meeting, Austin, TX
March 17	Dallas/Fort Worth Section Dinner Meeting, Euless, TX
April 5-8	Texas Water 2011, Fort Worth, TX
May 17	Central Texas Section Meeting, Austin, TX
May 19	Dallas/Fort Worth Section Dinner Meeting, Grapevine, TX
July 1	Deadline for V.M. Ehlers Scholarship Application
July 21	Dallas/Fort Worth Section Dinner Meeting, Euless, TX
August 3-4	Biosolids and Odor and Corrosion Conference, San Marcos, TX