



## **Water Conservation and the Engineer**

**October guest speaker, Bill Hoffman Jr, P.E. will tell us how to incorporate it into our design and lower operation costs**

**Julie Hastings on the Stewardship of the Engineering Profession**

**TBPE proposes changes to Professional Practice Rules. What do you think?**

# Designing for Water Conservation

Water is just one of those topics that will not go away. Limits to water supply, rising costs for water and wastewater, and a whole new set of water efficient technologies make this a topic ripe for rethinking. This is especially true for new site development and for commercial properties. The opportunities abound to build cost effective measures into the design that will result in properties with lower water and wastewater bills for the life of the project. At this month's Chapter Luncheon, water conservation expert Bill Hoffman Jr, P.E. explains how engineers can incorporate water conservation into solutions that benefit everyone. Join us October 18 to learn more about this important topic.

Mr. Hoffman is currently Program Coordinator for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Water Conservation Programs for the City of Austin. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing technical assistance programs for water conservation in Texas and has helped conduct a number of workshops to train municipal water conservation personnel how to establish and administer their own conservation, reuse, rainwater harvesting and drought management programs. He has lectured on water conservation and especially energy/water relations and commercial and

industrial water conservation throughout the United States and in Mexico, Canada, the Middle East, and South America.

Mr. Hoffman is currently a Trustee and vice chair for the American Water Works Association, Water Conservation Division and a member of the US Green Building Council's Water Efficiency Technical Advisory Group for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program, the ASHRAE 189 Committee on Sustainable Design, and the Green Build Initiative. He is also working with the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) on a joint water-energy efficiency project for commercial kitchens. Through his career, he has chaired the Desalinization and Water Reuse Committee of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the Technical Assistance and Response Committee of the Governor's Drought Preparedness Council and currently serves on the Water Efficiency Programs and Technology Committee for the AWWA. Bill retired from the Texas Water Development Board in January 2000 where his last position was Assistant Director for Water Resources Planning – Office of Planning, and supervisor of water conservation, water reuse, desalting, rainwater harvesting, and alternate water resources programs. He has also studied and lectured on

energy-water relationships and on future water requirements for energy, industrial, and municipal development.

Mr. Hoffman is past vice-president of the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, and the first president of the Texas WaterWise Council. He has been the author and/or co-author of numerous publications, guidebooks, papers and other works on water conservation, drought management, rainwater harvesting and water resource planning. He helped draft the legislation that provides for Sales Tax Exemptions for water reuse and rainwater harvesting and numerous other pieces of water conservation legislation in Texas. Other activities include supervision of a water quality laboratory and worked in the public health area both in the United States and South East Asia, and worked on air and water quality projects in both the chemical and pulp and paper industries.

Bill has 40 years of water and environmental related experience. He has a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and an MS degree in Environmental Health Engineering, both from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

Bill is a fifth-generation Texan and is the second generation in the water business.

## October Luncheon Program

**Special Guest:**  
**Bill Hoffman, Jr.**  
**City of Austin Coordinator for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Water Conservation Program**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2006**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Austin Woman's Club**  
**708 San Antonio**  
**Downtown Austin**

**Cost: \$20 per person with advance reservation; \$5 for students and government employees**

**Reservations can be made by visiting [www.tspe-travis.org](http://www.tspe-travis.org)**



# Stewardship of the Engineering Profession

By Julie Hastings, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

Well, summer is over and now it's time to get in gear for the year. We've had a great summer with the Officer's Installation Banquet, Summer Picnic, and Leadership Conference. As I'm getting ready for this year's round of meetings and events I begin to ponder the meaning of TSPE. Why am I in this organization? What does it offer to me? What do I offer the organization? The answer to these questions began to become clear to me at the Leadership Conference. We started the conference on Friday exploring the Mission of TSPE: "To promote the ethical, competent, and licensed practice of engineering, and to enhance the professional, social, and economic well-being of its members." This statement pretty much says it. TSPE is an organization with a mission to promote the engineering profession.

So, Why am I in this organization? Because I am an engineer, I care about this profession, and I believe in supporting an organization that works to promote engineering. Hopefully you observed the role that TSPE took during the 2005 Legislative Session when a bill threatened to compromise the Qualifications Based Selection process for procurement of professional engineering services. TSPE was on the forefront of organizing a P.E. Day at the Capitol and pulling together

the engineering community to send letters and meet with representatives to make sure our side of the story was heard. TSPE was there for the interest of all engineers in the State of Texas. This is just one example of how TSPE promotes the engineering profession. TSPE is also involved in the promotion of engineering to our children through our MathCOUNTS program and e-week participation.

What does it offer to me? Opportunities to form and foster relationships with fellow engineers, opportunities for professional growth through programs and continuing education, a connection to the legislative affairs at the State level, and an opportunity to grow as a leader and as an engineer. While attending the Leadership Conference I was impressed upon observing the relationships that have formed and grown between the TSPE leaders over their many years of involvement. The monthly programs that we offer are great ways to meet other engineers in your region as well as get an update on your local happenings, technical updates, or a brush up on soft skills such as technical presenting, networking, or marketing. Additionally, TSPE offers opportunities to obtain Professional Development Hours through technical presentations at monthly meetings and continuing education programs.

Finally, What do I offer the organi-

zation? Hopefully, through involvement on committees and boards, I can help further the Mission and Purpose of this organization. The best way to help an organization with the purpose of promoting your profession is to get involved and provide your insight and leadership skills to the organization. TSPE has a wonderful staff of six working at the office in Austin, but even with their best efforts they cannot possibly carry the weight of the engineering profession in Texas on their shoulders without your help.

So, as we ramp up for the new year, I encourage you to ask yourself these same questions and get involved. It's easy to start at the local level, serve on a committee, and see the benefits grow from there



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Travis Chapter President Julie Hastings, P.E. accepts an award for Best Newsletter in the State from TSPE President Rick Liesse, P.E. The Chapter also took awards for Best Program and Best Newsletter in Region III.

## Travis Chapter recognized by TSPE

Congratulations to the 2005-2006 Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Travis Chapter for three “Best” awards from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

This summer, at the annual Leadership Conference in Kerrville this summer, the Travis Chapter of TSPE garnered three awards: Best Programs – Region III, Best Newsletter – Region III and State.

## Air Quality 2006 Conference to be held in Houston October 10-13

The Energy Systems Laboratory of the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are pleased to host Air Quality 2006: Energy Leadership & Emissions Reduction Conference to be held **October 10-13, 2006** in Houston, Texas, at the Hilton University of Houston. This unique forum provides a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies for cleaner air, recognizing development and the built environment as resources for broad, cost-effective solutions. This year’s theme will be “Creating the Clean Energy City.”

To learn more about the Conference or to register, go on the web to <http://airquality2006.tamu.edu>

## Workshop on Renewable Energy

Austin Energy and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UT Austin are jointly sponsoring a one-day workshop on renewable energy, **Thursday, October 12** at the U.T. Thompson Center. For more info, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/cee/tcc/wre/>

# Texas Board of Professional Engineers seeks comments on proposed changes to Professional Practice regulations

By John Powell, P.E. - Professional Practice Director, Travis Chapter TSPE

Comments on Board Rules presented during the last quarterly meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers will be taken until Friday, October 15, 2006. To comment on a proposed rule, send an email to [lance.kinney@tbpe.state.tx.us](mailto:lance.kinney@tbpe.state.tx.us)

The rules affecting our professional practice may be broken down into four main categories:

1. Taking the P.E. Exam Early
2. Listing Areas of Competency
3. Exam Collusion
4. Firm Registration

There is a national trend towards allowing prospective P.E.s to sit for the exam after graduation but before they have accumulated four years of relevant experience (three years for engineering MS graduates). An EIT, under the new rules, would be allowed one chance to pass the exam prior to submitting their experience record for review by the TBPE staff or Board. Read the proposed new rule at: [www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13367](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13367).

My experience with the exam was that it felt like taking an eight-hour college exam. My preparation for the test focused mainly on familiarizing myself with the *Civil Engineer's Reference Manual* and working practice problems. Given the opportunity to take the exam early may have been a benefit to me because those test taking skills would not have accumulated years of dust that had to

be wiped away before the big day. I encourage you to support the adoption of this rule because it offers young engineers in training the opportunity to get the test behind them and focus solely on obtaining experience relevant to their field(s) of practice.

Adoption of this rule will likely streamline the process of obtaining a license and will encourage more engineering graduates who have passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam to go for the P.E. exam.

The second amendment clarifies the areas of competency for professional practice. Engineers in Texas will still be allowed to practice in multiple areas provided they have met the Board standard for competency in any particular field. The rule as currently written aligns the classifications in Texas with the ever evolving national standards. More on the rule may be found at:

[www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13313](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13313)

The Board's third rule affecting professional practice involves "examination irregularities." Cheating by any other name is bad for the career and the proposed rule "may" ban an engineering candidate from re-taking the test for two years if cheating is suspected during or even after the exam is administered. The rule removes the mandatory ban from re-taking the test for two years and places discretion with the Executive

Director. Regardless, it's still not a good idea to ask your neighbor, "What time is it?" Read about this proposal at: [www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13375](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13375).

Finally, the rule relating to firm registration compliance has a few minor proposed changes. The proposed rule change removes references to individual business entity types and refers to all business entities collectively as firms. Engineering firms in Texas have a variety of options for types of business organization that is allowed by law. Modifying the rules to address the generic "firm" ensures the rule will be applicable regardless of the type of business engineers organize. The rule change also modifies the chapter title to be consistent with the text in the body of the rule. More may be read at: [www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13777](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/proposed.htm#s13777).

Again, voice your opinion after you read the proposed new rules to [lance.kinney@tbpe.state.tx.us](mailto:lance.kinney@tbpe.state.tx.us). Include a reference in your email to TSPE-Travis to let the Board know we are actively engaged in the rule making process of our governing body.

We have an opportunity to express our opinion on the rules that directly affect our practice as they are written. You will contribute to making TSPE a more visible presence by voicing your opinion.

## Travis Chapter TSPE

### Upcoming Events:

**Chapter Meeting**  
**October 18, 2006**  
**Austin Women's Club**  
**11:30 – 1:00**

**Happy Hour!**  
**November 2, 2006**  
**Opal Divines Penn Field**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**TBPE Board Meeting**  
**Committees**  
**November 8, 2006**  
**(Get ethics hour by sitting in on disciplinary committee meeting)**

**General Meeting**  
**November 9, 2006**

**MathCounts**  
**February 17, 2006**

## Mission of Texas Society of Professional Engineers

In order to assist the engineering profession in its responsibilities to protect the public health, safety, and property, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers is dedicated to:

- Restriction of the practice of engineering to properly qualified and licensed persons;
- Maintenance and observance of high ethical standards of conduct;
- Support of high standards of formal educational preparation for the practice of engineering;
- Continuing professional development of members of the engineering profession;
- Focusing appropriate public attention upon engineering responsibilities and engineering accomplishments for the purpose of attracting qualified persons to the practice of engineering;
- Providing appropriate assistance to its members to facilitate the pursuit of their professional goals.

## TIRED OF THE SIDELINES?



Get involved in TSPE!  
We need leaders to oversee the following programs:

### **Finance Director**

Responsible for fundraising coordination, chapter meeting sponsorships, and web/newsletter advertising.

### **Awards Director**

Responsible for coordination of awards including scholarships, Engineer of the Year, and Young Engineer of the Year

Please contact Steve Roth at [swroth@lan-inc.com](mailto:swroth@lan-inc.com) or call him at 338-2745 if you are interested in any of the above positions or have questions about other opportunities.

In addition, we need committee members to help on the following events:

### • **Christmas Party Committee**

Contact Beth Falls at [bfalls@cfaulknerengineering.com](mailto:bfalls@cfaulknerengineering.com) or call her at 433-2537.

### • **MathCounts Committee**

Contact Garrett Bonn at [gbonn@cfaulknerengineering.com](mailto:gbonn@cfaulknerengineering.com) or call him at 674-9446.

### • **Engineer Banquet Committee**

Contact Ryan Bell at [rbell@kfriese.com](mailto:rbell@kfriese.com) or call him at 338-1704.

# NSPE President Elect Ken Rigsbee addresses Travis Chapter members

Long-time Travis Chapter member and 2008-2009 NSPE President-Elect **Ken Rigsbee, P.E., F.NSPE** addressed the September luncheon of the Travis Chapter membership.

Ken told members about the changes being made at NSPE to more directly address the needs of our members, and about citizenship and influencing decisions made by public officials. He took questions from our engineers and assured the audience that NSPE is working hard to improve its value to the professional engineer and look out for the interest of the industry.

Ken Rigsbee is a fourth-generation Austinite and son of an engineer. Upon earning his B.S. degree in Architectural Engineering from UT Austin in 1966, he began his 36 year career with Phillips Petroleum Company as a junior design engineer in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He then worked in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in Kenai, Alaska as a construction engineer where he oversaw

nearly 30 projects around the plant and state. He later returned to Bartlesville and became active in civic and professional affairs.

In 1988 Rigsbee transferred his home to Austin to look after Phillips' government relations activities in Texas and Louisiana, and later assumed the responsibility for several other southern states. He retired from Phillips in 2002 when the company merged with Conoco.

In Oklahoma, he served as President of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, Bartlesville chapter; president and founder of the Oklahoma Engineering and Technology Guidance Council; he was also regional chairman of the American Society for Engineering Education. Rigsbee was twice awarded Young Engineer of the Year by the Bartlesville Chapter, OSPE, and by the state organization in 1977.

In Texas, Rigsbee served UT Austin as a member of the department's Visiting Committee. He



**Ken Rigsbee, P.E., F. NSPE**

was recognized as Texas Engineer of the Year in 1995, and was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the Civil Engineering Department in 2003. He received the Phillips Distinguished Community Service Award from Phillips Petroleum. He was named the second national Fellows of the National Society of Architectural Engineers. Rigsbee is a licensed professional engineer (structural) in the states of Texas and Oklahoma.

On July 24, 2006, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers announced Ken was elected at the inaugural meeting of the NSPE House of Delegates as the National Society of Professional Engineer's President for 2008-2009.

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# TSPE State Happenings

## “What is TSPE doing for me?”

By Julia Harrod, P.E. -  
State Director, Travis Chapter TSPE

**Leadership Training in Kerrville a success:** Many PEs and EITs from across the state came to together at the August State Leadership Training in Kerrville. Weather was great for hanging out by the pool in the evening after the all-day training session. This year's event featured leadership training sessions conducted by Jim Dalton, an intelligent motivational speaker that is adept at discussing leadership and management concepts in engineering terms. He is well versed in the issues that face the practicing engineer and weaves interesting antidotes into his lectures. The meeting's focus on developing personal leadership skills and abilities is evidence of the benefits that are available to TSPE members through involvement with TSPE. Both the June annual meeting and the August Leadership training seminar are available to assist the general membership in advancing their careers while attaining relevant PDHs. For more information on this event and other opportunities, please contact either me at [juliah@mwminc.com](mailto:juliah@mwminc.com) or **Trish Smith** at the TSPE state office at 512-472-9286.

### Annual TSPE Meeting in Corpus Christi

More than 230 P.E.s and E.I.T.s from across the state came to together at the annual meeting in June. Weather was great for sailing, golf, and beaching when not in seminars, honorary events, and

board/committee meetings. Three full days of seminars offer up to 24 hours of PHD credit for attendees and topics ranging from Land Use Design and TxDOT Transportation Issues to Grassroots Legislative/Political Effectiveness and Risk Management/Ethics. More than twenty Travis Chapter members attended portions of the event. This is a great opportunity to network with fellow engineers while earning all PDHs required to fulfill your licensing requirements. Look for the next annual meeting opportunity in June 2007 hosted by the Greater Houston Chapter.

### Legislative & Government Affairs Update

There is lots of activity in this committee as TSPE prepares for the 2007 legislative session. Here is just a few of the key past and upcoming issues:

- School finance reform finally passed. The package includes a new business tax to replace the existing franchise tax. Full impact of this tax will not be known until 2008 when the first payments become due.

- Primary elections: PACE (Political Action Committee) endorsed 159 candidates in the primaries, of which 150 won – a 94 percent win ratio! Two engineers (and also TSPE members) currently sit in the Legislature and won reelection, **Rep. Bill Callegari** and **Rep. Wayne Smith**. Both were in attendance at the Annual meeting.

- General Elections are coming up. Now is a great time to consider investing in the future of the engineering profession with money to PACE to help get people sympathetic to our issues elected.

- QBS (Qualifications Based Selection) will be an issue this coming session. Last session there was a push to allow TxDOT to select the lowest bid for engineering services – due in a large part to TSPE PACE efforts, this bill never made it out of committee. However, it will come up again. We need to continue our efforts and repeat our past success on this critical issue. We are not a commodity - our charge to protect the public's interest compels us to fight this battle.

- PE Day at the Capital event planned for Feb 6, 2007. In 2005, TSPE coordinated nearly 150 engineers joining together to visit state representatives. The 2007 event will build on that success and include a hosted dinner reception for legislators that evening. We hope to have 200 engineers visit all 150 representatives' offices.

### New Officers

The installation of new TPSE Officers brings forth a slate of committed and enthusiastic volunteers led by the new TSPE State President **Richard (Rick) Liesse, PE, RPLS**. Rick is a dedicated engineer and long time supporter of TSPE. He begins his term with a focus on engaging the legislature and providing constructive PHD opportunities for TSPE members.

# Board Meeting Minutes

by Larissa Prince, E.I.T.

Below are the Minutes of the TSPE Travis Chapter Summer Board of Directors Meeting held June 8, 2006:

President **Julie Hastings, P.E.** provided attendees with a meeting agenda and a list of Officers and Directors for 2006-2007. Major Items on the agenda were Summer Events, Summer Newsletter Articles, First regular chapter and board meeting of the 2006-2007 year, Committees, and Amendment of By-Laws.

## Summer Picnic

**Steve Roth, P.E.** contacted Dale Murphy with ASCE to do a joint summer picnic. ASCE and TSPE will charge \$15 for admission (kids, age 10 and under, admitted for free).

The Picnic will be held at Keller Landing Marina on Saturday, July 15, 2006 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsors for the picnic committed as joint sponsors for both the installation banquet and summer picnic.

## TSPE Annual Meeting

The TSPE Annual Meeting will be

held in Corpus Christi June 13-16.

**Julie Hastings, P.E.** requested that **Julia Harrod, P.E.** write an article on the meeting happenings. The TSPE Annual Leadership Conference will be held on August 25-26, 2006.

## Upcoming Events

The Travis Chapter is planning to host a softball game featuring a matchup between the local professional chapter versus the local student chapter.

**Julie Hastings, P.E.** announced that the chapter will continue to have board meetings on the second Wednesday of every month and the chapter meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every month for the 2006-2007 year.

## Chapter Governance

Committees and By-Laws Amendments were discussed. The following decisions made by the board:

- President-Elect should take charge of organizing committees.
- The chapter will start voting for the State Director and Alternate State Director positions.

- Only elected positions will get a vote.
- Eight positions will be elected.
- Associate Member Director will head up all communications and events with the local student chapter of TSPE.

**Stephanie Stanford, P.E.** was designated Membership and Hospitality Director.

**Garret Bonn** will take on the responsibility of recruiting volunteers for MathCounts and E-Week.

## Next Meeting

Items to look into for next board meeting:

How often is TSPE audited?

Clearer definitions of the duties and responsibilities of Officers and Directors

## Attendees

**Julie Hastings, P.E., Steve Roth, P.E., Dale Shumaker, P.E., Julia Harrod, P.E., Stephanie Stanford, P.E., Garret Bonn, E.I.T., and Larissa Prince, E.I.T.**

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