

DALLAS CITIZENS COUNCIL

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SPRING
2007

Drought forces water planning to forefront *Dallas identifying new long-term solutions*

The decisions made by Dallas city leaders 50 years ago to guarantee the city's long-range water supply have had innumerable benefits for the region and its economy. As drought conditions continue, Dallas fares far better than many areas in the state thanks to that long-range planning, which ensures that our water needs are met through 2030.

Schuyler Marshall, president and CEO of Rosewood, and DCC's point person on water issues, said, "even with the 35 percent of our water sources depleted by drought conditions, Dallas Water Utilities is in a comfortable position, compared to many other water districts across the state. However, the situation remains problematic for many of our neighboring cities that depend upon the North Texas Municipal Water District. Its primary reservoir, Lake Lavon, is at 73 percent capacity; and its secondary reservoir, Lake Chapman, is at 43 percent capacity."

"It takes 25 to 30 years to develop a new reservoir, so we must follow the example of earlier Dallas leaders who aggressively identified future water sources," said Dallas Citizens Council officer and former City Manager **John Ware**. "The Dallas City Council has

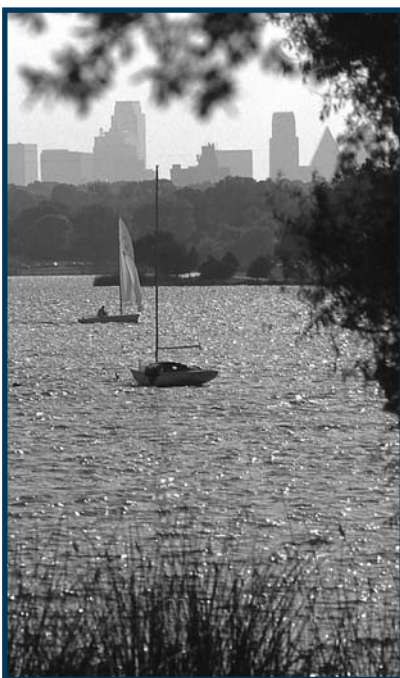
adopted a long-range water plan, and the Dallas Citizens Council is strongly supporting the city's efforts in Austin to pass legislation to facilitate implementation of that plan."

Dallas has increased lobbying efforts in Austin to ensure that the

Texas Legislature does not undo decades of local water planning in its efforts to overhaul the state water policy. Some plans being discussed could force Dallas to sell or give away its reserves to cities with fewer water resources, limit Dallas' water recycling efforts, or create a water tax that would only affect communities that have not planned

ahead for water needs.

"In the coming months as we begin to assess candidates for mayor and city council, it is important for Dallas Citizens Council members to keep this issue in the forefront. We have a strong plan, and it is critical that anyone running for city council be ready to move aggressively to support it," said **Donna Halstead**, president of DCC. Former city council member **Lois Finkelman** has been retained by DCC to work with each of the candidates to gain his or her support for long-range water plans.



Dallas city leaders are working to ensure a stable water supply for generations to come.

Dallas voters make history with bond package approval

\$1.35 billion for potholes, parks and the city's future

led by the Dallas Citizens Council funding to get out the vote on November 7, 2006, Dallas voters overwhelmingly approved the largest bond package in Dallas history, earmarking \$1.35 billion primarily for infrastructure improvements across the city. The three largest initiatives include:

- \$390.4 million to address street and transportation improvements
- \$334.3 million for flood protection and storm drainage, and
- \$343.2 million to improve parks and recreation facilities.

The bond package also included the following 12 individual propositions encompassing a wide range of important initiatives:

- \$46.2 million for library facilities
- \$60.9 million for cultural arts facilities
- \$34.8 million for City Hall, city service and city maintenance facilities
- \$1.5 million for land acquisition for low- and moderate-income homes
- \$41.5 million for economic development in the southern sector

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— John Ware, Former Dallas City Manager

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Tom M. Dunning

As we begin our 70th year of advancing causes critical to the vitality of our community, Dallas Citizens Council members are once more at the forefront of a number of very challenging issues. DCC members have been hard at work on policy matters ranging from transportation (both mass transit and roads) to long-term water planning to saving the 75-year tradition of the Texas/Oklahoma game being played annually in the Cotton Bowl during the State Fair of Texas.



Often, I am asked how the Dallas Citizens Council determines which civic initiatives need to be addressed and supported. Typically, we have three criteria:

- Will it have a long-term positive impact on the quality of life in our community?
- Will the Citizens Council be duplicating other organizations' work?
- Will our support help move the issue up on the city's and region's collective radar screen?

The Dallas Citizens Council's support of the Dallas Achieves Commission to dramatically improve student achievement in the Dallas Independent School District by 2010 and our opposition to the effort by a city council member to delay the Trinity River project are two recent examples of issues that meet these criteria.

If you would like to weigh in on any of these issues, please contact the Dallas Citizens Council at 214.653.1031.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Dunning".

Chairman, Dallas Citizens Council

Dallas Citizens Council celebrates 70th year

On November 22, 1937, the Dallas Citizens Council was established for wholly educational and civic purposes and would absolutely be non-political in character. Problem solving could be streamlined if these individuals gathered in a single room, thrashed out issues, devised solutions, and then exercised their authority to implement their goals. "Only yes or no" men could be part of the organization.

While the Chamber boosted business in Dallas, the Citizens Council boosted Dallas as a whole. The Citizens Council had no elected power, but held a strong influence over municipal and civic affairs without publicity. The Citizens Council was a group of powerful men, who established priorities and coordinated civic attitudes, and who had the authority to lend, not just their own stamp of approval on projects, but that of their organization. "In keeping that goal, its success was undeniable."

History of the Dallas Citizens Council excerpted from Big D by Darwin Payne.

Big win for Cotton Bowl

Texas/Oklahoma game to stay in Fair Park through 2015; \$20 million in improvements underway

There is reason to be optimistic as city and State Fair of Texas leaders work together to ensure that \$30 million in bond proceeds will be spent on the Cotton Bowl to preserve the landmark stadium's role as a vibrant contributor to the Dallas economy. DCC member **Pete Schenkel** has worked closely with both universities, the mayor and the city council to extend the Texas/Oklahoma and the Grambling State/Prairie View A&M games to be played annually during the State Fair of Texas through 2015. Pete

Schenkel and DCC Chairman-Elect **John Scovell** are working to secure Texas Tech and Oklahoma State and possibly others to play during the State Fair.

In January, phase I of the renovations got a boost when the city council authorized a \$9.51 million contract for design and labor services. A total of \$20 million to be spent in



phase I includes the new high-definition video scoreboard unveiled during the 2006 State Fair of Texas and new bench-style seating, as well as

structural repairs and waterproofing enhancements. The \$30 million slated for phase II of the renovations would include a new facade, upgrades to restrooms, and the expansion and

renovation of the concession areas as well as increases in seating capacity from 75,000 to 90,000 seats.

However, the fate of the second phase is less certain. Though Dallas voters approved \$30 million for Cotton Bowl renovations in the bond package last November, the city council must still authorize sale of the bonds over the next four years,

and could subsequently vote to redirect the \$30 million in Cotton Bowl funds for other park and recreation projects or decide to not sell the bonds.

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DCC members push key regional transportation initiatives

Goal of seamless system top priority

Dallas Citizens Council transportation point persons **Walt Humann** and **Jere Thompson, Jr.** have put in countless hours in the past few months on key transportation initiatives. Assisting in this effort is consultant **David Cain**, a former state senator and former chairman of the House Transportation Committee, who is representing the DCC on transportation issues impacting North Texas during the current legislative session.

Thompson, a former chair of the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), has been working with key



legislators to ensure that the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) policies regarding toll roads are most advantageous to North

Texas. Under debate are toll road projects on Highways 121 and 161, which TxDOT considers prime candidates for private development through a mechanism called a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA). Under scrutiny from Thompson, the NTTA and others, these CDAs were determined to have the effect of siphoning billions of dollars from this region to the developer's bottom line or to TxDOT for

unfunded projects in other parts of the state. Discussions are ongoing in the Texas Legislature that would allow

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Bond package (Continued from front page)

“This comprehensive package takes care of our infrastructure and helps secure our future.”

— Donna Halstead, President, Dallas Citizens Council



Dallas’ most recent bond election will provide \$60.9 million for cultural arts facilities, including the Latino Cultural Center pictured here.

- \$6.6 million for improvements to the Dallas Farmers Market
- \$22.6 million for land acquisition for a police training facility
- \$8 million for court facilities, and
- \$63.6 million for public safety facilities, including over \$50 million to renovate or replace nine Dallas fire stations.

“Dallas voters, Dallas Citizens Council members and everyone who worked hard to support this bond package should be proud of their successful efforts,” said Dallas Citizens Council President **Donna Halstead**. “This comprehensive package takes care of our infrastructure and helps secure our future.”

According to research by the Dallas City Manager’s office, the bond program will create more than 8,400 new jobs, and will generate \$1.8 billion in private development, more than \$14 million in additional annual tax revenues, and \$300 million in matching funds from private and government entities.

NTTA to submit Cintra counter bid

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NTTA to submit a counter bid, which could produce an estimated additional \$3.5 billion in present value dollars for North Texas’ transportation needs.

Walt Humann, a public transit proponent for decades, continues to work with the legislature to pass a transit sales tax that will enable non-transit cities to become part of a regional, properly funded, and implemented transit system to solve the region’s growing problems of traffic congestion, air pollution, fuel cost and urban sprawl. “A transit sales tax exemption would enable North Texas to commit regionwide a full 1 percent to transit,” says Humann. This would generate an additional \$250 million per year to expand transit services in North Texas. Without the 1 percent, it would mean less or no rail expansion, delay in building projects, and lessen the chance of getting matching federal transit funds.

Humann encourages Dallas Citizens Council members to urge the North Texas delegation to support the Transit Sales Tax Exemption proposal in Austin. “Armed with enabling legislation and with support from non-transit cities and their citizens, our region can build one of the best transit systems in the world,” said Humann.

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— Walt Humann, Transportation point person, Dallas Citizens Council

Cotton Bowl

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State Fair supporters, Cotton Bowl supporters and fans of college football being played in the Cotton Bowl will continue to persuade the city council to spend the voter-approved funds in order to hold on to these games, which make a major economic impact on the city every year. City officials estimate that the Texas/OU game generates \$20 million, while the Grambling/Prairie View game adds another \$5 million. By adding college football games during the State Fair, plus one or two international soccer games each year, supporters estimate the annual economic impact could easily exceed \$50 million. As persuasive evidence, **Errol McCoy**, president of the State Fair of Texas, points to the last major expansion of the Cotton Bowl in 1948-49 when the upper decks were added at a cost of \$300,000. “In the 60 years since, that investment has generated close to \$1 billion in economic impact for North Texas,” McCoy said. “Spending \$50 million on structural and visible improvements at this juncture of the stadium’s history makes fiscal sense in this context.”

On the RADAR SCREEN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 12

Dallas Mayoral and City Council Elections

JUNE 16

Runoff Elections

DECEMBER 3

DCC Annual Meeting