

North Fort Bend Water Authority
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About NFBWA

The North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) is a regional water authority created by the 79th Texas Legislature, with the passage of Senate Bill 1798 in May 2005 and by establishing Chapter 8813 of the Special District Local Laws Code.



The Authority's mission includes:

- Acquiring and providing water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and other uses;
- Conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging groundwater and groundwater reservoirs, or their subdivisions;
- Reducing groundwater withdrawals;
- Preventing waste of groundwater; and,
- Controlling subsidence caused by the withdrawal of water from groundwater reservoirs

NFBWA Board of Directors

David Spell • Precinct 1 • Asst. Secretary

Mr. Spell, a Fort Bend County resident for 20 years, has 12 years experience as a utility district director, with nine years as MUD president. As a North Fort Bend Water Authority director, Mr. Spell focuses on promoting water conservation while helping to protect the environment. He earned his mechanical engineering degree from McNeese State University and has owned and operated two sole proprietorships in Fort Bend County. Mr. Spell is currently a TREC professional real estate inspector.

Robert Darden • Precinct 2 • Asst. Vice President

A resident of the Fort Bend area for more than 21 years, Mr. Darden has nine years experience as a Municipal Utility District director, including five years as District president. He is well versed in MUD operations, as well as in civil law and civil procedures. Mr. Darden earned his B.B.A. at Pan American University. Since 1976, he has worked with Crawford & Company in property and casualty insurance adjusting.

Bruce Fay • Precinct 3 • Assistant Secretary

Mr. Fay served as a Municipal Utility District director for 14 years, and was the president of Fort Bend MUD #50. He has a B.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Houston, and a Juris Doctorate in Law from South Texas College of Law. Mr. Fay is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Texas Bar. Retired from Shell Oil Company in Houston where he served as Senior Tax Counsel.

Melony F. Gay, P.E. • Precinct 4 • Secretary

Ms. Gay has served as a Municipal Utility District director for five years. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Texas and has over 20 years experience in civil engineering for land development projects. Ms. Gay earned her B.S. in civil engineering from Texas A&M University and has been involved in the analysis, design and construction of water distribution, wastewater collection, drainage and paving facilities for projects located in Harris, Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties. She currently works as a civil engineer for LJA in Houston.

Robert L. Patton • Precinct 5 • Vice President

During almost 30 years of service as a Municipal Utility District president, Mr. Patton gained first-hand experience in cost-efficient operation strategies, which resulted in savings that allowed important community improvement projects to be constructed at no additional cost to District residents. Mr. Patton majored in Mechanical Engineering at Mississippi State University, holds a B.A. from Millsaps College, and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Houston. After a long career in the packaging industry, he is currently a Realtor® with RE/MAX Westside.

Peter Houghton • Precinct 6 • President

Mr. Houghton has been a Fort Bend County resident and MUD Director for the last 18 years, and has been involved in the development of several large master planned communities in Fort Bend County. He has worked closely with numerous MUDs, LIDs, WCIDs, HOAs, and city and county departments to ensure high-quality, sustainable community developments. Mr. Houghton earned his B.A. from Lehigh University, and is currently Vice President of Sales with Howard Hughes Properties.

Pat Hebert • Precinct 7 • Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Hebert brings broad MUD experience to the Authority, gained through more than a decade of service in multiple districts. In addition, she has been a community, civic, political and business leader in Fort Bend County for more than 30 years, frequently serving as chair for major charities and community fundraisers. Mrs. Hebert co-founded Eco Resources, Inc. in 1973 and served as the company's vice president until the company was sold in 1985. In 1990, she co-founded Southern Municipal Services, Inc. and served as vice president of that company until it was sold in 1993.

Get in touch with NFBWA...

talkingsprinkler.com • nfbwa.com

The NFBWA does NOT provide water service to individual homes, so for problems with your service or to establish new service, please contact your Utility District operator.

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH FORT BEND WATER AUTHORITY



THE water Log



"Don't let an annoying drip ruin your night. I'll show you how to fix annoying, water-wasting plumbing problems with ease."
- Larry the Talking Sprinkler

A little surprised by your August water bill? Here's the likely explanation.

A new solution to our area's surface water needs.

Larry has the answers on how to fix a dripping faucet.

What does your NFBWA fee pay for?





Ask Larry

Eliminate those annoying plumbing problems.

Q: Hey Larry—a dripping faucet in my bathroom is keeping me up at night. Is there any way I can fix it myself?

Larry: You sure can. Repairing a dripping faucet is an easy fix with some replacement parts and a couple of basic tools.

Here are the tools you'll need:

- An adjustable wrench and/or slip-joint pliers.
- Screwdrivers (Phillips head, slot head or both).
- A set of Allen wrenches



- WD-40 or some similar lubricant (to loosen stubborn screws).

The basic steps for repairing a leak are similar for every faucet, with some variations for different types of faucet (these variations for different faucet types are shown elsewhere on this page).

Get your tools and cinch up your trousers (to avoid plumber's crack) and let's get started:

1. First, make sure the water to the faucet is turned off. Under the sink, you'll see two water supply lines (one hot, one cold) going to the faucet. Each should have a handle on it that operates a valve. Turn the handle clockwise to cut off the water supply.
2. Plug the drain with a sink plug or a rag, so screws and washers don't go down the drain while you're working.
3. If the faucet handle has a cap on it, remove it gently with a screwdriver. You'll see a screw that mounts the handle to the faucet stem. Unscrew it and pull the handle from the stem.
4. Disassemble the faucet, paying attention to how the parts are positioned in the faucet and the order in which you remove them. Use a camera to "document" the disassembly process to help you remember how to put it all back together.
5. Use your wrench to remove the nut. Underneath, you'll see the stem. Pull it out. Some stems pop right off, while others twist off from the valve. When you remove the stem, an O-ring, (which is thinner), and seat washer (which is thicker) will be exposed. Old, brittle seat washers are the most common causes of dripping faucets.
6. Take all the parts to your favorite home improvement store and pick up replacement parts that match.
7. Carefully reassemble the faucet. When you're done, gently turn the faucet handle to ensure you've eliminated the drip.

Most of the time, this will stop the dripping. If you still have a leak, it's probably time to call in a plumber.



Surface water vs. groundwater: what's the difference?

Water is water, but we divide it based on where it comes from. The water we use falls into two categories.

Surface water is fresh water found on the surface of the Earth, in lakes, rivers, marshes, streams, swamps, etc.

Groundwater, on the other hand, is water that is found in the ground. It's contained in the Earth's subsurface layer of soil or rock. (A body of water contained there is called an aquifer.)

For a long time, groundwater was the primary water source for the Houston metropolitan area, which over the last 50 years has been one of the fastest-growing urban regions in the U.S. But with a rapidly-growing population using more and more groundwater, subsidence became a real problem.

Subsidence is the gradual sinking of a geographic area. It

occurs when water is drawn from the ground faster than it can be replenished. And some Houston-area neighborhoods have suffered such elevation losses that they were threatened with complete destruction from flooding.

That's why the North Fort Bend Water Authority was created—to assist in converting our region from groundwater to mostly surface water.

Over the next 50 years, the population in our area is expected to more than double. If all these folks were to rely on groundwater, another five feet of subsidence is projected to occur in northwest Harris County by 2030. That's why we're making a transition to surface water and why it's so important for everyone to practice water conservation.



What does my NFBWA fee on my water bill pay for?

On your water bill, you'll see an "Authority" fee that goes to the North Fort Bend Water Authority. What's behind that fee?

The North Fort Bend Water Authority was created by the Legislature to help our area convert our water usage from groundwater to surface water. (*Learn more about the difference in another article in this newsletter.*) To do this, the Authority contracts with the City of Houston to buy surface water and bring it to our homes.

The fees provide funding for the massive supply and water line projects that move around the water we all need.

So far, things are working well. The Authority has met its requirement to convert to 30% surface water by 2014 and we're working toward meeting the requirement of using 60% surface water by 2025.



One of the country's largest water treatment plants on its way to bring water to Fort Bend County

Earlier this year the North Fort Bend Water Authority, the City of Houston, and other regional water authorities secured an agreement that provides a real solution to our area's surface water needs.

The agreement provides for the expansion of treatment capacity at the City of Houston's North East Water Purification Plant, making it one of the largest treatment plants in the U.S. The expanded

facility will treat additional water pumped from the Trinity River to Lake Houston through the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project.

This expansion will help the entire region meet future water needs. "By working together today, we hope to avoid future water supply issues like California is experiencing," said Peter Houghton, President of NFBWA. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

So what is the deal with those hefty August water bills?

You may have been a little surprised by your August water bill. Many folks thought they were higher than usual. Did rates go up? No—but water usage sure did. Lots of people used more water in August than they realized.

Spring was unusually wet, so obviously, you didn't need to water your lawn very much. On the other hand, summer was very dry, August in particular. So people watered more.

Following our guidelines for lawn watering (twice a week, one-half inch of water each time) will help you avoid surprises in your monthly water bill.