

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

2 ★ 0 ★ 2 ★ 2



TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
August 30 - September 1, 2022

Program Sponsor



Every drop counts!

#TXGROUNDWATER2022

Thanks to Our Sponsors

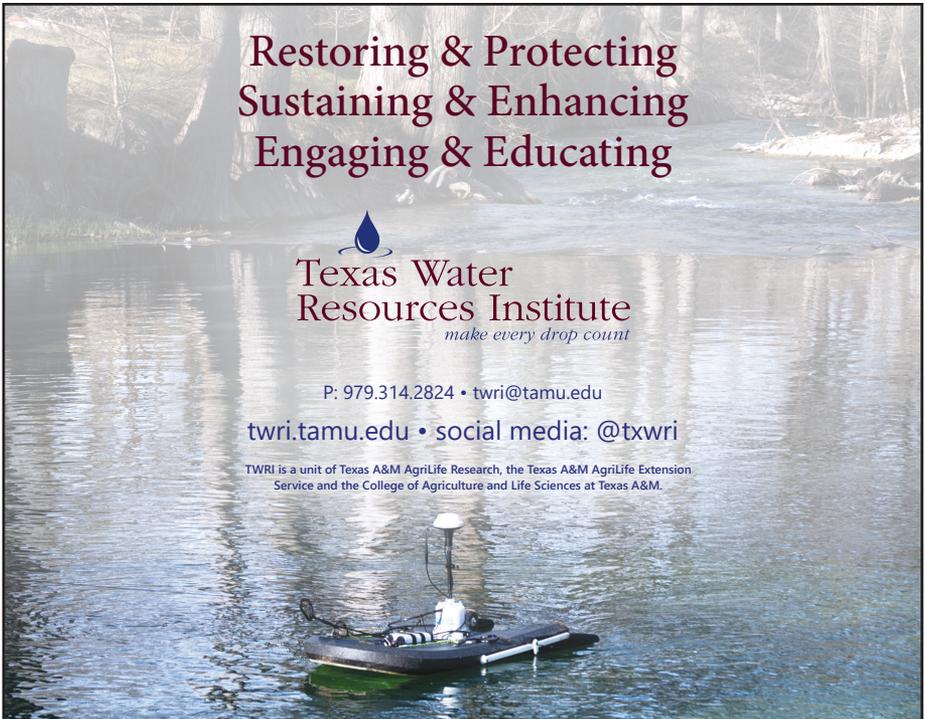


2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Table of Contents

Welcome Letter.....	2
Exhibitor Listing.....	4
Executive & Planning Committees.....	4
Detailed Agenda.....	6–10
Keynote Bios.....	11
Legislator Bios.....	12-13
Conference Map.....	15
Speaker Bios.....	18–32



**Restoring & Protecting
Sustaining & Enhancing
Engaging & Educating**


**Texas Water
Resources Institute**
make every drop count

P: 979.314.2824 • twri@tamu.edu
twri.tamu.edu • social media: @txwri

TWRI is a unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Welcome Letter

August 30, 2022

Welcome!

We are delighted to have you joining us for this year's **Texas Groundwater Summit!** The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is pleased to bring the groundwater community together for this **11th annual** event.

For over 30 years, TAGD's mission as a non-profit organization has been to help members and the groundwater community stay current on groundwater policy, science, and management. The Texas Groundwater Summit is TAGD's cornerstone event, bringing together over 350 groundwater professionals to participate in local, regional, and statewide groundwater dialogues.

While recent rains have been welcome, drought conditions continue to grip Texas. Whether the State is facing a drought or a flood, the vital importance of groundwater cannot be understated. TAGD's conference planning committee and staff have worked hard to put together a high-quality program that is relevant to current issues in groundwater management today. This event aims to inform and initiate important conversations within the groundwater community through panel discussions, presentations, keynotes, and breakout sessions.

In addition to creating a forum for dialogue, the Summit aims to foster connections among groundwater professionals. We hope that you will join us for both our Tuesday and Wednesday happy hour receptions, as well as the more informal and always fun drinks and dessert event on Wednesday night.

You make the Texas Groundwater Summit the successful and productive event that it is – whether as a generous sponsor, speaker, exhibitor or attendee. TAGD is deeply grateful for your support. We hope that you will enjoy the next three days of engaging and educational content by leading groundwater professionals.

Thank you for participating!

Leah Martinsson
Executive Director
leah@texasgroundwater.org

EOC
EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY
EDUCATION
OUTREACH CENTER

THE WAIT IS OVER!

The Edwards Aquifer Authority's first-ever Education Outreach Center is now open! Free to the public and open weekdays, the Center offers exhibits and displays that enlighten and entertain young and old alike! Make plans to attend at www.eaaeoc.org.

HALFF

USED BY MORE THAN 20 GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN TEXAS

Groundwater Management Solutions

- Customized workflows and dashboards
- Information tracking of wells, owners, water levels, water quality, permits, production and more
- Integrated GIS mapping and web hosting
- Easy-to-use document management

DAVID COYER
(214) 346-6338
dcoyer@half.com

Schedule a demonstration today!
gms.half.com

**NTG
CID** NORTH TEXAS
GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

List of Exhibitors

Visit all of the exhibitors and enter their special code into the mobile app for a chance to win a Visa gift card! Winners will be announced during Thursday morning's General Session.

4-H Water Ambassadors	LRE Water, LLC
Collier Consulting	McCrometer
Commission Shift	Ranch Systems
Dynotek	Southwest Research Institute
Environmental Defense Fund	TDLR/TGPC
Ellingson-DTD	TexMesonet
Half Associates	Texas Water Resources Institute
Hill Country Alliance	Texas Water Trade
Johnson Screens	USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center
Laval Underground Surveys	Wellntel

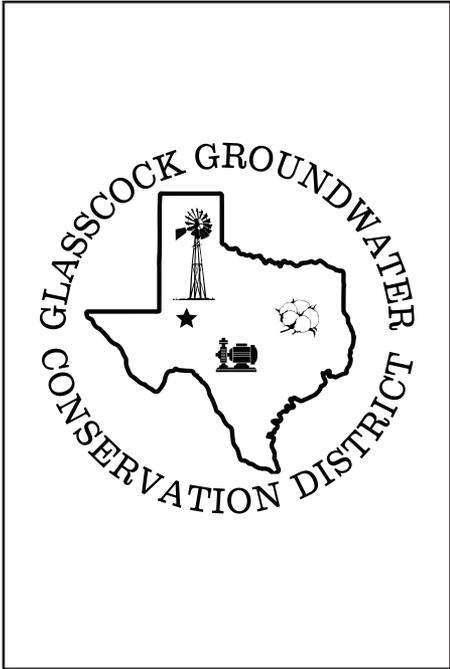
Executive & Planning Committees

2021-2023 TAGD Executive Committee

President - Amber Blount	Past-President - Zach Holland
Vice-President - Drew Satterwhite	Janet Adams
Treasurer - David Bailey	Kelley Cochran
Secretary - Bobby Bazan	Ron Fieseler
Parliamentarian - Andy Garza	Diana Thomas

2022 TAGD Conference Planning Committee

Dirk Aaron	Britney Britten	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Lori Barnes	Alan Day	Lynn Smith
Bobby Bazan	Greg Ellis	Lana Tolleson
Kristen Blackwell	Ty Embrey	Leah Martinsson
Amber Blount	Janet Guthrie	Julia Stanford
	Zach Holland	



COMMISSION SHIFT

Want to protect groundwater from inactive or orphaned oil & gas wells?




Be a part of the solution!
Join Commission Shift to advocate for stronger protections from the Railroad Commission of Texas.

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP



or visit commissionshift.org/signup-groundwater

Commission Shift is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization focused on reforming oil and gas oversight by building public support to hold the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) accountable to its mission.



Trusted legal
counsel for Texas
groundwater
districts

WWW.GDHM.COM



Excellence in:

- ◆ Aquifer storage and recovery
- ◆ Groundwater/surface water interaction
- ◆ Aquifer mapping and modeling





DBS&A

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
a Geo-Logic Company
www.dbstephens.com



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

Monday, August 29 - Field Trip to Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Breakfast and lunch on your own on Tuesday. A discount voucher for breakfast is available to hotel guests.

9:30am – 11:00am TAGD Annual Membership Meeting

1:00pm – 3:30pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Welcome Address

Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Panel – The “S” Word: Sustainability in Groundwater

Moderator: Vanessa Puig-Williams, Texas Water Program Director, Environmental Defense Fund

Robert Mace, Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water & the Environment

Wade Oliver, Texas Water Resources Lead, INTERA Inc.

Mitchell Sodek, General Manager, Central Texas GCD

Deborah Trejo, Partner, Kemp Smith Law

Managing for the Future: El Paso Water

Scott Reinert, Water Resources Manager, El Paso Water Utilities

Keynote Address

Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

3:00pm – 3:30pm AFTERNOON BREAK

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority and INTERA Inc.

3:30pm – 5:15pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Update on Produced Water Consortium

Rusty Smith, Executive Director, Texas Produced Water Consortium

OpenET and Possibilities in Texas

Garshaw Amidi-Abraham, Senior Outreach Specialist, OpenET

Panel – Water Data: People and Purpose

Moderator: Sam Marie Hermitte, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

Ashley Greuter, Program Manager, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

Joe Yelderman, Professor and Geosciences Department Chair, Baylor University

5:15pm – 6:15pm WELCOME RECEPTION

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Halff Associates

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Agenda

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:45am – 8:15am GRAB-AND-GO BREAKFAST

Hill Country Foyer Sponsored by Glasscock GCD

8:15am – 10:00am GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Welcome Address

Amber Blount, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

What's the Deal With WOTUS?

Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director, Water Environment Association of Texas

Legislative Interim Update

Brian Sledge, Managing Partner, SledgeLaw Group

Panel – Groundwater Management When Everyone Wants a Piece of Texas

Moderator: Natalie Ballew, Groundwater Technical Assistance Manager, Texas Water Development Board

Scott Brooks, Director, Clearwater UWCD

Bill Dugat, Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Mike Keester, Principal, RW Harden & Associates

Lon Shell, Commissioner, Hays County

Micah Voulgaris, General Manager, Cow Creek GCD

10:00am – 10:30am MORNING BREAK

Hill Country Foyer Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority and INTERA Inc.

10:30am – 12:00pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Legislator Panel

Moderator: Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Senator Sarah Eckhardt, District 14, Texas Senate

Representative Kyle Kacal, District 12, Texas House of Representatives

Representative Tracy King, District 80, Chairman of House Natural Resources Committee

Senator Charles Perry, District 28, Chairman of Senate Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs Committee

Keynote Address

Garry Merritt, Chief Executive Officer, Great Springs Project

12:00pm – 1:30pm LUNCHEON

R.W. Pavilion Sponsored by North Texas GCD



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

1:30pm – 3:00pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Track A – Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members

Groundwater Data 101

Heather Dodson, Groundwater Data Team Lead, Texas Water Development Board

Best Practices for Effective Board Meetings

Natasha Martin, Shareholder, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody

*Fredericksburg
Ballroom*

Track B – Hot Topics in Joint Planning

Monitoring and Tracking DFC Compliance

James Beach, Principal, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

Approaches to Evaluating Socioeconomic Impacts

Quinn McColly, Conservation Finance Director, Texas Water Trade

When There is No GCD: Setting DFCs

Velma Danielson, Senior Project Manager, Blanton & Associates

*Hill Country
Ballroom E-G*

Track C – Fine Tuning: Groundwater Modeling and Measurement

Groundwater Use Estimation and Footprinting

Rohit Goswami, Principal Engineer, RRG Professional Engineering

The GULF 2023 Model: Modeling Advances and Preliminary Results

John Ellis, Supervisory Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey

Model-data Fusion of Hydrologic Simulations and Satellite Observations to Estimate Changes in Water Table Depth

Dimitrios Stampoulis, Lead Scientist, Southwest Research Institute

3:00pm – 3:30pm AFTERNOON BREAK

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority and INTERA Inc.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Agenda

3:30pm – 5:00pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Hill Country
Ballroom A-D

Track A – Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members

Nuts and Bolts of Management Plans

Robert Bradley, GMA Liaison/Senior Geoscientist, Texas Water Development Board

Working with Landowners Effectively

Alyssa Balzen, Geoscientist, Edwards Aquifer Authority

Inspiring, Engaging, and Supporting Youth Water Leaders

David Smith, 4-H2O Program Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Fredericksburg
Ballroom

Track B – Getting Creative: Water Supply Solutions

Future of ASR in Texas: TWDB ASR Supporting Studies

Azzah AlKurdi, Engineering Specialist, Texas Water Development Board

Managed Aquifer Recharge Using Stormwater: Lessons from the Harris County Pilot Study

Gretchen Miller, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

Impacts of Regenerative Ag on Water Storage and Soil Health

Katie Lewis, Senior Groundwater Engineer, Collier Consulting

Hill Country
Ballroom E-G

Track C – Partnerships for Aquifer Protection

Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape

Daniel Oppenheimer, Land Program Director, Hill Country Alliance

Land for Water: Texas Land Conservancy Easements

Mark Steinbach, Executive Director, Texas Land Conservancy

Texas Playa Conservation Initiative

Rachel Fern, Wetland Program Leader, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

5:00pm – 6:00pm HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Environmental Defense Fund

8:00pm – 10:00pm DRINKS & DESSERTS NETWORKING EVENT

Luckenbach Pavilion

Sponsored by Real-Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

DAY 3 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

7:45am – 8:15am GRAB-AND-GO BREAKFAST

Hill Country Foyer Sponsored by Glasscock GCD

8:15am – 10:15am GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

10 Years of EAA v. Day

Gregory Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm
Russell Johnson, Partner, McGinnis Lochridge

Panel – Issues in Water Quality

Moderator: Diana Thomas, General Manager, Sterling County UWCD
Vince Clause, Hydrogeologist, Allan R. Standen LLC
Marc Friberg, Executive Director of External & Regulatory Affairs,
Edwards Aquifer Authority
Janet Guthrie, General Manager, Hemphill County UWCD

The New GCD Index

Julia Stanford, Programs & Operations Manager, Texas Alliance of
Groundwater Districts

10:00am – 10:30am MORNING BREAK

Hill Country Foyer Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority and INTERA Inc.

10:30am – 12:15pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Keynote Address

Emily Lindley, Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental
Quality

**Panel – Navigating the Journey To and Through a Contested
Case Hearing**

Moderator: Mike Gershon, Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle &
Townsend

Bill Hutchison, Independent Groundwater Consultant
Stacey Reese, Attorney, Stacey Reese Law
Blayne Stansberry, President, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District
Jim Totten, General Manager, Lost Pines GCD

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Keynote Bios

EMILY LINDLEY

Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Emily Lindley was appointed to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by Gov. Greg Abbott effective Aug. 20, 2018. Emily serves as Governor Abbott's appointee to the Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group and is involved in issues related to the energy sector, including TCEQ's request for delegation from the EPA to issue permits for discharges related to certain oil and gas activities. Before she was named commissioner, Lindley served as the chief of staff for the EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator. And prior to serving at EPA, Emily worked for over 10 years at TCEQ, serving in various roles within the Office of Public Assistance, the Intergovernmental Relations Division, the Office of Water, and the Deputy Executive Director's office.



GARRY MERRITT

Chief Executive Officer, Great Springs Project

Garry brings to Great Springs Project a unique combination of business development savvy, real estate law expertise, government service, and longstanding commitment to conservation of Texas' natural resources. A former Real County Judge, Real County Attorney, and corporate counsel, Garry's legal expertise includes real estate transactions, real estate finance, water rights, business development, and contract negotiations. He is Board Certified in Farm and Ranch Real Estate Law, a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and holds degrees from Rice University and the University of Texas School of Law. After a stint as a corporate and real estate attorney in Houston and Team Counsel for the Houston Rockets, Garry returned to the Texas Hill Country to practice law and engage in public service in his rural hometown of Leakey. Garry has served as Board Chairman of the Hill Country Alliance, the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, and the Southwest Area Regional Transit District. Prior to joining Great Springs Project, Garry served as General Counsel and Legislative Director of the Texas Association of Counties which represents all 254 counties in Texas with over 2,500 elected officials. An avid river guide and mountain climber, Garry cares deeply about Texas and our beautiful Hill Country and conserving our natural resources for generations to come. He has two children, Luke and Sarah.



JEFF WALKER

Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

Jeff Walker was named Executive Administrator of the TWDB in 2016. Walker has served in various areas of the TWDB for more than 30 years, including as an Agricultural Conservation Specialist, a Financial Analyst, a Non-Point Source Coordinator, Director of Project Development, and Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Supply and Infrastructure. Looking back, his experience throughout the agency was training for his current role as what he calls the "best job in Texas." Under his leadership, the TWDB has been named among top workplaces in Austin annually since 2017 and demonstrated exemplary fiscal management of its bond sale programs, which continually receive the highest credit ratings. To date, the agency has issued more than \$6.5 billion in bonds and committed to fund more than \$8.9 billion for state water plan projects in Texas through the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program. He has also overseen the implementation of a new state flood program that initiated the first statewide flood planning and that, to date, has funded more than \$300 million in flood improvement projects across Texas. Walker holds a M.B.A. from Texas State University and a B.S. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University. He is the current treasurer and a member of the board of directors for the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities.



**PROUDLY SERVING THE CITIZENS OF
BELL COUNTY**



Every drop counts!

**Visit our website at
www.cuwcd.org**

Dirk Aaron - General Manager

254-933-0120

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Legislator Bios

SENATOR SARAH ECKHARDT

District 14, Texas Senate

Sarah Eckhardt is honored to have been elected the Senator for Bastrop and Travis Counties in July of 2020. Senator Eckhardt has deep roots in Central Texas and deep commitment to improving opportunity for all Texans. After receiving an LBJ School Master of Public Affairs and law degree from the University of Texas in 1998, Eckhardt worked for eight years as an Assistant Travis County Attorney. From 2006-2013 she served as Travis County Commissioner representing 300,000 people. From 2015-2020 she served as the Travis County Judge presiding over the Commissioners Court and representing 1.3 million people. Some of her Eckhardt's previous accomplishments include curtailing the spread of COVID-19 in Central Texas through early and decisive region-wide orders, preserving more than 30,000 acres of green space, building a multi-county collaboration for the preservation of groundwater, maintaining a vibrant construction economy while raising safety standards for workers, establishing a Travis County Public Defender's Office, and instituting jail and arrest diversion programs that support justice and public safety. Her mother Nadine Eckhardt and her father Congressman Bob Eckhardt served Texas and especially the most vulnerable Texans in the halls of the State Capitol and the US Capitol. Her children Nadine and Hank inspire her daily to make Texas a better place for generations to come.



REPRESENTATIVE KYLE KACAL

District 12, Texas House of Representatives

Kyle Kacal, long-time resident of Brazos County, was first elected in November 2012 to the Texas House of Representatives to serve and represent House District 12. The district is comprised of Falls, Limestone and Robertson counties and the rural portions of Brazos and McLennan. Following his graduation from Texas A&M University in 1992 and receiving his Certificate of Ranch Management from Texas Christian University, Kyle has devoted his life to preserving the land and contributing to local and state economies through his dynamic ranching business. Kyle's ranch operates as a large-scale cattle business, focusing on breeding and raising beef cattle as well as a full-service hunting business during the fall and spring. During the most recent legislative session, Representative Kacal was appointed to the House Committee on Environmental Regulation as well as the Natural Resources Committee. Kyle and his wife, Marci, have two children, Carter and Kendall. The family is actively involved in their local church, St. Thomas Aquinas.





2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Legislator Bios

REPRESENTATIVE TRACY KING

District 80, Chairman of House Natural Resources Committee

Tracy O. King graduated from Carrizo Springs High School, attended Southwest Texas Junior College and Texas A&M University, where he earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering. In 1983 Representative King took a job with the Beltone Hearing Aid Center in San Antonio and soon after moved to Uvalde to open a branch office there. He later purchased the Beltone Hearing Aid Center and owned and operated it until 2008 when he sold the business to spend more time with his family. Representative King has always been active in public service, a former member of the Board of Trustees for the First United Methodist Church and a past president of both the Kiwanis Club and the Texas Hearing Aid Association. He is currently the Chairman of the powerful House Natural Resources Committee and serves as a member of the Energy Resources Committee. He previously served as chairman of Border and International Affairs; Agriculture and Livestock; and Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee. During his tenure in the Texas House of Representatives he has served on committees such as Natural Resources, Appropriations, Ways & Means, Calendars, Environmental Regulation, Agriculture and Livestock, Border and International Affairs, Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Licensing and Administrative Procedures. He also serves on the Edwards Aquifer Oversight Committee and the Energy Council. Representative King is married to the former Cheryl Baker of Hondo and they are the proud parents of two children, Katelyn Marie King and Clayton Baker King.

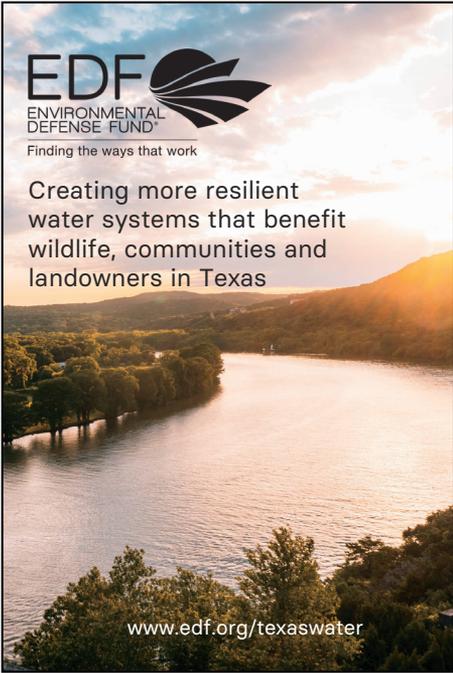


SENATOR CHARLES PERRY

District 28, Chairman of Senate Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs Committee

State Senator Charles Perry is a life-long West Texan and a practicing CPA from Lubbock. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 2014 after serving two terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Sen. Perry currently chairs the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs and is Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. He also sits on the Senate Committees for Education, Finance, Transportation, and Redistricting and he co-chairs the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Advisory Committee. Gov. Abbott appointed him to the Southwestern States Water Commission and the Western States Water Council. Sen. Perry grew up in the district he currently represents, graduating from Sweetwater High School. He earned his B.B.A. in accounting and management information systems from Texas Tech University. Geographically, he represents the largest Senate District in the State. The district consists of 51 counties, is over 48,000 square miles, and is larger than 19 U.S. states and 107 countries. Sen. Perry has been married to his wife, Jacklyn, for over 37 years and together they have a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Matthew, and four grandchildren. The entire family are graduates of Texas Tech University.





EDF
ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENSE FUND®
Finding the ways that work

Creating more resilient water systems that benefit wildlife, communities and landowners in Texas

www.edf.org/texaswater

Representing
Texas Groundwater
Conservation Districts
since the 1980s



 **Bickerstaff**
Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

www.bickerstaff.com



Duval County

Groundwater Conservation District

Maintaining our way of life through conservation, protection and preservation of our groundwater resources.



www.northplainsgcd.org



BLUEBONNET
Groundwater Conservation District

Managing the Groundwater Resources in service to Austin, Grimes, Walker, and Waller Counties

P.O. Box 269

Navasota, Texas 77868

936-825-7303

www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org

GET THE MOBILE APP



1. Download the Webex Events App
2. Create your attendee profile
3. Search for "groundwater"
4. Join the event and explore the app!

If you used the app in 2019 or 2021, click the icon in the top left corner to leave and join this year's event.

Visit texasgroundwater.org/app or the registration table for help.

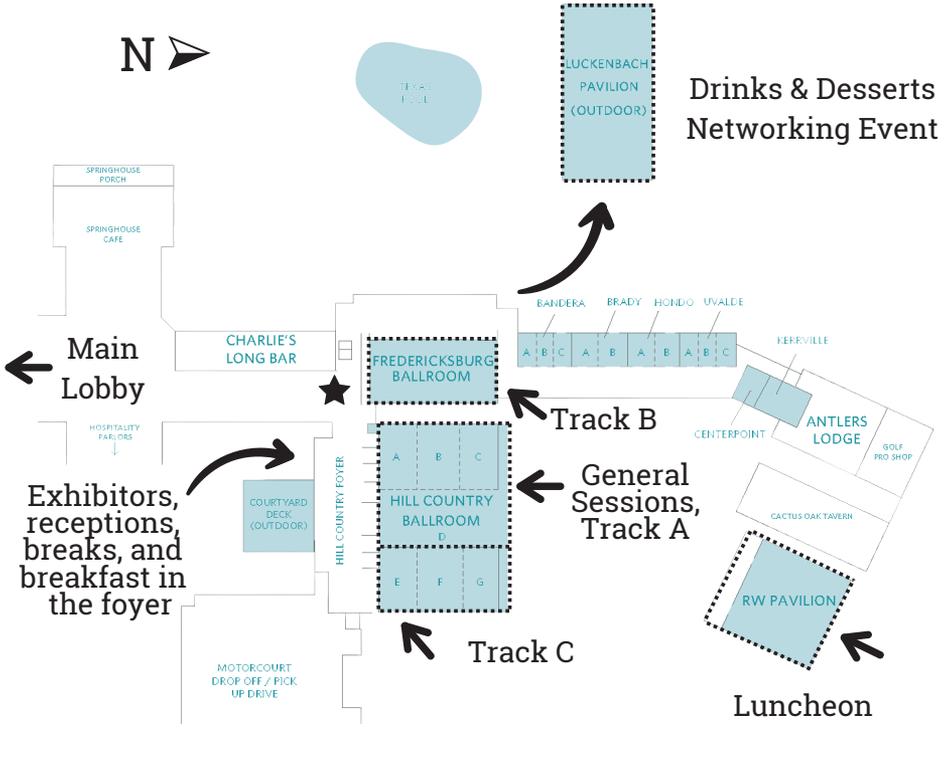
Use the app to submit questions, connect with other attendees, and more!



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Map of Meeting Rooms



Prize Opportunities

Just by attending and participating in the Texas Groundwater Summit, you have the chance to win prizes!

DOOR PRIZES – All attendees are entered to win one of 6 door prizes that will be awarded throughout the conference. Thanks to Fancher Legal, Middle Pecos GCD, and Red River GCD for sponsoring.

EXHIBITOR BINGO – Visit all of the exhibitors and enter their special code into the mobile app for a chance to win a Visa gift card! Winners will be announced on Thursday.

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

AZZAH ALKURDI

Engineering Specialist, Texas Water Development Board

Azzah AlKurdi is an engineering specialist in the Innovative Water Technologies department at the Texas Water Development Board since 2019, focusing on Aquifer Storage and Recovery. Azzah received a B.S. from the University of Khartoum, Sudan and a M.S. from Colorado State University, both in Civil Engineering.

GARSHAW AMIDI-ABRAHAM

Senior Outreach Specialist, OpenET

Garshaw Amidi-Abraham is an outreach specialist at OpenET Inc. He is primarily focused on supporting OpenET in geographical expansion, fundraising, operations and outreach to a wide array of potential users. Prior to his work at OpenET, Garshaw was the director of a watershed council on the Oregon Coast, where he led the organization in implementing multibenefit watershed restoration projects, as well as stakeholder engagement, community outreach and education programs. Garshaw holds a Master of Development Practice degree from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a B.S. in ecology and evolutionary biology and biological anthropology from SUNY Stony Brook. His graduate work focused on geospatial and funding analyses for multi-benefit floodplain restoration projects in California's Central Valley, as well as water resource management in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley.

NATALIE BALLEW

Groundwater Division Director, Texas Water Development Board

Natalie Ballew is the Groundwater Division Director at the TWDB, where her team provides technical information and support to public clients regarding groundwater resources and statewide water planning. She previously worked as a hydrogeologist on both the Groundwater Technical Assistance and Groundwater Availability Modeling teams at the TWDB and spent some time at the TCEQ working on U.S.-Mexico water issues. Natalie is a licensed Texas professional geoscientist, has a bachelors degree in geological sciences from the University of Southern California, and has masters degrees in energy and earth resources and public affairs from the University of Texas.

ALYSSA BALZEN

Geoscientist, Edwards Aquifer Authority

Alyssa Balzen, P.G. is a Geoscientist II at the Edwards Aquifer Authority with over 6 years of experience in groundwater operations, field research, and interpreting hydrologic data. She is also the President-Elect for the South Texas Geological Society. Her responsibilities at the Edwards Aquifer Authority include collecting, processing, and analyzing geologic and hydrologic data, field and laboratory-based activities, and serving as project coordinator for various research projects. Prior to her current position, she was the Groundwater Science Manager at Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District. She has also worked for various contractors, the United States Geological Survey, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Alyssa received her B.S. in Geology and M.S. in Geology from UT-San Antonio.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

JAMES BEACH

Principal, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

James Beach, P.G. is a Principal at Advanced Groundwater Solutions, LLC and has over 30 years' experience in quantitative groundwater hydrology. His experience includes professional consulting in groundwater and surface water hydrology, water resource development and planning, groundwater well field design and development, permitting, environmental assessments, brackish groundwater assessment, ASR, flow and solute transport modeling, quantitative contamination evaluations, and litigation support. James consults for GCDs, cities, water suppliers, landowners, and many other entities.

ROBERT BRADLEY

Senior Geoscientist/GMA Liaison, Texas Water Development Board

Robert Bradley is a senior geoscientist at the Texas Water Development Board. He works for the groundwater technical assistance department at the agency, where he is an agency liaison to groundwater management districts for the Texas groundwater joint planning process. Along with these duties, he provides research, information, and technical assistance to groundwater conservation districts, other entities, and the public. He has a B.S. in geology from Abilene Christian University and a M.S. in geology from Baylor University. He has over 31 years of water-resources experience in Texas and New Mexico, and most of his experience includes 27 years dealing with groundwater conservation districts.

AMBER BLOUNT

General Manager, Sandy Land UWCD

Amber Blount is the President of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. Amber began her work with Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District

(SLUWCD) in 2007 as the office secretary. She quickly advanced to oversee well permitting and water quality services for the District. While continuing to act in that capacity, she served as Education & Outreach Coordinator for the multi-groundwater district education cooperative before being named SLUWCD General Manager in 2015. Amber grew up south of Dallas and obtained her B.S. degree from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, but now calls West Texas home. Amber is married to Tanner and the mother to three boys – Helee, Cross & Krew. Her family resides in Yoakum County, where they own and operate their family business, raising show pigs and cattle on their property west of Plains.

SCOTT BROOKS

Director, Clearwater UWCD

A Director for Clearwater UWCD, Scott became interested in groundwater when his home well suffered water level issues during summer of 2012. A mechanical and civil licensed professional engineer, he decided to educate himself on groundwater issues, ending up on the Clearwater Board. Scott has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering. He has over three decades experience in engineering and spent the last two in technical leadership roles. Currently the Director of Engineering and Surveying at Yalgo, LLC, a civil engineering firm, he spent the first half of his career performing mechanical and electrical engineering for professional motorsports teams and vehicle manufacturers. During that time, Scott was lucky to have visited 5 of the 7 world continents and 46 of the 50 United States, but nowadays prefers to stay close to home with his wife of 29 years, two dogs, and an occasional brood of chickens.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

AMY BUSH

Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

Amy D. Bush, P.G. is a hydrologist with RMBJ Geo, LLC with over 20 years of experience working with and for groundwater conservation districts in a variety of roles. She has a B.S. in Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering from Tarleton State University. Her professional passions are data management, GIS analysis, and coffee. After spending most of her life in the Texas panhandle, she currently resides in Abilene. If she is not behind her steering wheel or computer screen, you can find her chasing her kids or dog, unless she has convinced them to chase each other so she can plan the next camping trip.

VINCE CLAUSE

Hydrogeologist, Allan R. Standen, LLC

Vince Clause is a Hydrogeologist with Allan R. Standen LLC, a Texas-based natural resource and groundwater consulting firm. He is a certified Geographic Information Science Professional and holds a Master's degree in Process Geomorphology from The University of Texas at Austin Department of Geography and the Environment. Over the last 10 years, Vince has focused on mapping and evaluating groundwater resources across the State of Texas and has specialized in developing detailed hydrostratigraphic groundwater models. Using these models, he has helped GCDs, state agencies, private landowners and the oil and gas industry solve complex technical, regulatory, and legal issues.

VELMA DANIELSON

Senior Project Manager, Blanton & Associates

Velma Reyes Danielson leads Blanton & Associates' Water Infrastructure and Planning Sector based in San Antonio. Prior to joining the firm in 2013, she worked on various projects as an independent consultant, including serving as President of Southwest

Texas Water Resources. Prior to joining STWR, Velma served as General Manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority until she retired in March 2010. She worked for the Authority for more than 20 years, serving in various management roles prior to being appointed General Manager in August 2007. As General Manager, Velma led the organization in carrying out its mission to design, develop, implement, and administer policies and programs aimed at managing, enhancing, and protecting south-central Texas' primary water resource, the Edwards Aquifer. She holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from Texas Lutheran University, and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs.

HEATHER DODSON

Groundwater Data Team Lead, Texas Water Development Board

Heather Dodson joined the TWDB in 2006 as part of the field staff collecting water level and water quality data. In 2007, she transitioned to Database QA/QC Specialist, taming the exacting world of hundreds and hundreds of unruly data bits, and guiding cooperators through the data submission process. She helped create the Groundwater Data Team in 2012, and currently serves as the Team Lead. As leader of the Data Team, she is tasked with maintaining the quality and integrity of the division's databases and disseminating that data to internal and external users. She and her team are part of an elite force on the frontline of delivering top-tier customer service, providing responses to hundreds of data-related inquiries. Prior to joining the TWDB she worked as an Executive Assistant for the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Initiative in Florida while earning her B.S. in Environmental Studies from Florida Gulf Coast University.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

BILL DUGAT

Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Bill Dugat serves as general counsel for multiple groundwater conservation districts. He has practiced at Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP for 34 years, 17 of which he served as managing partner. His experience as general counsel includes permitting, rulemaking, enforcement, contracting, taxation, elections, and purchasing. Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Administrative Law, Bill advises clients on open government law and has represented numerous clients in administrative hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings and GCD Boards. Upon graduating from Texas A&M University with a B.B.A., Bill served in the U.S. Air Force for four years as an ICBM Launch Officer. While on active duty, he earned his M.B.A. from the University of Missouri. Bill then attended law school and received his J.D. from the University of Texas. He and his wife Kathy have been married 42 years and have two grown sons and three grandsons.

GREGORY ELLIS

Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm

Gregory M. Ellis has been practicing water law and been involved in water issues for over three decades. In the mid-eighties as a law student, Ellis helped clerk the House Natural Resources Committee working on a variety of water legislation. After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988 and admission to the Bar in 1989, Gregory worked as legislative liaison for the Texas Water Commission. In 1992 he moved to Houston to serve as General Counsel to the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District. The Edwards Aquifer Authority hired Gregory as their first General Manager in 1997, a position he held until October 2004 when he left to start his solo law practice. Gregory Ellis is well versed in groundwater law, groundwater

conservation districts, the Open Meetings Act, the Public Information Act, the Public Funds Investment Act, the Public Funds Collateral Act, local government law, and administrative law and procedures.

JOHN ELLIS

Supervisory Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey

John Ellis is a licensed Professional Geoscientist and supervisory hydrologist at the USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center in Houston, where he leads a team investigating water quality, land subsidence, and groundwater level changes in the Houston area and northern Texas Gulf Coast. Prior to beginning his position in Houston, John worked as a hydrologist leading aquifer studies and developing numerical models focused on integrated surface water and groundwater resources and evaluating the impacts of future climate variability on aquifer and reservoir storage in Oklahoma. John holds a B.S. in Geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas, a M.S. in Environmental Science from Hardin-Simmons University, and a M.S. in Hydrogeology from the University of Alabama.





2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

RACHEL FERN

Wetland Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Rachel Fern earned her B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Texas State University in 2011, her M.S. in Marine Biology from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 2013, and her Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2018. She completed a post-doctoral appointment with the USGS at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center as a Research Geographer in 2019. She is currently the Statewide Wetland Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Rachel has developed, executed, and ultimately published many landscape-scale ecological studies for migratory birds and wetland biogeochemical cycles relying heavily on a fusion of field-based and remotely sensed data. More relevant to the proposed study, she has extensively used Audio Recording Units in a variety of ecological contexts for the purposes of investigating occurrence and distribution of mammals and birds. Currently, much of her research involves spatial ecology and environmental and climatic drivers of migratory bird distributions.

MARC FRIBERG

Executive Director of External & Regulatory Affairs, Edwards Aquifer Authority

Marc Friberg is the Executive Director of External & Regulatory Affairs for the Edwards Aquifer Authority, where he manages the EAA's permitting, conservation, regulatory, and legislative programs while providing support to the EAA in activities related to its federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan. While at the EAA, Marc has also been responsible for the Authority's external relations through management of the Outreach and Education department. Prior to joining the Authority in 2008, Marc worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the Office of Legal Services. Marc is a graduate of Baylor University and the Baylor University School of Law.

MIKE GERSHON

Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend

Mike Gershon is a partner at Lloyd Gosselink, P.C. where he serves on the firm's Executive Committee and chairs its Water Practice Group. He is a water, utility and environmental lawyer and works on a team of two dozen lawyers and six paralegals within the firm's Water and Litigation Practice Groups. He assists a diverse group of clients with water planning and management, water quality, permitting and endangered species issues. He has experience with dozens of permit hearings, lawsuits and mediation involving a variety of groundwater and water utility matters. Mike served as Chairman of the Texas State Bar Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section and Chairman of the San Antonio Bar Environmental Law Section. He is a fellow of the Texas and Austin Bar Foundations. AV/Preeminent-Rated in Natural Resources and Water Law by Martindale-Hubbell, Mike has been named in Best Lawyers in America in Water Law.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

ROHIT GOSWAMI

Principal Engineer, RRG Professional Engineering

Rohit is an independent consultant with over 15 years of experience in water resources, groundwater, and environmental engineering. He has experience leading and conducting various hydrological, hydrogeological, and environmental projects for industrial, municipal, and governmental entities. He has a doctorate and masters in Civil Engineering from Auburn University and is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

ASHLEY GREUTER

Director of Research & Water Conservation, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

Ashley Greuter serves as the Director of Research & Water Conservation for the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District. She manages the science and research program, oversees the subsidence monitoring network, administers the geographic information system program, and supervises the Water Conservation program for the District. Ashley has a B.A. in Classical Studies and B.S., *summa cum laude*, in Geology from the University of Florida, a M.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), and is a licensed Professional Geoscientist in Texas. Prior to joining the District, Ashley performed subsurface modeling for the oil and gas industry as well as conducted environmental permitting and compliance and also groundwater monitoring for consulting firms.

JANET GUTHRIE

General Manager, Hemphill County UWCD

Janet Guthrie is the general manager of the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, located in Canadian, TX. She was hired as the first general manager of the District in May of 2001. As general manager, Janet is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the District, including

the development and supervision of the implementation of the rules and management plan of the District. She currently serves as the treasurer of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, is a member of the finance and legislative committees of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, and serves on the groundwater committee of the Texas Water Conservation Association. Janet grew up in a farm and ranching community in the Texas Panhandle and now owns and operates a cow calf operation in Texas and Oklahoma with her husband, Lynn. She is a graduate of Clarendon College with an associate of science degree.

SAM MARIE HERMITTE

Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Science & Conservation, Texas Water Development Board

Sam Marie Hermitte's areas of responsibility at the TWDB include strategic planning, legislative analysis and implementation, water data, drought policy and project coordination, flood priority research projects, and special initiatives such as the development of the Texas Water Data Hub and TexasFlood.org, a flood preparedness and response website. Additionally, Sam leads the Texas Water Data Initiative, participates in the national Internet of Water Coalition, and serves as an advisory board member to the Texas Disaster Information System. She holds a bachelor's degree in public policy analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a masters degree in public affairs with a portfolio in integrated watershed studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

BILL HUTCHISON

Independent Groundwater Consultant

Dr. Bill Hutchison has 40 years of experience as a groundwater hydrologist. He has been an independent consultant for the last 10 years. His previous positions include Water Resources Manager for El Paso Water Utilities and Director of the Groundwater Resources Division of the Texas Water Development Board. Bill has extensive experience in the development and application of groundwater flow and transport models. His current and previous work has included quantifying the impacts of groundwater pumping on spring flow, induced stream flow, and captured subsurface outflow. Bill received a BS in Soil and Water Science from the University of California, Davis, an M.S. in Hydrology from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering from UT-El Paso. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist in Texas, and as Registered Professional Geologist in Mississippi.

RUSSELL JOHNSON

Partner, McGinnis Lochridge LLP

Russell has a multifaceted water law practice, with an emphasis on matters involving land use, water rights and the Endangered Species Act. His clients are generally landowners, industries, mineral owners and developers seeking to acquire, safeguard, develop or convey water resources. Russ advocates on their behalf before the courts, the Texas Legislature and administrative agencies. Russ holds a B.A. in biology and chemistry, in addition to his law degree. Over the years, Russ has participated extensively in legislation related to groundwater management. Prior to joining the firm, he represented a large municipal water system in a variety of matters, including legislative efforts to create the Edwards Aquifer Authority, modernize Texas water law with Senate Bill 1 (1997) and Senate Bill 2 (2001) and subsequent legislation related to groundwater management. He continues these efforts at each legislative session.

Conserving Water for 67 Years



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.pgcd.us | 806.883.2501

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

MICHAEL KEESTER

Principal, RW Harden & Associates, Inc.

Mike earned his B.A. in Philosophy (1996) from Oklahoma Baptist University and his M.S. in Geology (2002) from Oklahoma State University. Mike began his career as hydrogeologist in 2003 focusing on groundwater flow and determination of availability with respect to quantity and quality as well as regulatory limitations. He joined R. W. Harden & Associates, Inc. in January 2022 as a principal of the firm. During his career Mike has worked for clients seeking to utilize groundwater resources within groundwater conservation districts and for GCDs working to effectively manage the groundwater resources. Drawing upon his diverse experience, Mike has assisted GCDs and groundwater suppliers in considering, developing, and implementing strategies for monitoring, utilizing, and managing groundwater resources.

KATIE LEWIS

Associate Professor, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Dr. Katie Lewis received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Soil Science from Texas A&M University in 2010 and 2014 after completing her B.S. in Chemistry from Sam Houston State University in 2008. She joined the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas Tech University faculty in September 2014. As an Associate Professor of Soil Chemistry and Fertility, Katie is provided the opportunity through research, service, and teaching to enhance the agricultural sustainability of the Texas High Plains that is vitally important to both Texas and the nation. She has mentored to completion eight M.S. students and four Ph.D. students. She serves as the associate editor of the *Agrosystems, Geosciences, and Environment Journal*. At the 2019 National Cotton Council Beltwide Cotton Conference, Katie received the Dr. J. Tom Cothren Outstanding Young Cotton Soil Scientist Award. Katie was awarded the Texas

A&M Soil and Crop Sciences Departmental Faculty Research Award in 2021.

ROBERT MACE

Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water & the Environment

Robert Mace is the Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer of The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and a Professor of Practice in the Department of Geography at Texas State University. Robert has over 30 years of experience in hydrology, hydrogeology, stakeholder processes, and water policy, mostly in Texas. Robert has a B.S. in Geophysics and an M.S. in Hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and a Ph.D. in Hydrogeology from The University of Texas.

NATASHA MARTIN

Shareholder, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody

Natasha's practice focuses on Administrative and Regulatory litigation with an emphasis in environmental and utility law. She has represented clients in contested cases and complaint proceedings before the TCEQ, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Texas Alcoholic and Beverage Commission, and the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Natasha has experience counseling clients on regulatory permitting and enforcement on air, water, and waste issues. Natasha has also represented clients obtaining electric, water, and wastewater Certificates of Convenience and Necessity. Also, Natasha serves as general counsel to several water supply corporations and groundwater conservation districts in Texas. Prior to law school, Natasha worked as a technical air permit reviewer at the TCEQ where she reviewed mechanical and agricultural air permit applications in accordance with state and federal laws.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

LEAH MARTINSSON

Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Leah Martinsson joined the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District as the Executive Director in 2019. TAGD is a membership organization comprised of groundwater conservation districts and groundwater professionals that works to promote and support sound management of groundwater based on local conditions and good science. As Executive Director, Leah provides strategic direction and guidance to the organization and administers and manages TAGD's overall activities. She serves as a primary point of contact for the membership, the Legislature, state agencies, and related organizations across Texas, and works closely with policymakers, decision-makers, and water stakeholders to promote sustainable groundwater policies as defined by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. Leah is an attorney licensed to practice law in Colorado, where she represented clients in all aspects of water law for over 16 years before relocating to Texas. Leah obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and her law degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

QUINN MCCOLLY

Conservation Finance Director, Texas Water Trade

Dr. Quinn McColly came to Texas Water Trade with a unique background that combines practical market experience with academic research. Quinn spent 10 years as a floor trader at the Chicago Stock Exchange before transitioning to private wealth management. Quinn then earned his Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science and his masters in Environmental Science, both from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. His dissertation was titled "Market Mechanisms and the Efficient Allocation of Water," and his thesis evaluated the interest of voluntary buyers in an ecosystem

services exchange. In his free time, Quinn enjoys cycling, boating, gardening, and anything his 8-year-old daughter Abilyn wants to do. At Texas Water Trade, Quinn continues to explore creative conservation finance strategies, is enthusiastic about the opportunity to restore and protect environmental flows of water, and is motivated by his desire to brighten the future for the children of today and tomorrow.

GRETCHEN MILLER

Senior Groundwater Engineer, Collier Consulting

Gretchen Miller, Ph.D., P.E., recently joined Collier Consulting in Round Rock as a Senior Groundwater Engineer. Previously, she was an associate professor of water resources engineering in Civil & Environmental Engineering at Texas A&M University, where she taught fluid dynamics and engineering hydrogeology for twelve years. Her bachelors and masters degrees in Geological Engineering are from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, and her doctorate in Environmental Engineering is from the University of California at Berkeley. She is registered as a professional engineer in the state of Texas. Dr. Miller has expertise in hydrogeology, well hydraulics and design, aquifer storage and recovery, managed aquifer recharge, and numerical modeling of groundwater flows.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

JULIE NAHRGANG

Executive Director, Water Environment Association of Texas

Julie Nahrgang is the Executive Director of the Water Environment Association of Texas and Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies. She received a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in Sociology from Trinity University in San Antonio and received a Lifetime Honorary Studentship to the Student Union at the London School of Economics. She's constantly pushing the sector to embrace its misfit and cutting-edge status and the incredible innovation potential within resource recovery. And she's constantly pushing the public to realize the true value of water!

WADE OLIVER

Texas Water Resources Lead, INTERA Inc.

Wade Oliver is a hydrogeologist and leads INTERA water resources line of business in Texas. His professional experience has focused on the characterization of groundwater systems and the development and application of numerical flow models to analyze these systems. His experience includes characterizing the structure, water quality, and water levels of aquifers, updating aquifer management plans for groundwater conservation districts, and developing groundwater availability models to support water planning strategies for both public and private entities. Wade is a graduate of Texas A&M University and the University of Utah.

DANIEL OPPENHEIMER

Land Program Director, Hill Country Alliance

Daniel Oppenheimer is the Land Program Director of the Hill Country Alliance (HCA) and Coordinator of the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Partnership in Central Texas. Since 2017, Daniel has worked with thousands of private landowners, dozens of agency and non-profit partners, and communities across the Texas Hill Country to support private land stewardship and regional collaboration. Prior to joining HCA, Daniel coordinated the Dolores River Restoration Partnership in southwestern Colorado and eastern Utah. He is a 5th generation Texan based in Gillespie County.

STACEY REESE

Attorney, Stacey Reese Law

Stacey Reese Law, PLLC is a boutique litigation firm concentrating on the complex and rapidly evolving area of groundwater law. Stacey is a former big firm lawyer with over 15 years of experience representing clients in water law and water-related litigation. Stacey has been recognized by Texas Super Lawyers as a "Texas Rising Star" in 2014-2016 and as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in 2020-2021. Stacey's water representation focuses on all aspects of groundwater regulation including permitting, certificates of convenience and necessity, service areas, rule making, desired future conditions, groundwater modeling/availability, beneficial use, contested cases, litigation, and administrative appeals, as well as drafting and negotiating related water agreements. Stacey also serves as outside General Counsel to GCDs and as Special Counsel to law firms on complex water law matters. Stacey is on the Board of Directors for the Litigation Section of the Austin Bar and currently serves as the section's Treasurer.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

SCOTT REINERT

Water Resources Manager, El Paso Water

Scott Reinert manages well drilling and equipping projects, and water resources planning for the El Paso Water Utilities. He has 25 years of experience in water resources and water supply projects as a hydrogeologist and civil engineer. Scott has served as the project manager for groundwater modeling studies of the Hueco and Mesilla Bolsons. He is the Vice Chairman of the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group. Scott is President of for the Multi State Salinity Coalition which promotes advancements in technologies for desalination and water reuse. Scott earned a bachelors degree in geology at McMurry College and a masters degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University. He is a registered Professional Geologist and Professional Engineer in Texas and a registered Certified Scientist in New Mexico.

LON SHELL

Precinct 3 Commissioner, Hays County

Lon Shell has served as Hays County Commissioner since 2017, serving western San Marcos, portions of Kyle, the Wimberley Valley, and rural areas near Dripping Springs. Lon spends much of his time working on the challenges of managing extreme growth while maintaining Hays County's great quality of life and cherished natural resources. Lon is President of the local EMS Board of Directors and serves on the boards of the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the Region 11-Guadalupe Flood Planning Group, and the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization. Lon has a 13-year old daughter with his wife of 21 years, Jennifer. Lon is a graduate of San Marcos High School and Texas A&M University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After working in Houston and Dallas, Lon returned to his native Hays County to raise his family, grow a small business, and be near his family's farm and their Santa Gertrudis cattle.

BRIAN SLEDGE

Managing Partner, SledgeLaw Group

Brian Sledge is an attorney and governmental relations consultant with the SledgeLaw Group in Austin, where his practice for over two decades has focused primarily on water law and legislative matters. Before entering private practice in 1999, Brian was Director of Research at the Texas Water Development Board. Prior to that, he served in numerous positions as an attorney for the Texas Legislature, including General Counsel and Chief Clerk of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the House Joint Interim Committee on TCEQ Funding, and the Senate-House Joint Committee on Water Resources Development and Management.

DAVID SMITH

4-H2O Program Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

David Smith is an Extension Program Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and 4-H Youth Development in College Station. For more than 20 years he has created and delivered educational resources and programs related to water resources, water conservation, irrigation, water treatment, and farm safety. In 2017, David initiated the 4-H Water Ambassadors Program designed to provide experiential and continuing education opportunities for high school youth who gain advanced knowledge and develop leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering and management of water. David earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and a Masters of Water Management from Texas A&M University.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

RUSTY SMITH

Executive Director, Texas Produced Water Consortium

Rusty Smith comes to the Texas Produced Water Consortium from the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance where he previously served as a project manager, focusing on recruiting new businesses and fostering innovation in the Lubbock region. Previously, Rusty spent several years in Austin working in public policy in both the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. Most notably, Rusty served as the Committee Director for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs during the 85th Texas Legislature for Chairman Charles Perry. During that time he managed all legislation under the jurisdiction of the committee, including issues impacting water resources across the state. After that, Rusty served as the Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs for the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association, a statewide oil & gas trade association. Rusty received a B.S. from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Texas Tech.

MITCHELL SODEK

General Manager, Central Texas GCD

Mitchell Sodek is the General Manager for the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District located in Burnet County. He has been with the District since 2010, previously serving as the District Hydrologist for 7 years. As the General Manager, Mitchell performs well registrations and permitting, creation and implementation of the management plan, rule development, and well compliance. He has done extensive field work in managing a continuous monitor well program, overseeing the drilling of many exploratory wells, performing geophysical logs and uses GIS to further the knowledge and management of the Llano Uplift and Trinity aquifers that serve the Hill Country in Central Texas. Mitchell serves as a representative on the GMA 8 and Region

K boards and has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Tarleton State University and an M.S. in Geographic Information Systems from Penn State University.

DIMITRIOS STAMPOULIS

Lead Scientist, Southwest Research Institute

Dr. Dimitrios Stampoulis is a hydrologist and a remote sensing engineer with significant expertise in the use of Earth remote sensing observations, hydrologic modeling, Geographic Information Systems, and their applications in hydrology and land surface processes. His research interests are directed toward assessing the impact of climatic variability on water availability and dynamics, and climate change impacts on regional eco-hydrological processes. Presently, as a Lead Scientist at SwRI, Dimitrios participates in business development, project management, and technical work focusing on informing the best water resources management practices in the context of climate change. Dimitrios has authored or co-authored 19 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact scientific journals and numerous abstracts for presentations at national or international scientific conference meetings. Dimitrios is involved in 15 scientific journals as an Editorial Board member or a peer reviewer and frequently serves as a reviewer for NASA grant proposals.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

JULIA STANFORD

Programs & Operations Manager, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Julia Stanford has served the groundwater community as TAGD's Programs & Operations Manager since 2019. TAGD is a membership organization comprised of groundwater conservation districts and groundwater professionals that works to promote and support sound management of groundwater based on local conditions and good science. In this role, Julia connects and informs groundwater professionals by creating comprehensive member communications and innovative resources related to GCDs, and also manages the Alliance's signature educational events throughout the year. Prior to joining TAGD, Julia coordinated conservation education, grant administration, and public relations for North Plains GCD in Dumas. She holds a B.S. degree in Geography – Resource & Environmental Studies from Texas State University and a graduate certificate in strategic public communications from Texas Christian University. Julia lives in Austin with her husband and 2-year-old son, Rio.

BLAYNE STANSBERRY

President, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Blayne Stansberry is a 5th generation Texan and native South Austinite. Blayne grew up along Bear Creek and has been drinking groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer her entire life. Today, she still lives in her childhood home with her husband and two daughters. Blayne, a University of Texas graduate and licensed civil engineer, started Stansberry Engineering in 2004 and has been working as a civil engineer for almost 30 years. In her work, she deals with protecting creeks from erosion, improving the quality of stormwater runoff to our creeks and recharge features, and designing water distribution systems. Blayne was elected to the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Board in 2014 and has served as board president since 2016. During her time on the board, she has helped navigate the District's transition to the expanded territory and worked through a resulting contested permit application.

MARK STEINBACH

Executive Director, Texas Land Conservancy

Mark earned his bachelors in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and masters in Rangeland Ecology and Management, both from Texas A&M University. His masters research focused on Texas landowners and their knowledge of conservation policy and land management techniques. Mark received his Ph.D. from the University of Montana in Missoula from the College of Forestry and Conservation. His dissertation and post-doctoral work focused on land fragmentation in the Rocky Mountain region. He previously worked at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he was a private lands wildlife biologist providing technical assistance to landowners in the Hill Country. Mark's land management experience also stems from his academic career and working on his family's farm in Washington County.

2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

DIANA THOMAS

General Manager, Sterling County UWCD & Irion County WCD

Diana Thomas is the General Manager of the Sterling County UWCD, but she does not let that title limit her daily activity. Some of her favorite subtitles include; field technician, secretary, animal control specialist, organizational artisan, and laboratory scientist. Diana began her assorted career at Texas A&M University where she attained a B.S. in Environmental Studies and a M.S. in Water Management and Hydrological Studies. Diana joined the Sterling County UWCD in September of 2013 and participates in a partnership of duties with the Irion County Water Conservation District. During her tenure Diana has influenced regional planning through active participation in Region F and GMA 7, standardized official forms and handouts, established an electronic database, expanded water level monitoring programs, excelled at extracting the work pick-up from muddy fields, and successfully navigated the wilds of rural West Texas.

JIM TOTTEN

General Manager, Lost Pines GCD

Jim Totten joined Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District as Assistant General Manager in 2012 and assumed his current role of General Manager in 2015. During his decade at LPGCD, the District has been involved with three contested case hearings regarding large-volume permit applications for both in-district and export authorization. Jim is a habitual graduate of Texas A&M with a bachelors degree in Microbiology and masters degrees in Biochemistry and Water Management. His graduate work in the water management program focused on non-price methods for enhancing domestic water conservation. He is neither licensed nor certified by any relevant governing body or organization but his two rescue dobermans think he's a pretty good guy.

DEBORAH TREJO

Attorney, Kemp Smith LLP

Deborah C. Trejo is a partner in the Austin Office of Kemp Smith LLP in the firm's Public and Environmental Law Department focusing on representing governmental entities and private clients in administrative matters and in trial and appellate proceedings before state and federal courts. Deborah specializes in groundwater issues, open government, regulatory takings, endangered species, elections, water quality, constitutional issues, enforcement, permitting and litigation. Deborah is a frequent author and speaker and has consistently been selected for inclusion by Best Lawyers in America in the area of Administrative/Regulatory and Environmental Law and is a Top Attorney by Austin Monthly in Government and Administrative Law.

MICAH VOULGARIS

General Manager, Cow Creek GCD

Micah Voulgaris is the General Manager of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District in Kendall County. Since 2003 Micah has directed the day-to-day operations of the District, working in every position from well inspector to Elections Administrator. Voulgaris provides general leadership to the staff, directs implementation of Board policies, and represents the District in dealing with the public and other government entities. Mr. Voulgaris serves as a designated representative of the Cow Creek GCD at Groundwater Management Area 9 committee meetings and is also the incoming chairman of the GMA 9 committee. Micah was born and raised in Wharton, Texas. He graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos with a B.S. degree in Resource and Environmental Studies and a double minor in Geology and Business Administration. Micah lives in Kendall County with his wife Rhonda and their two daughters, Marley and Reese.



2022 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

VANESSA PUIG- WILLIAMS

Texas Water Program Director, Environmental Defense Fund

Vanessa Puig-Williams is Director of EDF's Texas Water Program, where she is leading EDF's efforts to advance sustainable groundwater management in Texas. Prior to joining EDF, Vanessa was the Executive Director of the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association, a landowner organization focused on protecting property rights and groundwater resources in the Hill Country. As a water and environmental attorney, Vanessa has advised landowners and nonprofits on issues related to land and water conservation and practiced in the environmental division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Vanessa is a member of the Region L Water Planning group, the Austin Water Forward Task Force, and is a board member of the Hill Country Alliance. Vanessa received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 2006.

JOE YELDERMAN

Professor and Geosciences Department Chair, Baylor University

Joe C. Yelderman Jr., Ph.D., P.G., is a hydrogeology professor and Geosciences Department Chair at Baylor University. Although he has worked throughout Texas and internationally in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Uganda, his research focuses on hydrological studies of the Trinity Aquifer in Central Texas and the Northern segments of the Edwards Balcones Fault Zone Aquifer and the Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer. Dr. Joe has worked with a number of Texas groundwater conservation districts but most extensively with Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District and the Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District. Much of his research involves springs and groundwater/surface-water interactions.

**Thank you for attending the
2022 Texas Groundwater Summit!
Please share your experience on
social media using the hashtag
#txgroundwater2022**

KELLY  HART

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Austin. Fort Worth. Midland. Baton Rouge. New Orleans
817.332.2500 | www.kellyhart.com



Water Solutions for Texas

- Groundwater availability modeling
- Aquifer characterization and testing
- Optimized well field design and management
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Brackish groundwater evaluation and development
- Water utility supply analysis
- Remote sensing

Austin Headquarters
 9600 Great Hills Trail
 Suite 300W
 Austin, TX 78759
 512.425.2000

Houston Office
 3 Sugar Creek Center Blvd
 Suite 675
 Sugar Land, TX 77478
 281.560.4560

INTERA Incorporated

www.intera.com



Regulating and Protecting Groundwater Use in Edwards County and Real County

P.O. Box 1208
 234 Evergreen Street
 Leakey, Texas 78873
 830-232-5733
www.recrd.org



Serving the Citizens of Milam & Burleson Counties

• AQUIFER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM

• GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION GRANTS

• GROUNDWATER WELL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

• SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT THROUGH BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE

Lloyd
 Gosselink
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

“Working hard to provide exceptional service and earn our clients’ trust for more than 35 years.”

Water • Districts General Counsel
 Legislative Consulting • Litigation
 Employment Law

Mike Gershon • Ty Embrey
 Cole Ruiz • Sarah Glaser
 José de la Fuente • James Muela
 Madison Huerta • Audrey Cooper

Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
www.lglawfirm.com | 512.322.5800

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

9:30am – 11:00am	TAGD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
1:00pm – 3:30pm	GENERAL SESSION Welcome Address Panel – The “S” Word: Sustainability in Groundwater Managing for the Future: El Paso Water Keynote Address: Jeff Walker
3:00pm – 3:30pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:30pm – 5:15pm	GENERAL SESSION Update on Produced Water Consortium OpenET and Possibilities in Texas Panel – Water Data: People and Purpose
5:15pm – 6:15pm	WELCOME RECEPTION

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:45am – 8:15am	GRAB-AND-GO BREAKFAST
8:15am – 10:00am	GENERAL SESSION Welcome Address What’s the Deal with WOTUS? Legislative Interim Update Panel – Groundwater Management When Everyone Wants a Piece of Texas
10:00am – 10:30am	MORNING BREAK
10:30am – 12:00pm	GENERAL SESSION Legislator Panel Keynote Address: Garry Merritt, Great Springs Project
12:00pm – 1:30pm	LUNCHEON
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Track A: Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members Groundwater Data 101 Best Practices for Effective Board Meetings Track B: Hot Topics in Joint Planning Monitoring and Tracking DFC Compliance Approaches to Evaluating Socioeconomic Impacts When There is No GCD: Setting DFCs Track C: Fine Tuning: Groundwater Modeling and Measurement Groundwater Use Estimation and Footprinting The GULF 2023 Model: Modeling Advances and Preliminary Results Model-data Fusion of Hydrologic Simulations and Satellite Observations to Estimate Changes in Water Table Depth
3:00pm – 3:30pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Track A: Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members Nuts and Bolts of Management Plans Working with Landowners Effectively Inspiring, Engaging, and Supporting Youth Water Leaders Track B: Getting Creative: Water Supply Solutions Future of ASR in Texas: TWDB ASR Supporting Studies Managed Aquifer Recharge Using Stormwater: Lessons from the Harris County Pilot Study Impacts of Regenerative Ag on Water Storage and Soil Health Track C: Partnerships for Aquifer Protection Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Land for Water: Texas Land Conservancy Easements Texas Playa Conservation Initiative
5:00pm – 6:00pm	HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION
8:00pm – 10:00pm	DRINKS & DESSERTS NETWORKING EVENT

DAY 3 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

7:45am – 8:15am	GRAB-AND-GO BREAKFAST
8:15am – 10:00am	GENERAL SESSION 10 Years of EAA v. Day Panel – Issues in Water Quality The New GCD Index
10:00am – 10:30am	MORNING BREAK
10:30am – 12:15pm	GENERAL SESSION Keynote Address: Emily Lindley Panel – Navigating the Journey To and Through a Contested Case Hearing