

## Organization looking to sell water to oil companies

BY NATHANIEL MILLER [nmiller@oaoa.com](mailto:nmiller@oaoa.com) | Posted: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:00 am

Representatives with the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority met with members of the Odessa and Midland community Wednesday afternoon at the Atmos Energy Conference Centre to discuss selling treated wastewater for to oil companies for energy production.

Ricky Clifton, general manager for GCA, said the organization is currently working to selling treated wastewater to oil companies for the purpose of hydraulic fracturing and water flood injection.

“We’ve been in the area for almost 15 years treating industrial wastewater and with the water shortage in the state and the drought, the issue ... and with water availability; we’re expanding our purpose of treating waste water,” Clifton said.

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal was originally formed in 1969 by the Texas Legislature as a non-taxing entity to help clean up the Galveston Bay. Odessa has been home to one of the organization’s four facilities since 1997 and it is used to treat municipal sewage and industrial wastewater. The other three facilities, and base of operations, is in Houston.

Though the idea is still in negotiation stages between the organization and Texas lawmakers, Manager of General Operations for GCA Gordon Pederson said the company is currently in the process of finalizing an agreement with Kerr Energy. If approved, the two would enter an agreement that would send up to 2 million gallons of water to the company for oil and gas production.

“By doing that, that 2 million we’re contracted to sell to that industry will offset any groundwater from fracking,” Clifton said. “It sets aside that ground water for other purposes for drinking water or other municipal purposes.”

Odessa Chamber of Commerce President Mike George was one of those in attendance at the meeting of about 20 people, saying GCA was a “diamond in the rough” in terms of water treatment.

Of the concerns raised about the process, one business owner asked if there would be any concerns of using treated water for fracking, which is regulated by the Texas Railroad Commission, and the water treated by the GCA, which is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Clifton said the issue would be worked out, especially since the organization has to continuously update their permits to specify what the treated water will be used for.

“That’s very critical to us and to the state, but also to the users of that water to define what it will be used for,” he said.

George said he thinks selling the water would help reduce truck traffic by building pipelines to transfer the water to areas away from the city.

George also added that selling treated water would help keep fresh water for municipality purposes.

“It will save fresh water and it will allow the oil companies to reuse the frack water,” George said. “We think it’s a win-win for the whole area.”





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Ricky Clifton, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority's general manager, talks about the importance of re-using waste water Wednesday during a meeting at Atmos Energy.



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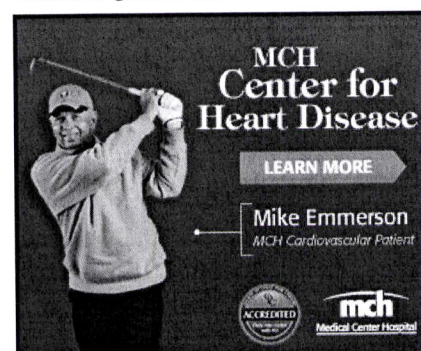
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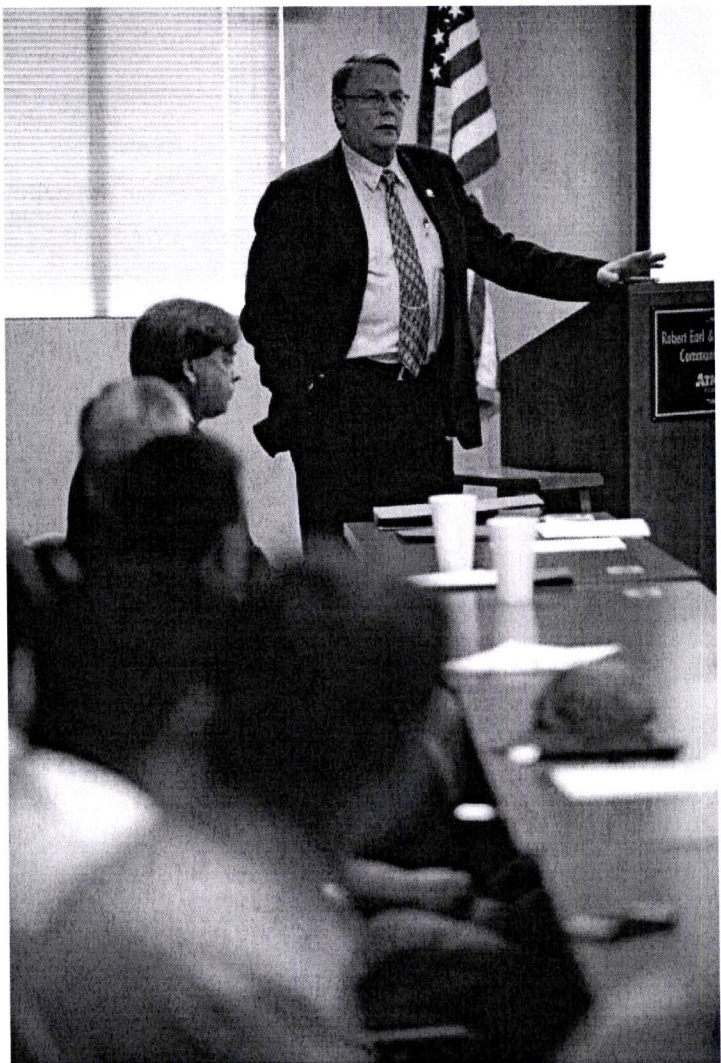


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## At least America still has more S



### MILLER TIME

NATHANIEL MILLER

>> Nathaniel's column appears on Thursdays. Email comments may be sent to nmiller@oaoa.com.

Sunday morning will be the official end of the 2014 Winter Olympics (that's if NBC allows it) and from the way the standings look now, the United States may not go home with all the medals.

As of writing this, the U.S. team has only won seven gold medals and is currently listed as third in the medal count. A country is placed on the medal count not by the total number of medals they have won, but by the number of gold medals they have won.

The worst medal count finish for the United States was the 1988, when the USA ranked ninth and the games were held in Calgary, Al-

berta, Canada. But from the look of it, that is a record we're not going to come close to beating.

So thanks, Canada, for making us look bad. At least you've made up for it with delicious maple syrup and being the home to several imaginary girlfriends for nerds in high school.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all about America winning and flexing not just our military muscle, but also flexing the muscles of all those athletes who spend days, weeks and years training to represent our country.

Plus, it's easier for me to taunt the rest of the world on the actions of athletes while I sit at home and eat pizza.

A columnist who once wrote for this paper (before the rabbits got him) once talked about how the United States "ought to bring home the gold. We ought to win. We're American. That's what we do; that's who we are."

Let's be honest: we hate losing. We don't like being anything less than the best. We didn't want to be second to the moon, and by God, we won.

When the Russians had the best hockey team in the world back in 1980, we showed them up by having a bunch of college kids destroy them on the ice in Lake Placid, N.Y.

So the fact that a bunch of

## Group looks to sell water to oil companies

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal to offer commodity by early March

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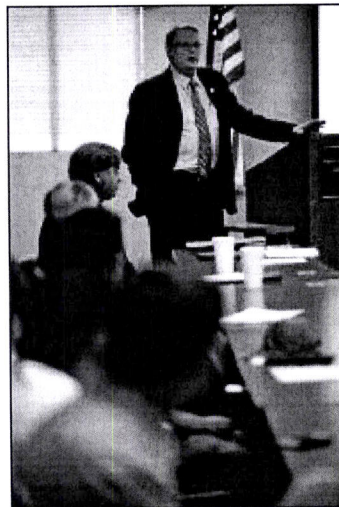
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RYAN EVON  
ODESSA AMERICAN

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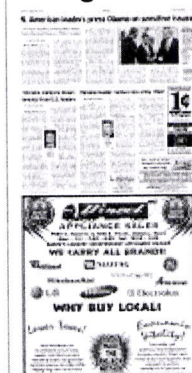
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