



WHAT DOES A DOLLAR GET YOU TODAY?
*One AA battery...
or a spark of inspiration?*

For a limited time

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
ONLY \$1 A WEEK FOR 12 WEEKS
SUBSCRIBE NOW »

[HOME](#) > [NEWS](#)

[Newsletters](#) [RSS Feeds](#) [Mobile](#)

Updated: 3:42 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013 | Posted: 1:40 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013

LCRA board taps TxDOT chief Phil Wilson as its new leader

COMMENT (16) [Email](#) < 20 [Share](#) < 10 [Tweet](#) < 13 [ShareThis](#) < 229

By [Marty Toohey](#)

American-Statesman Staff

The governing board of the Lower Colorado River Authority on Wednesday tapped Texas Department of Transportation executive director Phil Wilson as its next general manager.

Wilson's hiring follows the resignation of LCRA general manager Becky Motal, 63, who announced in September she planned to retire after two years as the agency's chief. Her resignation is effective Dec. 31.

Wilson, a former deputy chief of staff for Gov. Rick Perry, was named Texas secretary of state in 2007. He left that job in 2008 to work as a lobbyist and senior vice president at Luminant Energy. He left there to join TxDOT.

LCRA board chairman Tim Timmerman said Wilson's experience as secretary of state, as executive director of TxDOT and as an executive with Luminant Energy made him the best choice.

"He's been in the public sector, been in the private sector, and we're sort of in the middle" as both a water and electricity wholesaler and the manager of parks and the region's main water supply, Timmerman said. "It seemed like a perfect fit."

Timmerman said the LCRA board hired an executive search firm that whittled more than 100 candidates down to three, and they met with the board yesterday. Timmerman declined to say who the other two finalists were; an American-Statesman open-records request for the names is pending.

Timmerman said Perry did not put his thumb on the scale in favor of a particular candidate, though he notes that with the experience Perry has with Wilson, the governor "obviously has a lot of faith in him."

Perhaps more than anything, Timmerman said, Wilson has bona fides working through difficult situations, if which the LCRA has plenty: electric customers suing the organization; tight finances as a result; a persistent drought that has forced Solomon-like choices about how much water Central Texas and downstream agriculture interests should get.

"Our new general manager is obviously going to have to step in and guide us through some tough issues," Timmerman said.

24-hour access to **mystatesman.com**
ONLY 99¢ **TRY IT NOW**

National News

Latest News Galleries



COMMENT (16)



20



10



13



229

MORE NEWS

More on statesman.com

- [Police: Driver dead after crashing into Central Austin store](#)
- [Replacing Mack Brown: All quiet on the Texas front, but not...](#)
- [Austin police sex crimes officer reassigned after strip club...](#)
- [San Marcos confirms Jared Miller as city manager](#)
- [Freezing rain could affect morning commute](#)
- [SEC accuses Austin residents of \\$18 million Ponzi scheme](#)

From Around the Web

- [Is This the Most Innovative Tech Gadget of 2013? \(Time.com\)](#)
- [Forget 2014. Here's What 2024 Will Bring. \(Inc.com\)](#)
- [Man Murders 2 Little Kids Then Shows Up at Funeral to Carry Their Caskets \(Articles in the News\)](#)
- [6 Ways to Never Pay Baggage Fees \(MiniTime\)](#)
- [Andy Roddick's Wife, Brooklyn Decker, Is Super HOT \(Rant Sports\)](#)
- [Castro Says, Oswald Didn't Kill JFK! \(The Atlantic\)](#)

[?]

COMMENTS

If you would like to post a comment please [Sign in](#) or [Register](#)

16 Comment(s)

Comment(s) 1-16 of 16



Posted by claudehenrysmoot at 1:58 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Hey! Now he can wreck another IT Department. Hell Yeah! Woo-hoo! Gotta love that man!



Posted by nitpickintroll at 2:02 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

"LCRA board taps Phil Wilson, state transportation chief, as its new leader"

Trying to find a New Route outta Central Texas, are you? The hammer is gonna fall some day fellas. I'd be searching also.



Posted by Klaus_G at 2:13 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Boy, am I glad I took that VSP!
I still pray for LCRA, hopefully someday it'll get better!



Posted by Cheat_To_Win at 2:20 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Phil Wilson is a classic revolving-door politician-lobbyist. He always done what is best for Phil Wilson. He's been smacked down with cancer a couple times, and he's proven himself to be a cancer on the agencies with which he's worked -- in-between his private sector lobbyist jobs.

He has worked as a lackey for GOP thugs like Phil Gramm, Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews, and he was Gov. Perry's deputy chief of staff. Wilson was also Gov. Perry's appointee as secretary of state, a job he held about a year (that's the traditional time Secretaries of State last under Perry, who's had more than a half-dozen), before leaving to become a lobbyist for Luminant.

The LCRA needs a climate-change denier like it needs a hole in its head. But Wilson got his undergraduate degree from the fundamentalist Baptist school in Abilene, Hardin-Simmons. At LCRA, look for Wilson to oppose drought relief measures that would require the movement of the Lake Austin lake level, since that would hurt the Richie Riches who live along the lake, and potentially interrupt the use of their private boat docks so critical to their teenagers happiness. Without an operating boat dock, the rich kids will have to drive their big SUVs to meet up at Hula Hut, instead of simply driving over in their cigarette boats. In that sense, Kirk Watson will be happy with the LCRA under the Republican fundamentalist Phil Wilson.



Posted by regen

This comment has been removed for violation of the visitor agreement.



Posted by Texas_Watches at 2:52 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

If he takes his lackey Scott Leonard with him, those at LCRA had better brush up their resumes. These buffoons outsourced the IT at TxDOT. That company let go a bunch of contactors as unneeded. That went real well till he letting system crashed in November and they were in the

'Thirst' removal, 12.18.13

Barton Hills apartment fire, 12.18.13

Caught on camera: Photos taken at just the right moment

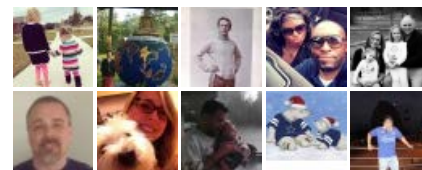


Austin American-Statesman



You like this.

You and 44,165 others like Austin American-Statesman. 44,165 people like Austin American-Statesman.



Latest AP Texas News

- [TCU signs 2 players from Tyler Junior College](#)
- [Study: Many sick dolphins 1 year after oil spill](#)
- [Rangers sign Germano to minor deal, spring invite](#)
- [Winning numbers drawn in 'Daily 4 Evening' game](#)
- [Winning numbers drawn in 'Pick 3 Evening' game](#)

[> More](#)



Get a 24-hour digital pass to MyStatesman.com for **ONLY 99¢**

mystatesman.com

JUST 3 QUESTIONS

Preliminary work has begun on new toll lanes on MoPac Boulevard. What is your opinion of this project?

New lanes are needed, and the toll lane concept makes sense.

position of trying to rehire the man who knew the system. Oh yeah he was one who had been shown the door. This was not cost effective for taxpayers. One last thng, do not shake hand with Scott Leonard. He has previously demonstrated poor hygiene when departing the men's room.

New lanes are needed but they should be free.

Leave MoPac as it is.

No opinion.



Posted by claudhenrysmoot at 3:03 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

@Texas_Watches

We have mutual acquaintances, no doubt.



Posted by cixelysD at 3:21 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Oh, give the guy a break. As commissar of asphalt he most certainly has a Phd in the distribution of Dihydrogen oxide.



Posted by EI_StoneJr at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

This will be his 6th job in the last 6 years.

Must be doing something right!



Posted by 2disgusted at 3:48 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Yeah, because he did such a great job at TxDOT!!!

Did he pay a toll to get in there?



Posted by MrEarl at 4:04 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Let's hope that Wilson, a Perry crony, isn't one of those "capitalist" that think water should not be right but a commodity to be privatized. There is a growing movement by the uber-rich to control everything but the air we breath.
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-privatisation-of-water-nestle-denies-that-water-is-a-fundamental-human-right/5332238>

One could very easily see a Perry-ite sell off water rights to the highest bidder for his and his cronies enrichment (as he tried to do with public highways).



Posted by adamson at 4:37 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Once a bureaucrat, always a bureaucrat. Those folks know nothing other than feeding off of our wallets.



Posted by susan223

This comment has been removed for violation of the [visitor agreement](#).



Posted by liskakelly

This comment has been removed for violation of the [visitor agreement](#).



Posted by longho at 5:58 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Follow the bouncing Bible Beater...lol



Posted by stex5150 at 5:59 p.m. Dec. 18, 2013

Report Abuse

Come on now... Phil Wilson is a great leader at TxDOT. After all he got rid of the entire IT staff and replaced them with an outside company that cannot even replace computers (with basic software) and stay on schedule. Oh and lets not forget that he did convince them to get rid of all of the old equipment... oh wait it was all old and there is no plan to replace that equipment. And lest we forget that all of the senior staff received significant raises while the actual workers had to fight for a 2% cost of living increase. Hope LCRA fares better, but then again "Toll Lakes" novel idea.

16 Comment(s)

Comment(s) 1-16 of 16

News

- › [Local News](#)
- › [Austin Weather](#)
- › [Blogs](#)
- › [Obituaries](#)
- › [Photo and Page Reprints](#)
- › [RSS](#)
- › [Send us a news tip](#)

Entertainment

- › [Austin Entertainment](#)
- › [Events](#)
- › [Suggest an event](#)
- › [TV Listings](#)

Social Media

- › [Facebook](#)
- › [Twitter](#)
- › [Google+](#)
- › [More Social](#)

Services

- › [Contact Us](#)
- › [Digital Products](#)
- › [FAQs](#)
- › [Feedback](#)
- › [Advertise](#)
- › [Careers](#)
- › [Contact Us](#)
- › [Community Development](#)
- › [E-Tearsheets](#)
- › [Newsroom Staff](#)
- › [Subscriber Services](#)
- › [Archives](#)

Advertisers and Sponsors

- › [Cars at AutoTrader](#)
- › [Local Services at Kudzu](#)
- › [Coupons at Valpak](#)

Marketplace

- › [Jobs](#)
- › [Cars](#)
- › [Classifieds](#)
- › [Real Estate](#)
- › [Advertise](#)

© 2013 [Cox Media Group](#). By using this website, you accept the terms of our [Visitor Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and understand your options regarding [Ad Choices](#) .