

PIPES, PEOPLE, PAVEMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WATER IN THE HILL COUNTRY



PEOPLE:



Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County. Sarah Eckhardt became Travis County's first female county judge on January 1, 2015. After receiving her Master of Public Affairs and law degree from the University of Texas at Austin, Sarah worked for eight years as an Assistant Travis County Attorney. In 2006, she was elected to represent Precinct 2 on the Commissioners Court. She serves on the Transportation Policy Board of CAMPO.



Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, City of San Antonio, District 5. In her three terms on the Council, she has championed multi-modal transportation, affordable housing, child abuse reduction, economic development, and a Vision Zero initiative - a citywide program that uses education and smart-street design to help achieve zero traffic fatalities. On her recommendation, the City of San Antonio adopted NACTO guidelines for complete, safe streets into their Unified Development Code.



Chris Schreck, Director of Planning and Economic Development, CAPCOG. Chris is the Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Capital Area Council of Governments, where he provides strategic and technical support to local governments throughout the Austin region. He manages a small team focused on helping governments use data to make intelligent decisions about economic growth, land use, transportation, and workforce development. He is an alumnus of both Georgetown University and the University of Texas.



Grant Fisher, Water and Data Director, Pecan Street. Grant manages Pecan Street's water and data operation. Prior to joining the organization, he was a project manager for Sony Electronics where he led the installation efforts of Sony Home Energy Management Systems. Grant has also worked as a Technology Project Manager where he worked on technology efforts, big data, visualization, and water projects for governmental agencies throughout the US.



Fred Arce PE, Vice President HDR Engineering, and Water Committee Chair, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Arce has served for 12 years as Vice President-Client Development Leader of the south central Texas region for HDR Engineering. Prior to his tenure at HDR, Arce served 14 years at the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) in various capacities including Manager and Director of Water Resources and Conservation, Project Manager, and Marketer.

MORNING KEYNOTE: *One Water in Texas: Growth as a Water Source*



Sharlene Leurig, Chair, Austin Water Forward Task Force and Project Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. Sharlene Leurig is a sustainable water finance expert with experience in long-range planning, infrastructure finance and water transactions. She specializes in innovative water infrastructure finance and environmental water transactions. Sharlene serves on the Board of Directors of the Hill Country Alliance and is Chair of the task force overseeing the City of Austin's 100-year integrated water plan.

PAVEMENT:



Hank Smith PE, Principal / Owner, Texas Engineering Solutions, an Austin-based professional consulting firm specializing in civil engineering, land development, municipal engineering, and construction phase services. With over 35 years of experience, he is skilled in both the design and regulatory aspect of water and wastewater systems, drainage design and project management. He developed the Technical Guidance Document for the Edwards Aquifer and was appointed by the State of Texas to help write the rules for the Wastewater Design Criteria.



Karen Bishop, Senior Supervisor, San Antonio River Authority. Karen Bishop is the senior supervisor of the stormwater unit for the San Antonio River Authority. Under Interlocal Agreement with the City of San Antonio, she also serves as project manager of the new \$10 million water quality projects component of the City's Edwards Program.



Ana Aguirre, Chair, Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, City of Austin. In 2015, Council Member Garza appointed Ms. Aguirre to the Flood Mitigation Task Force as one of two members to represent District 2 in response to the 2013 Halloween Flood. The report also took into consideration the 2015 Memorial Day and October Floods. She has lived in Austin since 1992.



Nancy Pappas, Managing Director, New Braunfels Utility. Nancy Pappas is the Managing Director of New Braunfels Utility's Headwaters at the Comal, a restoration project where people can learn, have fun, experience nature and better understand the long history of people and the spring ecosystems of Texas. Currently, she serves as the President of the Comal Trails Alliance and is an elected member of the Comal Appraisal District Board.



Chris Herrington PE, Supervising Engineer, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department. Chris manages the Data Analysis and Decision Support Section of the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, and is the ex-officio representative of the department on Austin Water Forward Task Force. He coordinates with a multidisciplinary team of biologists, hydrogeologists and engineers that conduct a wide range of environmental monitoring, restoration projects and data analysis.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: *Innovative water solutions and how to make them reality*



George Hawkins, Founder, Moonshot LLC, and Former CEO and General Manager, DC Water. George Hawkins launched his leadership and innovation-focused consulting business Moonshot LLC after stepping down as CEO and General Manager of DC Water, where he served for eleven years, including several as a Board member. DC Water's innovations ranged from award winning Green Infrastructure and a \$500 million investment in clean energy, to patents for new treatment technologies that require less energy and chemicals, but achieve better results.

PIPES:



Graham Moore PE, Executive Director, Alliance Regional Water Authority (Formerly Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency). Graham Moore is a licensed professional engineer with more than 20 years of experience. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Graham became the first Executive Director of the Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency, which is now known as the Alliance Regional Water Authority.



Robert Mace Ph.D., PG, Chief Water Policy Officer, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. Robert Mace is an Associate Director and the 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.



Lauren Ross Ph.D. PE, President, Glenrose Engineering. Lauren Ross is an environmental engineer in Austin, Texas. Her areas of expertise include water quality protection and engineering design, groundwater transport, solid waste management and disposal, environmental monitoring and litigation. Her work during the last twenty-five years has focused on design, monitoring, and protection systems for groundwater, surface water and soil.



Jim Walker, Director of Sustainability, UT Austin. Jim collaborates on sustainability initiatives across campus and with surrounding neighborhoods and the City of Austin. This includes facilitation of the President's Sustainability Steering Committee, campus planning initiatives, supporting resource conservation efforts and various Green Fee projects. He received his Master's in Community and Regional Planning from UT Austin last century, has worked on sustainability issues in Austin for over 20 years and will always share a cup of coffee to brainstorm the next cool idea.



Sarah Schlessinger, Executive Director. Texas Association of Groundwater Districts. She previously worked at the Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District, where she was the Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator. Sarah has experience with international non-profits with interest in water policy, and recently spent a year in peri-urban Haiti participating in the launch of an entrepreneurial alternative water infrastructure.

THE FUTURE OF COLLABORATION FOR WATER IN THE HILL COUNTRY:



Rep. Donna Howard, TX House of Representatives District 48. Representative Donna Howard has served in the Texas House of Representatives since 2006. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Calendars Committee, which sets the calendar for the House Floor. She is a key member of the House Appropriations Committee, and sits on its Article III Subcommittee which oversees education spending in the state budget.



Mayor Todd Purcell, City of Dripping Springs. Todd Purcell has served as the mayor of the City of Dripping Springs since 2000. Mayor Purcell is widely credited for numerous accomplishments during his tenure, including the creation of the Dripping Springs Ranch Park, the City's designation as a Dark Sky Community, the creation of three historic districts, and the City's conversion to its first sewer system.



Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County and Chair, AAMPO. First elected to public office in 2005 as San Antonio City Councilman for District 9, Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff's professional, military, and political career has always focused on public service. Wolff worked for over 20 years with private and Fortune 500 companies, and now, as the only Republican Bexar County Commissioner, is the County's strongest voice for fiscal conservatism.



Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County. Brigid came to Austin in 1988 to start the Texas chapter of Clean Water Action. Prior to that, she had been an award-winning journalist at NPR stations in Minnesota and Philadelphia. She served on the Austin city council 1993-1996 and championed consumer, electoral and environmental reforms. Shea is the co-founder of SOS, Austin's historic law to save Barton Springs, has been an advisor to LCRA, Seton, the City of Austin, etc. and her carbon-reduction work with a client won the TCEQ Environmental Excellence award.



Former Commissioner Will Conley, Hays County and Chair, CAMPO. Will Conley was first elected Hays County Commissioner in 2004, and has served as CAPCOG Chair. As Commissioner, Will was instrumental in finding cost-effective transportation solutions and securing millions of dollars to improve safety and traffic flow on Hays County roads and brought more than 10,000 new jobs to the county.

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