



2021

# TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country • San Antonio, TX • August 31-September 2

## AGENDA

### Day 1 – Tuesday, August 31

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

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

**1:00pm – 3:30pm Welcome Address**

Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

#### **Advances in Texas Water Data**

Richard Wade, Deputy Executive Administrator of Texas Natural Resource Information System, Texas Water Development Board

#### **The Future is Now – Enforcing DFCs Panel**

Moderator: John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Science and Conservation, Texas Water Development Board

Dirk Aaron, General Manager, Clearwater UWCD

James Beach, Principal Hydrogeologist, Advanced Groundwater Solutions

Kristen Fancher, Attorney, Fancher Legal

#### **Rural Land Trends and What They Mean for Groundwater**

Roel Lopez, Director, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

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

**3:30pm – 4:00pm Afternoon Break** (Sponsored by INTERA)

**4:00pm – 5:30pm Overruling the Rule of Capture: Lessons from 10 Other States**

Gabriel Collins, Baker Botts Fellow in Energy and Environmental Regulatory Affairs at Baker Institute, Rice University

#### **Ownership in Place and the Future of Groundwater Litigation**

Amy Hardberger, Director, Texas Tech University Center for Water Law & Policy

#### **Keynote Address**

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

**5:30pm – 6:30pm Welcome Reception** (Sponsored by Halff Associates)



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## Day 2 – Wednesday, September 1

**7:45am – 8:15am**    **Breakfast** (Sponsored by Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District)

**8:15am – 10:00am**    **Welcome Address**  
Zach Holland, President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

### **Investing in Groundwater's Future Panel**

Moderator: Sarah Schlessinger, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Water Foundation  
Meredith Allen, General Manager, Sutton County UWCD  
Vanessa Escobar, General Manager, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District  
Steve Walthour, General Manager, North Plains GCD

### **Legislative Debrief Panel**

Moderator: Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts  
Trent Hightower, Assistant General Counsel, Texas Rural Water Association  
Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Conservation Association  
CJ Tredway, Consultant, Texas Oil & Gas Association

**10:00am – 10:30am**    **Morning Break** (Sponsored by INTERA)

**10:30am – 12:00pm**    **Keynote Address**  
Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Water Development Board

### **Legislator Remarks**

Representative Rhetta Bowers, District 113, Texas House of Representatives  
Senator Sarah Eckhardt, District 14, Texas Senate  
Senator Drew Springer, District 30, Texas Senate

### **Flexibility Considerations of the American Recovery Plan Act and Texas Water**

Carlos Rubinstein, Principal, RSAH2O LLC

**12:00pm – 1:30pm**    **Luncheon** (Sponsored by Water Grows)

**1:30pm – 3:00pm**    **Breakout Track A – Groundwater Fundamentals for Board and Staff**

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

### **The Nuts and Bolts of Chapter 36**

Greg Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm

### **Technical Tools in the GCD Toolbox**

Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo



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## Day 2 – Wednesday, September 1 (continued)

1:30pm – 3:00pm

### **Breakout Track B: Aquifer Mapping and Modeling Tools for Decision-Making** **Mapping and Modeling Faults in the Middle Trinity Aquifer**

Michelle Sutherland, Groundwater Resource Engineer, Michelle Sutherland LLC

### **Leveraging Technology to Provide Enhanced Access to Groundwater Models**

James Schneider, Technical Leader, Olsson Associates

### **Groundwater Data Analysis and Visualization – Understanding and Communicating the Status of Your Aquifers**

Micaela Pedrazas, Hydrogeologist, LRE Water

### **Breakout Track C: Addressing Challenges in Groundwater Management**

#### **GCD and County Tools for Addressing Growth**

Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet GCD

#### **District Dilemma: Mandates, Monitoring, and Finding Funding to Pay for It All**

Trey Gerfers, Board President, Presidio County UWCD

#### **Groundwater Well Assistance Program: A Public Benefits Tool**

Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist, Post Oak Savannah GCD

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Afternoon Break** (Sponsored by INTERA)

3:30pm – 5:00pm

### **Breakout Track A – Groundwater Fundamentals for Board and Staff**

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

#### **The Nuts and Bolts of Chapter 36**

Greg Ellis, Attorney, GM Ellis Law Firm

#### **Technical Tools in the GCD Toolbox**

Amy Bush, Hydrologist, RMBJ Geo

### **Breakout Track B: Expanding Our Understanding of Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction**

#### **Analytical Tools for the Regional Evaluation of Surface Water-Groundwater Interactions**

Bill Hutchison, Independent Groundwater Consultant

#### **Development of a Geochemical Framework to Characterize Complex Aquifer Recharge-Discharge Relations**

Rebecca Nunu, Scientist, Southwest Research Institute

#### **Brazos River Streamflow Depletion Due to Alluvial Well Pumping**

Jordan Furnans, Vice President-Texas Operations, LRE Water

### **Breakout Track C: Groundwater Management Game**

*\*This game simulates the challenges and tradeoffs in balancing groundwater supply and demand. Space is limited – learn more and reserve your spot [here](#)\**

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

Dan Mueller, Senior Manager, Environmental Defense Fund



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**5:00pm – 6:00pm**    **Reception** (Sponsored by Edwards Aquifer Authority)

**7:00pm – 10:00pm**    **Texas Groundwater Summit's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**  
 Sponsored by:  
 Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District  
 Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District  
 Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District  
 Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District

## Day 3 – Thursday, September 2

**7:45am – 8:15am**    **Breakfast** (Sponsored by Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District)

**8:15am – 10:15am**    **More With Less: What Agriculture Can Do to Save Water**  
 Dana Porter, Agricultural Engineering Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**The Future of Produced Water and the Texas Produced Water Consortium**  
 Venki Uddameri, Professor & Director of Water Resources Center, Texas Tech University

**After Twin Oaks: Last 5 Years of Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects Panel**  
 Moderator: Neil Deeds, Vice President-Southern Region, INTERA  
 Charles Schoening, Principal-in-Charge, Arcadis  
 Shauna Fitzsimmons Sledge, Partner, SledgeLaw Group  
 Brian Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist, Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District  
 David Smith, Principal Scientist, CDM Smith

**10:15am – 10:45am**    **Morning Break** (Sponsored by INTERA)

**10:45am – 12:15pm**    **Keynote Address**  
 Senator Charles Perry, District 28, Chairman of Senate Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs Committee

**Legal Issues Panel**  
 Kimberly Grinnan Kelley, Associate, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta  
 Natasha Martin, Shareholder, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody  
 Monique Norman, Attorney, Monique Norman Attorney at Law  
 Cole Ruiz, Associate, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend