



*Milam &
Burlison Counties*

GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

*August 18, 2022
9am-4pm*





MILAM AND BURLESON COUNTIES
**GROUNDWATER
 SUMMIT**
 AUGUST 18, 2022
 CALDWELL CIVIC CENTER



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Leah Martinsson, *Executive Director*, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

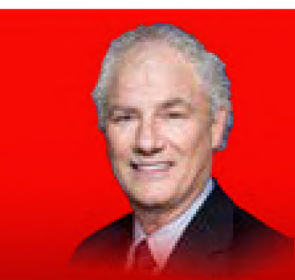
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|----------------------|--|
| 9:00 - 9:10 | WELCOME Honorable Steve Young, <i>Milam County Judge</i> |
| 9:10 - 10:05 | PLANNING FOR WATER NEEDS IN TEXAS
Wayne Wilson, Region G Regional Planning Group
Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers
Sarah Backhouse, Texas Water Development Board
Gary Westbrook, POSGCD General Manager |
| 10:10 - 11:05 | AQUIFER SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN
Robert Mace, Department of Geography at Texas State University
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Director of EDF's Texas Water Program
Carlos Rubinstein, Texas Water Foundation |
| 11:05-11:15 | BREAK Educational videos playing |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
Leah Martinson, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Robby Cook, Consultant Eichler and Cook LLC
Sarah Kirkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs – TWCA |
| 12:00 12:30 | LUNCH: RECOGNITION OF SERVICE Gary Westbrook, <i>General Manager</i> , POSGCD |
| 12:30-12:40 | WELCOME BACK Honorable Keith Schroeder, <i>Burleson County Judge</i> |
| 12:45 - 1:15 | STATE OF THE DISTRICT
Ward Roddam, <i>Board</i> , POSGCD
Gary Westbrook, <i>General Manager</i> , POSGCD |
| 1:20-2:15 | STATUS OF OUR AQUIFERS/DFC COMPLIANCE & MONITORING UPDATE
Steve Young, <i>Hydrogeologist</i> , Intera
Bobby Bazan, <i>Water Resource Management Specialist</i> , POSGCD
Michael Redman, <i>Regulatory Compliance Specialist</i> , POSGCD |
| 2:20 - 4:00 | WELL INFORMED/WATER TEST RESULTS John Smith, <i>Texas A&M AgriLife</i>
BEST SEPTIC PRACTICES Ryan Gerlich <i>Texas A&M AgriLife</i> |
| 4:00 | CLOSING Leah Martinsson, <i>ExDirector</i> , TAGD |



The Honorable Judge Schroeder

Burleson County Judge

County Judge Keith Schroeder of Burleson County served as precinct two commissioner for eight years between 2011 and 2018. Schroeder began his term as Burleson County Judge in 2019 to complete the unexpired term of the previous County Judge. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1996 after attending Bryan High School. Keith is from Bryan, TX but currently lives in Caldwell and is married to Rhonda Groce Schroeder. The Schroeder's have three children.



The Honorable Judge Young

Milam County Judge

County Judge Steve Young of Milam County has 25 years of courtroom experience and over 40 years of business experience as a rancher. A native of Cameron, Young attend Sharp School, Caldwell High School, Blinn College, University of Houston and South Texas College of Law. He worked at Southern Pacific Transportation Company beginning in 1972 as a Telegrapher Clerk. He continued working his way from a Train Dispatcher, Locomotive Fireman. After 16 years with SP, Young attended U of H and Law School starting his law career in 1993. He married Lynn Forney Young thirty years ago, has two children and resides on his ranch in Tracy, Texas. Steve is also an avid photographer and enjoys photographing local sports, local civic events and wildlife.



Leah Martinsson

Executive Director

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Leah joined TAGD as the Executive Director in March 2019. She recently relocated to Texas from Colorado, where she was a practicing water rights attorney for over 15 years. In her legal practice, she has represented the interests of a wide range of water users – from municipal water providers to agricultural well users. In addition to obtaining new water rights and protecting existing rights for her clients, Leah also participated in Colorado's statewide water planning process and associated water-related legislation. She has been active in Colorado's efforts to develop alternative methods to permanent transfers of agricultural water to meet growing municipal demands, including the development and implementation of a temporary land fallowing – water leasing program. Leah obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and her law degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder.



Ward Roddam

Board Vice President

Post Oak Savannah GCD

Ward Roddam has lived in Milam County for the majority of his life. Growing up in Minerva, Texas, Ward and his wife of 32 years, Kathyne now live in Rockdale, Texas, where they raised their three daughters, Katie, Kassie and Kourtney. Ward graduated from Rockdale High School in 1982. After attending Sam Houston State University, Ward graduated with an Associates Degree in Behavioral Science from Bastyr University. Ward worked 20 years for Alcoa Rockdale Operations in various roles as an hourly employee and in management positions. Following the close of Alcoa Rockdale Operations, Ward has spent the last 12 years as a Health and Safety Manager in both the Oil and Gas Industry and the Industrial Services Industry. Ward has been an active member of the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Department since June of 1989 and has served as Fire Chief for the City of Rockdale for the past 12 years. Ward considers himself a dedicated public servant having also served on the Rockdale Volunteer EMS, as a director on the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, and Chairperson of the RISD New Schools Development Committee.



Tony Smith

*Water Resources Engineer
Carollo Engineers*

Tony Smith is a water resources engineer with 24 years of experience leading projects investigating water supplies, modeling water availability, and performing analyses of environmental flows and their relations to the ecological health of estuarine and instream systems for clients throughout Texas. He currently serves as the project manager of the technical consultant teams for the Region D and Brazos G regional water planning groups, and as project engineer for the development of the State of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Water Plan. Mr. Smith serves as a TWCA Board Member and member of the Trinity-San Jacinto and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Expert Science Team.



Wayne Wilson

*Chairman Brazos G Regional
Planning Group*

Wayne Wilson is chairman of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group and has served on the group since 2004. Brazos G is charged with developing a comprehensive regional water plan covering a 37 county planning area, which is incorporated into the State of Texas Water Plan. Wayne also serves on the HB 4 Stakeholders Committee, charged with establishing uniform standards for the prioritization of water projects by the regional water planning groups. He served on the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District for 12 years and was involved in the District's inception, confirming election, management and rules process. While on the Groundwater District Board, he served in various positions including Chairman and represented the Groundwater District on Groundwater Management Area 12. Wayne currently serves on the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors. He was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott in February 2019. He has previously served as a director for Capital Farm Credit, ACA and Chairman of Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach. Wayne owns and operates Wilson Cattle Company, a diversified stocker operation near Wheelock. Wayne is actively involved in his church and in his community through various civic and non-profit organizations. Wayne's favorite activity is spending time with his three grandchildren.



Sarah Backhouse

Manager Regional Water Planning Dept.
Texas Water Development Board

Sarah Backhouse is the Manager of the Regional Water Planning Department at the Texas Water Development Board. Sarah oversees the state's regional water planning program. This includes providing technical and administrative assistance to regional water planning groups, administering regional water planning grant contracts, disseminating planning data, and coordinating a variety of stakeholder activities. She has over 15 years of experience in water resources planning and data analysis in the public sector. She has a BA in Geography from the University of Texas and an MS in Environmental Management from the University of Nottingham.



Gary Westbrook

General Manager
Post Oak Savannah GCD

A Milano native, Gary Westbrook graduated from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education. He has served as the General Manager for Post Oak Savannah GCD since its beginning in 2003 and is the POSGCD's representative on Groundwater Management Area 8 & 12. He also serves as a local Pastor in the United Methodist Church, and is the owner of Westbrook Angus Farms founded 50 years ago by Gary and his father, the late Garland Westbrook. Gary served as President of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts from 2005 to 2007 and currently represents Groundwater Management Area 12 on the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. In his community, Gary was a School Board Trustee for 13 years, and Past-President of Milam County Community Foundation.



Carlos Rubinstein

Board Member

Texas Water Foundation and RSAH₂O, LLC

Rubinstein is the Principal member of RSAH₂O, LLC – an environmental consulting firm with strong emphasis on water issues. Rubinstein served as chairman of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) from 2013-2015. He also served as the Texas representative to the Western States Water Council, and the Border Governors' Conference Sustainable Development worktable. Rubinstein served as a commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from 2009–2013. Rubinstein is a former member of the Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group, the Governmental Advisory Committee, which advises the EPA Administrator on environmental concerns regarding NAFTA, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation; and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.



Robert E. Mace, Ph.D.

*Deputy Executive Director of
The Meadows Center for Water
and the Environment*

Robert Mace is the Deputy Executive Director of 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, hydro-geology, stakeholder processes, and water policy, mostly in Texas. Before joining Texas State University in 2017, Robert worked at the Texas Water Development Board for 17 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; 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 Hydro-geology from The University of Texas at Austin.



Steve Young

*Principal Geo-scientist/Engineer
Intera Incorporated*

Steve Young is a Principal Geoscientist with INTERA, Inc in Austin Texas. He holds advanced degrees from Stanford University and the University of Waterloo. Dr. Young has worked for over 20 GCDs and currently serves as Post Oak Savannah GCD hydrogeologist. His expertise is with characterizing and modeling groundwater flow through aquifers. Dr. Young is a Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist. He is also a board member for the Texas Desalination Association and a member of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Water Well Drillers Advisory Council.



Vanessa Puig-Williams

*Director of EDF's Texas Water
Program*

Vanessa Puig-Williams is Director of EDF's Texas Water Program, where she is leading EDF's efforts to advance sustainable groundwater management in Texas. Prior to joining EDF, Vanessa was the Executive Director of the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association, a landowner organization focused on protecting property rights and groundwater resources in the Hill Country. As a water and environmental attorney, Vanessa has advised landowners and nonprofits on issues related to land and water conservation and practiced in the environmental division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Vanessa received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 2006.



Bobby Bazan

Water Resource

Management Specialist

Post Oak Savannah GCD

In the role of Water Resource Management Specialist for Post Oak Savannah GCD over the past 9 years, Bobby Bazan oversees the aquifer science programs and serves as a liaison to the public to help understand the groundwater resources of Burleson and Milam counties. Bobby coordinates the efforts of the Monitoring Network which collects and maintains data on aquifer water levels throughout the District. He also manages the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP), a program designed to increase the knowledge of aquifer characteristics while assisting well owners with cost assistance of lowering pumps in response to accelerated water level drawdowns. Prior to his arrival at the District, Bobby worked as a hydrologist with the US Forest Service – Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, CO doing research in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. He earned a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Systems Management and a Masters of Science in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences, both from Texas A&M University – College Station.



Michael Redman

Regulatory Compliance

Specialist

Post Oak Savannah GCD

Michael Redman Michael began working at POSGCD in July 2022. Michael received a Bachelor's of Science in Biology: Environmental studies and a Master's in Business Administration from Schreiner University. Michael worked at Bander County River Authority & Groundwater District from June 2013 to June 2020 where he served as the Region J Representative and he served as the Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 9 Designated Representative. From June 2020 to June 2022, Michael worked at Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District where he served as the GMA 10 Chairman and he served as the Region K Representative for GMA 10. Michael is responsible for reviewing permit and well applications. Michael works with documentation and permits to ensure compliance with District Rules and State Law.



Sarah Kinkle

Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Texas Water Conservation Association

Sarah Kinkle is the Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs with 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. Previously, Sarah 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.



Robby Cook

Consultant

Eichler & Cook, LLC

Robert L. "Robby" Cook, III served on Texas House of Representatives beginning in 1996, and subsequently re-elected for five successive terms. Robby served on numerous committees, sub-committees, and task forces. He also served the National Conference of State Legislators and American Legislative Exchange Council. Robby is also a Public Policy Fellow of the 2002 University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution training program. Robby was chosen by his peers as the "Freshman Legislator of the Year" for his work during the 75th Legislative Session. He served on House Natural Resources, Land and Resources Management, and Agriculture and Livestock committees. Robby has been involved in most of the major legislative and policy changes Texas has seen in the areas of water planning and development. During the 75th legislative session Senate Bill One. During the 79th legislative session Robby Authored HB 1763, which altered the process by which groundwater conservation districts manage the aquifers in the state. Robby currently is a partner in the government affairs consulting firm Eichler & Cook, LLC.



John Smith

Extension Program Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife

John Smith is and AgriLife Extension Program Specialist from the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences. He specializes in water management and sustainable agriculture, and an expert in water wells for the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program and Rainwater Harvesting programs.



Ryan Gerlich

Extension Program Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife

Ryan Gerlich is an AgriLife Extension Program Specialist from the Texas A&M Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He specializes in On-site Wastewater and Sewage Facilities and teaches education programs to provide homeowners with information and resources to make informed decisions when selecting, operating, and maintaining their septic systems.

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Steven Wise, Director

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