



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

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City of Slaton Receives REDPP Grant from TDRA

The City of Slaton was awarded \$294,500 for a Renewable Energy Demonstration Pilot Program (REDPP) grant through the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) in January.

This grant will provide funding for the City of Slaton to install a 50 kilowatt wind turbine at the City's wastewater treatment plant, which will help offset or eliminate energy cost.

The City of Slaton will be working closely with the National Institute for Renewable Energy (NIRE), which is an independent public-private collaboration created by Texas Tech University.

NIRE contributes to solutions to solve key scientific and technology challenges facing the wind power industry.

The collaboration between the City of Slaton, TDRA, Texas Tech in the form of NIRE, and other regional organizations will result in an innovative project that builds regional relationships as well as serves the citizens of Slaton directly.

The underlying goal of the program is to examine the promise that wind power has to assist rural areas in Texas. Wind studies have shown that Texas has more potential than any other state to harness the wind for energy.



Future site of renewable energy project

Once completed, this project will provide feasibility information for further renewable energy projects

The SPAG Regional Services Department wrote and will administer this grant. For more information on the REDPP program, please contact the Regional Services Department.



Future site of renewable energy project





Current Local Projects in the SPAG Region

The SPAG Regional Services Department offers grant writing and administration services to the entire SPAG region. SPAG has been very successful in obtaining both CDBG and DRP



City of Lockney Project Site

grant funds for cities and counties in this region.

Currently, the Regional Services Department is administering over \$4.9 million worth of water, sewer, streets and economic development projects in the SPAG region.

SPAG has ten active CDBG awards that are

servicing the communities of Ropesville, Seth Ward/Hale County, Springlake, Lockney, Grassland/Lynn County, Maple/Bailey County, Denver City, Earth and Hale Center. The City of Slaton Renewable Energy Demonstration Pilot Project is the newest active CDBG award.

There are currently six active DRP awards that are serving the communities of Petersburg, Crosbyton, Lockney, Slaton, Plains and Olton. Four STEP projects have been started in the municipalities of Ralls, Anton, Crosbyton and Flo-mot (Motley County)

The SPAG Regional Services Department also submitted 12 applications for the 2011/2012 CDBG cycle through TDRA and funding



Volunteers prepare for work for the City of Ralls STEP Grant

announcements will be made this Spring.

SPAG remains active in pursuing grants for the cities and counties in the region. These fund sources allow cities and counties with limited resources to maintain or update their water, sewer and street systems and also make much-needed economic development improvements in their downtown areas.

The SPAG region is always seeking innovative funding solutions for infrastructure improvements and the SPAG Regional Services Department has been fortunate to aid in those efforts.

“Currently, the Regional Services Department is administering over \$ 4.9 million worth of water, sewer, streets and economic development projects in the SPAG Region”

SPAG 2-1-1 Director named one of “Top 20 Hispanics of 2010”

Aida Martinez was recently named one of Top 20 Hispanics of 2010 by Latino Lubbock Magazine. Latino Lubbock annually recognizes individuals that have been selected for their tenacity and passion in demonstrating commitment to the Latino com-



munity that year for improving the quality of life for Latinos. Aida works behind the scenes as the 2-1-1 Texas South Plains Area Information Center Director, working to assure a critical connection between individuals and families in need and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.





2-1-1 Day Conference

2-1-1 Texas South Plains has been a program of South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) since 2005 and has since taken over 150,000 calls since.

Since 2005, the state of Texas' network has celebrated 2-1-1 Day on February 11th.

Events that take place across the state on 2-1-1 Day include "open

houses", media events, recognitions and proclamations. Lubbock celebrated 2-1-1 Day by hosting an agency conference.

The topic of the conference this year was "After the Cuts: How can local agencies do more with less?"

Speakers included Lubbock Area United Way, Managed Care, Parenting Cottage, Catholic Family



LeeAnn Clark, Executive Director, LEARN Education Opportunity Center

been altered in order to accommodate previous



2-1-1 Day attendees preparing for the lecture

Services, Advocacy Inc.,

Learn Inc., Office of Dispute Resolution, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and Lubbock Regional MHMR.

Each speaker provided information and statistics regarding how programs and services have already

budget cuts and how they plan to continue services with further cuts.

Over 90 individuals attended the 2-1-1 day conference and had the opportunity to meet with peers and discuss the successes and challenges that the program has had in the last year.



Carla Olson, Executive Director, Parenting Cottage

2-1-1 is the abbreviated dialing code for free information and referrals about local community organizations and resources.





New Employees @ SPAG

Dee Neill

Dee grew up in Levelland, TX and graduated from Anton High School in 1994. He has an Associates Degree in Agri-Business and a Bachelor's of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics. He is a Master Mason, member of International Rotary, and holds a Texas and Florida Claims Adjuster License. Dee is too busy for hobbies, but would like to get into golfing or own some horses. He enjoys working with everyone at SPAG, and looks forward to spending time with his family whenever time permits.



Dianne Dorn

Dianne's greatest joy is her 20-year-old daughter, Genevieve, who works full time and takes classes at South Plains Community College. She has two puppies—Abby and Jupiter—a lab mix and a Great Dane who thinks he is a Chihuahua. She likes to crochet, especially baby blankets; putting them in baskets with other baby items. Every once in a while she finds a buyer for these items. Dianna is pleased to be back at SPAG and enjoys being a part of the SPAG family.



SPAG Board Members Selected for Commissioners Court Leadership Academy

The South Plains Association of Governments is proud to announce that three of its board members were recently selected to enter the Commissioners Court Leadership Academy. Penny Golightly, Patti Jones, and Lee Norman of the SPAG Board of Directors will be participating.

The academy was created by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's V.G. Young Institute of

County Government and is composed of 20 members.



"The program provides advanced leadership training to county judges and commissioners through a series of educational activities around the state and in Washington, D.C.," said Rick

Avery, director of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's V.G. Young Institute of County Government.

The first session of the Academy will be on April 5, 2011, and continue for two years.

For more information on the program contact Rick Avery 979-845-4572 or r-avery@tamu.edu.



SPAG Quarterly Calendar



March 2011 Calendar

Solid Waste Advisory Committee	March 4	10:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Aging Department Director's and Bookkeepers Meeting	March 17	2:00 pm	SPAG Board Room
Transportation Meeting	March 18	10:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Government Application Review Committee Meeting	March 30	10:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Homeland Security Grant Presentation	March 24	12:00 pm	SPAG Board Room

April 2011 Calendar

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	April 14	8:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Resources United	April 14	3:00 pm	SPAG board room
Advisory Council on Aging	April 19	2:00 pm	SPAG Boardroom
Directors and Bookkeepers Meeting	April 21	2:00 pm	SPAG Boardroom
Government Application Review Committee Meeting	April 27	10:00 am	SPAG Boardroom

May Calendar

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	May 17	8:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Advisory Council on Aging	May 17	2:00 pm	SPAG Board Room
9-1-1 Advisory Meeting	May 18	10:00 am	SPAG Board Room
Aging Department Director's & Bookkeepers Meeting	May 19	2:00	SPAG Board Room
Government Application Review Committee Meeting	May 25	10:00 am	SPAG Board Room

“Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems.”

~Rainer Maria Rilke

SPAG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 2. It is an independent political subdivision of the state and is one of 24 such organizations in Texas. All local governments in the region are eligible and invited to become a member. Regional Forum is published monthly by SPAG and is available without cost.

