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ANNUAL**

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SUMMIT

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Welcome!

We are delighted to have you join us for our first ever - and possibly only - virtual Texas Groundwater Summit! The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is pleased to bring together the groundwater community for this 9th annual event, despite the disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to so many aspects of our lives.

For over 30 years, TAGD's mission has been to serve as a resource on groundwater policy, science, and management. The Texas Groundwater Summit is TAGD's cornerstone event, bringing together over 300 groundwater professionals to participate in local, regional, and statewide groundwater dialogues.

This year more than ever, TAGD's conference planning committee and staff have worked hard to create a high-quality program for you. While transitioning to a virtual platform, we endeavored to maintain the format of the Summit that has worked so well over the years - through panel discussions, presentations, keynotes, and breakout sessions. We hope you find these conversations informative and thought-provoking.

Connecting has always been an important part of the Texas Groundwater Summit. TAGD has incorporated networking and social events through our virtual exhibit hall, trivia night, and happy hour. We encourage you to engage with your fellow attendees on these platforms.

As a Texas non-profit organization, we are grateful to you for your choice to join the Texas Groundwater Summit on this virtual platform. Whether as one of our generous sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, or audience members, TAGD is deeply grateful for your contribution. We hope that you will enjoy the next three days of engaging and educational content by leading groundwater professionals.

Thank you for participating!

Leah Martinsson
Executive Director
leah@texasgroundwater.org



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DETAILED AGENDA

Tuesday, September 1

10:00am-12:00pm

Welcome Address

Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Groundwater Sustainability & Stewardship

Trey Mixon, Natural Resource Manager, Nestle Waters North America

Innovative GCD Management Strategies Panel

Moderator: Drew Satterwhite, General Manager, North Texas GCD/
Red River GCD

Troupe Brewer, Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend PC

Ty Edwards, General Manager, Middle Pecos GCD

Mike Keester, Senior Project Manager & Hydrogeologist, LRE Water

Keynote Address

Sid Miller, Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture

12:00pm-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00pm-2:30pm

Produced Water as Water Supply Panel

Moderator: Adam Friedman, Partner, McElroy Sullivan Miller & Weber LLP

Brian Bohm, Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Apache Corporation

Bridget Scanlon, Senior Research Scientist, Bureau of Economic Geology

Trey Gerfers, Board Chairman, Presidio County UWCD

Keynote Address

Brooke Paup, Director, Texas Water Development Board

2:30-2:45pm

Afternoon Break

2:45-4:00pm

GAMs, the Next Generation Panel

Moderator: Wade Oliver, Senior Hydrogeologist, INTERA

Natalie Ballew, Manager of Groundwater Technical Assistance, Texas
Water Development Board

Andy Donnelly, Senior Hydrogeologist, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

John Ellis, Supervisory Hydrologist, United States Geological Service

4:15-5:15pm

Trivia Event sponsored by Environmental Defense Fund

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Trivia Event Details

Test your knowledge and compete for prizes! Click [here](#) to join the Zoom session for trivia at 4:15pm on Tuesday, and click [here](#) to open the trivia game in your browser. The trivia game website is mobile friendly so you can open it on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. The will allow you to have Zoom open for socializing while you play trivia on a separate device or second computer monitor.

EDF is working to ensure we are managing our water resources in a balanced, sustainable way that considers the needs of rural communities, landowners and nature.



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DETAILED AGENDA

Wednesday, September 2

9:00-10:15am

Welcome

Zach Holland, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Legislative Update

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

Transparency Under COVID and Related Issues

Jennifer Smith, Attorney, SledgeLaw Group

10:15-10:30am

Morning Break

10:30am-12:00pm

Legislator Panel

Representative Cody Harris, District 8, Texas House of Representatives
Representative Eddie Lucio III, District 38, Texas House of Representatives
Representative Andrew Murr, District 53, Texas House of Representatives

Keynote Address

Representative Lyle Larson, Chairman, Texas House Natural Resources Committee

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00-2:30pm

Breakout Track A – Board & Staff Training

Well Drilling Basics

William Gamblin, Groundwater Resources Supervising Engineer, WSP

Underground Disposal Wells and Water Quality Considerations for GCDs

Matthew Uliana, Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA

Breakout Track B – Looking to the Future of Irrigated Agriculture

Advances in Agricultural Conservation & the North Plains Water Conservation Center

Nicholas Kenny, Agricultural Engineer, North Plains GCD

A Path Forward for Sustainable Crop Production on the Texas High Plains

Ronnie Hopper, Director, High Plains UWCD

Diversifying the Water Portfolio for Agriculture in the Rio Grande Basin

Allen Berthold, Senior Research Scientist, Texas Water Resources Institute

DETAILED AGENDA

[Click Here to Submit CLEs](#)

2:30-2:45pm Afternoon Break

2:45-4:15pm **Breakout Track A – Board & Staff Training**

The Why and How of Water Communications

Janet Rummel, Public Relations & Communications Officer, North Texas
Municipal Water District

Building Effective Education Programs

Melissa Mullins, Environmental Education Specialist, Baylor University

2:45-4:15pm **Breakout Track B – Water That's Worth its Salt: Brackish Groundwater**

TWDB Update on Brackish Groundwater Production Zones

Erika Mancha, Manager of Innovative Water Technologies, Texas Water
Development Board

From the GCD Perspective: BGPZ Rules under HB 722

Mary Sahs, Attorney, Mary K. Sahs PC

High Plains Dockum Study

Jason Coleman, General Manager, High Plains UWCD

4:30pm-5:30pm Happy Hour sponsored by North Plains Groundwater District

Happy Hour Details

After the conference on Wednesday we invite you to kick back, grab your beverage of choice, and chat with other groundwater professionals.

If you'd like to make our featured drink, Ranch Water, click here to learn about the ingredients and follow along as a special guest walks you through making this truly Texan cocktail. We'll also have several giveaways you won't want to miss!

[Click here to join the Zoom session.](#)



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DETAILED AGENDA

Thursday, September 3

9:00-10:30am

Welcome

[Click Here to Submit CLEs](#)

The Past, Present, and Future of Comanche Springs

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

Lessons Learned: Accountability and the Petition for Review Process Panel

Moderator: Bill Dugat, Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Tom Koenek, Board Vice President, Starr County GCD

Kelly Mills, Water Availability Division Assistant Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Lynn Smith, General Manager, Mesquite GCD

10:30-10:45am

Morning Break

10:45am-12:15pm

Keynote Address

Dr. Larry Schooler, Senior Fellow, National Civic League

Current Legal Issues Panel

Moderator: Greg Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm PC

Stacey Reese, Attorney, Stacey Reese Law PLLC

Deborah Trejo, Partner, Kemp Smith Law

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KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHIES

Representative Lyle Larson

Chairman, Texas House Natural Resources Committee



Lyle Larson is a lifelong resident of the San Antonio area. Born and raised in northern Bexar County, he grew up helping his parents and four brothers and sisters on their family farm. A product of the North East Independent School District, Larson graduated from MacArthur High School in 1977. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University in 1981. Directly after graduation, Larson worked first for Nalco Chemical Company and subsequently for Johnson & Johnson, distributing surgical equipment. For the last 30 years, Larson has owned and operated a small business in San Antonio. During his freshman session, Larson was selected one of three “Rookies of the Year” by the Texas Tribune, out of 37 new members. Larson was reelected to a fourth term in 2016, again earning the most votes of the 150 members of the Texas House. Currently, Larson serves as the Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, as a member of the House Committee on Redistricting, and the International Relations and Economic Development Committee. As Chairman of the House committee that oversees water policy, Larson is committed to working to secure Texas' water future. Over the course of the last 7 years, he has traveled across the state to meet with individuals involved in water policy and planning. Since 2011, Larson has visited 65 groundwater conservation districts, 12 river authorities, all large public utilities, and several other municipalities and water districts.

Commissioner Sid Miller

Texas Department of Agriculture



An eighth-generation farmer and rancher, Sid Miller is the 12th Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). He has devoted his life to promoting Texas agriculture, rural communities and the great state of Texas. Born in De Leon, in Comanche County, in September 1955, Sid Miller graduated with honors from Tarleton State University in Stephenville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Ag Education. A recognized community leader, Miller was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. He quickly earned a reputation as a staunch defender of Texas agriculture, constitutional freedoms and individual liberties for all Texans. He was elected statewide as the 12th Texas Agriculture Commissioner in 2014, and re-elected to his second term in office in 2018. Since taking office as Agriculture Commissioner, Commissioner Miller has brought real, common sense reform to TDA. Commissioner Miller is passionate about ensuring rural communities have the water and infrastructure they need to thrive. To that end, he created TDA's Office of Water to ensure all Texans have access to clean water for today and future generations. Additionally, under his guidance, TDA has directed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding through the Texas Community Development Block Grant program to local communities for infrastructure improvements and repairs. Commissioner Miller is the state's leading advocate around the world for Texas agriculture, Texas-grown products and Texas-owned businesses. He oversees TDA's world-renowned GO TEXAN program — a marketing effort to showcase the best products, companies and communities that call the Lone Star State home. Since taking office, Commissioner Miller's passion to increase market exposure for Texas agriculture has led him and his staff to mount trade missions to Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina, Israel, China and every continent on the globe, except Antarctica.

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHIES

Brooke Paup

Director, Texas Water Development Board



Brooke Paup was appointed to the Texas Water Development Board by Governor Greg Abbott on February 22, 2018, and reappointed to a new term on February 6, 2019. Prior to her appointment to the Board, Paup served as the director of legislative affairs for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for the previous three years. While there, she led a team of legislative professionals to address statutory tax reforms. Paup is formerly the deputy division chief of intergovernmental relations and former special assistant for policy and research for the Office of the Attorney General, where she worked on legislative issues, special litigation, and public finance—notably House Bill 4 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 in the 83rd Legislative Session, which created the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT). Paup has 13 years of state government experience. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Symphony League, Wine and Food Foundation of Texas Auction Committee, and Doss PTA. Paup earned a Bachelor of Arts from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor from Texas Tech School of Law. She lives in Austin with her husband, Spivey, and their two children, Henry and Heidi.

Dr. Larry Schooler

Senior Fellow, National Civic League




Dr. Larry Schooler is an award-winning mediator, facilitator, and public engagement consultant. He helps governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations involve those affected by their decisions in the decision-making process. He also assists organizations with strategic planning, organizational development, and conflict management and resolution. Dr. Schooler teaches facilitative leadership at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is a senior fellow at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life; he's also a senior fellow for the National Civic League. He was the creator and manager of the City of Austin's public engagement division for eight years, and his team's work garnered attention from several organizations, including the National League of Cities and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Schooler also assists organizations with strategic planning, organizational development, and conflict management and resolution. He is also host and executive producer of "A View From You," a reverse town hall where panelists ask questions of the audience and collects input through phone calls, text messages, and social media. He is the author of a manual on effective facilitation of public meetings and a forthcoming book on involving the public in resolving major conflicts. He also co-hosts a podcast called "Resolutions" on conflict resolution and a new podcast called "Beyond the Town Hall" premiering later this fall. Most importantly, Dr. Schooler is the father of two and the husband of one. In his nonexistent spare time, he trains for and runs marathons and plays the piano.

LEGISLATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Representative Cody Harris


District 8, Texas House of Representatives



Cody Harris' conservative values are deeply rooted in Texas House District 8. His ancestors settled in Freestone County after the Civil War and his great-grandfather was the last operator of the Wildcat Ferry on the Trinity River between Anderson and Freestone counties. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Cody owns and operates Liberty Land & Ranch in Palestine, a statewide real estate brokerage firm. He is an active member of the Texas Association of Realtors, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program, and lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. As State Representative, Cody's priorities include securing the border, strengthening public schools, protecting farmers and ranchers and private property owner rights, lowering property taxes, shrinking the size of government and fighting for pro-life and pro-family values. Protecting farmers and ranchers is personal to Harris. During the 1980s, his family lost everything during the savings & loan and oil market collapse. The family leased a 100-acre tract of land outside Palestine and planted a crop of watermelon, corn, cucumbers and cantaloupe. They sold the produce on the side of the road to make ends meet and eventually recovered. Harris was elected to the House in 2018 and served on the House Natural Resources, Energy Resources, and Local and Consent Calendar Committees.

Representative Eddie Lucio III

District 38, Texas House of Representatives



State Representative Eddie Lucio, III has served seven terms representing Texas House District 38, covering the southwestern portion of Cameron County in the Texas Legislature. Before coming to the Texas House, he worked for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He serves as Chair of the Insurance Committee, and is a member of the Public Health Committee in the Texas House of Representatives. Previously, he served as Chair of the Rules & Resolutions Committee and served on numerous committees such as Calendars, Natural Resources, and State Affairs. Rep. Lucio attended Texas Tech University on an athletic scholarship before receiving his BBA and a law degree from the University of Texas. During his service in the Legislature, Representative Lucio has worked on legislation that is essential to the development and long-term interests of South Texas. He was instrumental in the creation of the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. He authored legislation to empower foster children by giving them a voice in their placement. He fought to secure passage and funding of the State Water Plan. Rep. Lucio has also authored and passed legislation creating cost-neutral pre-kindergarten for Cameron County school districts and has continued his work in keeping families and victims of domestic violence safe. Rep. Lucio has received accolades from various professional and community organizations including: "Legislator of the Year Award for Legislative Excellence" by the Texas Public Health Association and the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas' "Best of the House" award. In addition to his law practice, Rep. Lucio is a small business owner that has worked to bring his passion for fitness to the Rio Grande Valley. He became a franchise owner for Orangetheory Fitness in 2017 and has now opened two locations in Brownsville and Harlingen. Rep. Lucio is extremely humbled by the faith and support of the people of District 38 and is committed to continue bringing about progress for the Rio Grande Valley.

LEGISLATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Representative Andrew Murr

District 53, Texas House of Representatives

Representative Andrew Murr was first elected in 2014 to represent District 53 in the Texas House of Representatives. The district includes Bandera, Crockett, Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, Medina, Menard, Real, Schleicher and Sutton Counties. An eighth generation Texan, he was raised on a ranch in Kimble County, and attended school in Junction. Representative Murr attended Texas A&M University, receiving a bachelor degree, summa cum laude, in Agricultural Development with an emphasis in economics and policy. Following graduation, he worked toward his master's degree at A&M and earned his teaching certification, completing his student teaching in Mason. He subsequently graduated with highest honors from Texas Tech University School of Law. In 2008, Representative Murr was elected Kimble County Attorney. However, he was appointed to the position of County Judge, due to a vacancy, before he was sworn in. In his term of office, he slashed county spending by 31% by cutting waste and inefficiency. Representative Murr continued to serve as Kimble County Judge until late 2013, when he announced his candidacy for state office. Representative Murr is also the past Chairman of the Concho Valley Council of Governments Executive Committee, was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to Concho Valley Regional Review Board, and is a past president of the Kimble- Edwards Farm Bureau Board of Directors and Junction Rotary Club. He serves as a member of the Kimble County of Historical Commission and the Kimble County Youth Show. He is also a proud member of the State Bar of Texas, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, and the National Rifle Association. During his tenure in the House, he has served on the Transportation Committee, Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee, Rules and Resolutions Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee, State Federal Power and Responsibility Committee (Vice Chair), Local and Consent Calendars Committee, Select Committee on Mental Health, and the Select Committee on Opioids and Substance Abuse. In September 2015, Representative Murr was appointed as one of only two House members to the Texas Judicial Council. Representative Murr lives on the family ranch in Junction and raises cattle. He also owns a small business, Telegraph Title Company, and maintains a general law practice. Murr is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Junction.





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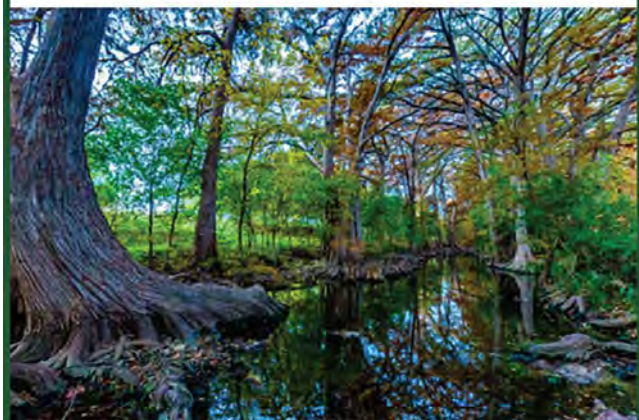
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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Natalie Ballew

Manager of Groundwater Technical Assistance, Texas Water Development Board

Natalie is manager of the Groundwater Technical Assistance team at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), which provides technical information and support to public clients regarding groundwater resources and statewide water planning. She previously worked as a hydrogeologist on both the Groundwater Technical Assistance and Groundwater Availability Modeling teams at the TWDB and spent some time at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality working on U.S.-Mexico water issues. Natalie has a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of Southern California, and has an M.S. in Energy and Earth Resources and an M.P.Aff in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin.



Allen Berthold

Senior Research Scientist, Texas Water Resources Institute

Dr. Allen Berthold is a senior research scientist at the Texas Water Resources Institute, where he has worked since 2009. During his time at the institute, Allen has served in leadership roles for water-related projects in both agricultural and urban settings across Texas. Allen has been involved in research programs focused on identifying potential savings by making advanced metering infrastructure data available to homeowners and on understanding the challenges water utilities face nationwide. Currently, he is a member of a team of researchers identifying alternative sources of water for agricultural production in the Rio Grande Basin and how those sources can most efficiently be used. Allen received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Leadership and Development in 2008, a Master's degree in Water Management and Hydrological Science in 2010, a certificate in Nonprofit Management in 2013 and a doctorate in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications in 2014 from Texas A&M University.



Brian Bohm

Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Apache Corporation

Mr. Bohm is a Texas registered Professional Geoscientist with a Master's Degree in Geology from the University of Missouri Columbia, and an Executive MBA in Energy from the University of Oklahoma. He has spent the last twenty years working on water resources related projects for the Oil and Gas industry as both a consultant and operator. He has worked on water resources projects in the major US unconventional plays as well as assessed water projects in several international plays. His focus has been on minimizing the use of fresh water resources, reducing industry competition with traditional sources of municipal and agricultural water thru the identification of alternative water sources and by optimizing reuse of oil and gas waste products including produced water. Brian has been with Apache Corporation since 2017 working on a variety of water resources projects focused on the Permian Basin. While working at Apache he has funded an aquifer vulnerability analysis for the Cretaceous Aquifers supplying the San Solomon Spring Complex being performed by Bureau of Economic Geology and the National Cave and Karst Research Institute. He has also worked on brackish water development projects in the Delaware Basin focused on sourcing water from the Rustler Aquifer for oil and gas operations.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Troupe Brewer

Principal, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend P.C.

Troupe is a partner at Lloyd, Gosselink, Rochelle & Townsend P.C. His practice focuses on assisting clients on a broad range of water-related issues, including permitting, water rights, water resource management and development, regulatory compliance, litigation and governmental relations. Prior to joining the firm, Troupe served as the committee clerk for the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce during the 83rd Legislative session, and more recently worked as an attorney in the Environmental Law Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



Jason Coleman

General Manager, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District

Jason has served as General Manager at High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) for the past seven years. He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. Jason has the privilege of serving in groundwater management for the past 20 years, and is grateful to have a wonderful wife and two daughters. Jason says that one of the most rewarding aspects of this job is helping landowners understand and conserve the water they own. He is supported by a great board of directors and staff at HPWD, who are all engaged in the pursuit of groundwater conservation.



Andy Donnelly

Senior Hydrogeologist, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

Andy Donnelly is a senior hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates. He has over 30 years of experience in groundwater investigations, specializing in hydrogeologic analysis and groundwater resources research, groundwater modeling, and water-supply investigations. Mr. Donnelly has conducted several state-wide groundwater resource evaluations which have included the assessment of the geology, hydrogeology, and water quality of all of the state's major and minor aquifers, including work on the brackish groundwater resources across Texas. He provides technical assistance to multiple groundwater conservation districts across the state, and has worked with most of the GAMs that have been developed by the TWDB. He was a member of the TWDB GAM team for several years, where he provided technical review of all of the GAMs and assisted numerous groundwater management areas and groundwater conservation districts with GAM runs related to joint groundwater planning.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

William Dugat

Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP



William D. “Bill” Dugat III is an attorney with the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP. He has been a partner since 1995 and served as the Managing Partner for the firm for 17 years. Mr. Dugat practices in the area of water and environmental law, public law, and administrative law. He represents and advises groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, and municipalities before state and federal agencies with emphasis on water and environmental issues. He is outside general counsel for several ground water conservation districts and a river authority. Mr. Dugat earned a BBA in Management from Texas A&M University, an MBA from the University of Missouri, and a JD from the University of Texas. He is Board Certified in Administrative Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. After graduating from Texas A&M University, Mr. Dugat served as a Minuteman Missile Launch Officer in the United States Air Force. While on duty he earned his MBA. After four years in the United States Air Force, Mr. Dugat attended law school and upon graduation, served as a briefing attorney for the Austin Court of Appeals. He has been an attorney at Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP for 32 years. He and his wife Kathy have been married 40 years and have two grown sons and three grandsons.

Ty Edwards

General Manager, Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District



Ty Edwards has been with the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District 7 years and was named General Manager in January of 2017. He currently serves as the Chair for GMA 3 and a member of GMA 7. He also serves as a voting member for Region F Planning Group as well as member of TAGD and serves on the Legislative Committee. Prior to that he spent 6 years working for Spring Branch Water Well installing and servicing all types of water wells from Domestic to Irrigation wells in Texas and New Mexico. Ty was born and raised on a small farm West of Fort Stockton. He and his wife have 3 children; Natalie (12 years old); Ella (8 years old); Raylan Joe (6 years old) and are the 5th generation born and raised in Fort Stockton. He is a Son of the Republic of Texas and has a long family history in Texas dating back to 1823.

Greg Ellis

Attorney at Law, GM Ellis Law Firm PC



Currently in a solo law practice, Gregory M. Ellis has been practicing water law and been involved in water issues for over a quarter century. While still in law school in the mid-eighties, he helped clerk the House Natural Resources Committee and worked on a variety of water legislation. After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988 and admission to the Bar in 1989, Ellis worked as legislative liaison for the Texas Water Commission. In 1992 Ellis moved to Houston to serve as General Counsel to the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District (now the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District). The Edwards Aquifer Authority, working to start up operations in 1997, tapped Ellis as their first General Manager, a position he held until October 2004 when he left to start his solo law practice. In addition to representing subsidence district and groundwater conservation district clients across the State, Ellis serves as Board Secretary and General Counsel to the Texas Water Foundation, a non-profit corporation that provides water conservation education throughout the State. Ellis is well versed in groundwater law, groundwater conservation districts, the Open Meetings Act, the Public Information Act, the Public Funds Investment Act, the Public Funds Collateral Act, local government law, and administrative law and procedures.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

John Ellis

Supervisory Hydrologist, USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center



John Ellis is currently a Supervisory Hydrologist with the USGS Oklahoma–Texas Water Science Center. He began his USGS career in 2014 at the Oklahoma Water Science Center leading a hydrologic investigation and numerical modeling of the Canadian River alluvial aquifer in cooperation with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. John’s subsequent projects included the North Fork, Rush Springs, and Washita River aquifer studies and models focused on integrated surface water and groundwater resources. In 2019, John moved to the Houston area to serve as the Hydrologic Studies Section Chief. In this capacity, he works with a variety of cooperators to investigate issues related to water quality, land subsidence, and groundwater level changes. John holds a B.S. in Geology from The University of Texas at Dallas, a M.S. in Environmental Science from Hardin-Simmons University, and a M.S. in Hydrogeology from The University of Alabama.

Adam Friedman

Partner, McElroy, Sullivan, Miller and Weber



Adam is a Partner with McElroy Sullivan, which has one of the largest energy practices in Texas. Adam is an energy and environmental lawyer with an emphasis on water-related matters, representing landowners, large companies, and environmental groups before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Railroad Commission, multiple Groundwater Districts and in District Court. Adam has challenged multiple salt water disposal wells and surface disposal facilities, counseled multiple large operators on regulatory compliance for wastewater reuse in the oil field, and also represents a major solar energy producer regarding land use and construction disputes. Adam has become very fond of West Texas and is a strong advocate for visiting Big Bend and all State and National parks.

Billy Gamblin

Groundwater Resources Supervising Engineer, WSP USA



Mr. Gamblin serves as a Groundwater Resources Supervising Engineer at WSP USA and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arizona. With a Master’s degree in Engineering from University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor’s degree in hydrology from Tarleton State University, Mr. Gamblin has more than 25 years of experience in the Water Resources Engineering field specializing in public water well design, and permitting. Mr. Gamblin remains active in several water industry organizations serving on the Board of Directors for the Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA-Immediate Past President) and having served on several group’s groundwater committees. Mr. Gamblin’s well field development experience includes the design, permitting, and installation of Well Fields for the City of Amarillo and the Colorado River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA). Mr. Gamblin has worked with multiple Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) and incorporated GCD criteria for permitting into the formation of well designs and well construction documents. Mr. Gamblin has successfully defended permit applications in multiple GCD contested case hearings.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Trey Gerfers

Board Chairman, Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District

San Antonio native Trey Gerfers has served as Board Chairman of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District in Marfa since 2018. He became interested in water issues as a volunteer with the Big Bend Conservation Alliance and the Tierra Grande Chapter of the Master Naturalists. Fluent in German and Spanish, Mr. Gerfers is a professional translator of regulatory documents for the German and Swiss pharmaceutical and medical sciences industries. He also serves as President of the Marfa Parks and Recreation Board.



Ronnie Hopper

Director, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District

Ronnie Hopper is a life resident of Hale County, Texas who farms with his son, R N, in the Petersburg area. He has lived on the same farm since birth. Ronnie currently serves as a Director of the High Plains Underwater Water Conservation District, and as its representative to GMA-2. He also serves on the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Board. Ronnie graduated from Texas Tech University with a BS in Agronomy in 1969. Ronnie has received a number of awards including the Blue Legacy Award, Southwest High Cotton Award, Hale County Outstanding Conservation Farmer and Texas Tech Outstanding Agriculturist. He has served on a number of Boards including the Cotton Board, Texas Cotton Producers, National Cotton Council, Plains Cotton Growers and Plains Land Bank. Ronnie and R N are no-till farmers with a strong interest in soil health and regenerative agriculture. They are co-operators with the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation, Texas Tech University, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and NRCS.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mike Keester

Senior Project Manager & Hydrogeologist, LRE Water

Mike earned his B.A. in Philosophy (1996) from Oklahoma Baptist University and his M.S. in Geology (2002) from Oklahoma State University. Mike began his career as hydrogeologist in 2003 focusing on groundwater flow and determination of availability with respect to quantity and quality as well as regulatory limitations. He joined LRE Water in 2017 where he is a Senior Project Manager. During his career Mike has worked for clients seeking to utilize groundwater resources within groundwater conservation districts and for districts working to effectively manage the resources. Drawing upon his diverse experience, Mike has assisted in considering and developing strategies for utilizing and managing groundwater resources within the regulatory framework of GCDs.



Nicholas Kenny

Agricultural Engineer, NPK Ag, LLC

Nich Kenny is an Agricultural Engineer with a broad background in irrigation and water-related topics. Kenny is the owner of NPK Ag, LLC, an engineering consulting company in Mesa, Arizona, providing contract services to agricultural entities on water and agronomic topics. Kenny's current work leans toward on-farm research and demonstration work, identifying practical items that ag producers can quickly implement to improve production and economics, primarily through improved efficiency. Kenny began a formal effort with the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District in 2018 to contribute to the District's demonstration projects. He is currently engaged with the District on work at the Water Conservation Center north of Dumas.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah Kinkle

Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association



Sarah Kinkle joined the Texas Water Conservation Association in January 2020. Previously, Sarah was Director of Policy and Planning at Texas 2036, a new think tank focusing on long-term policy changes needed to maintain the state's economic prosperity by our state's bicentennial in 2036 and beyond. There Sarah helped develop the organization's initial policy approaches across a range of policy areas. Before that, Sarah was a Review Director with the Sunset Advisory Commission, where she worked for nearly 13 years. In that role, she used her broad-based knowledge of state government to positively impact the performance of state agencies, making government work smaller and smarter. In her role at Sunset, Sarah worked closely with members of the Sunset Commission and the Legislature, state agencies, and other stakeholders to make state government more efficient and effective. She was a member of the executive management team and oversaw multiple, simultaneous teams of analysts to provide policy direction and ensure high-quality analysis. 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.

Tom Koenke

Rancher/Attorney, Ellis, Koenke & Ramirez L.L.P



Thomas Koenke has been a practicing attorney for 42 years and cofounded the Ellis, Koenke & Ramirez L.L.P law firm. Mr. Koenke has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Juris Doctor Degree from Baylor University. He is board certified in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and was elected to the Intralegal Network of International Lawyers in 2002. In addition to practicing law, Tom Koenke has been an active participant in the conservation of wildlife habitat and historical structures. He also operates farming and ranching interests in Colorado and Texas. Tom was a founding member of the Valley Land Fund, a non-profit land trust in South Texas, and the Images for Conservation Fund, a non-profit organization formed to foster protection of wildlife habitat through nature photography. Tom Koenke has served as a Director of Los Caminos del Rio Inc., Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation, and the Museum of South Texas History. An avid conservationist, Tom has also participated in the Trust for Public Lands' National Land Counselor Program.

Robert Mace

Executive Director, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment



Robert Mace is the Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and a Professor of Practice in the Department of Geography at Texas State University. Robert has over 30 years of experience in hydrology, hydrogeology, stakeholder processes, and water policy, mostly in Texas. Before joining Texas State University in 2017, Robert worked at the Texas Water Development Board for 18 years, ending his career there as the Deputy Executive Administrator for the Water Science & Conservation office. While at the Board, Robert worked on understanding groundwater and surface-water resources in Texas; advancing water conservation and innovative water technologies such as desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, reuse, and rainwater harvesting; regional and state water planning; and protecting Texans from floods. Prior to joining the Texas Water Development Board, Robert worked nine years at the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin as a hydrologist and research scientist. 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 at Austin.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Erika Mancha

Manager of Innovative Water Technologies, Texas Water Development Board

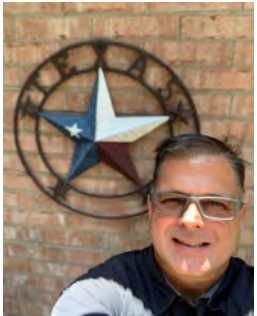
Erika Mancha currently leads the Innovative Water Technologies Department at the Texas Water Development Board. She joined the agency in 2013 and has been with same department for those seven years. Her focus is water reuse and desalination. She received her B.S. in Engineering from Smith College in Massachusetts and an M.S. in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at El Paso.



Kelly Mills

Assistant Director, Water Availability Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Kelly is the Assistant Director of the Water Availability Division at TCEQ. He supports the water rights permitting and watermaster programs and facilitates groundwater protection activities as the Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee. Kelly has been with the TCEQ for 27 years with responsibilities to facilitate and administer the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, conduct groundwater conservation district performance review and implement the priority groundwater management area program. Prior to his current position, he was the Groundwater Planning and Assessment Team Leader for eight years, and a member of that team for the rest of his service. Kelly received a Bachelor of Science in Geoscience/Geology from Texas Tech University in 1985. He is a licensed Texas Professional Geoscientist.



Trey Mixon

Natural Resource Manager, Nestle Waters North America

Trey Mixon is the Natural Resource Manager for Nestle Waters North America (NWNA) in Texas. An environmental engineer for nearly three decades, Mr. Mixon's role at NWNA is to ensure sustainable business continuity through excellence in natural resource management, stewardship, and conservation thereby creating shared value for consumers. Prior to NWNA, Mr. Mixon worked for several prominent engineering firms, most recently serving as Senior Engineer at TITAN Engineering, Inc. where he was responsible for aquifer data review, design, specification, permitting of production borehole, equipment, appurtenances and monitoring plans for NWNA and other clients' Public Water Systems. NWNA's Texas region currently includes three spring sites and four factories spanning north, northeast, and southeast Texas. As the Natural Resource Manager, Mr. Mixon's role includes leading and/or supporting local community engagement, facility permitting, resource monitoring, operations, reporting, source search and recharge area protection.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Melissa Mullins

Environmental Education Specialist, Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research



Melissa Mullins coordinates outreach for the aquatic research center at Baylor University, where her job is to connect the science and researchers at the center to general audiences. Programs include after-school girls science clubs at local elementary and middle schools, the monthly Baylor Aquatic Science Series that takes CRASR researchers into classrooms across the country, and a monthly Meet-the-Scientist water quality testing event for families visiting the Mayborn Museum. She works with partners such as Project WET (Water Education Today) to provide high quality professional development for educators, and with Texas Stream Team to train and support Citizen Scientists. She has a B.S. in Biology from the University of Kentucky and an M.S. in Environmental Biology from Baylor University and serves on the Board of the Informal Science Education Association of Texas.

Wade Oliver

Senior Hydrogeologist, INTERA Inc.



Wade Oliver is a Senior Hydrogeologist and the Manager of Houston Operations at INTERA Inc. in Houston, Texas. He is a licensed professional geoscientist focusing on the characterization of groundwater systems, the development and application of flow models to analyze these systems, and groundwater management in Texas. Wade works with both public and private sector entities including groundwater conservation districts, state agencies, oil and gas companies, and water suppliers. Prior to joining INTERA in 2012, he was a geoscientist with the Texas Water Development Board where he worked closely with groundwater conservation districts across Texas. He has a B.S. in environmental geoscience from Texas A&M University and an M.S. in geology from the University of Utah.

Stacey Reese

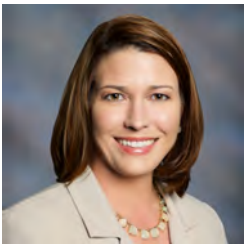
Attorney, Stacey Reese Law, PLLC



Stacey Reese has her own boutique firm in Austin, Texas where she focuses on water law and water-related litigation. Stacey serves as general counsel to groundwater conservation districts and represents private clients in all facets of groundwater litigation including permitting issues, takings claims, contested case hearings and administrative appeals. Stacey's litigation practice also includes high stake business and commercial disputes.

Janet Rummel

Public Relations and Communications Officer, North Texas Municipal Water District



Janet Rummel is the Public Relations and Communications Officer for the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) – a regional provider of wholesale water, wastewater and solid waste services for 1.8 million people. She's originally from the Houston area and received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Texas State University in San Marcos. Janet has 17 years of experience in Public Relations for water utilities, including 12 at Colorado Springs Utilities prior to joining NTMWD in 2015. She has led public relations for a number of major water infrastructure projects, including the \$1.6 billion new reservoir NTMWD is building in Fannin County. Her award-winning work has been recognized by the American Water Works Association and Texas AWWA. Janet, her husband, and two daughters live in Rockwall, Texas.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Sahs

Attorney, Mary K. Sahs, P.C.



An honors graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, Mary operates a solo practice under the name Mary K. Sahs, P.C. For more than 30 years, she has focused her practice on the areas of water and environmental law. She served as a Hearings Examiner and then as the Public Interest Counsel at the Texas Water Commission. Later, she was an associate with Gardere & Wynne, L.L.P. From there, she started her own firm in 1995. Ms. Sahs has written and spoken extensively on water and environmental issues. She is the managing editor of *Essentials of Texas Water Resources*, currently in its sixth edition. She was selected by her peers for inclusion in Woodward/White, Inc.'s 2009 through 2020 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, for her work in the practice area of Water Law and has been a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas since 2001 and a fellow since 2011.

Drew Satterwhite

General Manager, North Texas & Red River Groundwater Conservation Districts



Drew earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He started his career working for the North Texas Municipal Water District in Research and Development and later moved to the Engineering Department focusing on construction projects at their Water Treatment Plants. In 2013, he joined the Greater Texoma Utility Authority where he is now the General Manager of the Authority, as well as General Manager of the North Texas GCD and Red River GCD.

Bridget Scanlon

Senior Research Scientist, Bureau of Economic Geology, UT Austin



Bridget Scanlon is a Senior Research Scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin. She received her BSc from Trinity College, Dublin, MSc from University of Alabama, and PhD from University of Kentucky. She has published extensively. Her early research focused on quantifying recharge in semiarid regions using a variety of groundwater and unsaturated zone techniques in the U.S. High Plains and other regions. More recently she has been evaluating managed aquifer recharge in the southwest U.S. as an approach to managing floods and droughts. She is a fellow of GSA and AGU and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Jennifer Smith

Attorney, SledgeLaw Group LLP



Jennifer has been an attorney with SledgeLaw Group for five years. Her practice focuses on assisting clients with legal and public strategies counsel on a broad range of water-related and environmental issues, as well as employment law issues. She assists numerous water supply districts, groundwater conservation districts, cities, water utilities, private and public companies, and landowners in all phases of environmental regulation and in employment law matters. Jennifer previously practiced as an attorney for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), representing the agency's Executive Director in contested cases on water and landfill permits, petroleum storage tank regulation, and a variety of enforcement matters. She subsequently practiced employment law at the TCEQ, advising agency staff on personnel issues, including implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Jennifer also served for 13 years as the Communications Director and Media Representative for a large non-profit organization in Austin. Jennifer received both her bachelor's degree and law degree from Baylor University.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Lynn Smith

Professional Geoscientist/General Manager, Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District



Lynn graduated from Tarleton State University with a Master's in Environmental Science and subsequently spent a few years at Texas Parks and Wildlife before joining the group that eventually became Collier Consulting, Inc. He served in many capacities there, initially as a hydrogeologist and ending as a geophysicist. He is a licensed in Texas as a Professional Geologist – Geophysics specialization. He has worked as a consultant in all the aquifers and regions of Texas and in portions of thirteen other states. Lynn has been the General Manager at Mesquite GCD for more than five years. While here, he has had the opportunity to serve in several outside capacities within TAGD and most recently on a TCEQ Review Panel. Most importantly, he has a beautiful wife and two sons, aged four and six.

Deborah Trejo

Partner, Kemp Smith LLP



Deborah C. Trejo is a partner in Kemp Smith's Public and Environmental Law Department focusing on representing governmental entities and private clients in administrative matters and in trial and appellate proceedings before state and federal courts. Ms. Trejo specializes in groundwater issues, open government, regulatory takings, endangered species, elections, water quality, constitutional issues, enforcement, permitting and litigation.

Matthew Uliana

Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA Inc.



Matt Uliana is a hydrogeologist with nearly three decades of experience and progressive responsibility leading and supporting geology, hydrology, environmental regulatory compliance, and water resource related consulting projects. He holds a BS degree with a double-major in Geology and Anthropology from James Madison University and masters and doctoral degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, and he is a registered Professional Geoscientist in Texas and Louisiana. Dr. Uliana specializes in physical and chemical hydrogeology, computer modeling of groundwater flow, groundwater supply and dewatering studies, low-temperature aqueous and isotope geochemistry, surface-water hydrology and groundwater-surface water interactions, groundwater contamination assessments, surficial processes, and general earth science. Dr. Uliana has performed geologic and hydrologic assessments, aquifer testing and analysis, aqueous geochemistry investigations, groundwater contamination assessments, geological assessments and reservoir mechanics for permitting of waste disposal injection wells, groundwater and geochemical modeling, state and federal regulatory compliance oversight, and expert witness testimony. He has also authored and coauthored numerous groundwater reports and peer-reviewed publications, and he has over seven years of experience teaching and conducting academic research at the university level.

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