

League of Women Voters Kerrville Area

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Texas Water: Whose Water is it? League of Women Voters Invite Public to Forum

The League of Women Voters Kerrville Area, as part of a 2011 statewide study and consensus process, is looking at the thorny and complex issue of water rights and access in Texas. The first of three forums, held on Saturday, February 19, with more than 50 citizens in attendance, looked at ***“The Current State of Water, Where we are Today.”***

The second in the series ***“Water Planning for the Future”*** will be on Saturday, March 19, again, at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA), 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. The forum will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end by 1:00 p.m.

Presenters will be:

County Commissioner Jonathan Letz with an overview of *Region J*.

Dr. Rima Petrossian of the Texas Water Development Board with an overview of the Board, and Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA9).

Shana Horton, attorney for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), will speak on the role of the TCEQ and the Watermaster.

Gary P. Garrett, PhD, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPW) will talk about the importance of water from the TPW perspective.

Stuart Barron of the City of Kerrville will describe municipal water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery wells, and drought triggers.

On Saturday, April 9, the topic will be ***“State and Local Water Issues.”*** As a highlight of this forum, volunteer “actors” in the community will present a previously taped skit depicting perspectives of water interest groups. Players will include farmers and ranchers, residents of cities in Kerr County, a surface water rights holder, a recreational user, and environmental and industry representatives. A talk back session with the audience will follow. Other presenters include Tara Bushnoe of the UGRA who will present results of their water quality study and what individuals can do to preserve water quality; a presentation on rainwater harvesting presented by Master Naturalists Jim and Priscilla Stanley; and a discussion of native plants and grasses by well-known environmentalist Susan Sander.

For more information about the League of Women Voters Kerrville Area, please contact Melinda Wasson, Membership V.P. at 830-895-2521 or melindaw@windstream.net.

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