

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

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TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
August 20-22, 2024

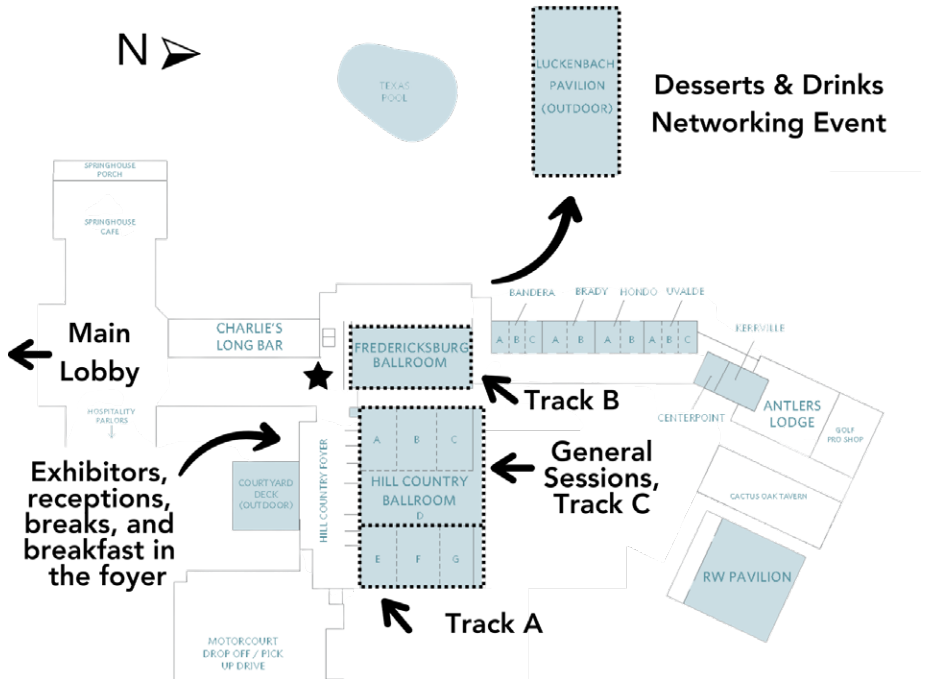
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#TXGROUNDWATER2024

Conference Map



Mobile App Information



1. Download the Webex Events app from your device's app store 
2. Create your attendee profile or log in
3. Search for "groundwater"
4. Join the event and explore the app!

Use the app to submit questions for speakers, browse and connect with other attendees, learn more about sponsors, share photos, and more!

Visit texasgroundwater.org/app, go to the registration table, or find a member of the planning committee for help.

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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Welcome Letter

August 20, 2024

Welcome, Texas Groundwater Summit attendees!

On behalf of Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts staff and conference planning committee, welcome to the 13th annual Texas Groundwater Summit! We are delighted to bring the groundwater community together once again for this special event.

For over 35 years, TAGD has remained committed to supporting our members and the broader groundwater community by staying at the forefront of groundwater policy, science, and management. As a non-profit membership organization, our mission is to provide education and collaboration opportunities for groundwater professionals in Texas. The Texas Groundwater Summit is TAGD's cornerstone event, intended to bring people together to learn about current groundwater issues in Texas and to foster meaningful dialogue.

The Summit is also designed to facilitate networking and the sharing of experiences among peers. We believe that some of the most valuable connections and ideas come from informal conversations after a day of learning. We encourage you to take full advantage of the networking events each evening, including happy hour receptions on Tuesday and Wednesday and the always lively Desserts & Drinks event on Wednesday night.

Your participation is what makes the Summit the successful and impactful event that it is - whether as a sponsor, speaker, exhibitor, or attendee. We truly appreciate your support and involvement. We hope that you will enjoy the next three days of soaking up engaging and educational content among the brightest minds in groundwater.

Finally, whether we are old friends or have never met, I look forward to chatting with you.

Thank you for being a part of the Summit!

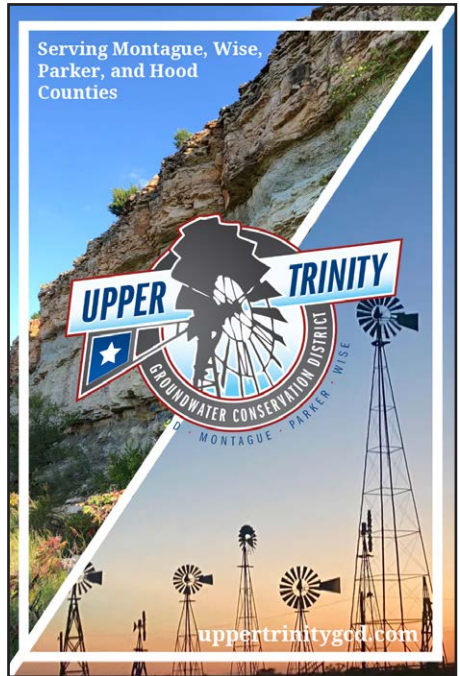
Adam Foster
Executive Director
adam@texasgroundwater.org

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List of Exhibitors

4-H Water Ambassadors	Roscoe Moss Company
Collier Consulting	Signal Fire
Dynotek	Southwest Research Institute
Eno Scientific	TDLR/TGPC
GeoTrek	Texas Runs on Water
Half Associates	Texas Rural Water Association
HDR	Texas Water Resources Institute
In-Situ	Texas Well Owner Network
LRE Water	Texas Water Data Hub
McCrometer	USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center
OTT Hydromet	WellIntel

TAGD Executive Committee

President - David Bailey	
Vice-President - Doug Shaw	Haley Davis
Treasurer - Janet Guthrie	Andy Garza
Secretary - Stephanie Keith	Zach Holland
Parliamentarian - Kelley Cochran	Dave Mauk
Past-President - Amber Blount	Diana Thomas

Conference Planning Committee

Dirk Aaron	Alan Day	Lynn Smith
David Bailey	Ty Embrey	JJ Weatherby
Lori Barnes	Zach Holland	Whitney Wiebe
Amber Blount	Ashley Masters	Adam Foster
Britney Britten	Vanessa Puig-Williams	Annick P. Maddox
Vince Clause	Michael Redman	Julia Stanford

Share your Texas Groundwater Summit experience on social media using the hashtag #txgroundwater2024!



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

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-3:00pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Welcome Address

Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Groundwater Rights in Texas

Charles Porter, Real Estate and Water Rights Consultant

Panel - Playing by the Rules: GCD Violations & Enforcement

Moderator: Drew Satterwhite, General Manager, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority

John Martin, General Manager, Southeast Texas GCD

Dave Mauk, General Manager, Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District

Stacey Reese, Attorney, Stacey Reese Law

Patrick Wagner, General Manager, Middle Trinity GCD

Hydrogen Energy Value Chain and Impacts on Water

Ning Lin, Center for Energy Economics Chief Economist, Bureau of Economic Geology

3:00pm-3:30pm AFTERNOON BREAK

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority, Halff Associates, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

3:30pm-5:15pm GENERAL SESSION

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Keynote Address – Communication: The Last Frontier in Science

Dr. "Hurricane Hal" Needham, Extreme Weather and Disaster Scientist, GeoTrek

Panel - All the Small Things: Studying & Managing Minor Aquifers

Moderator: Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

Natalie Ballew, Groundwater Division Director, Texas Water Development Board

Blaine Hicks, Staff Geologist, Upper Trinity GCD

Bill Hutchison, Independent Groundwater Consultant

Kevin Urbanczyk, Director of Rio Grande Research Center, Sul Ross State University

5:15pm-6:15pm WELCOME RECEPTION

Hill Country Foyer

Sponsored by Brazoria County GCD

2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Agenda

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

7:45am-8:15am

Hill Country Foyer

BREAKFAST TACO BAR

Sponsored by Olsson and Upper Trinity GCD

8:15am-10:00am

Hill Country

Ballroom A-D

GENERAL SESSION

Welcome & Opening Remarks

David Bailey, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Legislative Interim Update

Sarah Kirkle, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association

Panel - Water Wisdom From NM, MS, and TN

Moderator: Kristen Fancher, Attorney, Fancher Legal PLLC

Aron Balok, Superintendent, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District

Don Christy, Executive Director, Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District

Sarah Houston, Executive Director, Protect Our Aquifer

The Ripple Effect of Joint Groundwater Planning on Regional Water Planning

Andy Donnelly, Senior Hydrogeologist, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

10:00am-10:30am

Hill Country Foyer

COFFEE BREAK

Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority, Halff Associates, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

10:30am-12:00pm

Hill Country

Ballroom A-D

GENERAL SESSION

Keynote Address

Kelly Keel, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Panel - Legislator Perspectives

Moderator: Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Senator Nathan Johnson, District 16, Texas Senate

Representative Stan Kitzman, District 85, Texas House of Representatives

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

12:00pm-1:30pm

Independence

Ballroom 1-4

LUNCHEON

Sponsored by North Texas GCD



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

1:30pm-3:00pm

*Hill Country
Ballroom E-G*

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Track A - Fundamentals of Groundwater Management

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

Basics of Bottom-Up Water Planning in Texas

Robert Bradley, Groundwater Technical Assistance Manager, Texas Water Development Board

Demystifying GCD Permitting

Jake Steen, Attorney, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend

Anatomy of a Well

Joel Pigg, Texas Well Owner Network Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*Fredericksburg
Ballroom*

Track B - Waste Not, Want Not: Advancements in Produced Water Reuse

Critical Minerals in Produced Water

Brent Elliott, Associate Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology

Land Application of Produced Water

Adrienne Lopez, Technical Research & Development Manager, Texas Pacific Water Resources

New Rules for Oil & Gas Waste Pits and Recycling Facilities

Virginia Palacios, Executive Director, Commission Shift

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Track C - Navigating the Intersections of Local Regulation

Primer on the PUC and Water Providers

Adam Friedman, Partner, McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

Annexation and CCN Issues

Emily Rogers, Managing Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Opportunities in Subdivision Regulation

Marisa Bruno, Water Program Manager, Hill Country Alliance

3:00pm-3:30pm

Hill Country Foyer

AFTERNOON BREAK

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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Agenda

3:30pm-5:00pm

*Hill Country
Ballroom E-G*

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Track A - Fundamentals of Groundwater Management

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

Basics of Bottom-Up Water Planning in Texas

Robert Bradley, Groundwater Technical Assistance Manager, Texas Water Development Board

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Jake Steen, Attorney, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend

Anatomy of a Well

Joel Pigg, Texas Well Owner Network Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*Fredericksburg
Ballroom*

Track B - Local Science Developments

Hydrostratigraphic Model of the Trinity Aquifer for a Portion of Central Texas

Vince Clause, Texas Groundwater Lead, LRE Water

San Solomon Springs Studies

Rebecca Nunu, Principal Geoscientist, Edwards Aquifer Authority

Planning, Leadership, and Science: Developing the Bandera Well Longevity Model

James Golab, Innovative Water Technologies Manager, Texas Water Development Board

*Hill Country
Ballroom A-D*

Track C - Leading Them to Water: Effective Public Outreach

Applying Adult Learning Strategies for Better Engagement

Amy Hays, Assistant Director of Development & Outreach, Oka Water Institute

Outreach by Meeting People Where They're At

Greg Wukasch, External Affairs Manager, San Antonio Water System

Making a Splash With Storytelling

Leah Cuddeback, Storytelling & Public Engagement Manager, Hill Country Alliance

5:00pm-6:00pm

Hill Country Foyer

HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION

Sponsored by INTERA

8:00pm-10:00pm

Luckenbach Pavilion

DESSERTS & DRINKS NETWORKING EVENT

Sponsored by Real Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Agenda

DAY 3 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

7:45am-8:15am

Hill Country Foyer

BREAKFAST TACO BAR

Sponsored by Olsson and Upper Trinity GCD

8:15am-10:00am

Hill Country

Ballroom A-D

GENERAL SESSION

Welcome

Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Panel - Emerging Management Issues for Large-Scale Production Permits

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

Russell Johnson, Partner, McGinnis Lochridge LLP

Laura Martin, General Manager, Gonzales County UWCD

Carlos Rubinstein, Principal, RSAH2O

Steve Young, Principal Geoscientist, INTERA

Panel – Groundwater Crossroads: Perspectives From Agriculture, Ranching, and Wildlife

Moderator: Jim Bradbury, Partner, James D. Bradbury PLLC

Andrew Earl, Director of Conservation, Texas Wildlife Association

David Gibson, Executive Director, Texas Corn Producers

James Oliver, Board Member, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

10:00am-10:30am

Hill Country Foyer

MORNING BREAK

Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority, Halff Associates, and McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

10:30am-12:15pm

Hill Country

Ballroom A-D

GENERAL SESSION

Current Legal Issues - Litigation and GCD Action Appeals

Greg Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm

Deborah Trejo, Attorney, Kemp Smith Law

Head Above Water: How Professionals Can Avoid Burnout

Paul Jacobs, Staff Attorney, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

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30-minute breaks will take place in the Hill Country Foyer each morning and afternoon.

Grab some coffee and snacks to help you power through the packed agenda.





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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Keynote Bios



KELLY KEEL

Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kelly Keel has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) since December 2023. In her role, she is responsible for managing the agency's day-to-day operations, which include approximately 2,800 employees, 16 regional offices, and an annual budget of approximately \$558 million. Ms. Keel is a 22-year veteran of the TCEQ, where she has served in various roles throughout the agency. Most recently, Ms. Keel served as the Office of Administrative Services Director, overseeing the agency's budgetary, financial, information technology, and human resources functions. Ms. Keel began her TCEQ career in 2001 with the agency's Office of Air, and in 2008, she was promoted to Director of the newly formed Water Quality Planning Division. As Director, Ms. Keel

transformed the process for improving water quality for impaired water bodies. In 2010, Ms. Keel joined the Executive Office, serving as the Executive Assistant to the then-Deputy Executive Director. Beginning in 2012 and continuing until 2018, Ms. Keel served as the Office of Compliance and Enforcement's Area Director for the Coastal & East Texas Area. In this capacity, she oversaw four of TCEQ's 16 regional offices, including Tyler, Beaumont, Houston, and Corpus Christi. During Ms. Keel's time as the Area Director, she oversaw the fulfillment of routine investigations, responses to citizen complaints, and the agency's response to events occurring in her area, including disasters and emergency and drinking-water events. A native Texan, Ms. Keel earned a B.S. in Economics from Texas A&M University and a Master of Public Service and Administration from the Bush School at Texas A&M University. Ms. Keel lives in Austin and enjoys spending her free time with her family. She has a nine-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. Ms. Keel also enjoys snow skiing, water skiing, and going to the beach.



"HURRICANE HAL" NEEDHAM

Extreme Weather and Disaster Scientist, GeoTrek

Dr. Hal Needham, also known as "Hurricane Hal," is an award-winning extreme weather and disaster scientist, with nearly 20 years' experience conducting data-driven risk analysis to help disaster-prone communities become more resilient. As a specialist in science communication for broad audiences, he hosts the GeoTrek Podcast, the #1 ranked podcast on the topic of natural disasters, according to FeedSpot. Dr. Hal is also an international expert in coastal flooding, and runs U-Surge, the world's most comprehensive coastal flooding database. He resides in Galveston, the site of the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history. He has obtained a B.S. from Penn State University and M.S. and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University.



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Networking Events

At this grand gathering of groundwater professionals, networking events are transformative opportunities to establish partnerships and learn from others.

WELCOME RECEPTION - TUESDAY, 5:15-6:15PM

Reflect on the first day's insightful panels and inspiring keynote presentation. Light bites and your first drink courtesy of Brazoria County GCD.



HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION - WEDNESDAY, 5:00-6:00PM

Reconnect after the breakout sessions, with hors d'oeuvres and your first drink provided by INTERA.



DESSERTS & DRINKS EVENT - WEDNESDAY, 8:00-10:00PM





The drinks and conversations will be flowing at this casual nighttime event sponsored by Real Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District, complete with an ice cream sundae bar and friendly competition for outdoor games!

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Things To Do

SCAN FOR DINING OPTIONS & ACTIVITIES:



- The Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort offers:
- 6 restaurants and bars, including the new Woodbine Bar in the lobby and an upscale farm-to-table experience at Antlers Lodge
 - 4 swimming pools and a lazy river inspired by the spring-fed Guadalupe
 - Amenities like nightly s'mores, nature trails, and bicycle rental

While most Summit attendees and their travel companions consider the resort to be a destination on its own, you are also minutes away from iconic San Antonio attractions! If you do mosey offsite, make sure to take advantage of the "Show Us Your Badge" program from Visit San Antonio to receive special discounts on dining and tickets.

SCAN FOR TOURISM TIPS & DISCOUNTS:



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Legislator Bios

SENATOR NATHAN JOHNSON

District 16, Texas Senate

State Senator Nathan Johnson represents almost a million people in District 16, a commercially and culturally vibrant district that sprawls throughout Dallas County. As a member of the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce, Johnson played a crucial role in the 88th session's legislation to address the sufficiency, sustainability, and resiliency of Texas' power generation and distribution systems. He also serves on the Committees on Jurisprudence (Vice Chair); Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs; and Administration. In the most recent session, Johnson authored >150 bills, joint-authored or sponsored nearly 100 more, and sent 49 of them to the Governor's desk for signature. Aiming to ensure that Texans never again lose critical services due to power failure, Johnson devised and secured nearly \$2B for the development and deployment of backup power systems for essential community services throughout the state. Other bills passed include a collection of healthcare advances, law enforcement systems and benefits, data privacy and high-tech security measures, and modernization of finance, insurance, and construction laws and regulations. He served as a principal ally to state agencies in efforts to improve efficiency and responsiveness and passed several measures supporting law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Johnson holds degrees in physics from the University of Arizona and a law degree from the University of Texas. He is a commercial litigator in the Dallas office of Thompson Coburn and has composed music for the classical concert stage, and musical scores for the hit anime series Dragon Ball Z.



REPRESENTATIVE STAN KITZMAN

District 85, Texas House of Representatives

Hailing from Waller County, Stan Kitzman serves as the State Representative for District 85. With territory along the famous Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado rivers, HD 85 covers a large portion of Stephen F. Austin's Original Colony. The district serves Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Waller, Wharton, and a portion of Fort Bend counties. Representative Kitzman is a sixth-generation Texan. As a first term legislator, Rep. Kitzman serves on the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Livestock, and Resolutions Calendars committees, and was elected by his peers to serve on the House Republican Caucus Policy Committee. In the 88th Legislature, Kitzman was an advocate for protecting Texas production agriculture, the future of Texas water, Agricultural Extension, and ending trafficking of children through Texas and our rural communities. At the conclusion of the session, Kitzman was rated the 7th most effective legislative member in the Texas House of Representatives. Retired after serving for 21 years in the Texas Army National Guard, Kitzman deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded several service medals. Rep. Kitzman is a Board Member of the Texas Water Conservation Association, past Board Member of the National Guard Association of Texas, Past President of the West I-10 Chamber of Commerce, Past Master of Brookshire Lodge #1066, and Past Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 4007. Kitzman is an Eagle Scout and is a member of numerous civic organizations. He graduated from Royal High School and earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Systems Management from Texas A&M University.



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Legislator Bios

SENATOR CHARLES PERRY

District 28, Chairman of Senate Water, Agriculture, & 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.



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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

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Luncheon



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Welcome Reception



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Desserts & Drinks Event



Break



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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



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Happy Hour Reception

Registration

Tote Bag



Break

Break

Breakfast

Breakfast



Video

Speaker Gifts

Stage Decoration

Video

Notebook



Door Prize

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Door Prize

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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Prize Opportunities

Just by attending and participating in the Texas Groundwater Summit, you have the chance to win prizes! All attendees are entered to win one of four door prizes awarded throughout the conference. **Must be present to win.**

THANKS TO OUR DOOR PRIZE SPONSORS!



Student Scholarships

We are pleased to welcome the following student scholarship recipients:

- **Ashley Aguilar** - Ph.D. Environmental Science & Engineering, University of Texas at San Antonio
- **Megan Flannery** - B.S. Geography, Texas State University
- **Carl Gilmour** - A.A.S. Emergency Management, San Antonio College
- **Katherine Graves** - M.S. Energy & Earth Resources, University of Texas
- **Anna Heikes** - B.S. Geosciences, Trinity University
- **Corrinne Kotara** - M.S. Geology, University of Texas at San Antonio
- **Eli (Melissa) Seal** - Level 2 GIS Certificate, Austin Community College
- **Madeline Wade** - Ph.D. Geography & Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma
- **Zach Weathers** - Ph.D. Environmental Science & Engineering, University of Texas at San Antonio

Thanks to Guadalupe County GCD, Lone Star GCD, McMullen GCD, Prairielands GCD, and Trinity Glen Rose GCD for sponsoring these students!

Mothers' Room

Need a private space while you're attending the Summit? Ask a TAGD staff member for access to our makeshift Mothers' Room.

2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Continuing Education Hours

Need continuing education hours? Submit the form linked to the right and we will provide a certificate of attendance or report your hours as listed below.



LAWYERS: An application for accreditation of this activity has been submitted to the State Bar of Texas and is pending for 11.75 MCLE hours, including 1 hour for ethics. Submit the form along with your Bar number by September 5 and TAGD will report your hours directly.

PGs AND PEs: These licensing bodies in Texas do not pre-approve educational activities. Submit the form linked above and we will provide a certificate of attendance and the final agenda for you to use in self-reporting your PDHs.

OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONALS: Submit the form linked above and we will provide a certificate of attendance and the final agenda.



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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

DAVID BAILEY

President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

David Bailey currently serves as the General Manager for the Mid-East Texas GCD serving Madison, Leon and Freestone counties and has held that position since 2010. David is a lifelong resident of Madison County and graduated from Madisonville High School in 1978. After receiving a B.B.A. in Finance from Sam Houston State University in 1982, he began working in various positions with the Madison County Appraisal District until 1998. He then worked for 11 years at the Walker County Appraisal District until accepting employment with Mid-East Texas GCD in 2009. As General Manager, Mr. Bailey serves the district as the voting member for Groundwater Management Area 12 and as the GMA 12 representative on both the Region C and Region H Water Planning Groups. Prior to being elected TAGD President in 2023, he served two terms as the organization's Treasurer.

NATALIE BALLEW

Groundwater Division Director, Texas Water Development Board

Natalie Ballew is the Groundwater Division Director at the Texas Water Development Board. The TWDB's Groundwater Division collects, interprets, and provides accurate and objective information on the groundwater resources of Texas to citizens, groundwater resource managers, policy makers, and law makers. Natalie is a licensed professional geoscientist, has a bachelor's degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Southern California, and master's degrees in Energy and Earth Resources and Public Affairs from the University of Texas.

ARON BALOK

Superintendent, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District

Aron Balok is the Superintendent for the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District and a Commissioner on the Interstate Stream Commission. Aron has a passion for New Mexico's agricultural heritage and a deep appreciation for the complexity of the water issues that face the state and the nation. He has been professionally involved in water related issues for the past fifteen years. Aron was raised on a small cattle ranch in North Western New Mexico. He attended New Mexico State University, and in 1997 graduated with a B.S. degree in Agriculture Extension Education. He and his wife Hayly live in Roswell, NM raising their three daughters.

JIM BRADBURY

Partner, James D. Bradbury PLLC

With a career spanning over three decades, Jim loves practicing law and enjoys solving complicated problems for good people. His practice has included many areas but has focused on business as well as land, environmental, water, energy, and regulatory matters. Jim enjoys following the legal and policy issues facing landowners, working with statewide associations and policy organizations on legislative and regulatory matters. Jim is an adjunct Professor at Texas A&M University School of Law, teaching Ag Law, and Natural Resources and Eminent Domain Policy. He is a recognized authority in agricultural law, property rights, conservation and water policy and regularly speaks on these issues. Jim has been substantially involved in land conservation efforts in Texas representing individual landowners and land trusts. He serves on the Board of the Texas Land Trust Council and the Devil's River Conservancy working to conserve some of the last, best places in Texas.

2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

ROBERT BRADLEY

*Groundwater Technical Assistance Manager,
Texas Water Development Board*

Robert Bradley leads the Groundwater Technical Assistance Department at the Texas Water Development Board. This department plays a vital role in supporting groundwater management districts across Texas. They achieve this by facilitating the joint planning process and reviewing management plans submitted by the districts. Robert also oversees the groundwater data team. Robert brings a wealth of experience to his role, with over 33 years working in water resources across Texas and New Mexico. Surprisingly, he has dedicated a majority of his 29 years at the TWDB working with groundwater conservation districts in various capacities. When away from the office, Robert enjoys seeking cooler temperatures during visits to see his granddaughter (and parents) who reside in Michigan.

MARISA BRUNO

*Water Program Manager, Hill Country
Alliance*

In her role as Water Program Manager at the Hill Country Alliance, Marisa works with local Hill Country partners, including many GCDs, to promote policies and projects that advance water supply resilience and protect groundwater and surface water flows. She got her start in Texas water as a program strategist for the Texas Water Foundation. She currently serves as an alternate for the Water Conservation Advisory Council and Region L Regional Water Planning Group. Marisa received her Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment, where she specialized in water resource management and policy. Her graduate research focused on Texas groundwater management and community water planning.

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.

DON CHRISTY

*Executive Director, Yazoo Mississippi Delta
Joint Water Management District*

In 2017, Don Christy became the 2nd Executive Director for the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District. Governed by a 29-member board of commissioners, YMD implements programs addressing water supply, water quality and water utilization in a 17-county region in the Mississippi Delta. A Mississippi native, Don holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi and an M.S. degree in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia. During his career, Don was a policy advisor to the Mississippi Legislature for more than 10 years on a range of environmental issues. While in Georgia, Don assisted policy makers and state legislators in the development of the state's water resources planning process and he was also appointed as the Chief of Staff at the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta.



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

VINCE CLAUSE

Texas Groundwater Lead, LRE Water

Vince is the Texas Groundwater Lead and a Project Manager at LRE Water, Inc. Vince is also a licensed Professional Geologist, a certified Geographic Information Science Professional, and holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Texas Department of Geography and the Environment. From the Red River to the Rio Grande, Vince is well-versed in all things Texas groundwater. Throughout his career, he has focused on mapping and evaluating groundwater resources across Texas where he has led groundwater studies across 70 counties and 23 different aquifer systems. Vince leverages these experiences to help groundwater conservation districts, state agencies, private equity, litigators and the oil and gas industry solve complex technical, water supply, regulatory and legal issues.

LEAH CUDEBACK

*Storytelling & Public Engagement Manager,
Hill Country Alliance*

After a childhood spent visiting grandparents in Wimberley, Leah left her hometown in Southern Illinois to complete her B.S. in Wildlife Biology at Texas State University. She works at the Hill Country Alliance as the Storytelling and Public Engagement Manager, where she manages the website, social media accounts, and newsletter, and helps to manage the Hill Country Leadership Institute. Leah has spent over a decade working for various nonprofits, including the Saint Louis Zoo, Shield Ranch's El Ranchito, and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment in roles focused on science and environmental education. In her free time, she enjoys bicycling, hiking, cats, and volunteering on the Wimberley Parks Board. She loves getting out into the Hill Country and is most passionate about inspiring others to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty that draw so many to Texas.

ANDY DONNELLY

*Senior Hydrogeologist, Advanced
Groundwater Solutions*

Andrew (Andy) Donnelly, P.G. has over 35 years of applied experience in hydrogeology, primarily focused on groundwater resource investigations in Texas. He specializes in groundwater modeling, groundwater management, and water-supply investigations. He has extensive experience working for GCDs and with the joint groundwater planning process. He has experience with many types of environmental investigations, including litigation support on oil-field contamination cases. He consults for groundwater conservation districts, municipalities, water suppliers, developers, utilities, and other entities. Andy received a B.S. in Geological Sciences from Penn State University and an M.A. in Geology from the University of Texas, and is a licensed Professional Geoscientist in Texas. When not working, he's usually on a hike or a bike ride, or has a pair of binoculars or camera in his hands looking for birds.



2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

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. 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 University of Texas 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.

ANDREW EARL

Director of Conservation, Texas Wildlife Association

Andrew Earl is the Director of Conservation for the Texas Wildlife Association, a statewide organization of landowners committed to the stewardship of wildlife and private lands in Texas. In his role, he is responsible for the organization's policy development and advocacy work and oversees adult education programming. Before TWA, Andrew was the Director of Government Relations for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, based in Washington, DC, and worked for several years as an aide in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on natural resource and ag-related issues. Andrew serves on the Steering Committee of the American Wildlife

Conservation Partnership and Oaks & Prairies Joint Venture Management Board. He holds a B.A. from American University.



BRENT ELLIOTT

Associate Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology

Brent Elliott has been involved in mining and exploration related research for the past 25 years. He has taught a wide variety of geoscience and science education courses as a university professor over the past 20 years and was recently the Director of Surface Mining at the State's energy regulatory agency. Brent has worked on projects at the Bureau since 2012 where he has mainly been responsible for mineral resource related research and development of the Economic Mineral Resources. His professional background and research include geochemical modeling of all types of resources and metallic deposits, geospatial tools for predictive mapping and exploration, industrial sand, aggregate and stone materials, coal, uranium, critical minerals (especially lithium) in produced water and brines, rare earth element occurrences and other critical elements, novel approaches to exploration, mineral extraction methods, characterization, assessment, inventory and valuation of mineral resources.



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Speaker Bios

GREG ELLIS

Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm

Greg Ellis has been practicing water law and been involved in water issues for over three decades. As a law student, he helped clerk the House Natural Resources Committee working on a variety of water legislation. After receiving his J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law, Greg worked as legislative liaison for the Texas Water Commission and later served as general counsel to the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District. The Edwards Aquifer Authority hired Greg as their first general manager in 1997, a position he held until October 2004 when he left to start his solo law practice. In addition to representing subsidence districts and groundwater conservation districts, he serves on the board of the Texas Water Foundation, a nonprofit corporation working to lead Texas into a sustainable water future.

KRISTEN FANCHER

Attorney, Fancher Legal PLLC

Kristen Fancher advises clients across Texas on water, utility, regulatory, and administrative law matters. Her work includes representing a diverse array of clients - from governmental entities to landowners and private companies - on all facets of water law. A large part of her practice is providing general counsel services to groundwater conservation districts, water supply districts, cities, water supply corporations, regional wholesale water suppliers, and water utility operators. Kristen is also an adjunct professor at Texas A&M School of Law. Kristen is an Honors Program graduate of Texas Christian University and a graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law, where she received the Buck J. Wynne Memorial Scholarship for excellence in environmental law. Kristen is originally from Wichita Falls, and spent much of her legal career in Austin prior to opening her own practice in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

ADAM FOSTER

Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Adam Foster joined the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts as the Executive Director in February of 2024. Adam brings to the role over 15 years of groundwater experience as both a scientist and a regulator. Adam was previously the hydrologist for the Water Well Program at the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation, where he has worked closely with districts on a wide range of issues. Prior to his time at TDLR, Adam was a hydrologist at the United States Geological Survey where he studied contaminant transport in karst aquifers, groundwater-surface water interactions, and occurrence and fate of emerging contaminants in the environment. Adam is a graduate of Texas State University, where he holds a B.S. in Chemistry, a B.S. in Mathematics, and an M.S. in Chemistry.

ADAM FRIEDMAN

Partner, McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

Adam Friedman is a Partner with McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber, in Austin. His practice covers all facets of water, energy, and environmental matters. He represents landowners, operators, and governmental entities before groundwater districts, the Railroad Commission, TCEQ, PUC and Texas courts. He has extensive experience navigating water supply and water management challenges before numerous Texas groundwater districts. He currently serves as an Executive Committee Member for the State Bar of Texas' Environmental and Natural Resource Section and previously spent many years as a Board Member and Officer for the Austin History Center Association.

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Speaker Bios

DAVID GIBSON

Executive Director, Texas Corn Producers

David Gibson has been the executive director of the Texas Corn Producers Board and executive vice president of the Texas Corn Producers Association for nearly 25 years. David has been involved in farming all his life and has more than 40 years of professional experience in agriculture, which includes 18 years as a county agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. His experience in the grain industry stems from both his experience as an extension agent and as manager of a grain company for two years in the Texas Panhandle. His family also has a cow-calf operation near Tulia. In his position with TCPB and TCPA, David has represented corn farmers across the state by promoting the use of corn, working toward favorable farm policy for corn farmers, working with regulatory agencies, overseeing research, and many other initiatives that benefit the Texas corn farmer.

JAMES GOLAB

Innovative Water Technologies Manager,

Texas Water Development Board

James Golab, Ph.D., P.G. is a geoscientist and manager of the Innovative Water Technologies Department at the Texas Water Development Board. He has been with TWDB since 2019, where he has worked primarily on aquifer characterizations for aquifer storage and recovery projects. Prior to joining the TWDB, James worked with Regional Water in Avoca, Iowa where he had the opportunity to learn about the details of water treatment and production at the ground level. James also has extensive experience with hydrogeology and geological mapping through work with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Kansas Geological Survey. James has a B.S. in Geology and Anthropology from Mercyhurst University, an M.S. in Geology from the Colorado School of Mines, and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Kansas. James is also a licensed Professional Geoscientist in Texas.

AMY HAYS

Assistant Director of Development & Outreach, Oka' Water Institute

Amy Hays serves as the Assistant Director of Development and Outreach at the Oka' Institute at East Central University, which is dedicated to sustainable water solutions and building capacity with tribes, agencies, communities, citizens, and organizations to advance the blue economy. With over 30 years in natural resource management and degrees from Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Rangeland Ecology and Management, Amy leads initiatives in sustainable community development, land stewardship, water policy, and science-based water research. She applies innovative strategies to restore soil health, build sustainable communities, recover grasslands, and improve water quality. Additionally, Amy operates 4 Science Sake, a consultancy enhancing science literacy in agriculture and natural resources. As a facilitator, speaker, and author, she integrates environmental learning and adult learning theory to improve scientific communication and collaboration, notably through her generational intelligence and adult learning lectures.





2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

BLAINE HICKS

Staff Geologist, Upper Trinity GCD

Blaine Hicks is the Staff Geologist at Upper Trinity GCD, located in Springtown. He has a B.S. in Geoscience from Tarleton State University. He began work at the district as a field tech in 2017 after a few years of work in the Permian Basin as a wellsite geologist. In 2018 he earned his Professional Geoscientist license. In 2022 he earned a master's degree in Geoscience from Tarleton State University, researching spring flow in the district. Blaine is also an owner/operator with Texan Geologic LLC, a consulting company specializing in Groundwater Availability Certifications in North-Central Texas. Blaine grew up in Poolville and currently resides in his hometown. He can frequently be found exploring the Big Bend region of west Texas.

SARAH HOUSTON

Executive Director, Protect Our Aquifer

Sarah Houston has been pedaling a passion for water management for over ten years. Houston has a diverse background working in the corporate, non-profit, and academic worlds and believes everyone should know the source of their drinking water. After managing a water STEM field trip program in Austin, Texas, she and her husband set out on an adventure with a purpose; through Wander Like Water they used bicycle touring to connect YouTube viewers from around the world with water science. While cycling down the Mississippi River, she learned of Memphis' unique water source, eventually relocating from Texas to work for the water research center at the University of Memphis. In 2021, Houston was hired as the first Executive Director of Protect Our Aquifer, growing the organization into a regional thought leader for a multi-disciplinary approach to water management. She holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from Southwestern University and a Master's in Earth Sciences from the University of Memphis.

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 a Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist in Texas, and as Registered Professional Geologist in Mississippi.

PAUL JACOBS

Attorney, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

Paul Jacobs is an attorney with the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program where he helps connect judges, lawyers, and law students with the mental health resources they need. Paul speaks publicly to increase awareness and destigmatize mental health and substance use disorders. After graduating from the University of Houston Law Center in 1984, Paul practiced civil trial law, specializing in personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, and medical malpractice. Paul graduated with a B.A. from Arizona State University where he also played college tennis and was on the debate team. Paul earned board certification in Personal Injury and Civil Trial Law as well as Trial Advocacy, and has been named a Top Lawyer in Houston. Although Paul has many significant legal accomplishments, he is most proud of his recovery. He is committed to physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

2024
TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

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.

SARH KIRKLE

Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association

Sarah works with members of TWCA 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. Sarah 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.

NING LIN

Center for Energy Economics Chief

Economist, Bureau of Economic Geology

Dr. Ning Lin joined the Bureau of Economic Geology in 2019 as the chief economist at its Center for Energy Economics. Her keen business acumen and leadership have allowed her to provide a unique perspective and multifaceted skills in her current role at the Bureau, where economics underpins all energy and environmental research. At the Bureau, Ning works with research teams leveraging expertise in geoscience and environmental resources to address energy and environmental challenges. In her former roles, Ning managed global market analysis capabilities for Shell Trading, Koch Industries, and Tenaska. Her experience in both the chemical and energy industries includes natural gas and power; petrochemical derivatives; intermediate chemicals; and polymer, fiber, and engineering plastics. She has successfully executed a variety of commercial development projects, established local partnerships in overseas regions, and managed capital investment, technology licensing, market development, and product innovation efforts.





2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

ADRIANNE LOPEZ

*Technical Research & Development Manager,
Texas Pacific Water Resources*

Adrienne Lopez is a scientist who has worked in the fields of Geology, Chemistry, Construction, and Water Treatment. She holds a B.S. in Geology from UT-San Antonio, and an M.S. in Hydrology and Water Security from the University of Oklahoma. Her previous research includes microbial and chemical analysis of treated municipal wastewater, analysis of stream health in Boerne, and geologic studies. She currently works for Texas Pacific Water Resources, LLC and has been there for over 6 years. She helped launch their produced water treatment and recycling operation, built and operated their in-house water quality laboratory, and is now leading their produced water desalination and beneficial reuse efforts. Her current project utilizes an in-house water desalination and treatment system and is investigating water quality considerations, agricultural uses, soil health, and safety considerations of utilizing produced water for a multitude of uses outside of oil and gas.

LAURA MARTIN

General Manager, Gonzales County UWCD

Laura Martin is the General Manager of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District, which serves portions of Gonzales and Caldwell counties in South-Central Texas. She began her water career as the Administrative Assistant for the District in 2014, then was promoted to General Manager in 2021. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Purdue University Global and is a graduate of the Texas Water Leaders Program from the Texas Water Foundation. Laura carries out the day-to-day operations of the District, including: developing and recommending a budget for the District; implementing said budget; participating in the regional groundwater management area water planning process; and reviewing permit applications for administrative completeness.

She also sees that the District Rules, District Management Plan, and orders of the Board of Directors are carried out. When she's not working, she enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

JOHN MARTIN

General Manager, Southeast Texas GCD

John has served as the General Manager of the Southeast Texas GCD since April 2008. The Southeast Texas GCD is a four-county groundwater conservation district nestled in the southeast corner of the Texas Pineywoods. John currently represents the Southeast Texas GCD as voting representative on GMA 14 and represents GMA 14 as a member of the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region I) and serves as the current Chairman of these two groups. He is a longtime TAGD Member currently serving on the Budget and Finance Committee. John was born and raised in northeast Ohio where he graduated from Kent State University with a B.G.S. degree. John became a Texas resident after meeting and marrying his wife who was born and raised in southeast Texas.

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Speaker Bios



DAVE MAUK

*General Manager, Bandera County River
Authority & Groundwater District*

Dave Mauk has been the the General Manager of the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District since 2009. Dave is a passionate steward of the natural resources for the State of Texas. He serves on several regional water planning groups such as Groundwater Management Area 9, Region J Plateau Planning Group, San Antonio River Basin Regional Flood Planning Group, and is a liaison to the Nueces River Basin Flood Planning Group. Dave is also a board member for the Medina River Protection Fund. Prior to his tenure at the District, Dave worked as a Bail Bondsman and Professional Bounty Hunter for 15 years in Baltimore City, MD. He also served as a Paratrooper in the Army Reserves and Army National Guard. In 2003, he escaped from the East Coast and moved to the Texas Hill Country. Dave holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Schreiner University in Kerrville.

REBECCA NUNU

*Principal Geoscientist, Edwards Aquifer
Authority*

Rebecca's experience is in applied research of groundwater hydrology and geochemistry. Rebecca recently joined the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) as a Principal Geoscientist where she conducts projects to assess the vulnerability of the aquifer system to changes in water quality. Prior to joining the EAA, Rebecca worked for Southwest Research Institute as a Research Scientist. In this capacity, she developed and led multiple projects investigating the water resources of regional aquifers in Texas, including the Edwards, Edwards-Trinity, and Carrizo-Wilcox, and studied multi-outlet spring systems and other important regional springs in west Texas. As part of that work, she developed conceptual and geochemical-based statistical models to explain the multiple sources of flow to San Solomon Springs and to evaluate groundwaters in the Comanche Springs area. Rebecca holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from the University of Texas and an M.S. degree in Geology from UT-San Antonio.

JAMES OLIVER

*Board Member, Texas & Southwestern Cattle
Raisers Association*

James Oliver has served as a Director of Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers since 2018. He is the former Chair of the Natural Resources & Wildlife Committee, having served terms as Vice Chair and Chair through March 2024. James and his family own and operate ranching operations in Crockett and Kinney Counties. James has also had a nearly 30-year career in the banking industry, primarily financing production agriculture operations from Texas through Montana. James is currently on the Board of Directors of Ozona Bank and serves as a Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer. James also serves on the Board of Directors of Texas Agricultural Land Trust and the Texas Land Trust Council. James received his bachelors degree from Texas A&M University in Agricultural Economics.



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Speaker Bios

VIRGINIA PALACIOS

Executive Director, Commission Shift

Virginia Palacios is Executive Director of Commission Shift, a nonprofit focused on reforming oil and gas oversight in Texas through accountability at the Railroad Commission. Virginia is a ninth-generation Tejana from Webb County, one of the highest gas-producing counties in the state. She has over 14 years' experience working on environmental issues. Her work has been published in *Public Utilities Fortnightly* and the peer-reviewed *Environmental Science and Technology Journal*. Before she started Commission Shift, she worked as a consultant for a variety of groups, as a research analyst on EDF's oil and gas team, and as a policy manager at a regional energy-efficiency organization. Palacios holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

JOEL PIGG

Texas Well Owner Network Coordinator,

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Joel Pigg is combining his Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Real Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District experiences in his position as the Texas Well Owner Network Coordinator. The TWON program provides private water well screenings and wellhead protection educational trainings to private water well managers.



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CHARLES PORTER

Real Estate & Water Rights Consultant

Charles Porter, Ph.D. is an award-winning author, speaker, and testifying real estate expert in over 725 cases nationwide. He served in various faculty teaching roles at St. Edward's University from 2008 – 2023. In 2016 he earned a Ph.D. in Economics and Business from the Universitat Jaume I in Spain. He is a nationally recognized water rights expert. Charles authored "Sharing the Common Pool: Water Rights in the Everyday Lives of Texans," "Spanish Water/Anglo Water," and numerous continuing education texts, real estate/broker manuals, and textbook chapters. He was elected Chair of the Education Standards Committee of the Texas Real Estate Commission in 2022. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Realtors and drafted the final revisions in NAR national water policies in 2020. He was recently elected to serve as a board member of Texas Realtors (formerly the Texas Association of Realtors).

STACEY REESE

Attorney, Stacey Reese Law

Stacey has a boutique litigation firm in Austin that concentrates on the complex and rapidly evolving area of groundwater law and litigation. Stacey is a former big firm lawyer with 18 years of experience and has been recognized as a "Texas Rising Star" in 2014-2016 and as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in 2020-2024. Stacey represents clients all over the state including individuals, private companies, and governmental entities before administrative agencies, and in state and federal courts at all levels. She also serves as outside General Counsel to GCDs and other water districts, and as Special Counsel to law firms on complex water law matters. She is experienced in not only water litigation but also complex business litigation. Stacey has been on the Board of Directors for the Litigation Section of the Austin Bar for over 7 years, and currently serves as the section's Immediate Past Chair.

2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



Speaker Bios

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.

CARLOS RUBINSTEIN

Principal, RSAH2O

Rubinstein is the Principal member of RSAH2O, LLC – an environmental consulting firm with strong emphasis on water issues. Rubinstein has served as an expert witness on various environmental cases and has published several peer-reviewed articles on Texas water policy matters. Rubinstein is also a Special Adviser to Anser Advisory on Texas Water Policy, Regulatory and Funding matters. Rubinstein, appointed by Governor Rick Perry, served as chairman of the TWDB from 2013-2015. During his tenure, he oversaw the implementation of the \$2 billion State Water Infrastructure Fund for Texas. Rubinstein served as a commissioner of the TCEQ from 2009–2013. He has also served as deputy executive director of TCEQ and as Rio Grande Watermaster. Rubinstein is a Board Member of the Texas Water Foundation and of Texas Water Trade. Rubinstein received a bachelor's degree in biology from Pan American University.

DREW SATTERWHITE

General Manager, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority

Drew graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas. Drew started his career in water at the North Texas Municipal Water District. From there, he spent the next 9+ years as the General Manager at the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, North Texas GCD, and Red River GCD. Drew was hired as the General Manager at the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA) where he started at the end of 2022. CRMWA is a wholesale water provider that provides raw water to around 600,000 residents in the Texas Panhandle including the Cities of Amarillo and Lubbock.

JAKE STEEN

Attorney, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend

Jake is a licensed attorney in Lloyd Gosselink's water, districts, and litigation practice groups. Jake's practice focuses on water-related legal and policy issues, including statutory and regulatory compliance, permitting, water rights, water resource management and development, contested cases, litigation and administrative proceedings, governmental relations, and open government. He also provides counsel in the governance, organization, and operation of local government entities.



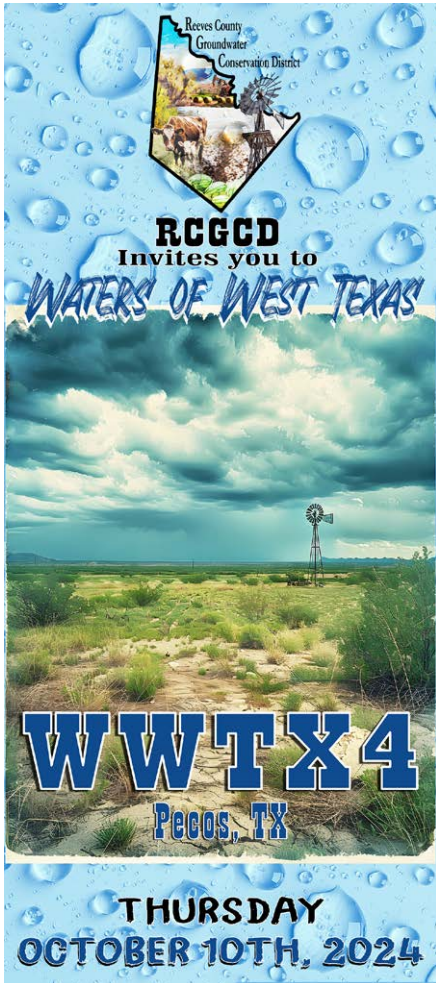
Duval County

Groundwater Conservation District



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Speaker Bios



DEBORAH TREJO

Partner, Kemp Smith Law

Deborah is a partner in Kemp Smith's Trial Department and Public and Environmental Law Department. She focuses on representing governmental entities and private clients in administrative matters and in trial and appellate proceedings before state and federal courts. She has worked in criminal and civil law enforcement, including litigating groundwater enforcement cases for the last twenty-two years. Deborah specializes in water issues, open government, endangered species, elections, water quality, constitutional issues, including regulatory takings, equal protection and due process, along with rulemaking, 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 listed as a Top Attorney by Austin Monthly in Government and Administrative Law.

KEVIN URBANCZYK

Director of Rio Grande Research Center, Sul Ross State University

Kevin grew up on a farm near Panhandle, TX. After obtaining his Ph.D. at Washington State University, he joined the faculty at Sul Ross State University in 1991. His environmental research includes groundwater and surface water studies in west Texas, and studies of the geomorphology of the Rio Grande and its tributaries. He has contributed to the development of Groundwater Availability Models for the TWDB, has been a member of the Basin to Bay Expert Science Team for the Upper Rio Grande for the TCEQ, is one of the Directors of the Brewster County GCD, and serves as data manager for the Presidio County UWCD. He is actively involved in binational research and conservation projects on the Rio Grande/Bravo along the U.S.-Mexico border in the Big Bend Region. Kevin is married and has two sons in college.



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Speaker Bios

PATRICK WAGNER

General Manager, Middle Trinity GCD

Patrick Wagner has served as the General Manager of the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, overseeing Bosque, Comanche, Coryell, and Erath Counties, since January 2022. He currently represents Middle Trinity GCD as a voting member on Groundwater Management Area 8 and the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. Patrick studied finance at the University of North Texas and specialized in geology and geophysics at Texas A&M University. Patrick has a background in financial risk management and experience as a geoscientist in the oil and gas industry. His expertise includes borehole geophysics, with a focus on applying pseudo logs for deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration. He is skilled in advanced analysis of geophysical datasets, using seismic inversion, attribute analysis, and machine learning to optimize hydrocarbon exploration and production. Originally from Fort Worth, Patrick now resides in Stephenville, with his wife Becca, son Ford, and daughter Etta.

GREG WUKASCH

External Affairs Manager, San Antonio Water System

Since 1998, Greg Wukasch has worked in the External Affairs Department with the San Antonio Water System, beginning as an Education Coordinator and now as the External Affairs Manager. Greg really considers himself more of a “story teller” putting together water stories for citizens across the city he loves. When not talking H2O, this self-professed water nerd also geeks out on Disney Theme Parks and loves hanging out with his wife of 31 years, his 3 children and his 2 grandchildren. In addition to working with SAWS, Greg has also worked as an Environmental Educator with Aquarena Center in San Marcos, as a Corporate Training Development Coordinator for the Six Flags Company, and as an adjunct professor at St. Phillips College in San Antonio for 16 years.

STEVE YOUNG

Principal Geoscientist, INTERA

Dr. Steve Young is a Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist with advanced degrees from Stanford University and the University of Waterloo. Steve’s expertise includes aquifer characterization and groundwater modeling. He has worked extensively with the Gulf Coast Aquifer System and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. He has worked for more than 20 groundwater conservation districts and has served as a consultant for several Groundwater Management Areas. He is board member of the Texas Desalination Association and a member of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Water Well Drillers Advisory Council.

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2024 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT



What Now?

Thank you for attending the 2024 Texas Groundwater Summit! Mark your calendar for next year's event, scheduled for August 19-21, 2025, as we return to the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio for the seventh year.

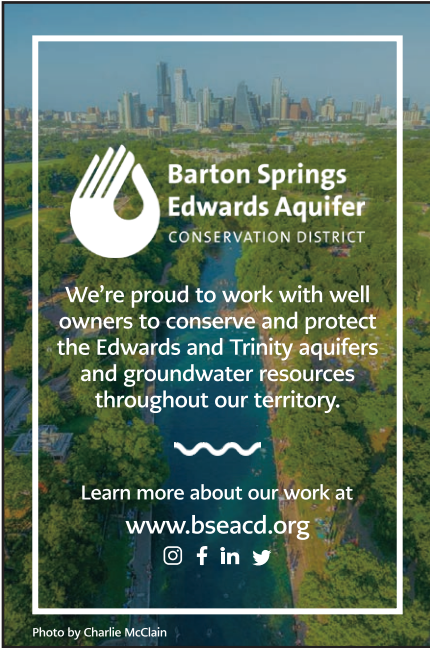


Share your feedback! TAGD's staff, Executive Committee, and Conference Planning Committee would appreciate your honest feedback about the Texas Groundwater Summit. Tell us what you love and what could be improved in the survey linked at the left. It will also be emailed to all attendees.

Want to stay involved in TAGD throughout the year? Visit our website, texasgroundwater.org, to learn more about what TAGD does. You can:

- View presentations from previous Texas Groundwater Summits.
- Explore the GCD Index, an interactive map viewer with over 60 data points about each district to help with understanding and analyzing GCDs.
- See the 90 GCDs and 44 associate members that make up TAGD's membership, and apply to join their ranks! Membership unlocks a wealth of online resources, weekly curated emails, event discounts, committee participation, and more.
- Learn about our winter and spring business meetings held in the Austin area, GCD Boot Camps, and other educational offerings.
- View legislative summaries and white papers from previous sessions.
- Sign up for The Water Table, our monthly newsletter. Thanks to the following TAGD members for supporting this educational outreach effort!





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"In consideration of the granting of this application, we hereby obligate ourselves to complete the plugging of said well any time it becomes polluted with mineral water, or constitutes a menace to any oil or gas strata in that area, when so ordered by the Railroad Commission of Texas or its representatives."

— Form P-13 - RRC Permit to Abandon and Use as a Water Well



Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District
405 North Spring Drive, Fort Stockton, TX 79735
(432) 336-0698 | mpgcd@mpgcd.org

Conserving Water for Our Future Generations

Thank you for attending the 2024 Texas Groundwater Summit!

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

9:30am-11:00am	TAGD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
1:00pm-3:00pm	GENERAL SESSION Welcome Address Groundwater Rights in Texas Panel - Playing by the Rules: GCD Violations & Enforcement Hydrogen Energy Value Chain and Impacts on Water
3:00pm-3:30pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:30pm-5:15pm	GENERAL SESSION Keynote Address - Dr. "Hurricane Hal" Needham Panel - All the Small Things: Studying & Managing Minor Aquifers
5:15pm-6:15pm	WELCOME RECEPTION

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

7:45am-8:15am	BREAKFAST TACO BAR
8:15am-10:00am	GENERAL SESSION Welcome & Opening Remarks Legislative Interim Update Panel - Water Wisdom From NM, MS, and TN The Riple Effect of Joint Groundwater Planning on Regional Water Planning
10:00am-10:30am	COFFEE BREAK
10:30am-12:00pm	GENERAL SESSION Keynote Address - Kelly Keel, TCEQ Executive Director Panel - Legislator Perspectives
12:00pm-1:30pm	LUNCHEON
1:30pm-3:00pm	Track A: Fundamentals of Groundwater Management Basics of Bottom-Up Water Planning in Texas Demystifying GCD Permitting Anatomy of a Well Track B: Waste Not, Want Not: Advancements in Produced Water Reuse Critical Minerals in Produced Water Land Application of Produced Water New Rules for Oil & Gas Waste Pits and Recycling Facilities Track C: Navigating the Intersections of Local Regulation Primer on the PUC and Water Providers Annexation and CCN Issues Opportunities in Subdivision Regulation
3:00pm-3:30pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:30pm-5:00pm	Track A: Fundamentals of Groundwater Management (repeated) Basics of Bottom-Up Water Planning in Texas Demystifying GCD Permitting Anatomy of a Well Track B: Local Science Developments Hydrostratigraphic Model of the Trinity Aquifer for a Portion of Central Texas San Solomon Springs Studies Planning, Leadership, and Science: Developing the Bandera Well Longevity Model Track C: Leading Them to Water: Effective Public Outreach Applying Adult Learning Strategies for Better Engagement Outreach by Meeting People Where They're At Making a Splash With Storytelling
5:00pm-6:00pm	HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION
8:00pm-10:00pm	DESSERTS & DRINKS NETWORKING EVENT

DAY 3 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

7:45am-8:15am	BREAKFAST TACO BAR
8:15am-10:00am	GENERAL SESSION Welcome Panel - Emerging Management Issues for Large-Scale Production Permits Panel - Groundwater Crossroads: Perspectives From Agriculture, Ranching, and Wildlife
10:00am-10:30am	MORNING BREAK
10:30am-12:15pm	GENERAL SESSION Current Legal Issues - Litigation and GCD Action Appeals Head Above Water: How Professionals Can Avoid Burnout (1-Hour Ethics)