

Q1 · 2025

AQUA WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING
55
YEARS



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CELEBRATING 55 YEARS

In 1966, a group of farmers, ranchers, and bankers envisioned a reliable rural water supply for Bastrop County, Texas. Their efforts led to Aqua Water Supply Corporation (Aqua WSC) receiving its Certificate of Incorporation on April 11, 1969, marking the start of a transformative journey.

The original incorporators—K.B. Wendt, Earl Callahan, Henry N. Bell, Cecil Fisher, and Edwin Magnuson—aimed to provide dependable water for farm and domestic use in Bastrop County and nearby counties like Caldwell, Fayette, Lee, Travis, and Williamson.

Aqua WSC's first Board of Directors included K.B. Wendt, Earl Callahan, Cecil W. Fisher, Henry N. Bell, Doyle K. Tuck, Edwin Magnuson, and Merle Rother. Construction of water lines, pump stations, and facilities began in 1970, and the first office opened on Highway 71 in Bastrop with two employees: Manager Jim Trigg and Office Manager Adlinie Rathman. That year, a dedication event with a barbecue dinner drew 1,000 attendees to the American Legion Hall in Bastrop.

With loans and grants, Aqua WSC rapidly expanded from 900 members in 1971 to over 30,000 in 2025. This growth highlights the organization's commitment to supporting rural communities with high-quality water services.

Aqua WSC remains a testament to its founders' vision and continues to play a vital role in enhancing the well-being of the communities it serves.

Aqua Water Dedication held

Congressman Jake Pickle said Friday that rural water supply systems "could have as much impact on rural America as the REA did thirty years ago."

Pickle spoke to over 500 people at the dedication of the Aqua Water Supply Corporation, a 1.7 million dollar water system that will initially service over 1200 families spread over 3,000 square miles.

Jim Smith, the national administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, was present and helped Pickle turn on the valves for zone one and two and test the big eight-inch water mains.

Pickle said, "Our rural people want and deserve fresh clean water. We did not have to 'sell' this water system; people are asking to sign up in such large numbers that we cannot service all of them the first go-around. We already have a supplemental loan pending to extend the system."

Later, Smith said, "From the turnout and the spirit I see tonight here in Bastrop, I will say that things look very promising for the supplemental loan."

Smith continued, "Rural development is our business — we are trying to stem the tide of exodus to the already over-crowded cities. Our (FHA) budget is almost 2 billion dollars, and that's money that all goes to towns of less than 5,500 and farmers and ranchers who live in the country. In each case, we are talking about loan with interest — this is not giveaway-money."

Pickle said, "With Aqua, we have shown that this FHA program can be conducted on a massive scale. We have served notice that some day these rural water supply systems will criss-cross the rural sections of this nation just like the electrical coop lines do now. In the beginning, the REA had a goal to light the 40 watt bulb and look what they have accomplished. It is my belief that Aqua will stand as a model for the state and perhaps the nation."

Pickle praised the FHA stating, "The American public probably gets more out of its federal dollar through FHA programs than it does with any other federal agency."

Speaking of the largest rural water supply system in the nation, Pickle said, "I have never worked harder or longer on any project since being in office than I have with Aqua, and I have never been prouder."

Smith, explaining the activities of FHA, said that their four largest programs were housing, operating, emergency and water loans. "These people come to us when other borrowing channels are unavailable or impossible."

Jim Trigg, manager of Aqua, said that about 80 to 95 per cent of the 36-mile pipeline was laid and that work was progressing on storage tanks and pump stations. Engineers for the job are Bryant, Curington, Inc., of Austin, and contractors are the Sub-Surface Construction Company of Fort Worth.

Pickle was surprised at the close of the ceremony when District Attorney James B. Kershaw, on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors and the employees of Aqua Water Supply Corporation, presented him with a handsome plaque expressing their appreciation for "his efforts on behalf of the rural people."

The Aqua Water Supply Board of Directors includes K. B. Wendt, president; Doyle K. Tuck, secretary-treasurer; T. L. Ragan, E. L. Fohn, Merle Rother, Edwin Magnuson and Mrs. Abner Scott. Jim Trigg is general manager and Mrs. Joe Lee Rathman is office manager and secretary.



LEAD SERVICE LINES



ATTENTION MEMBERS!



In cooperation with a national initiative by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as required by TCEQ, Aqua WSC is completing an inventory of our system's and members' water service lines. This effort, set to be completed by the end of the year, will help identify where member-owned lead lines exist.

Things to know!

- The U.S. EPA has declared the elimination of lead in drinking water a national health priority, with a key focus being Lead Service Lines — the pipes that connect homes and businesses to public water mains.
- While lead has been virtually eliminated from public utility water systems, it can still be found in older home plumbing.
- One of the most common sources of lead in drinking water are Lead Service Lines (LSLs) – the pipes that connect private plumbing systems to public water mains. These are typically the responsibility of the property owner. Finding and removing LSLs is a key goal of the revised Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) and will require a coordinated effort between utilities and customers to “Get the lead out”.
- The inventory is an important step in protecting public health and minimizing the risk of lead entering your drinking water from service pipes and fixtures in your home.

- Lead can enter your drinking water through old pipes and plumbing fixtures. Although Aqua WSC's service lines are lead-free and your water is rigorously tested, it's important to identify and replace any lead in home plumbing.

To help with this initiative, we have created a quick survey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and submit it if you have not already. To take the survey, scan the QR code below or visit www.AquaWSC.com.

Lead & Copper Service Line Survey



AQUA WSC ANNUAL MEETING

Help us celebrate **55 years** and our amazing members at the Annual Membership Meeting for Aqua Water Supply Corporation! It will be held Friday, April 4th, at Holtman Hall, located at 4045 FM 535 in Rockne, Texas. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting convenes at 2:00 p.m. All members who attend the annual meeting will be eligible for door prizes.

The Annual meeting will include:

- Door prizes
- Snacks & refreshments
- Updates on Capital Improvement Projects
- Meet & greet with staff and Board of Directors
- And more!

We hope to see you there!

THEN



NOW



OWENS ELEVATED TANK



The construction of the Owens Elevated Storage Tank is in full swing, located off of Hwy 95 in the Camp Swift area.

FUN FACTS:

- This composite water tower will stand at 179 feet tall when completed and will hold one million gallons of water.
- Composite water towers require less maintenance than other types of water towers, therefore creating lower life cycle costs.
- Composite water towers have a reduced carbon footprint.
- Composite water towers reduce the amount of work at heights, improving safety.

We are looking forward to its completion in the Fall of 2025. Visit our website, www.AquaWSC.com and our social media pages for updates on the construction.

Capital Improvement Projects:

PROJECT

LOCATION & APPROX. COST

DELHI WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

NORTH CALDWELL COUNTY
\$11.4 MILLION

HWY 71 EAST WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

NORMA JEAN BLVD. TO PINE HILL LOOP
\$4.5 MILLION

MONKEY ROAD WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

SOUTH OF ELGIN
\$5 MILLION

AQUA WSC BOARD ROOM

ADJACENT TO AQUA WSC MAIN OFFICE
\$1.4 MILLION

HT TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

HWY. 71 - PINE HILL LOOP
\$6 MILLION



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Scholarship Applications are now being accepted for the annual Ernest W. Bracewell, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program.

The Aqua WSC scholarship application and guidelines can be obtained through Aqua WSC's website, www.AquaWSC.com, or from the business office located at 415 Old Austin Highway in Bastrop.

The application deadline is **May 15, 2025**, and scholarships will be awarded by August. Members of Aqua WSC and immediate family members are eligible to apply for a scholarship, provided they meet the following qualifications:

- Applicant must be a member of Aqua WSC or an immediate family member residing in the same household as the member.
- Aqua WSC member account must be current.
- Applicant must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.
- Applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student by an accredited business/trade or college institution; funding will be considered for pursuit of a Masters or Post Graduate Degree.



Ernest W. Bracewell

Aqua WSC adopted an educational scholarship program in 2007 to provide a little extra help to members with family members seeking higher education. Each selected applicant receives a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000; receiving half the first semester upon proof of enrollment in an accredited course of study, and half in the second semester, provided the minimum GPA requirements are met. Completed application forms must be submitted by **May 15, 2025**, along with proof of GPA, two letters of recommendation, and a personal essay for review by the Aqua WSC scholarship committee.

Visit <https://www.aquawsc.com/community/scholarship-program/> to learn more and to apply.

SINCE 2007, OVER \$400,000 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO AQUA WSC MEMBERS!

DID YOU KNOW?

MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN LAW:

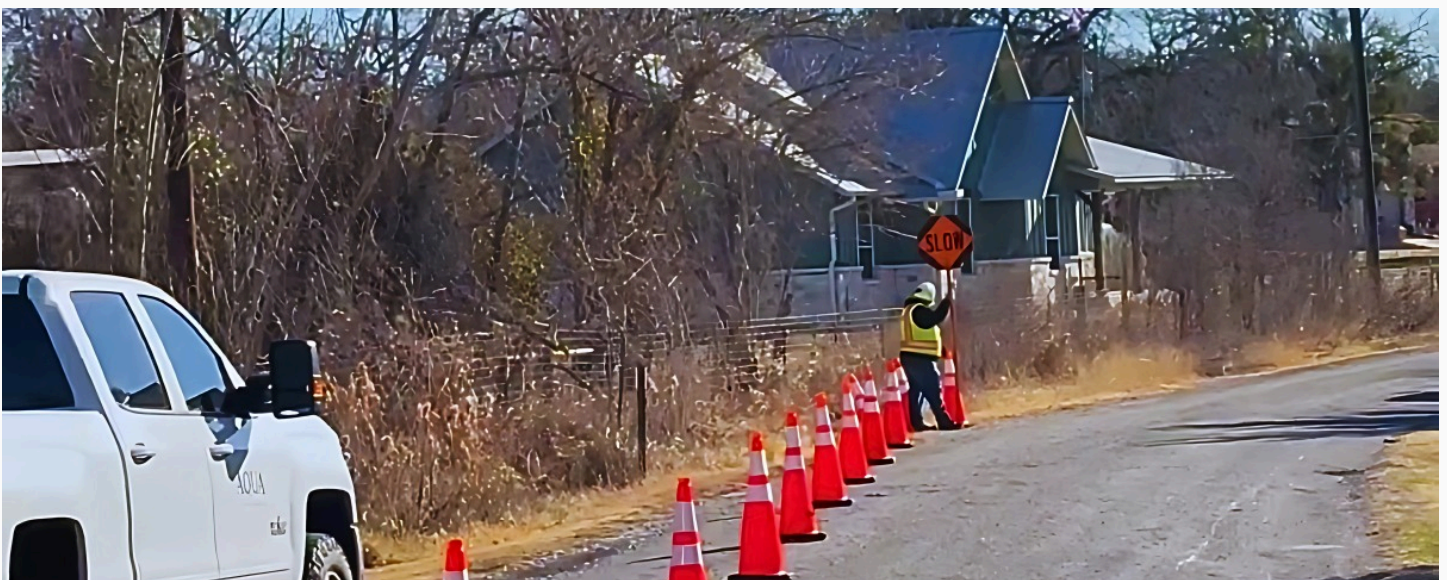
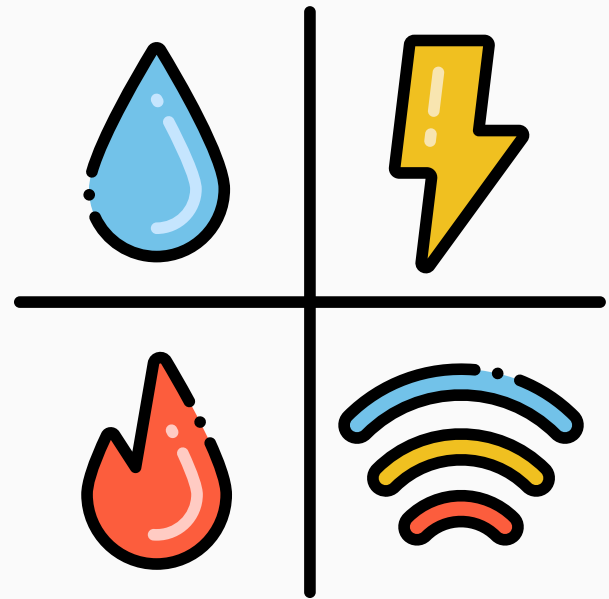
When it comes to the Texas Move Over Law, most motorists know to move over a lane or slow down 20 mph below the speed limit when passing stopped law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical vehicles on the side of the road.

But here's something you might not know:

The law has been expanded to include utility vehicles that are stationary with flashing amber or blue lights!

Let's all do our part to keep utility workers safe—move over or slow down when you see them at work.

Visit [Texas Department of Transportation](#) to learn more.



EVENTS

Aqua WSC Events & Office Closures

March Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Beginning at 9am

Aqua WSC Main Office - Board Room

Aqua WSC Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2025

Holtman Hall - Rockne



Aqua WSC Upcoming Office Closures:

Good Friday:

Friday, April 18th

Memorial Day:

Monday, May 26th

We're Hiring!
Interested in applying at
Aqua WSC?

Visit:

<https://www.aquawsc.com/about-us/careers/>



Aqua WSC offers the following benefits:

- Health and prescription insurance coverage
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account
- Flexible Dependent Care Account
- Life Insurance
- Short and Long-term disability
- Paid holidays, vacation, sick leave
- 401(k) plan
- Work/Life balance, incentive bonuses



CONTACT US

Aqua WSC Board of Directors:

ZONE 1

CRAIG WILLIAMS

ZONE 2

LINDA GARCIA

ZONE 3

DAVID GLASS
PRESIDENT

ZONE 4

MARK MCARTHUR

ZONE 5

EARL STEINBACH
VICE PRESIDENT

ZONE 6

BARRY BARKER

ZONE 7

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ZONE 8

BILL TOMSU

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Follow Us!



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

CALLING AQUA WSC BEFORE YOU DIG
IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. IT CAN
PREVENT WATER LOSS & SERVICE
INTERRUPTIONS.

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