

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

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# TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort  
August 29 - 31, 2023

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# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

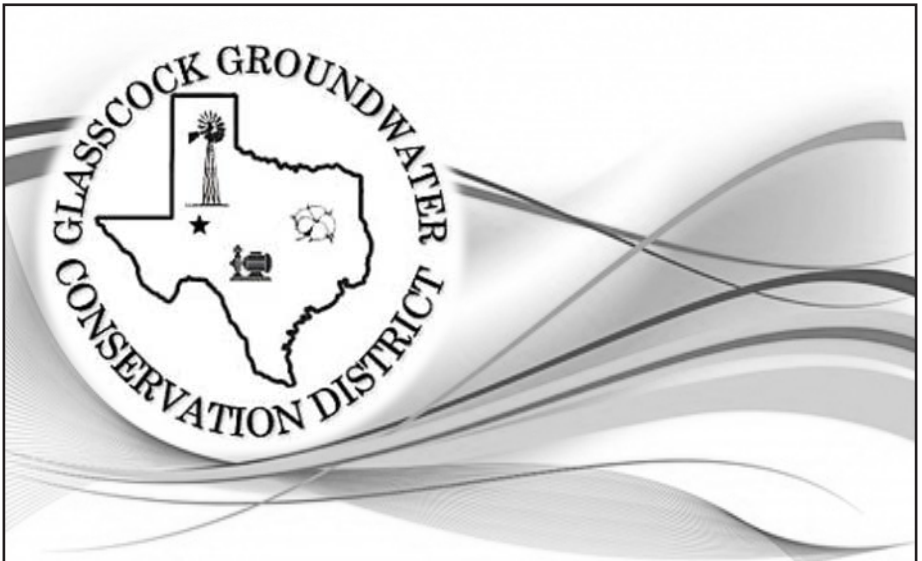


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TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

### Welcome Letter

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August 29, 2023

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 12th annual event.

Since our founding in 1988, 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 400 groundwater professionals to participate in local, regional, and statewide dialogues.

With persistent drought affecting groundwater supplies as the state continues to see population growth, sound groundwater management is critical. TAGD's conference planning committee and staff have worked hard to put together a relevant, high-quality program focused on current issues in groundwater management. 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 lasting connections among groundwater professionals. These relationships are key when it comes to solving the water challenges facing Texas. We hope that you will join us for both our Tuesday and Wednesday networking receptions, as well as the more informal and always fun Desserts & Drinks event on Wednesday night.

Ultimately, 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 being a part of the Summit!

Leah Martinsson  
Executive Director  
[leah@texasgroundwater.org](mailto:leah@texasgroundwater.org)



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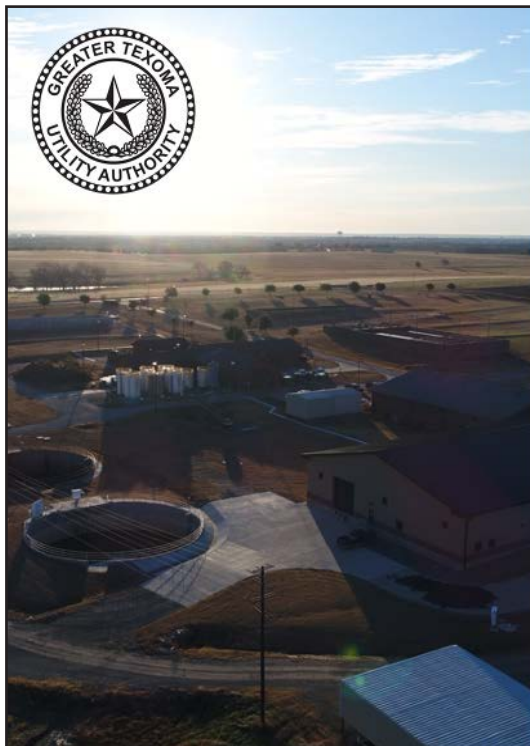
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**2023  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT**

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**List of Exhibitors**

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Visit our 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 morning.

4-H Water Ambassadors	LRE Water
C.C. Lynch & Associates	McCrometer
Collier Consulting	Roscoe Moss Company
Commission Shift	Signal Fire
Dynotek	Southwest Research Institute
Eno Scientific	TDLR/TGPC
Halff Associates	Texas Well Owner Network
ICP-Analysis	US Bureau of Reclamation
Johnson Screens	USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center
Laval Underground Surveys	WellIntel

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**TAGD Executive Committee**

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President - Amber Blount	Past-President - Zach Holland
Vice-President - Doug Shaw	Janet Adams
Treasurer - David Bailey	Kelley Cochran
Secretary - Stephanie Keith	Ron Fieseler
Parliamentarian - Andy Garza	Diana Thomas

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**Conference Planning Committee**

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Dirk Aaron	Alan Day	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Meredith Allen	Greg Ellis	Lynn Smith
Lori Barnes	Ty Embrey	JJ Weatherby
Kristen Blackwell	Janet Guthrie	Leah Martinsson
Amber Blount	Zach Holland	Julia Stanford
Britney Britten		Annick P. Maddox





## Water Solutions for Texas

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

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Houston Office  
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[www.intera.com](http://www.intera.com)



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### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Jordan Furnans, PhD, PE, PG  
Vice President - Texas Operations  
[Jordan.Furnans@lrewater.com](mailto:Jordan.Furnans@lrewater.com)

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# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

## Agenda

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### DAY 1 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

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

**9:00am – 11:00am TAGD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**1:00pm – 3:00pm GENERAL SESSION**

*Hill Country  
Ballroom A-D*

**Welcome Address**

Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

**TexMesonet: A Statewide Earth Observation Network**

Nathan Leber, TexMesonet Manager, Texas Water Development Board

**Panel - Managing Groundwater in Drought**

Moderator: John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

Kody Bessent, Chief Executive Officer, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Charlie Flatten, General Manager, Hays Trinity GCD

Amy Hardberger, Director, Texas Tech Center for Water Law and Policy

Drew Satterwhite, General Manager, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority

**Advances in Irrigation Management**

Brent Auvermann, Center Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at Amarillo

**Keynote Address**

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D., Executive Director, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

**3:30 – 4:00pm**

*Hill Country Foyer*

**AFTERNOON BREAK**

Sponsored by Duval County GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Fancher Legal

**4:00pm – 5:30pm**

*Hill Country  
Ballroom A-D*

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Lessons from Arizona**

Sarah Porter, Director, Kyl Center for Water Policy

**Panel - Correlative Rights or Correlative Wrongs?**

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

James Beach, Principal, Advanced Groundwater Solutions, LLC

Britney Britten, General Manager, Panhandle GCD

Kelley Cochran, General Manager, Guadalupe County GCD

Kristen Fancher, Attorney, Fancher Legal, PLLC

**5:30pm – 6:30pm**

*Hill Country Foyer*

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

Sponsored by Halff Associates



# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



## Agenda

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### DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

**8:00am-8:30am**

*Hill Country Foyer*

#### **BREAKFAST TACO BAR**

Sponsored by Glasscock GCD

**8:30am-10:00am**

*Hill Country*

*Ballroom A-D*

#### **GENERAL SESSION**

##### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Amber Blount, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

##### **Beneath the Surface of Regional Water Planning**

Jason Afinowicz, Principal and Vice President, Freese & Nichols

##### **Panel - Legislative Debrief**

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

Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association

Bryan McMath, Government Relations Director, Texas Water Development Board

Hope Wells, Water Resources Counsel, San Antonio Water System

**10:00am – 10:30am COFFEE BREAK**

*Hill Country Foyer*

Sponsored by Duval County GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Fancher Legal

**10:30am – 12:00pm GENERAL SESSION**

*Hill Country*

*Ballroom A-D*

##### **Keynote Address**

Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller

##### **Panel - Legislator Perspectives**

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

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

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

Senator Pete Flores, District 24, Texas Senate

**12:00pm-1:30pm**

*Independence*

*Ballroom 1-4*

#### **LUNCHEON**

Sponsored by North Texas GCD



## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

### Agenda

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**1:30pm-3:00pm**

*Hill Country  
Ballroom E-G*

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

##### **Track A - Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members**

*\*This track will be repeated in the 3:30pm-5:00pm block\**

##### **Modeling - The What, Why, and How**

Jevon Harding, Groundwater Modeler, Texas Water Development Board

##### **Understanding Well Spacing and Production Limits**

Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

##### **Conflict Rules and Avoidance**

Barbara Boulware-Wells, Principal/Partner, The Knight Law Firm

##### **Track B - Aquifer Science**

##### **Simulating Potential Alluvial Aquifer Impacts from Conversion of an Open-Pit Mine to a Water Supply Reservoir**

Sorab Panday, Principal Engineer, GSI Environmental Inc.

##### **Impacts of Groundwater Pumping for Hydraulic Fracturing on other Sector Wells in Aquifers Overlying the Eagle Ford Shale**

Peter Knappett, Associate Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Texas A&M University

##### **Clearwater Groundwater Management Model**

Philip Webster, Hydrologist, RW Harden & Associates

##### **Track C - Thinking Outside the Box**

##### **Quickstart Guide to Groundwater Availability Certifications**

Alyson McDonald, Senior Hydrologist, Collier Consulting

##### **An Introduction to Weather Modification in Texas**

Jonathan Jennings, Project Meteorologist, West Texas Weather Modification Association

##### **Transboundary Aquifers: The Complete Map and Binational Implications**

Rosario Sanchez, Senior Research Scientist, Texas A&M University

**3:00pm-3:30pm**

*Hill Country Foyer*

#### **AFTERNOON BREAK**

Sponsored by Duval County GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Fancher Legal

# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



## Agenda

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**3:30pm-5:00pm**

*Hill Country  
Ballroom E-G*

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Track A - Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members**

\*This is a repeat of the sessions in the 1:30pm-3:00pm block\*

#### **Modeling - The What, Why, and How**

Jevon Harding, Groundwater Modeler, Texas Water Development Board

#### **Understanding Well Spacing and Production Limits**

Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

#### **Conflict Rules and Avoidance**

Barbara Boulware-Wells, Principal/Partner, The Knight Law Firm

#### **Track B - Data, Data, and More Data**

#### **Predictive and Adaptive Groundwater Management Strategies**

Kelly Close, Client Technology Officer, LRE Water

#### **Investing in Water Level Data**

Chuck Dunning, VP Hydrology, WellIntel

#### **Aquifer Characterization using Texture2Par**

Vivek Bedekar, Senior Scientist, S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates, Inc.

#### **Track C - Hot Topics in Groundwater Protection**

#### **Eliminating Orphan Wells & Pollution Sites in Texas**

Virginia Palacios, Executive Director, Commission Shift

#### **Anticipating and Preparing for PFAS Regulation**

Daniel Haddock, Director of Water Utility Services, INTERA

#### **Geothermal Development and Considerations for Groundwater**

Ken Wisian, Associate Director, Bureau of Economic Geology

*Fredericksburg  
Ballroom*

**5:00pm-6:00pm**

*Hill Country  
Ballroom A-D*

### **HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION**

Sponsored by INTERA

**8:00pm-10:00pm**

*Luckenbach Pavilion*

### **DESSERTS & DRINKS NETWORKING EVENT**

Sponsored by Real Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District



## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

### Agenda

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## DAY 3 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

**7:45am-8:15am**

*Hill Country Foyer*

### **BREAKFAST TACO BAR**

Sponsored by Prairielands GCD and Upper Trinity GCD

**8:15am-10:30am**

*Hill Country*

*Ballroom A-D*

### **GENERAL SESSION**

#### **Welcome**

Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

#### **Panel - Making DFCs Matter**

Moderator: Stacey Steinbach, Executive Director, Texas Water Conservation Association

Billy Howe, Associate Director of Government Affairs, Texas Farm Bureau

Bill Hutchison, Independent Groundwater Consultant

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

Gary Westbrook, General Manager, Post Oak Savannah GCD

#### **Carbon Capture & Sequestration: What Does Water Have to Do With It?**

Ramón Treviño, Program Manager, Bureau of Economic Geology

#### **Panel - "All of the Above": An ASR, MAR, and Reuse Future**

Moderator: Neil Deeds, Principal Water Resources Engineer, INTERA

Scott Reinert, Water Resources Manager, City of El Paso

Kristi Shaw, Senior Professional Associate, HDR

David Smith, ASR Discipline Leader, CDM Smith

Steven Walden, Principal, Steven Walden Consulting

**10:30am – 11:00am MORNING BREAK**

*Hill Country Foyer*

Sponsored by Duval County GCD, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Fancher Legal

**11:00am – 12:15pm GENERAL SESSION**

*Hill Country*

*Ballroom A-D*

#### **Keynote Address**

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Director, Texas Water Development Board

#### **Panel - Current Legal Issues**

Madison Huerta, Associate, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.

Emily Rogers, Managing Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta

Shauna Fitzsimmons Sledge, Attorney/Partner, SledgeLaw Group

# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

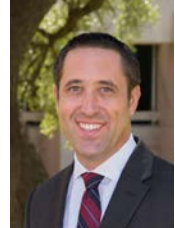


## Keynote Bios

### GLENN HEGAR

*Comptroller, State of Texas*

As the CFO of the world's 9th largest economy, Hegar is charged with maintaining the state's fiscal health. Having served in both the Texas House and Senate, Hegar has gained a reputation for customer service, transparency in government, and conservative fiscal management. Glenn Hegar is Texas' chief financial officer — the state's treasurer, check writer, tax collector, procurement officer and revenue estimator – a job that is particularly important as the state continues its strong recovery amidst ongoing global economic and geopolitical instability. His commitment to responsible fiscal management is highlighted recently in his efforts address the issues such as pension reform, property tax relief and managing federal pandemic relief and infrastructure dollars. His leadership at the newly created Broadband Development Office supports his efforts to bridge the digital divide in Texas and highlights his support for infrastructure investment. He has fought to protect the state's economy and ensure Texan's hard-earned dollars are invested responsibly as part of his job as head of the Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company which manages Texas' Rainy Day Fund and other endowment funds. Hegar is a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M University and a graduate of St. Mary's University, where he earned an M.A. and his law degree. At the University of Arkansas, he earned his Master's of Law. Hegar is a 6th generation Texan who grew up farming land that has been in his family since the mid-1800s. When not in Austin or traveling the state, Glenn lives in Katy with his wife Dara and his now teenage children Claire, Julia, and Jonah (He asks for your prayers as all three kids are now driving).



### L'OREAL STEPNEY, P.E.

*Director, Texas Water Development Board*

Governor Greg Abbott appointed L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., as a Board member of the TWDB in December 2022 for a term beginning January 1, 2023. She was reappointed on February 3, 2023, for a term set to expire February 1, 2029. Ms. Stepney was previously the Deputy Executive Director of the TCEQ, serving as the Chief Operating Officer for the agency. She began working for TCEQ in 1992, first in the Air Permitting Division, then as section manager for the Wastewater Permitting Section. She was promoted to director of the Water Quality Division in 2003 and served as Deputy Director of the Office of Water upon its creation in 2009. During her time at TCEQ, Ms. Stepney worked closely with the TWDB on several water programs. Additionally, Ms. Stepney has been one of the negotiators from Texas that met with Mexico and the International Boundary and Water Commission to negotiate water delivery compliance under the Rio Grande 1944 Treaty. She is a board member for the Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program, and a graduate of both the University of Texas Governor's Center Executive Management Program and the University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution Fellows Program. Ms. Stepney has received several recognitions including 2022 Rainmaker of the Year by the Texas Water Foundation, 2022 President's Award by Texas Water Conservation Association, and 2019 Outstanding Public Official Award by the Water Environment Association of Texas. Director Stepney received a B.S. in aerospace engineering and an M.S. in civil engineering from the University of Texas. She is a Registered Professional Engineer.





## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

### Keynote Bios

#### DAVID YOSKOWITZ, Ph.D.

*Executive Director, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D. began his service as the Executive Director of TPWD in November 2022. At TPWD, he is responsible for overseeing an agency of 3,300 professionals in 13 different divisions. Yoskowitz has been actively engaged in the areas of private lands conservation, the acquisition of additional state parkland and wildlife management areas, securing state funding for state parks, children in nature initiatives, coastal conservation and mitigation initiatives stemming from the Deepwater Horizon incident, and the state's management response to chronic wasting disease. Prior to joining TPWD, Yoskowitz was the Senior Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, where he was also the founding Endowed Chair for Socioeconomics and held positions in both faculty and administration over the past 20 years. Yoskowitz also held the position of Chief Economist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2014-2015), where he co-chaired an interagency task force under the auspices of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy that developed a research agenda around coastal green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Alongside his professional roles, Yoskowitz serves on the board of directors of Indifly, which is dedicated to using recreational fisheries to create sustainable livelihoods for indigenous peoples around the world, and the division committee of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine – Gulf Research Program. David, his wife, Carolyn Walker, and their son, Max, enjoy all the outdoors has to offer. Yoskowitz is also an avid fisherman, hunter, camper, backpacker, implementer of native grasses and plants, and is slowly becoming a birder.



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**2023  
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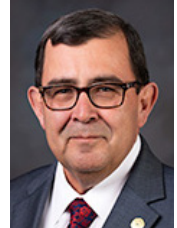
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**Legislator Bios**

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**SENATOR PETE FLORES***District 24, Texas Senate*

Senator Pete Flores was born in Minot, North Dakota and was raised in South Texas, graduating from Laredo Martin High School and then attending Laredo Junior College before transferring and graduating from Texas A&M University. Senator Flores spent most of his career as a Texas Game Warden, serving the state for 27 years and achieving the rank of Colonel. In this capacity Senator Flores was responsible for a \$60M budget, 27 field offices, 127 civilian employees, and 532 Commissioned Texas Game Wardens with a statewide operational scope and patrol out to 9 nautical miles into the Gulf of Mexico. Senator Flores was the first Hispanic Texas Game Warden Colonel in history. Senator Flores honorably retired from state service in 2012. In previous service, Senator Flores was appointed by Governor Perry to serve on the State Employee Glass-Door Charitable Campaign Committee, and was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve as a commissioner on the Education Commission of the United States. He holds a Texas Master Peace Officer certificate, is a graduate of the Governors Executive Development School from the LBJ School of Government at UT, and is a Fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute. Senator Flores was first elected in a special election in 2018, becoming the first Hispanic Republican in the Texas Senate, and again in 2022 to serve Senate District 24. He lives in Pleasanton with his wife, Elizabeth, and has two daughters and two grandsons.

**REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. 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.



# 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



## Legislator Bios

### 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 Finance, Redistricting, State Affairs, Transportation and Sunset Commission, and he co-chairs the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee and the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund. Gov. Abbott appointed him to the Southwestern States Water Commission and the Western States Water Council. Outside his work in the Legislature, Sen. Perry has served his community as past president of the Lubbock Boys and Girls Club, American Business Clubs, and Community Partners, and previously served on the board of the National Council on Family Violence and the Women's Protective Services of Lubbock. He also serves as a deacon at his church, Southcrest Baptist in Lubbock. Sen. Perry grew up in the district he currently represents, graduating from Sweetwater High School. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and management information systems from Texas Tech University. Sen. Perry has been married to his wife, Jacklyn, for over 40 years and together they have a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Matthew, and five grandchildren. The entire family are graduates of Texas Tech University.



## Prize Opportunities

*Just by attending and participating in the Texas Groundwater Summit, you have the chance to win prizes! **Must be present to win.***

**DOOR PRIZES** – All attendees are entered to win one of 4 door prizes that will be awarded throughout the conference.

**EXHIBITOR BINGO** – Visit our 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 morning.

### THANKS TO OUR PRIZE SPONSORS!



Middle Pecos Groundwater  
Conservation District

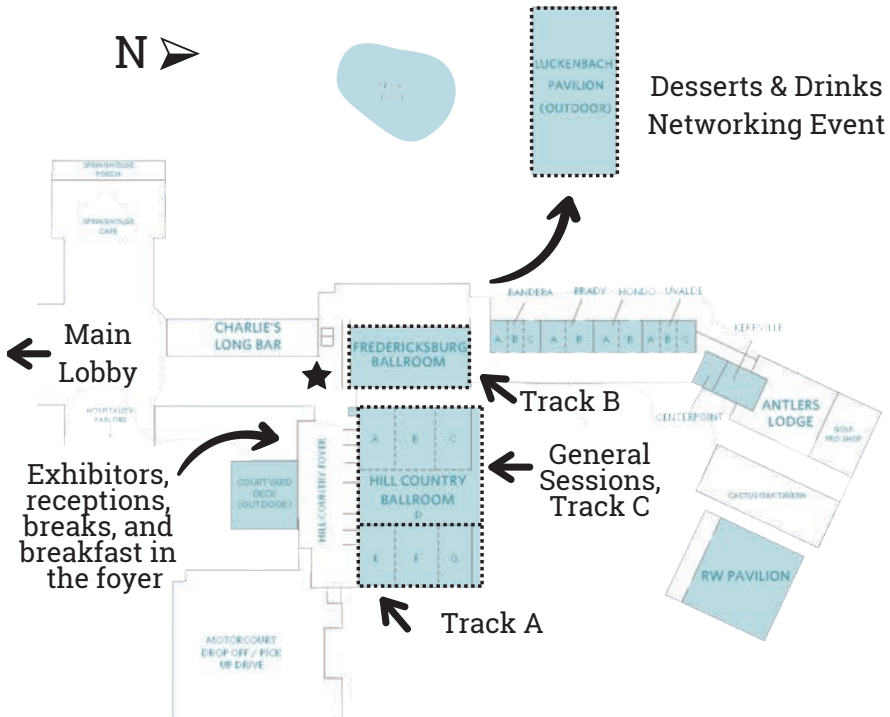


**RED RIVER**  
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

### Map of Meeting Rooms



### Parking Instructions

**DAILY GUESTS** - Attendees driving in for the day should have received an event parking pass at the resort entry to display in your vehicle. To get discounted self-parking at \$8+tax, ask us for a discounted parking ticket at the Texas Groundwater Summit registration table. To avoid a backup at the exit gate, daily guests are encouraged to pay for parking using any of the four pay stations located on the property, including one in front of the Frederickburg Ballroom! Valet parking is not discounted.

**OVERNIGHT GUESTS** - The cost of parking will be added to your room charges, with nightly self-parking discounted to \$10+tax. Valet parking is not discounted.

## 2023 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



### Mobile App Information

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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 a previous year, click the icon in the top left corner to leave and join this year's event. Visit [texasgroundwater.org/app](https://texasgroundwater.org/app) or the registration table for help. Use the app to submit questions, connect with other attendees, learn more about sponsors, play Exhibitor Bingo, and more!

#### THANKS TO OUR MOBILE APP SPONSOR!



### Networking Breaks

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Grab some coffee and snacks to help you power through the packed agenda, and get to know your fellow attendees! 30-minute breaks will take place in the Hill Country Foyer each morning and afternoon.

#### THANKS TO OUR BREAK SPONSORS!





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Photo by Charlie McClain

## Bickerstaff

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## Speaker Bios

### JASON AFINOWICZ

*Principal and Vice President, Freese and Nichols*

Jason Afinowicz is the national practice leader for Water Resource Planning at Freese and Nichols. In his almost 20 years of planning experience, he has managed or participated in five rounds of regional planning for the Region H Water Planning Group as well as other regions throughout Texas. His team is responsible for development and management of sustainable, resilient water solutions including supply projects and demand management. Jason's educational experience includes both a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering and a master's degree in biological and agricultural engineering from Texas A&M University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana and is a member of the American Water Works Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

### BRENT AUVERMANN

*Center Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at Amarillo*

In Amarillo, Dr. Auvermann's extension and research programs involve environmental quality (air and water pollution) and manure management associated with confined livestock production. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Division of Agriculture at West Texas A&M University. Previously, Brent was a USDA Fellow in Water Science at Colorado State University while he pursued his PhD in the Chemical and Bioresource Engineering Department under the direction of Dr. David B. McWhorter. He has authored more than 30 publications, papers, and reports on livestock manure management, odor, dust and water quality.

### 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, groundwater modeling, permitting, environmental assessments, brackish groundwater assessment, ASR, flow and solute transport modeling, quantitative contamination evaluations, and litigation support. James consults with GCDs, cities, river authorities, water suppliers, landowners, utilities, and other entities.

### VIVEK BEDEKAR

*Senior Scientist, S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates, Inc.*

Vivek Bedekar is a water resources and environmental consultant. For over twenty years, he has worked on numerous modeling and software development projects. His experience includes the development of local and regional models, surface-water/groundwater interaction models, flow-and-transport models, and variable density models. He has developed numerous modeling codes and is the lead author of MT3D-USGS. He has worked on the development and application of MODFLOW, MT3D, and IWFEM codes. Dr. Bedekar serves as an external graduate faculty member in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Memphis.

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**Speaker Bios**

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**KODY BESSENT***CEO, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.*

Kody Bessent is the Chief Executive Officer at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Previously, Kody served as PCG's Vice President of Operations and Legislative Affairs. He has also worked for the High Plains Water District and Texas Wheat Producers Board and Association. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at West Texas A&M University. Kody and his wife Lauren live in Lubbock and have one son. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at West Texas A&M University. Kody and his wife Lauren live in Lubbock and have one son.

**AMBER BLOUNT***President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts*

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, and Krew. Her family resides in Yoakum County, where they own and operate their family business, raising show pigs, cattle and dorper sheep on their property west of Plains.

**BARBARA BOULWARE-WELLS***Principal/Partner, The Knight Law Firm LLP*

Barbara Boulware-Wells has over 31 years' experience, providing legal services to both home-rule and general law cities and local governmental entities and sub-entities throughout Texas. Prior to embarking on her local government representation, Barbara was corporate counsel for an international environmental and engineering firm, was staff attorney for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now TCEQ) followed by the Texas Railroad Commission. Barbara currently serves on the Civil Service Commission of Cedar Park. She has presented legal papers and has spoken at various state and local conferences and training seminars. She has testified during State Legislative sessions concerning land use matters and assisted in drafting legislation regarding zoning, vesting, and land use. Barbara has received the Certificate of Merit in Municipal Law from the Texas City Attorneys Association.

**BRITNEY BRITTEN***General Manager, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District*

Britney Britten is the General Manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, which serves seven counties in the northern Texas Panhandle. She began her career at the District as the Public Relations and Education Coordinator. She transitioned to the Assistant General Manager after five years and was named General Manager in October of 2021. Britten is a proud graduate of the Texas Water Foundation's Water Leaders Program. She is currently attending Texas Tech University and obtaining her master's degree in Strategic Communication and Innovation. When she's not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband Brett and their two children Piper and Rafe.

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## 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 dogs, unless she has convinced them to chase each other so she can plan the next camping trip.

### KELLY CLOSE

*Client Technology Officer, LRE Water*

Kelly started her career in 1992 after graduating from CU Boulder and joining a small water rights engineering firm where she discovered a passion for using modern computer tech to meet data analysis challenges. From streamlining data-driven reporting and modeling to crafting efficient tools that handle day-to-day water operations, Kelly believes the real game changer is automating the transformation of data into information making it both accessible and usable. In 2007, she joined LRE Water and eventually created the "Water Information Technology" team - an interdisciplinary group of water experts with a knack for the high-tech. Together they build interactive tools for their clients to effectively manage and use their data, across surface water, groundwater and climate disciplines. When she's not geeking out over databases, she's hanging out with family and pets, catching a good movie, or singing at an open mic somewhere.

### KELLEY COCHRAN

*General Manager, Guadalupe County GCD*

Kelley Cochran is the General Manager of the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District, located in Seguin. She began her career with the district in 2014 as the Executive Administrator and was promoted to General Manager in 2018. She holds a B.S. and Master of Applied Geography – Resource and Environmental Studies from Southwest Texas State University. Kelley serves as Administrator of GMA 13 since September 2021 and is the TAGD Area Representative for the Edwards Carrizo area. She is a 2021 graduate of the Texas Water Leaders Program, past Chairwoman and first female Chair of the Groundwater Science Division of TGWA, and recipient of the Texas Ground Water Association's 'Ground Water Science Person of the Year' award January 2023.

### NEIL DEEDS

*Principal Water Resources Engineer, INTERA*

Dr. Neil Deeds has over two decades of research and applied experience in modeling and analysis of hydrologic systems, including water availability, flow, and transport. He specializes in innovative groundwater supply strategies, such as aquifer storage recovery and brackish resource evaluation. Neil has been involved in more than 50 modeling projects and has taken a project management and/or technical lead role in many water resources modeling studies, including groundwater availability models of aquifers throughout Texas.



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#### CHARLES DUNNING

*Vice President Hydrology, WellIntel*

WellIntel is a water technology company providing an advanced Water Information System to dramatically expand and simplify measurement, analysis, and reporting of critical water resources and ultimately, their sustainable management. Chuck is a seasoned professional with broad technical and supervisory experience in water resource management and groundwater data collection. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering and an M.A. in Geology. Chuck is skilled in international project management, hydrogeology and hydrology, groundwater modeling, geology, and team management.

#### JOHN DUPNIK

*Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board*

John is the Deputy Executive Administrator of the Office of Water Science and Conservation at the TWDB and oversees all programs responsible for providing water science and data to support statewide water supply and flood planning in Texas. He is a Texas licensed Professional Geoscientist and holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Geology from Texas State University and a master's degree from the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT – Austin where his research and thesis focused on groundwater management in Texas. Prior to the TWDB, John served as the General Manager of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. John has dedicated his entire professional career to Texas public sector service in the fields of water quality regulation and water resources management with prior experience at TCEQ and TDLR. He also has first-hand experience with water planning from serving as the coordinator of groundwater planning over the Edwards and Trinity aquifers in Groundwater Management Area 10 and as a voting member of the Lower Colorado River Regional Water Planning Group.

#### KRISTEN FANCHER

*Attorney, Fancher Legal, PLLC*

Kristen Fancher has extensive experience in representing clients on water and other legal matters across the State of Texas. She represents a diverse array of clients—from water districts to landowners and private companies—and therefore has a broad perspective that benefits her clients. After practicing in Austin for a number of years, Kristen simultaneously founded Fancher Legal, PLLC, and relocated with her family to the North Texas area where she was raised. She is a 6th generation Texan and is fortunate to have the opportunity to represent clients with interests and values similar to those that she was raised with.

#### CHARLIE FLATTEN

*General Manager, Hays Trinity GCD*

Charlie is a Hill Country native with a background in small business and regional water planning and management. He was born in New Braunfels, grew up in Beaumont, and came to Austin in 1984 to attend the University of Texas School of Architecture. After retiring from a long career in the local small business community, he completed a degree in Geography and a master's in Resource Management, with a specialty in hydrology and geology from Texas State University. He is motivated by clean flowing swimming holes, spicy BBQ, polkas (Czech, German, Polish, or Tex-Mex); and believes that sustainable water management must be based on science, education, and a cooperative dialog between the Hill Country's diverse communities. He and his family live on an Edwards limestone outcrop in the shady headwaters of Indian Creek.



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## Speaker Bios

### DAN HADDOCK

*Director of Water Utility Services, INTERA*

Dan Haddock is the Director of Water Utility Services at INTERA. He has 30 years of experience in planning, development and management of water supply infrastructure and first-hand knowledge of utility management, regulation, and operations. For the past several years, Dan has been helping utilities to understand the risks of PFAS contamination to groundwater supplies and develop practical strategies for mitigate those risks in spite of uncertainty of eventual drinking water regulations. He is a graduate of Rice University and a licensed professional engineer in Texas and multiple other states.

### AMY HARDBERGER

*Director, Texas Tech Center for Water Law and Policy*

Amy Hardberger is the McCleskey Professor of Law and the Director of the Center for Water Law and Policy at Texas Tech School of Law. Her work focuses on the intersection of water with other disciplines. Her academic writings focus on shared water governance, international water law, energy/water nexus, water pricing, the human right to water and Texas groundwater. She previously worked as an attorney in the Texas office of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). There, she led partnerships with cities and interfaced with Texas state agencies and lawmakers on municipal water conservation policies and sustainable water planning. Prior to attending law school, Hardberger earned a B.A. and a M.S. in Geology and worked as an environmental consultant and geologist for Universe Technologies, Inc., which focused on the remediation and property transfer of closed military bases. She's also a professionally registered Geoscientist in the State of Texas.

### JEVON HARDING

*Groundwater Modeler, Texas Water Development Board*

Jevon Harding joined the TWDB Groundwater Modeling group in 2021, where she focuses on developing regional groundwater models and providing water budget analyses and other model-related data evaluations for public use. Prior to joining the TWDB, she worked as a staff hydrogeologist at INTERA where she had the opportunity to support several groundwater conservation districts as well as to contribute to regional groundwater availability models and brackish groundwater studies across Texas. Jevon has a B.A. in Geosciences from Princeton University and an M.S. in Hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.





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#### BILLY HOWE

*Associate Director of Government Affairs,  
Texas Farm Bureau*

Billy Howe is the Associate Director of Government Affairs for Texas Farm Bureau. He began his career with Texas Farm Bureau in September 1999. Before coming to Texas Farm Bureau, he worked in the Texas House of Representatives for six years. In total, Billy has over 20 years of legislative experience. Billy assists in coordinating political activities and advocating on priority issues at the federal and state level. He leads the Austin lobby team and has the individual responsibility of advocating on water issues in Austin for Texas Farm Bureau. Billy grew up in the farming community of Itasca on the Blackland Prairie of North Central Texas. He spent two years at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX, and then earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Louisiana State University.

#### MADISON HUERTA

*Associate, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle &  
Townsend, P.C.*

Madison's practice focuses on governmental and water-related legal and policy issues, including statutory and regulatory compliance, permitting, water rights, water resource management and development, and certificates of convenience and necessity. She represents clients before various state agencies and at the Texas Legislature and assists in the governance and operation of local government entities. Prior to law school, Madison served as legislative staff for two senior members of the Texas House of Representatives. In her role she worked with members of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches on a variety of policy issues effecting Texans. During law school, Madison served as an intern for both U.S. Magistrate Judge Irma Ramirez of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas.

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#### BILL HUTCHISON

*Independent Groundwater Consultant*

Dr. Bill Hutchison has over 40 years of experience as a groundwater hydrologist. He has been an independent consultant since 2012. 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 B.S. 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.



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### JONATHAN JENNINGS

*Project Meteorologist, West Texas Weather Modification Association*

Jonathan has been the Project Meteorologist for the WTWMA since 2011 and has also worked with the Trans-Pecos Weather Modification Association and Rolling Plains Water Improvement Program. Jonathan has a B.S. in Earth Science/Meteorology from Pennsylvania Western (Cal Campus) having graduated in 2008. He is currently a licensed meteorologist by the TDLR and a Certified Operator by the Weather Modification Association, where he also is the current President-Elect. Jonathan is involved in many ongoing research and development projects and has been involved in government relations.

### SARAH KIRKLE

*Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association*

Sarah works with TWCA members to develop policy positions through TWCA's legislative committees and to subsequently advance those policy initiatives through education and advocacy at the Texas Legislature. Previously, Sarah was at Texas 2036, where she was the director of policy and planning and focused on education, infrastructure, health, government performance, and natural resources policy. She also spent 13 years at the Sunset Advisory Commission, where she was a member of the agency's executive management team and worked across most sectors of state government to make government work smaller and smarter. Sarah holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Texas and a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Tarleton State University. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys playing outside and attending festivals across small-town Texas.

### PETER KNAPPETT

*Associate Professor, Texas A&M University  
Department of Geology and Geophysics*

Dr. Knappett earned his bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences in 2001 and a master's in Civil Engineering in 2006 from the University of Waterloo. In 2010 he earned his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Tennessee where he studied the fate and transport of fecal bacteria and viruses in shallow aquifers in rural Bangladesh. From 2012 to 2013 he worked as a post-doctoral investigator at the Institute from Groundwater Ecology at the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Health in Munich, Germany and then worked at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, exploring the potential impact of massive depressurization of a deep aquifer in Bangladesh on the movement of arsenic across geochemically distinct aquifers. Peter is an associate professor in the Department of Geology & Geophysics at Texas A&M University. His research theme is identifying natural and human-caused hydrological and biogeochemical processes that limit human access to safe drinking water.





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#### **NATHAN LEBER**

*TexMesonet Manager, Texas Water  
Development Board*

Nathan Leber joined the TWDB in 2013 and has served in various roles including as manager of the Hydrographic Survey Program and the TexMesonet Program. In his time leading the TexMesonet Program, Nathan has prioritized program advocacy, outreach, and resource development. In 2023, the TexMesonet program reached its 100th weather station and was accepted into the National Mesonet Program, highlighting the significant progress of the young program. Nathan is a Texas State University graduate and a lifelong advocate for land and water conservation, traits engrained early on from work on his family's Heritage Ranch in Comal County, where he continues to operate a small cow-calf and boer goat operation with his father.

#### **ROBERT MACE**

*Executive Director, The Meadows Center for  
Water and 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 and Environmental Studies at Texas State University. Robert has over 30 years of experience in hydrology, hydrogeology, stakeholder processes, and water policy. 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.

#### **LEAH MARTINSSON**

*Executive Director, Texas Alliance of  
Groundwater Districts*

Leah Martinsson joined the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts 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.



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**ALYSON MCDONALD***Senior Hydrologist, Collier Consulting*

Alyson specializes in ecohydrology of semi-arid environments. She has conducted a variety of water resource investigations across Texas with the cooperation of landowners, as well as state and federal agencies. Surface water experience includes stream discharge measurements from the Pecos Valley and Yegua Jackson aquifers, baseflow recession analysis, standard of identity to assess hydraulic connection between groundwater and spring water in the Queen City and Sparta aquifers. Her groundwater expertise includes rainfall recharge in the Edwards Trinity Plateau aquifer, low-flow sampling from the Queen City aquifer, borehole sampling, core logging, and packer testing in the Dockum aquifer, and installation and maintenance of monitoring well networks in the Pecos Valley aquifer and Rio Grande alluvium.

**BRYAN MCMATH***Director of Governmental Relations, Texas**Water Development Board*

Bryan McMath joined the TWDB in 2018 and served as Governmental Relations Liaison before being named Director of Governmental Relations in January 2021. In this role, he coordinates communications regarding legislative and policy matters affecting the agency. Additionally, he provides leadership in developing the TWDB's legislative priorities and ensures that they are communicated effectively to the state's elected officials. Ultimately, Bryan helps to ensure that state leadership and legislative offices are fully informed as the policy and decision makers for the State of Texas. Previously, Bryan worked for nearly 15 years at the Texas State Capitol for two state senators, three state representatives, a House committee office, and a former speaker of the house. Bryan holds a B.A. in English from Vanderbilt University and a B.F.A. degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**VIRGINIA PALACIOS***Executive Director, Commission Shift*

Virginia Palacios is Founder and Executive Director of Commission Shift, a nonpartisan advocacy organization building public support to reform oil and gas oversight in Texas through accountability at the Railroad Commission, our state oil and gas agency. Commission Shift was launched in March 2021, with a focus on orphaned wells. Virginia co-authored a January 2022 report with Megan Milliken Biven titled "Eliminating Orphan Wells and Sites in Texas: A Toolkit for Redesigning the Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Cleanup Programs." Palacios has worked on environmental issues related to oil and gas development since 2011. She holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University, and her master's project explored baseline groundwater quality testing parameters in the Eagle Ford Shale region. Palacios was recently selected to serve on a White House Task Force on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage on non-federal lands.

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**SORAB PANDAY**

*Principal Engineer, GSI Environmental Inc.*

Dr. Panday is a Principal Engineer with GSI Environmental Inc. and has more than 32 years of consulting experience with developing and applying complex hydrogeologic models for water resource management, solute/heat transport assessments, groundwater/surface-water evaluations, saltwater intrusion and multiphase subsurface processes. Sorab is also a Visiting Research Professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He publishes regularly in leading industry journals and provides review and editorial support to industry publications and conferences. Sorab received the M. King Hubbert Award in 2015 from the National Ground Water Association for major science or engineering contributions to the groundwater industry through research, technical papers, teaching, and practical applications. He was also elected as a Member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2017 for the development of computer code for solving complex groundwater problems.

**SARAH PORTER**

*Director, Arizona State University Kyl Center for Water Policy*

Established in 2014, the Kyl Center promotes research, analysis, collaboration and open dialogue to build consensus in support of sound water stewardship solutions for Arizona and the West. Sarah came to the Kyl Center from the National Audubon Society, where she served as the Arizona state director and led Audubon's Western Rivers Project, a multistate initiative to protect and restore important river habitats in the Intermountain West. Before joining the staff of Audubon in 2006, Sarah spent fourteen years as an attorney in private practice, specializing in complex commercial litigation. Sarah serves on Senator Kyrsten Sinema's Water Advisory Council, the Arizona Governor's Water Policy Council, University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center's External Advisory Council, Phoenix's Environmental Quality and Sustainability

Commission and other community boards. A native of Phoenix, Sarah received her bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard College and her J.D. magna cum laude from Arizona State University College of Law, where she was a John S. Armstrong Award recipient.

**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 board director on the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, a member of the Region L Water Planning group, the Austin Water Forward Task Force, and a board member of the Hill Country Alliance. Vanessa received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 2006.

**SCOTT REINERT**

*Water Resources Manager, El Paso Water Utilities*

Scott Reinert manages well drilling and equipping projects, and water resources planning for the El Paso Water Utilities. He has 30 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 Basins. He is the Chairman of the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group. Scott is President of the Multi-State Salinity Coalition which

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promotes advancements in technologies for desalination and water reuse. Scott earned a bachelor's degree in geology at McMurry College and a master's 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.

### EMILY ROGERS

*Managing Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP*

Emily focuses her practice in the areas of water and environmental law. From permitting to transactional matters, Emily has extensive experience representing cities, river authorities, and water districts in matters involving surface and groundwater rights, water and wastewater utility matters, and industrial and municipal solid waste disposal cases. Emily also counsels clients on open meetings/open records issues and provides general counsel services to several city and water district clients. Board Certified in Administrative Law, Emily represents clients before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Public Utility Commission, and the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

### ROSARIO SANCHEZ

*Senior Research Scientist, Texas A&M University*

Dr. Rosario Sanchez is a Senior Research Scientist at the Texas Water Resources Institute and Associate Graduate Faculty of the Water Management and Hydrological Sciences Program at Texas A&M University. She is Co-Chair of the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and Founder and Director of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She is the Principal Investigator of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act Program for the state of Texas, founder of the Transboundary Water Portal and leader

of the transboundary groundwater research team. She published the first complete map of transboundary aquifers between Mexico and the United States in 2021 and coined the term "transboundariness" that defines the strategic value of an aquifer that happens to be located at the border between two or more countries. She has 25 years of academic and work experience on transboundary issues between Mexico and the United States both in the academia and the public sector.



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#### KRISTI SHAW

*Senior Professional Associate, HDR  
Engineering*

Kristi is a senior groundwater engineer at HDR with 24 years of experience. Her work focuses on water supply resiliency, with technical expertise in aquifer storage and recovery, regional water planning, groundwater evaluations and protection, water conservation and reuse. She has worked on ASR projects in Texas, California, Nevada, and Washington and groundwater supply projects in nine states. She holds a bachelor's degree in Bioenvironmental Science from Texas A&M University and master's degree in Civil Engineering from UT-Austin. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, social dancing, and volunteering with Well Aware and Engineers without Borders to secure sustainable water supplies in East Africa and Guatemala.

#### SHAUNA FITZSIMMONS SLEDGE

*Attorney/Partner, SledgeLaw Group*

Shauna Fitzsimmons Sledge is a licensed attorney, registered lobbyist, and partner at the SledgeLaw Group PLLC in Austin. Her practice focuses primarily on water law, state and local government, and legislative/public policy issues. Shauna represents landowners, businesses, industries, public and private water utilities, river authorities, cities, groundwater conservation districts, and other political subdivisions in matters involving regulation and planning, litigation, surface water and groundwater rights, ASR projects, desal projects, water quality, water resource development and management strategies, real property transactions, environmental permitting, board governance, and other local government issues. Shauna has been named as one of the "Top Women Attorneys in Texas" by Texas Monthly and as a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers for several years. Shauna is also Texas Chair of CLE International's annual Law of the Rio Grande Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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### DAVID SMITH

*ASR Discipline Leader, CDM Smith*

David Smith specializes in the feasibility, design, permitting, construction and operation of alternative water supply projects. An internationally recognized expert in the field of hydrogeology, water resources, and environmental sciences, David brings invaluable experience and insight gained from working for government regulators, large water utilities, a mining company and engineering consultants based in the USA, UK, NZ, and Australia, with projects also completed in Europe, the Middle East, and the Central Asian Republics during the last 38 years. Since the mid-1990s he has successfully completed numerous ASR wells, brackish groundwater supply systems, and Class I injection well systems.

### STACEY STEINBACH

*Executive Director, Texas Water Conservation Association*

Stacey Allison Steinbach is the Executive Director of the Texas Water Conservation Association. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Texas Ground Water Association and the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, as an attorney at the General Land Office, and as an attorney in private practice representing Texas water districts. Stacey holds a B.S. in biology and ecology from Baylor University, an M.S. in wildlife and fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University, and a J.D. with honors from the University of Montana. She serves on the board of the National Water Resources Association.

### RAMÓN TREVIÑO

*Program Manager, University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology*

Ramón Treviño earned a B.S. in Geology from Texas A&I University, an M.S. in Geology from the UT-Arlington, and an M.B.A. from the University of Oklahoma. He started his professional career as an explorationist for Mobil Oil. At the University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) he was a sequence stratigrapher and seismic interpreter (1995-2007). Since 2007 he has been a project manager in BEG's Gulf Coast Carbon Center (GCCC) where he has worked on several multi-year, multimillion-dollar CO<sub>2</sub>-storage research studies funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Ramón's awards include distinguished service awards from GCAGS and GCSSEPM and the Geological Society of America's John C. Frye Memorial Award in Environmental Geology. He is a member of AAPG, the Austin Geological Society, SEG, SEPM and GCSSEPM. He is a licensed professional geoscientist in Texas and Louisiana.

### STEVEN WALDEN

*Principal, Steven Walden Consulting*

Steve has over 45 years of experience in the Texas water arena and chairs the TAWWA's Small Systems Committee, serves on Texas Desalination Association Board, and an active participant in the Texas Produced Water Consortium. Steve has received several water industry awards including TAWWA's WT Ballard award for lifetime contributions to the water industry in Texas. Following his 2003 retirement from TCEQ, Steve launched a successful consultancy focused on regulatory compliance strategies and cutting-edge water technologies. Hobbies include pro bono assistance to small, low-income water utilities, Blues music jams, surf fishing, and family travel.



**2023  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT**

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**Speaker Bios**

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**PHILIP WEBSTER***Hydrologist, RW Harden & Associates*

Philip Webster is a hydrogeologist at RW Harden & Associates, Inc., and a Professional Geoscientist licensed in the State of Texas. Philip has experience using numerical and analytical groundwater flow models to evaluate groundwater availability, sustainability, and well field planning. During his career, he has performed tasks that include acquisition and analysis of hydrologic and hydrogeologic data, utilization of TWDB adopted Groundwater Availability Models to study impacts of regional production and drought, and generating technical memorandums and reports summarizing findings of groundwater studies. Philip received a B.S. in Hydrogeology from Tarleton State University and an M.S. in Geology from the UT-San Antonio.

**HOPE WELLS***Vice President of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, San Antonio Water System*

Hope Wells has led legislative and executive initiatives for SAWS in Austin for more than a decade. Prior to that, she worked as legislative aide and then Chief Committee Clerk and General Counsel for the House Committee on Natural Resources. In over 25 years of service in the water sector and public policy arena, she has developed meaningful relationships with state elected and appointed officials, state agencies and other industry colleagues, and has worked zealously to advocate for SAWS. Hope is past president of TWCA (one of the youngest members to hold this position) and formerly chaired the municipal panel, where water leaders can collaborate to help shape policies specifically affecting cities. For the past nine years, she has also served as a chair of TWCA's Groundwater Committee, a group of >50 stakeholders in the Texas groundwater arena representing groundwater owners, users, regulators, scientists, and environmental interests. Hope received her undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Texas.

**GARY WESTBROOK***General Manager, Post Oak Savannah GCD*

Gary has served as the General Manager of POSGCD since June 2003, and is a past President of TAGD. Gary currently represents POSGCD as voting representative on Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 12 and GMA 8 and serves as voting representative for GMA 12 on the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. Gary was elected to the Texas Water Conservation Association Board of Directors in 2018. Gary graduated with honors from Sam Houston State University with a B.S. in Agriculture Education. Gary is a native of Milano where he and Glenda, his wife of 43 years, raised their family of four children. Gary owns Westbrook Angus Farms, established by Gary and his late father, W.G. Westbrook, in 1969. His past community service includes President of the Milam County Community Foundation and 13 years of service on the Milano ISD School Board. Gary has served as a pastor in the Methodist Church since 1999.

**KEN WISIAN***Associate Director, University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology*

Ken Wisian, Ph.D., Major General USAF (retired), is a geophysicist whose main research is in geothermal energy. Other research includes; planetary geology/space exploration, the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence, and international relations. Ken teaches Life in the Universe and Geothermal Systems. Previously, Ken was a senior state executive responsible for disaster recovery, oil spill prevention and response, and coastal infrastructure and environmental protection for Texas. Militarily, General Wisian, a navigator/bombardier, flew bombers, transports, and fighters, and commanded the 147th Reconnaissance Wing flying the MQ-1 Predator. Ken is a graduate of the US Air Force Test Pilot School and has more than 70 hours of test flights as well as combat time in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia. His combat medals include the Bronze Star and Air Medal.



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## DAY 1 - TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

9:00am-11:00am	<b>TAGD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>
1:00pm-3:30pm	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Welcome Address TexMesonet: A Statewide Earth Observation Network Panel - Managing Groundwater in Drought Advances in Irrigation Management Keynote Address: David Yoskowitz, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
3:30pm-4:00pm	<b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b>
4:00pm-5:30pm	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Lessons from Arizona Panel - Correlative Rights or Correlative Wrongs?
5:30pm-6:30pm	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION</b>

## DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00am-8:30am	<b>BREAKFAST TACO BAR</b>
8:30am-10:00am	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Welcome and Opening Remarks Beneath the Surface of Regional Water Planning Panel - Legislative Debrief
10:00am-10:30am	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10:30am-12:00pm	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Keynote Address: Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller Panel - Legislator Perspectives
12:00pm-1:30pm	<b>LUNCHEON</b>
1:30pm-3:00pm	<b>Track A: Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members</b> Modeling - The What, Why, and How Understanding Well Spacing and Production Limits Conflict Rules and Avoidance  <b>Track B: Aquifer Science</b> Simulating Potential Alluvial Aquifer Impacts from Conversion of an Open-Pit Mine to a Water Supply Reservoir Impacts of Groundwater Pumping for Hydraulic Fracturing on other Sector Wells in Aquifers Overlying the Eagle Ford Shale Clearwater Groundwater Management Model  <b>Track C: Thinking Outside the Box</b> Quickstart Guide to Groundwater Availability Certifications An Introduction to Weather Modification in Texas Transboundary Aquifers: The Complete Map and Binational Implications
3:00pm-3:30pm	<b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b>
3:30pm-5:00pm	<b>Track A: Fundamentals for GCD Board and Staff Members</b> Modeling - The What, Why, and How Understanding Well Spacing and Production Limits Conflict Rules and Avoidance  <b>Track B: Data, Data, and More Data</b> Predictive and Adaptive Groundwater Management Strategies Investing in Water Level Data Aquifer Characterization Using Texture2Par  <b>Track C: Hot Topics in Groundwater Protection</b> Eliminating Orphan Wells & Pollution Sites in Texas Anticipating and Preparing for PFAS Regulation Geothermal Development and Considerations for Groundwater
5:00pm-6:00pm	<b>HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION</b>
8:00pm-10:00pm	<b>DESSERTS &amp; DRINKS NETWORKING EVENT</b>

## DAY 3 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

7:45am-8:15am	<b>BREAKFAST TACO BAR</b>
8:15am-10:30am	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Welcome Panel - Making DFCs Matter Carbon Capture & Sequestration: What Does Water Have to Do With It? Panel - "All of the Above": An ASR, MAR, and Reuse Future
10:30am-11:00am	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>
11:00am-12:15pm	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> Keynote Address: L'Oreal Stepney, Texas Water Development Board Panel - Current Legal Issues