



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Larry N. Patterson, Executive Director *Larry N. Patterson*  
**DATE:** March 30, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Directors Meeting - - April 5, 2018

---

**Meeting Place:** Upper Trinity Regional Water District  
Board Meeting Room  
900 N. Kealy  
Lewisville, TX 75057

**Date:** Thursday, April 5, 2018

**Board Meeting:** 12:30 P.M.

**Notice:** For the required quorum, your presence is very important. However, if you cannot attend, please contact Nancy Tam by email: [ntam@utrwd.com](mailto:ntam@utrwd.com) or by telephone at 214-538-8602, as soon as possible.

---

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.

These are challenging (exciting) times for Upper Trinity. I hope that all Board Members appreciate the importance of decisions we are making for the future of this region. This month's agenda is another example - - from closing out the budget and audit for last year to awarding a contract for design of the dam and spillway for Lake Ralph Hall. The briefings last month by staff and the consultant team helped put this major water supply project into proper focus - - and, I think we are ready to go forward; proceeding with the dam and spillway is a major milestone for this strategic water supply project.

Also, I want to congratulate the Board and staff. AGAIN, Upper Trinity has won recognition for having the "Best Tasting Water" for the State. This is the third time in the last ten years, for Upper Trinity to win the State-wide award. It is not luck; it is due to a capable staff and a supportive Board that values the importance of having high quality water. Congratulations - - and, thanks for your vision and support.

The capital budget for this year reflects the reality of rapid regional growth that seems to have a bullseye on our service area. With the Riverbend Water Reclamation Plant now undergoing a major expansion, the Doe Branch Plant will be next. Very soon, to stay on schedule, expansion of the Doe Branch Plant needs to get underway. And, there are many other projects, many other agenda items that we will see in coming months. As we work together for the best outcomes,

please don't hesitate to share any thoughts or questions you may have - - with me or any of the Officers.

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday.

- - Kevin Mercer, President

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**Water Transfers Not Subject to TPDES.** Recently the U.S. Supreme Court declined to consider a case challenging the EPA's 2008 rule that exempted water transfers from coverage under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System - - in Texas, it's the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). EPA's rule was designed to allow the transfer of water between water bodies without the regulatory burden of obtaining a discharge permit (like a wastewater treatment plant). The Court's denial confirms the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit decision to uphold the rule. What does this mean for Upper Trinity or any other entity dependent upon water transfers (such as Chapman Lake and future Lake Ralph Hall) as part of their long-term water supply strategy? It means that we can utilize such water transfers without being subject to additional costly and potentially prohibitive State / Federal permitting requirements.

**Electric Service Agreement.** At the December 2017 meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to seek proposals for electric services, at a maximum price of \$0.036 per Kwh and to enter into an Electric Services Agreement, if successful. The electric service is for the Taylor Water Plant and Intake Structure, the Non-Potable System and the Lakeview Regional Water Reclamation System; and would apply to the period beginning May of 2020. The District's current contract is with Reliant Energy (through April of 2018 at \$0.04787, and at \$0.03798 from May 2018 to May 2020). Source Power and Gas based in Houston, Texas made a firm offer for a 3-year period beginning May 2020 at a price of \$0.03575, significantly lower than offers from other entities. This new agreement now places the District in a good financial-risk position for a 5-year period in the deregulated electricity marketplace, where future prices can be quite volatile. Source Power and Gas was established in 2009 and they concentrate their business in the commercial and industrial sectors; and therefore, the District's business was inviting to them.

**North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).** Several news broadcasts and articles along with social media sites have recently focused on the taste and safety of NTMWD's drinking water. These concerns escalated when environmental activist Erin Brockovich got involved. NTMWD maintains that its water is completely safe, citing data from an independent testing firm showing that levels of disinfection byproducts are within regulatory standards. See the enclosed article for more details.

**Upper Trinity Has the Best Tasting Water in Texas!** Once again, the District's drinking water has been declared the "**Best Tasting Water**" in the State - - by the Texas Water Utilities Association. By virtue of winning that distinction at the regional level last year, Upper Trinity's water in this year's contest was paired against the nine other regional winners from across the State. As we've come to expect, our water came out on top. This is the third time in the past ten years that the District's treated water has earned this state-wide distinction.

**Mechanical Mishap at Riverbend.** Early in the morning on Saturday, March 24, a mechanical valve on the influent pipe to a treatment basin failed to open as designed. As a result, untreated



wastewater spilled onto the ground at the plant, rather than entering the basin for treatment. This spill continued for about 1.5 hours before an operator could override the automatic pump command. Most of the spill was contained on site, but approximately 9,000 gallons flowed off the plant into the upper arm of Lewisville Lake. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was notified and the required spill report was submitted.

**Lewisville Rotary Tours Water Treatment Plant.** On the evening of March 22, a group of 30 Rotarians with the Lewisville Morning Rotary Club toured the Taylor Water Treatment Plant. Following the tour, the group held a Rotary Meeting and enjoyed a picnic at their expense in the Richard Lubke Community Garden. Thanks to Vice President Lubke, Nancy Tam and Tim Brazile for coordinating and hosting the event. Pictured are some of the group during the tour of the Taylor Water Treatment Plant.



### **BOARD MEETING**

Enclosed is the agenda for the April 5, 2018 Board Meeting, and the Data Sheets for action items and other related information. Please contact me or the appropriate staff person if you have any questions.



Thursday, March 22, 2018

PLANO

# Water supply safe, district officials say

Independent tests cited as residents complain, Brockovich plans visit

By **NANETTE LIGHT**  
Staff Writer  
nlight@dallasnews.com

PLANO — Officials with the North Texas Municipal Water District assured the Plano City Council on Tuesday night that the city's water supply is safe.

On Wednesday, the water district released additional test results solidifying that claim.



**ERIN BROCKOVICH**

The tests conducted during the current temporary chlorine maintenance shows drinking water is safe, according to a news release from the water district.

The results by an independent testing firm reveal that levels of disinfection byproducts are within regulatory standards,

See **DISTRICT** Page 10B



Anja Schlein/Special Contributor

**Concerned residents listened** to a presentation about water quality during Tuesday night's Plano City Council meeting.

Thursday, March 22, 2018

### District officials say Plano's water is safe

Continued from Page 1B

the release states.

Concern over water quality and safety spread like wildfire after environmental activist Erin Brockovich used



**HARRY  
LAROS-  
ILIERE**

social media to question the drinking water in Plano and surrounding communities. She's since announced plans to come to Plano on April 5 and "give the community the truthful answers they deserve."

But Thomas Kula, executive director of the water district, said the water it treats and delivers to the Collin County city meets all federal and state drinking water act standards.

Mayor Henry LaRosilieri offered additional assurances to residents, saying that if there is a problem with the city's water, "we'll fix it."

"I drink the same water everyone else does," he said.

#### 'Cutting corners'

Brockovich has accused the city and water district of "cutting corners" and failing to answer questions about water quality.

Her criticism came in the midst of a routine 28-day chlorine maintenance that's set to conclude Monday.

"Let me be perfectly clear," Brockovich wrote on Facebook. "If a community water system is forced to conduct a chlorine burn because they are experiencing nitrification, it is because they have failed."

She said the water district's mixing of ammonia and chlorine forms chloramine, which she called a "toxic and dangerous" combination.

The water district, however, called the measure a "proactive system maintenance process" to ensure water quality and "safeguard public health."

Kula said the water district has implemented this process every year around the same time for more than a decade as a preventive step to ensure water quality during the hot summer months.

Nearly half of the U.S. population is served by public water suppliers using temporary chlorine maintenance such as the one in North Texas, according to the district.

#### 'Feels a little scary'

But many residents dressed in blue packed Tuesday's council meeting, complaining that their water smells like an "over-chlorinated swimming pool."

A group calling itself The Safer Water, North Texas, launched last week after Brockovich's attack and has grown to about 7,000 members, organizers said.

Co-founder Jamie Smith-

Stephens said half of her home in Frisco is on a filtration system.

"It feels a little scary. I can't imagine how the smell of bleach and chlorine into your running water is safe," she said.

Plano resident Trish Cox said her daughter, who suffers from eczema and contact dermatitis, has developed an itchy rash on her body after showering. Cox also said her cat and dogs won't drink the tap water.

Cox said she's resorted to buying bottled water, holding up a partially consumed bottle of water before Tuesday's meeting.

"As a person who cares about the environment, I'm not excited to buy bottled water. I want to be able to drink the tap water that I pay for and assume that the city I live in oversees that and makes sure that it's safe for all of us," she said.

The water district insists the water is safe to drink and use, and said the odor is due to a lack of ammonia, which is discontinued during the treatment process.

Water is tested in Plano in some form every day, said Gerald Cosgrove, the city's director of public works. He said the city plans to test the water through an independent agency before the chlorine burn ends Monday.

"We'd like to ease our citizens' fears," LaRosilieri said.

Twitter: @NanetteLight