

13th Annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium

Presented by the Central Texas Water Efficiency Network



FROM DUST TO DELUGE: *Managing Water in Changing Conditions*

8:00 - 8:45

Registration & Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00

Welcome from San Antonio Water System

Robert R. Puente, President/CEO, San Antonio Water System

9:00 - 10:30

SESSION: PLANNING FOR POSSIBILITIES: CONSERVATION STRATEGIES, FORECASTS, AND TRENDS DURING DROUGHT

Moderator: Martha Wright, Senior Resource Analyst, San Antonio Water System

GPCD Trends Drought vs Non-drought Periods

Karen Guz, Vice Pres. of Water Conservation, San Antonio Water System

New Braunfels Drought Mitigation Strategies: Summer 2022

Andrew Cummings, Conservation and Customer Solutions Manager, New Braunfels Utilities

With La Nina's Demise, What's Next for Texas Weather?

Bob Rose, Chief Meteorologist, Lower Colorado River Authority

10:30 - 10:45 — Break

10:45 - 12:00

SESSION: WATER LOSS IN TEXAS: HOW MUCH WATER IS BEING LOST AND HOW COMMUNITIES ARE APPROACHING SOLUTIONS

Moderator: Jennifer Walker, Director, Texas Coast and Water Program, National Wildlife Federation

Hidden Reservoirs: Quantifying Water Loss in Texas

Alan Wyatt, Independent Consultant

SAWS Water Loss Data Analysis Case Study

Patrick Shriver, Interim Manager of Water Resources, San Antonio Water System

12:00 - 1:00 — Lunch & Networking

1:00 - 1:15

Texas Runs on Water – Building Water Knowledge

Brianna Fuller, Campaign Manager, Texas Water Foundation

1:15 - 1:45

Deep in the Heart - Communicating Water Conservation through Film

Josh Winkler, Producer, Fin and Fur Films

2:00 - 3:30

SESSION: LEVERAGING AMI DATA WHETHER YOUR PROGRAM HAS JUST STARTED OR IS WELL ESTABLISHED WITH MOUNTAINS OF INFORMATION.

Moderator, Blake Neffendorf, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Buda

Unlocking the Hidden Power of AMI Data

Christopher Tull, Project Manager, California Data Collaborative

Using Data and Portal Communications to Affect Customer Behavior

Jonathan Orenstein, Financial Manager, City of Austin

AMI Integration and Customer Outreach

Max Walther, Utility Superintendent, City of Pflugerville

Conference materials & slides will be posted at texaslivingwaters.org

Wed, Feb 22, 2023

San Antonio Botanical Garden

555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

CTWEN

Central Texas Water Efficiency Network

SPEAKERS



Robert R. Puente | *President/CEO, San Antonio Water System*

Robert R. Puente, SAWS President and CEO since May 2008, is the longest-serving leader of one of the nation's largest utilities delivering water and wastewater services to over 1.8 million consumers. During his tenure, SAWS has achieved the highest bond rating in its history, been named a Leading Utility of the World and constructed one of the largest inland desalination plants in the nation. Under Mr. Puente's leadership, San Antonio also has gone from being almost entirely reliant on the Edward's Aquifer for drinking water to experiencing the greatest diversification of its water supply in city history. Those efforts include the completion of the Vista Ridge pipeline, the most ambitious public-private utility partnership in Texas history, which provides San Antonio with 50,000 acre-feet of water annually. Prior to SAWS, Puente served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1991-2008 and was Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, where he was instrumental in crafting landmark legislation regarding water management.



Karen Guz | *Vice President of Water Conservation, San Antonio Water System*

Karen is the Vice President of Water Conservation for San Antonio Water System (SAWS). In this role she leads a team that deploys conservation programs for residential, industrial, and institutional customers resulting in over one billion gallons of savings each year. Outside of SAWS Karen has served on in roles that include the TCEQ Irrigator Advisory Council, the Smart Water Applications Team (SWAT) of the Irrigation Association, the board of the Alliance for Water Efficiency. Karen is currently the Presiding Officer for the Water Conservation Advisory Council which provides input on conservation progress for the Texas Legislature.

Karen has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has held a Texas irrigation license for 15 years.



Andrew Cummings | *Conservation & Customer Solutions Manager, New Braunfels Utilities*

Andrew has been with New Braunfels Utilities for since 2014 and is currently the Manager in the Conservation and Customer Solutions department. He has helped to further NBU's goal in emphasizing water conservation in the community by creating the "DIY Rain Barrels" presentation and has helped to develop an educational partnership between NBU, the City of New Braunfels' Westside Community Center, and the New Braunfels Food Bank. He is a Master Naturalist through the Lindheimer Chapter Master Naturalist program and holds an Irrigators license with the State of Texas. Outside of work, Andrew loves to spend time with his wife and two children and is an avid woodworker.



Bob Rose | *Chief Meteorologist, Lower Colorado River Authority*

Bob Rose is the chief meteorologist for the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Bob is responsible for daily and long-term forecasts for weather conditions and temperature affecting LCRA's power generation, electrical transmission, flood control and water supply operations. Bob has served as past president of the Central Texas Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Bob holds the seal of approval and the certified broadcast meteorologist award from the AMS. Bob is also a regular contributor to the National Drought Monitor and writes a daily blog about Central Texas weather which appears on LCRA's website.



Alan Wyatt | *Independent Consultant*

Alan S. Wyatt is a water supply engineer with over 40 years of experience in water supply, non-revenue water, benchmarking and performance assessment, project financial evaluation, private sector participation, operations & maintenance, water resources, climate change, and renewable energy in the USA and 25 other countries.

Mr. Wyatt has a Dual Bachelors Degree in American History and Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University, USA and Masters Degree in Water Resources Engineering University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. He is an active member of the International Water Association (IWA) Water Loss Specialists Group, the IWA Benchmarking and Performance Assessment (BPA) Specialists Group. He is also an active Member of AWWA and the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee (WLCC).



Patrick Shriver | *Interim Manager of Water Resources, San Antonio Water System*

Patrick Lee Shriver is a Water Resources Manager for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). He is currently leading the charge on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) for one of the largest and most innovative water utilities in the country. Patrick has provided 30 years of public service, spending 25 years at SAWS and the remainder in private practice focused on better places. He has supported projects and lead staff that have contributed to the development of alternative water supplies, various permitting/regulatory and complex multifaceted natural resources planning. He leads SAWS in quantifying and addressing NRW, a topic that is at the forefront of the water discussion across Texas. When not working you can find Patrick enjoying time with his family and friends, reading a good book for leisure, or wetting a fishing line at Texas' coastline.



Brianna Fuller | *Campaign Manager, Texas Water Foundation*

Brianna Fuller is the Campaign Manager for the Texas Water Foundation, leading the Texas Runs on Water statewide water campaign. She is an impact-driven communications strategist, previously working for Keep Texas Beautiful and helping to advance the Don't mess with Texas campaign. A fourth-generation Texan, Brianna is passionate about representing the people and places of this state and inspiring action through storytelling. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric and Writing from the University of Texas at Austin.



Josh Winkler | *Producer, Fin and Fur Films*

Josh Winkler is a Producer for Fin and Fur Films, a Texas based film production company specializing in conservation and adventure documentaries. His background includes work in outdoor education, non-profit consulting, adventure travel and film & photography. Born and raised in the Texas Hill Country, he spends his free time hiking, fly fishing, mountain biking and paddling with his fiancé Elena and their pup Teo. He currently volunteers his time as Board Chair at Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center.



Christopher Tull | *Project Manager, California Data Collaborative*

Christopher Tull is a public technologist, nonprofit leader, and data scientist serving as project manager for the California Data Collaborative, a nonprofit coalition of water supply agencies building community and technology to enable data-informed decision making for a sustainable water future. His award-winning work has been recognized by Bloomberg and the State of California, and has been published in peer-reviewed journals as well as top industry conferences. He has an M.S. in Urban Informatics from New York University and a B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics from CSU Channel Islands.



Jonathan Orenstein | *Financial Manager, City of Austin*

Jonathan Orenstein's nearly 8 year tenure with Austin Water includes his work in codifying water leak credits and unusual water consumption bill credits, refocusing efforts to identify, repair, and back-bill customers due to underperforming water meters, and implementing the WaterSmart customer portal in conjunction with the utility's city-wide AMI roll-out. Prior to working for the utility, Jonathan spent over 20 years in database management and software implementations.



Max Walther | *Utility Superintendent, City of Pflugerville*

Max Walther is the Utility Superintendent managing the City of Pflugerville's Water and Wastewater Line Maintenance division, which continually provides the reliable flow of water in and out of our homes and businesses. After spending over 18 years working in Utilities, Max knows what it takes to make sure the City's customers have access to safe, clean water and sanitation services by simply turning on a faucet or flushing a toilet. Max holds a Class A Wastewater Treatment Operator license and a Class A Water Operator license, Landscape Irrigator license, Customer Service Inspector license and a Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester license from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

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