TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

2025 TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort • San Antonio, TX • August 19-21

AGENDA

Day 1 – Tuesday, August 19

8:00am **REGISTRATION TABLE OPENS**

9:00am – 11:00am **TAGD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** (Open to TAGD Members Only)

1:00pm – 3:00pm **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

Welcome Address
Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Keynote Conversation
Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht, Partner, Jackson Walker LLP
Dylan Drummond, Shareholder, Langley & Banack, Inc.

Panel – The Balancing Act: How GCDs can Protect Privately Owned, Yet Shared, Groundwater Resources
Moderator: Vanessa Puig-Williams, Senior Director, Environmental Defense Fund
Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Professor & Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Ed McCarthy, Attorney, McCarthy & McCarthy LLP
Carlos Rubinstein, Principal, RSAH2O
Gary Westbrook, General Manager, Post Oak Savannah GCD

From Aquifer to Acre: Are Correlative Rights the Key to Managing Privately Owned Groundwater?
Robert Mace, Executive Director, The Meadows Center for Water & the Environment

3:00pm – 3:30pm **AFTERNOON BREAK** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber LLP)

3:30pm – 5:30pm **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

DFCs and MAGs: Is the Streetcar Off the Rails?
James Beach, Principal, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

Panel – GAMs: Their Last 25 Years and Their Future Importance in Shaping Groundwater Planning, Regulations, Development, and Management
Moderator: Ty Embrey, Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, PC
Natalie Ballew, Groundwater Division Director, Texas Water Development Board
Aarin Teague, General Manager, Evergreen UWCD
Paul M. Terrill III, Founder & Shareholder, Terrill & Waldrop
Steve Young, Principal Geoscientist, INTERA

Day 1 – Tuesday, August 19 (continued)

Artificial Intelligence: Trust, Safety, and Effective Use for Districts
Chris Knotz, Founder, CommonGround

5:30pm – 6:30pm **WELCOME RECEPTION** (Sponsored by Brazoria County GCD)

Day 2 – Wednesday, August 20

7:15am **REGISTRATION TABLE OPENS**

7:30am – 8:00am **BREAKFAST** (Sponsored by Upper Trinity GCD)

8:00am – 10:00am **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

Welcome & Opening Remarks
David Bailey, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Case Law Update
Lauren Ice, Partner, Perales, Allmon & Ice, PC
Cole Ruiz, Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, PC

Panel – Legislative Recap: Groundwater in the 89th
Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Sarah Kirkle, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Association
Brian Sledge, Managing Partner, SledgeLaw Group PLLC
Andrew Wier, Executive Director, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund

The Agricultural Land Market Value of Groundwater
Mani Rouhi Rad, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University

10:00am – 10:30am **MORNING COFFEE BREAK** (Sponsored by KT Groundwater)

10:30am – 12:00pm **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

Keynote Address
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

Panel – Legislator Perspectives
Moderator: Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Representative Cody Harris, District 8, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources
Senator Charles Perry, District 28, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs
Representative Erin Zwiener, District 45, Texas House of Representatives

Day 2 – Wednesday, August 20 (continued)

12:00pm – 1:30pm **LUNCHEON** (Sponsored by North Texas GCD)

1:30pm – 3:00pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Independence 1-3

Track A – GCD Fundamentals

State Well Standards
Chris Hooyboer, Hydrologist, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Enforcement Under the Texas Water Code: Discussing Groundwater District Authority
Wyatt Conoly, Attorney, Kemp Smith LLP

Begin With the End in Mind: Data Collection and DFC Tracking
Alyson McDonald, Senior Hydrologist, Collier Consulting
Grayson Dowlearn, Hydrogeologist, Collier Consulting

Independence 4/5

Track B – District Science 1

Lone Star GCD: Investigation of Aquifer Compaction Potential in Montgomery County
Philip Webster, Senior Hydrogeologist, KT Groundwater

Post Oak Savannah GCD: Elevating Data Management to Improve a GCD's Operations and Outcomes
Charles Dunning, Vice President Hydrology, WellIntel
Michael Redman, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, Post Oak Savannah GCD

Lost Pines GCD: How Science is Shaping Groundwater Management in Bastrop and Lee Counties
Elvis Hernandez, General Manager, Lost Pines GCD
Gretchen Miller, Senior Project Manager, LRE Water

Independence 6-8

Track C – Aquifer Recharge: Projects and Planning

Strategic Site Selection for Managed Aquifer Recharge
Mike Milczarek, Program Director, GeoSystems Analysis, Inc.

Beneficial Reuse and Managed Aquifer Recharge in El Paso
Scott Reinert, Water Resources Manager, El Paso Water

Enhancing Water Supply Resilience at Fort Cavazos Through ASR
Neil Deeds, Executive Vice President, INTERA

3:00pm – 3:30pm **AFTERNOON BREAK** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber LLP)

3:30pm – 5:00pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Independence 1-3

Track A – Understanding Aquifers

Development of a Statewide Aquifer Test Data Compilation for Texas
Rachel Shannon, Senior Project Hydrogeologist, S.S. Papadopulos & Associates, Inc.

Enhancing Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction Modeling in Texas
Guillermo Martinez, Senior Hydrologist & Engineer, INTERA

Enhancing Groundwater Management Capabilities Using Python
Alyssa Balzen, Hydrogeologist, KT Groundwater

Day 2 – Wednesday, August 20 (continued)

Independence 4/5

Track B – District Science 2

Rolling Plains GCD: New Water for Texas: MAR in the Rolling Plains
Lynn Smith, General Manager, Rolling Plains GCD

Brewster County GCD: Groundwater Monitoring in Far West Texas
Kevin Urbanczyk, Senior Research Scientist, West Texas Water Research Center

Central Texas GCD: **Assessing the Vulnerability of the Trinity Aquifer to Developments that Depend on Private Wells**
Nick Lamkey, Hydrogeologist, INTERA

Independence 6-8

Track C – Making the Invisible Visible: Data Visualization & Communication

Transforming Texas Water Data into Actionable Information for Management and Drought
Justin Thompson, Assistant Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology

What's New with OpenET? Updates and Applications for Informed Decision Making in Texas
Garshaw Amidi-Abraham, Senior Specialist, Environmental Defense Fund

Estimating Water Use and Groundwater Pumping in Texas Through the Water Use Survey
Jane Bullan, Data Analyst, Texas Water Development Board

5:00pm – 6:00pm **HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION** (Sponsored by INTERA)

8:00pm – 10:00pm **DESSERTS & DRINKS NETWORKING EVENT** (Sponsored by Real Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District)

Day 3 – Thursday, August 21

7:30am – 8:00am **BREAKFAST** (Sponsored by Upper Trinity GCD)

8:00am – 10:00am **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Doug Shaw, Vice-President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Panel – From Angus to Augustine: Groundwater Availability in Formerly Rural Areas
Moderator: Leah Martinsson, Independent Water Policy Consultant
John Ellis, Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA
Jacob Holt, County Commissioner, Parker County
Mitchell Sodek, General Manager, Central Texas GCD

Panel – Managing the Ogallala: Perspectives from Across the Region
Moderator: Britney Britten, General Manager, Panhandle GCD
Brandi Baquera, Program Coordinator, Colorado Master Irrigator
Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, Lower Loup NRD
Dwane Roth, Owner, Front Porch Farms LLC

Day 3 – Thursday, August 21 (continued)

10:00am – 10:30am **Morning Break** (Sponsored by EcoKai, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber LLP)

10:30am – 12:30pm **GENERAL SESSION**

Independence 4/5

Urban Groundwater Challenges in the 21st Century
Jay Banner, Professor, University of Texas at Austin

Panel – What Lies Beneath: Can Brackish Groundwater Save Our Water Future?
Moderator: Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board
Mike Keester, Principal, KT Groundwater
Sarah Kouba, General Manager, Lone Star GCD
Isaac Sulemana, Chief of Staff, Hidalgo County

Texas Data Centers: A Growing Water User
Erin Kinney, Senior Research Scientist, Houston Advanced Research Center