



## Central Texas–Balcones

P.O. Box 157, Austin, TX 78767-0157

[www.usgbc-centraltexas.org](http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org)

512-470-9923

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### SCRC REPRESENTATIVE

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*At Large Representative*

Holos Collaborative

### NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

**Robert Harris**

*SCRC Representative*

Lake/Flato Architects

## Call for Nominations

### 2010-2011 Board Member Application Form

**Nominees:** Please answer the following questions in the space provided and return this completed Application Form plus the signed attached Commitment Form to [buhlrich@usgbc-centraltexas.org](mailto:buhlrich@usgbc-centraltexas.org) in an electronic format by 5:00 pm, Monday, October 5th, 2009.

Email or call Brian Uhlrich at **210-546-0200** with any questions. The Committee reserves the right to delete narrative exceeding the space provided. By submitting this application you agree that the material can be made available to the Nominating Committee for evaluation and to the chapter membership if selected as a candidate. Thank you!

#### Submitted By:

Name: Dana Nichols

Title: Manager- Conservation Department

Organization: San Antonio Water System

Address: 2800 Hwy 281 N, San Antonio, Texas, 78298-2449

Membership Category: Local Government or Utilities

Telephone: 210-233-3656

Email: [Dana.Nichols@SAWS.org](mailto:Dana.Nichols@SAWS.org)

**Questionnaire** – Please note that answers will appear online as they are answered below:

#### **a. In general, why do you wish to be a member of the Chapter Board?**

Having worked for 15 years promoting water conservation practices in the San Antonio I am excited about the possibility of fully integrating water conservation into the Green Building practice.

**b. Please provide a summary of your professional qualifications, knowledge and experience of most relevance to the Chapter. Also indicate the degree to which you have senior management and executive level experience.**

- Conceptualized, developed, implemented, managed and evaluated first water conservation programs offered by SAWS and continue to develop programs. These are incentive based programs that drive to the early adoption of water conservation. Many of the early rebates are now required by code.
- Pioneered the use of innovative partnerships to extend scarce personnel resources available to accomplish conservation goals including the development of performance based contracts with local non-profits to educate the community where our missions overlap.
- Primary author of city ordinance concerning water conservation standards adopted by San Antonio City Council. Coordinated all activities associated with the development, writing and passage ordinance amendments and updates dealing with water conservation as well as drought management.

- Develop Watersaver Lane and Watersaver garden – Permanent exhibits at the San Antonio Botanical Garden promoting low water use landscapes in the San Antonio region.
- Developed and edit the WaterSaver e-Newsletter, a weekly publication that gives real time watering recommendations and gardening advice that promotes water conservation in the landscape (<http://www.saws.org/conservation/newsletter/>). Over 7600 people are currently receiving this publication weekly.
- My current position is manager of the San Antonio Water System Conservation Department. I am directly responsible for outdoor conservation programs and policies and supervise a staff of ten as well as provide leadership for a wide variety of cross-departmental projects.

**c. The Chapter is committed to strengthening its membership diversity. What resources could you bring to bear (e.g., demonstrated expertise, leadership positions, and willingness) to help further Chapter participation from high priority sectors including: real estate, energy/utility, finance/insurance, residential, corporate, and product manufacturing? You can also address other sectors you think require greater involvement in the Chapter.**

I have extensive and regular contact with both residential and commercial customers. SAWS has over 300,000 customer accounts representing a population of 1.3 million people. The SAWS Conservation Department staff regularly work with a variety of individual customers finding innovative solutions to unique water conservation issues. I also regularly work with organizations/stakeholders that represent both businesses and homeowners.

**One of the important functions of Board members is fundraising and other activities to support priority needs of the Chapter. This may take many forms, including: direct sponsorships; helping secure funding or otherwise opening doors from corporate, governmental, and charitable sources; seeking third-party sponsors; recruiting important new members; in-kind support, etc. Please explain your ability and willingness to participate in resource development.**

**d. Describe what expertise, experience and resources you would bring to any of the following priority activities: advocacy, LEED, education, research, community and organizational excellence**

I have experience in advocacy of water conservation program and policies as evident of our successful water conservation program that is recognized nationally as a top conservation program. Much of our success comes from comprehensive education efforts regarding all aspects of water conservation. SAWS sponsors original research, most recently working with Texas A&M and the turf growers on a 2 year study that resulted in identifying drought tolerant grasses for our area. I was the primary author of the Harvard School of Government Ash Institute Innovations in Government Award finalist that recognizes organization excellence and innovative solutions developed by government entities. We were selected as a finalist. This included a cash award of \$10,000 to be used to disseminate our experience to other government entities. SAWS used the grant to go to Atlanta at their request during their drought to participate in a 2 day state conference on drought response and conservation.

**e. Describe your experience from other organizations with successful chapter programs.**

I have worked with the American Water Work Association (AWWA) in the Texas chapter as well as several divisions including Water Conservation division and the Water Loss Committee where we updated a major industry publication.

**f. Leadership positions (volunteer or professional staff) with nonprofit governance.**

Currently most of my work with non-profits is in the position of partnerships through performance contracts. Organizations include, Bexar County Master Gardeners, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, San Antonio Botanical Society, and Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. In addition I am an active member of the San Antonio Conservation Society and am on the Farm and Ranch Committee and the Program committee. I also am the SAWS representative on the Brackenridge Park Conservancy.

**g. Other areas you believe are critical for the Chapter.**

**h. Please identify any affiliations, memberships, and accreditations which may be pertinent for Chapter leadership.**

Licensed Irrigation Auditor, AWWA National Water Loss Committee, American Planning Association, local host-mobile workshop committee for the 2007 APA conference hosted locally, Texas Waterwise Council, Greater San Antonio Builders Association, Irrigation Association, and have given presentations of over 30 papers at national, regional and state conferences.

**i. Are you a chapter member in good standing and employed in the membership category depicted above?** No, but will join if asked to be on the Board. I am an active employee of the membership category described above.

**j. Are you able to attend at least nine of the twelve regularly-scheduled Board meetings each year?** Yes

**k. The Board's conflict of interest policy is summarized in the Fact Sheet. As the full statement indicates, conflicts are not inherently improper but Directors must be conscious of such conflicts and act with candor and care in dealing with such situations. Will you abide by the Chapter's conflict policy and can you do so without significantly affecting your Board responsibilities?** Yes