

## Speaker Biographies

*Senator Perry will be the honoree of the VIP Reception on the evening of September 13.*

### Charles Perry, Texas State Senator



Senator Charles Perry, a practicing CPA from Lubbock, was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2014 after serving two terms in the Texas House of Representatives. A life-long West Texan, Perry is a movement conservative seeking to reduce waste and inefficiencies in government.

Senator Perry currently chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs. He was the first freshman to receive a chairmanship in the Texas Senate since 1993. He additionally sits on the Senate Committees on Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, and Higher Education.

In the previous legislative session, Senator Perry passed a total of 27 senate bills and 35 house bills, placing him in the top five senators for total number of bills passed. These bills included legislation to strengthen Second Amendment rights, protect our ballot box from voter fraud, stop the sale of illegal synthetic substances to our youth, and empower individuals with disabilities to save money and become more financially independent.

Additionally, Senator Perry led the fight to put a stop to sanctuary cities that violate the rule of law through granting de-facto amnesty to criminal illegal immigrants, causing public safety concerns statewide. As a strong fiscal conservative, he led the way to reduce frivolous government spending by authoring legislation to enact zero-based budgeting for state agencies and limit increases in our budget to population growth plus inflation.

Senator Perry grew up in the district he currently represents, graduating from Sweetwater High School in 1980. In 1984, he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and management information systems from Texas Tech University.

Kevin Price will deliver the keynote at the luncheon on September 13.



## **Kevin Price, Middle East Desalination Research Center**

Mr. Price started his career with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over 35 years ago as a researcher studying, at the time, the world's largest membrane desalination facility in Yuma, AZ. He later managed water treatment engineering and research for the agency and retired as the Coordinator of the Advanced Water Treatment Research Program.

He has been a strong advocate for research and innovation including service on the boards of the American Membrane Technology Association and the International Desalination Association, on the WaterReuse Research

Foundation's Research Advisory Committee, on the National Water Research Institute's Research Advisory Board, on the steering committee for the WHO Guidance Document on Desalination for a Safe Water Supply, as the U.S. Country Technical Representative for MEDRC, and working with European, Middle Eastern, North African, and Asian countries.

He was one of the two primary authors of the Desalination and Water Purification Technology Roadmap, managed the Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development Program, managed the Title XVI water reuse research program, and was responsible for the design, construction, O&M, R&D, and policy for Reclamation's Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility in Alamogordo, NM. He is particularly interested in issues surrounding water scarcity, water and peace, the values of water, the history of desalination, and advanced water treatment innovation through research and prizes.

*Listed alphabetically by last name.*

### **Carolyn Ahrens, Booth, Ahrens & Werkenthin**

Carolyn Ahrens practices law primarily in the areas of groundwater and surface water rights and regulation, water supply contracts, utility and environmental law including water quality. She also has been active in representing clients on legislative issues affecting water supply and regulation. At the state level, Ms. Ahrens is honored to serve on the board of the Texas Desalination Association as well as the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA). She also served on the National Board of Directors of the WaterReuse Association and chaired its National Legislative Committee. She chaired the American Water Works Association's Water Resources Sustainability Division and was a Trustee of the Water Environment Federation. Ms. Ahrens has received the TWCA President's Award, a 2012 President's Award from the WaterReuse Association and two Watermark awards for raising the public's level of understanding of Texas water issues. Ms. Ahrens is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a Fellow of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, a member of the Joseph Pritchard Inn, and a Founding Fellow of the Travis County Bar Foundation. For the International Young Lawyers Association, Ms. Ahrens served on the Executive Committee as National Vice-President for the United States, the highest office for national representatives.

### **Peter Bailey, PLW Waterworks**

Pete Bailey has more than 33 years of municipal construction and alternative delivery experience, including multiple major Texas projects since 2004. His expertise focuses on the delivery of design/build and collaborative solutions with an emphasis on complex, multi-faceted projects.

Mr. Bailey has successfully led the construction work on more than 20 alternative delivery projects in Texas over the past 15 years. During his career, he has managed the implementation of more than \$2 billion worth of construction. In Texas specifically, Mr. Bailey has contributed to the \$500M Austin WTP No. 4 project, the SJRA's \$180M WTP, and the City of Houston's \$1.6B Northeast Water Purification Plant Expansion.

### **Bech Bruun, Port of Corpus Christi**

Bech Bruun is a practicing water attorney with The Bruun Law Firm. A native of Corpus Christi, Mr. Bruun is the former Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB, to which he was first appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2013 and later appointed Chairman by Governor Greg Abbott in 2015. During Mr. Bruun's tenure the agency established the first of its kind "SWIFT" revenue bond program dedicated to financing projects identified in the Texas State Water Plan. Nearly \$8.2 billion has been committed for state water plan projects through the SWIFT program to date.

Prior to his service on the Board, Mr. Bruun served on the senior staff of Governor Rick Perry where he directed the office of gubernatorial appointments. He worked as the Government and Customer Relations Manager for the Brazos River Authority and also served as Chief of Staff to Texas State Representative Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi). Mr. Bruun holds a B.S. in business administration from The University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from The University of Texas School of Law.

## **Paul Choules, Water Cycle LLC**

Mr. Choules started his desalination career 37 years ago in Texas. Since then, he has worked in the areas of business development, permitting, start-up, commissioning, project management, and operating of reverse osmosis and thermal desalination plants around the world with industrial and municipal clients. Water Cycle provides consulting, representation and project development services to the water sector. Prior to starting Water Cycle, Mr. Choules was Senior Vice President at Water Standard, a leader and pioneer in water treatment for water-based IOR/EOR and produced water treatment/reuse. Prior to joining Water Standard, Mr. Choules served as a VP with Veolia where he led the development and execution of multiple projects in the industrial and municipal markets. Mr. Choules previously served as Weir Westgarth's regional VP for the Americas, contracting and constructing multiple water treatment projects for offshore O&G facilities. His career also includes 19 years of experience providing support to more than 250 desalination installations and developing and executing some of the first successful membrane desalination plants in the Middle East. Mr. Choules is the president of Texas Desalination Association and is Treasurer of the Caribbean Desalination Association.

## **Holly Johnson Churman, GHD Services**

Holly Johnson Churman is a Lead Water and Wastewater Engineer with GHD in Houston, Texas. Ms. Churman is dedicated to helping municipal and industrial clients solve complex problems, specializing in technology solutions and water management planning. Ms. Churman serves on the board of the Texas Desalination Association. She was the recipient of the International Desalination Association Fellowship Award in 2016, and is an active member of the IDA's Young Leaders Committee. Ms. Churman is a licensed professional engineer in Texas and West Virginia, and has earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Engineering and Science from Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively.

## **Steve Coffee, Produced Water Society**

Steve Coffee brings more than 24 years of professional experience to companies as a trusted provider of filtration and separation technologies for produced water in the oil and gas industry. Mr. Coffee is passionate about offering new solutions to the industry to increase production while reducing production costs and meeting environmental responsibilities for oil and gas production companies globally.

Having founded and lead various companies in the upstream oil and gas sector and in his current capacity he is the founder and operational leader within Enerscope Systems Inc., Enerscope Systems Malaysia and DesanderPro. While predominately in management roles, he has published articles in Oil & Gas Technology, Oil & Gas Agenda and World Oil as well as authored dozens of technical papers. Having played key roles in several product development teams over the years that have created many new products for the market, he is always pushing technology boundaries. Mr. Coffee was currently re-elected to the role of President of the Produced Water Society (Global Water Intelligence) and created their Young Professional Program as well as being an active member in the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), SPE's eMentor program, TUL NEL Produced Water Club, Neft Oil & Gas and acts as lead on several technical committees.

### **Jonathan Eller, PhD, GHD Services**

Jonathan Eller is an Environmental Scientist working out of GHD's Austin office. He brings a strong background in chemistry research to address important environmental and engineering problems society faces. Dr. Eller is interested in the treatment and management of water and developing integrated water solutions for the industrial and public sectors. Dr. Eller has recently been involved in the implementation and expansion of *Upstream Water*, an economic decision-making tool exclusively licensed by GHD.

### **Ronit Erlitzki, PhD, AdEdge Water Technologies**

Ronit Erlitzki is the Director of Business Development and Innovation at AdEdge Water Technologies. Dr. Erlitzki has more than 20 years of experience in biochemistry research, operations management and business development. As a research scientist, she published articles in peer-reviewed journals before starting a career in CleanTech business development with an emphasis on water and water technologies. Dr. Ronit earned her Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. Recently, she was invited to serve as a board member for H2OTech, a Water Innovation Cluster in the SE Region of the U.S.

### **Tim Finley, Texas Coastal Industries**

Tim Finley is a 1988 Civil Engineering Graduate and a 1991 Environmental Engineering Master's Graduate of the University of Michigan. Mr. Finley has spent the better part of his 27 year career with Dow working on many of the company's more challenging water and wastewater problems and projects. He has a passion for technology and real passion for understanding and improving water management both in manufacturing and in the natural system. Mr. Finley is currently a Global Water Technology Leader working as a subject matter expert in Dow's Environmental Technology Center. In this role, Mr. Finley has audited and partnered with Dow's operations and improvement staff at all of Dow's major sites around to globe.

Mr. Finley has provided critical knowledge and expertise to lead the conceptual aspect of water system design for numerous large projects, include the construction of a \$20 billion dollar chemical manufacturing complex in Jubail, Saudi Arabia and more than \$5 billion dollars of new production facilities in Freeport, Texas. He is well recognized in Texas as an expert in water supply and industrial water management, use and conservation and has spoken frequently on related topics to industrial groups, regulators and legislator.

### **Kyle Frazier, Texas Desalination Association, Executive Director**

Kyle Frazier is the owner of Kyle Frazier Consulting, Inc. where he has represented the legislative interests of his business clients since 2004. His clients' interests include water desalination, healthcare, alcohol regulation, and taxes. Mr. Frazier has been involved in politics and governmental relations for more than 30 years, having begun his career working for Governor Mark White as his Deputy Director of Appointments, advising the Governor on pending appointments to statewide boards, commissions and state agencies.

Mr. Frazier applied his statewide political experience to the private sector, where he became Director of Industry Affairs for the Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas. In this role, he was responsible for monitoring political activities for the association and lobbying efforts before the Texas Legislature and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Mr. Frazier joined the Schlueter Group, an Austin-based lobbying firm, in 1998 and there he continued to use his political experience and relationships to represent a diverse clientele before the Texas legislature, several state agencies, and numerous entities within the federal government. Mr. Frazier studied at Baylor University and maintains an active role in the Austin community, including service as the Board President of Keep Texas Beautiful and as a board member for the Woman's Advocacy Project.

### **David Galindo, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

David Galindo is the Director of the Water Quality Division. He has been in this position since June 2012. Mr. Galindo has been employed on several teams within TCEQ, Water Quality Division, since 1999. Most recently, Mr. Galindo held the position of Team Leader of the Standards Implementation Team. The Team is responsible for implementation of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards within wastewater discharge permits and conducting Section 401 State Water Quality Certifications of Federal Section 404 permits for dredge and fill projects. Prior to his team leader position, Mr. Galindo wrote Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits for various types of industrial process and manufacturing facilities. Mr. Galindo received a B.A. in Biology from The University of Texas at Austin.

### **Michael Gisclair, FEDCO**

Michael Gisclair is a Regional Sales Engineer for FEDCO based in Houston. Mr. Gisclair brings 20 years of experience in the engineering, sale, and construction of desalination plants and industrial water treatment systems. In that time, he supported internal and external customers in Europe, Latin America, and the United States while working for a wide range of companies including Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, Aquatech International Corporation, 3M Purification, and RWL Water before joining FEDCO in 2017. Prior to his career in water treatment, Mr. Gisclair was a licensed Third Assistant Engineer following completion of his B.S. in Marine Engineering Technology from Texas A&M University. Today, his work at FEDCO assists consultants, OEMs, and end users with identifying fluid energy solutions that increase the affordability of water.

### **Mike Hightower, UNM Center for Water and the Environment**

Mike Hightower served 38 years at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque and continues to mentor on energy and water issues. Mr. Hightower holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from New Mexico State University and has 40 years of experience in space, weapons, and energy and natural resources research and engineering. His focus in the past two decades has been on the use of distributed and renewable energy and water treatment technologies to enhance economic development, global public health, and infrastructure and natural resource security and resiliency. Since 2000, Mr. Hightower has actively supported the Departments of Interior, State, Defense, and Energy in establishing science and technology programs to address energy and water sustainability issues and interdependencies. These efforts have centered on advanced treatment and desalination of non-traditional water resources such as brackish groundwater, oil and gas



produced water, and power plant cooling water to efficiently and cost effectively reduce fresh water use and supplement fresh water supply availability in inland areas. Mr. Hightower has had numerous articles and reports published on desalination and energy/water interdependencies, including two Reports to Congress, an article in Nature, an Energy Water Food research roadmap for the National Science Foundation, and chapters in three books.

### **Melanie Holmer, Brown and Caldwell**

Melanie Holmer is Brown and Caldwell's Water Reuse Leader and has 20 years of experience in the strategic planning, design, and construction of major water, wastewater, and water reuse projects. Ms. Holmer focuses on advanced treatment technologies, regulatory and policy development, and research, including pilot and full-scale trials. Ms. Holmer serves as staff for California Urban Water Agencies and supports the CUWA Water Reuse Committee. She received her B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and her M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

### **Michael J. Irlbeck, EPCOR**

Since August 2015, Michael Irlbeck has served as the Business Development Director for EPCOR USA. EPCOR is one of the largest water utility companies in the Southwest U.S. and is an emerging leader in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) space.

Before joining EPCOR, Mr. Irlbeck served seven years as the Business Development Director for Abengoa Water, where he was responsible for building the company's American P3 business. Mr. Irlbeck has been instrumental in developing private financing solutions for water projects in Texas and the U.S., and was the commercial architect for the Vista Ridge Project contracted by the San Antonio Water System in 2014. Vista Ridge (\$928M) is the largest P3 water project in the U.S. Prior to Abengoa, Mr. Irlbeck served two years with NRS Consulting Engineers and 16 years with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Irlbeck earned a B.S. in Wildlife Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University.

### **Lawrence Kearns, Wheeler Kearns Architects**

Named as Chicagoan of the Year in Architecture in 2008 by the Chicago Tribune, Mr. Kearns focuses on cultural and education projects with ambitious social, economic, and environmental goals. He is a founding principal of Wheeler Kearns Architects, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. Mr. Kearns was inducted into the AIA National College of Fellows in 2016. A native Floridian, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Miami in 1985 and then left for Chicago to work for Skidmore Owings & Merrill. In the past four years, he has won nine InnoCentive challenges in multiple disciplines.

### **Cindy Loeffler, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Cindy Loeffler received a B.S. in Engineering from Colorado State University in 1984. After working with the USFWS Instream Flow Group for several years, Ms. Loeffler joined the TPWD Resource Protection Division as a coastal hydrologist in 1987. In 2001, Ms. Loeffler was named the Water Resources Branch Chief. Her duties now include managing the Water Quality and Water Quantity Programs and the coordination of Department response to water resource issues affecting fish and wildlife. Ms. Loeffler represents TPWD on the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat

Conservation Plan Stakeholder Committee, and the South Central Climate Science Center Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

### **Erika Mancha, Texas Water Development Board**

Erika Mancha currently manages the Innovative Water Technologies group at the Texas Water Development Board. She joined the agency in 2013 and 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. She also worked for approximately four years in land development for private consulting firms.

### **Jarrold Massam, Omya**

Jarrold Massam is the Water and Energy Director of Market Development and Innovation, for the region Americas. Dr. Massam holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and prior to joining Omya in 2016 located in Switzerland, he spent 15 years in the oil and gas industry working in Aberdeen, Scotland and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Recently he has relocated to Texas in his new role.

### **Ellen T. McDonald, Alan Plummer Associates**

Ellen McDonald is a principal at Alan Plummer Associates where she leads the water resources group. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Water Resources Engineering from Stanford University. Ms. McDonald has more than 30 years of experience in the areas of water resources planning, water reuse, water quality modeling and water and wastewater system modeling and planning. Ms. McDonald is a past president of WaterReuse Texas and is active on multiple water reuse committees in Texas and Oklahoma.

### **John Meyer, Texas Water Development Board**

John Meyer is a certified Professional Geoscientist in Texas and received B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Mr. Meyer has more than 30 years of professional experience including the Geological Survey of Wyoming industrial mineral program; the Research Planning Institute Texas regional stratigraphic analysis; the Railroad Commission of Texas Surface Mining Division coal and uranium permits; the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality groundwater nonpoint source and Public Drinking Water source water assessment. Mr. Meyer currently works at the Texas Water Development Board, Innovative Water Technologies, focusing on Texas brackish groundwater resources.

### **Joseph W. (Bill) Norris, P.E., NorrisLeal**

Bill Norris is a principal with NorrisLeal, LLC and has more than 37 years of experience in the research, planning, design, and project management of municipal and industrial water and wastewater facilities. He has served as Principal since founding NRS in 1988. Mr. Norris built the firm into a leader in the development of alternative water resources, developing the largest producing brackish groundwater desalination plant in Brownsville, Texas. Mr. Norris has helped to develop seven brackish groundwater desalination projects in South Texas. In addition to dozens of reports related to desalination around the world, he co-authored the Guidance Manual for Brackish Groundwater Desalination in Texas, a widely used planning document for Texas. He has been involved with the development of seawater



desalination in the Rio Grande Valley with the only two state-supported projects in Texas. He is currently involved in the development of processing concentrate into marketable commodities while increasing the water supply to the City of El Paso. Mr. Norris serves on Texas Desalination Association board. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M and his M.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering from The University of Texas at Arlington.

### **Dennis Owens, Charlton Resources**

Dennis Owens is a microbiologist and chemist with more 40 years of experience in bioremediation, chemical oxidation, heavy metal stabilization and treatment of water and wastewater in more than 33 countries. He is a Managing Partner in Charlton Resources Corporation and is a graduate of Texas Tech University.

### **Tom Pankratz, Water Desalination Report, GWI**

Tom Pankratz is an independent desalination consultant and the editor of GWI's weekly Water Desalination Report. He has served as an expert advisor on some of the world's largest and most technically complex desal projects and has been appointed to serve on committees by the National Academy of Sciences, World Health Organization, Middle East Desal Research Center, and Australia's Nation Center of Desal Excellence. Mr. Pankratz is a former vice president of CH2M Hill, having organized and been responsible for the company's desalination practice between 2001 and 2005. Prior to that, he was the Director of Corporate Projects for USFilter/Veolia Water. Mr. Pankratz has authored five water-related books, was chapter author of numerous other books and papers, and is a frequent speaker at desal and reuse conferences around the world.

### **Darrell S. Peckham, Peckham Consulting**

Darrell S. Peckham has 33 years of experience working with ground waters of Texas and is a second-generation Texas hydrogeologist. Currently, he is a board member and legislative subcommittee chair for the Texas Desalination Association. He also serves on the Permian Basin Water Management Council Advisory Team and is a founding member of the Texas Association of Groundwater Owners and Producers. After serving the State of Texas for 15 years, 12 years of private consulting and three years of directing activities of a non-profit, Mr. Peckham and his wife, Christine, created a "Mom and Pop" consulting firm, Peckham P.G., LLC. Mr. Peckham provides strategic planning, guidance, management, policy development and public practice of geoscience services for various entities. The primary business focus is environmental protection and prudent development of municipal, industrial, mining, agricultural, environmental and recreational water supplies in Texas. Peckham is a proud name associated with hydrogeology in Texas for more than 58 years.

### **Yuliana Porras-Mendoza, USBOR**

Yuliana Porras-Mendoza is the Advanced Water Treatment Research Coordinator for the Research and Development Office with United States Bureau of Reclamation. After 17 years with Reclamation, she is one of the Chemical Engineering experts in water treatment whose work expands from membrane development, testing of advanced water treatment technologies, to technology transfer. She holds a US Patent in the area of new membrane chemistries titled "Chlorine resistant amides, polyamides, and membranes made from the same" (US 9056284 B2, granted 6/16/2015). Ms. Porras-Mendoza's current role is to develop the advanced water treatment strategy for the Research and Development Office

within Reclamation and to manage and administer the Desalination and Water Purification Research (DWPR) Program. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, as well as an M.S. in Technology Commercialization from McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin.

### **Esteban (Steve) Ramos, City of Corpus Christi Water Utilities Department**

Esteban (Steve) Ramos is currently the City of Corpus Christi Water Resource Manager, in that capacity, he is responsible for development and implementation of water conservation activities and outreach projects to address water issues including projected water demands, water supply availability, water use assessments, watershed management plans and drought contingency plan. Mr. Ramos received his B.S. in Bio-Environmental Science from Texas A&M University in December of 2001. He began his environmental career with the City of San Marcos Water and Waste Department where he worked on their Geographic Information System and worked closely with their Integrated Utilities Billing system. From 2004 to 2011, Mr. Ramos worked in the Water Rights Permitting & Availability Section as a project manager, and from 2011 to 2016 as the South Texas and Concho Watermaster for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

### **Ross Ramsey, Texas Tribune**

Ross Ramsey is executive editor and co-founder of The Texas Tribune. Before joining the Tribune, Mr. Ramsey was editor and co-owner of Texas Weekly for 15 years. He did a 28-month stint in government as associate deputy comptroller for policy and director of communications with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Before that, he reported for the Houston Chronicle from its Austin bureau and for the Dallas Times Herald, first on the business desk in Dallas and later as its Austin bureau chief, and worked as a Dallas-based freelance business writer, writing for regional and national magazines and newspapers. Mr. Ramsey got his start in journalism in broadcasting, covering news for radio stations in Denton and Dallas.

### **Scott Reinert, El Paso Water Utilities**

Scott Reinert manages well drilling, water supply projects, and water resources planning for the El Paso Water Utilities. He has 25 years of experience in water resources and water supply projects as a hydrogeologist and civil engineer. He is the Vice Chairman of the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group, which is responsible for preparing the Far West Texas Regional Water Plan. Mr. Reinert is the Chairman for the Multi State Salinity Coalition, which promotes advancements in technologies for desalination and water reuse. Mr. Reinert earned a B.S. in geology at McMurry College and an M.S. in civil engineering from Colorado State University. He is a registered Professional Geologist and Professional Engineer in Texas and a registered Certified Scientist in New Mexico.

### **Carlos Rubinstein, RSAH2O, LLC**

Rubinstein is the Principal member of RSAH2O, LLC – an environmental consulting firm with strong emphasis on water issues, and a Senior Adviser to Poseidon Water. Mr. 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. Mr. Rubinstein served as a commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from 2009–2013.

Mr. 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 and of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, an independent federal advisory committee that assists the president and Congress on environmental infrastructure needs along the U.S. border with Mexico. He has also served as deputy executive director of TCEQ and as Rio Grande Watermaster. He is a former city manager for the City of Brownsville. Mr. Rubinstein received a B.S. in biology from Pan American University.

### **Steven Sanchez, North Alamo Water Supply**

Steven Sanchez is the General Manager at North Alamo Water Supply, and has been an integral player at the corporation for 42 years. Mr. Sanchez has worked in the maintenance, construction, distribution, production, and management areas at North Alamo. During his time in management, Mr. Sanchez has helped grow North Alamo from just over 3,000 connections in 1976 when he started to more than 42,000 connections today. In addition to serving on the board of the Texas Desalination Association, he is also an alternate board member with the Texas Rural Water Association for District 6. Mr. Sanchez is a B licensed Surface Water Operator, and continues his education with various water agencies such as TEEX-ITSI, Texas Rural Water Association, Texas Water Utilities Association, and many others. He has served on the local emergency planning committee for Hidalgo County to aid the community efforts towards preparation and readiness in the event of a disaster. Mr. Sanchez worked on the Comprehensive Evaluation Performance Team with TCEQ, where he was part of a team that visited and evaluated the operating facilities and budgets for different cities and provided them with feedback and guidance on improvements in the water facilities.

### **Miguel Angel Sanz, SUEZ**

Miguel Angel Sanz is Director of Strategic Development in SUEZ, Treatment Infrastructure Division, based in France. He joined the Degrémont group in 1983. He has been in several positions in the group in Spain and France as Technical Director, Desalination Manager, Proposal Director and Business Development Director. He is President of Board of Directors of IDA (International Desalination Association), and Director of AEDyR (Spanish Desalination and Reuse Association), being Vice President in both associations the last terms. He also served eight years in the board of Directors of European Desalination Society.

Mr. SANZ has more than 35 years of professional experience in desalination as well as in drinking and wastewater fields, in municipal and industry markets. He has been active in innovation and worldwide promotion of membrane desalination field, publishing more than 50 papers on desalination and water and wastewater treatments. He received an Industrial Engineer Master Degree received in 1981 from Bilbao High Technical School of Engineers.

### **Sarah Rountree Schlessinger, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts**

Sarah Schlessinger joined TAGD as the Executive Director in 2015. She previously worked at the Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District, where she was the Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator. There, Ms. Schlessinger was responsible for the research and development of

management strategies in Texas' regional water planning, participated in local and regional groundwater planning efforts, and served as a liaison to other government agencies, stakeholder groups and elected officials. Ms. Schlessinger 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. She holds a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in Political Geography and an M.S. in Water Science, Policy and Management from Oxford University.

### **Greg Sengelmann, Gonzales County UWCD**

Greg Sengelmann graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Geology (1982). He is a licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas (No 1762, and has more than 24 years of experience conducting environmental assessments and remediation projects for various environmental consulting companies and the Texas Department of Transportation. Mr. Sengelmann has served as the General Manager of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District since 2008. Mr. Sengelmann is a member of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts and a member (water district interest) of the South Central Regional Water Planning Group (Region L).

### **Saqib Shirazi, PhD, San Antonio Water System**

Dr. Saqib H. Shirazi is a project manager at San Antonio Water System (SAWS). He earned doctorate from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Lamar University, Beaumont, TX in 2005. He is a project management professional as well as a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas. Dr. Shirazi has more than 13 years of professional experience in desalination, water reuse, and advanced and conventional water and wastewater treatment. He served as a technical lead for the start-up and commissioning of SAWS brackish groundwater desalination facility and has published numerous articles on desalination and membrane filtration in various conference proceedings and scientific journals.

### **Brian Smith, PhD, Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District**

Brian Smith has been the Aquifer Science Team Leader and Principal Hydrogeologist at the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District since 2001. At the District, he has guided the science program to support policy makers in management of the aquifers within the District. Prior to working at the District, he worked for private consulting companies doing contaminant hydrogeology. Brian Smith has a Bachelor's degree from Rice University in Houston and a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin.

### **Kevin J. Spencer, R. W. Harden and Associates, Inc.**

Kevin Spencer is a hydrogeologist and President of R.W. Harden and Associates, Inc. He has more than 25 years of experience developing fresh and brackish groundwater resources, assessing the impacts of groundwater development, well field layout and design, development and evaluation of drilling and testing programs, and mining hydrology and geology. Mr. Spencer has been the principal investigator and project manager for the development of more than 35 million gallons per day of brackish groundwater from 40 public and industrial supply wells in Texas. Current and past projects have included evaluations of availability, cost, and impacts from an additional 40 million gallons per day of brackish groundwater. He has B.S and M.S. degrees in Geology from Baylor University, and is a Licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas, a Registered Professional Geologist in the

State of Mississippi, and a Certified Professional Geologist by the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

### **Eva Steinle-Darling, PhD, Carollo Engineers**

Dr. Eva Steinle-Darling is a Principal Technologist and the Reuse Innovation Manager with Carollo Engineers. Her work focuses on potable reuse, including research, planning, feasibility studies, and design. She has led more than \$1 million in reuse research and is advising the design teams for several direct potable reuse projects in Texas and California. She is also active in the WaterReuse Association, as President of the Texas Section, a member of the National Legislative and Regulatory Committee, and Chair of the National Reuse Symposium that took place here in Austin earlier this week.

### **Justin Sutherland, Carollo Engineers**

Justin Sutherland is a Principal Technologist with Carollo Engineers in Austin, Texas. He has 18 years of experience in applied research, design, and regulatory issues, including desalination, water reuse, and produced water. Mr. Sutherland currently serves on the board of directors for both the Texas Desalination Association and South Central Membrane Association. He earned a B.S. in chemical engineering, an M.S. in environmental engineering, and a Ph.D. in civil engineering, all from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

### **John Tintera, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers**

John Tintera currently serves the oil and gas industry as the President and Chief of Staff of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, the largest statewide oil and gas trade association in the nation. He is the former Executive Director of the Railroad Commission of Texas, and also the former President of the Texas Water Recycling Association. Mr. Tintera is a Geologist (PG #325), and the co-author of the 2014 White Paper, “Sustainable Water Management in the Texas Oil and Gas Industry”, sponsored by the Atlantic Council think tank. He is currently working on a 2018 update on this earlier work. Mr. Tintera is a political and regulatory expert on federal, state, and local oilfield regulations surrounding both energy production and water use.

### **Michael Turco, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, Fort Bend Subsidence District**

Michael Turco began his career in the water industry with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1996 at the Water Resources Division field office in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He worked on many surface water and groundwater data collection and research projects, including the development of several high-profile groundwater flow models, before taking the position of Chief Hydrologist of the Gulf Coast Program Office in Houston, Texas in 2004. From 2004-2013 he directed the USGS scientific research and data collection in the Gulf Coast region including the USGS response to hurricanes Rita and Ike, as well as the continued research and monitoring of subsidence in the Houston region. In September of 2013, Mr. Turco accepted the position of General Manager at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District.

As General Manager, he is responsible for the management of District operations, and for developing goals, strategies and policies necessary to implement the District’s legislated mandate. Mr. Turco holds a B.S. in Geology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and an M.S. in Geology (Hydrogeology Focus) from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Mr. Turco participates in the Region H planning

group, Groundwater Management Area 14, the Texas Water Conservation Association, the Texas Association of Groundwater Districts, and International Symposia on Land Subsidence.

### **Brent Waller, PetroH2O Recovery**

Brent N. Waller is the Co-Managing Partner of PetroH2O Recovery with operational and business development responsibilities for the U.S. Prior to co-founding PHR, Mr. Waller has developed, owned and operated for the past twenty years projects that include oil and gas, renewable wind, software and retail development. He spent seven years with a Forbes 100 private family investment office, developing oil and gas projects, water technologies and real estate. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech University.

### **Steven Walden, Water Resource Consultant**

Steve Walden has more than 38 years of experience in the Texas water arena. Under his leadership, TCEQ's Water Utilities Division was recognized nationally for innovation and collaboration. Mr. Walden is active in the Texas Section of AWWA, Texas Water Conservation Association, and is a current board member of the Texas Desalination Association. Mr. Walden has been honored with several water industry awards including AWWA's "Fuller Award" for lifetime contributions to the water industry in Texas. Following his 2003 retirement from TCEQ, he launched a consulting business with a focus on project management for university-based water research initiatives, assisting public water suppliers create efficient regulatory compliance strategies, and assisting water technology companies in creating and implementing growth strategies for Texas and the US. On a personal note, Mr. Walden enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and playing the blues harmonica at jam sessions.

### **Richard Whiting, Seven Seas Water Corporation**

Richard Whiting has more than 28 years' experience in the water industry, including 13 years as an expatriate based in Africa and Latin America. His civil engineering education led him to project manage both construction and consultancy projects before moving into business development, during which time he obtained an MBA and has been involved in the development of numerous P3 and concession contracts worldwide. Mr. Whiting moved to the United States in 2005 and joined Seven Seas in 2010, focused on developing desalination projects in the Americas while supporting other international efforts. He became a US citizen in 2016, and was appointed Chair of the AWWA's Desalting Committee earlier this year.

### **Kimberly Wilson, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Kim Wilson is the Director for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Water Availability Division. She began her career with the TCEQ's Water Quality Division, serving for more than 10 years in various positions including industrial wastewater permit writer, team leader for the Storm Water & Pretreatment Team, and Water Quality Division Special Assistant. She served for a short time as a Special Assistant in the Office of Permitting and Registration. Ms. Wilson joined the Office of Water as a Special Assistant when it was created in December of 2009, consolidating the agency's water monitoring, permitting, and planning functions – including water availability. Ms. Wilson has been the director of the Water Availability Division since 2015.



Ms. Wilson has a B.S. in Geography, Resource and Environmental Studies from Texas State University - San Marcos. She is also a graduate of TCEQ's Aspiring Leaders Program. Ms. Wilson served as board member for the Association of Clean Water Administrators, representing Texas' interests in federal water quality issues to the association and federal agencies.

### **Allen Woelke, CDM Smith**

Allen Woelke received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas and is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer. He has been a consulting engineer practicing in water supply and treatment for 39 years with the last 35 years at CDM Smith. Mr. Woelke was Project Manager for the Brazosport Water Authority's (BWA) Regional Water Facility Plan Study that was completed in 2013. This project was partially funded by the TWDB. The study recommended that BWA pursue brackish groundwater desalination in lieu of other firm water supplies. Mr. Woelke subsequently managed the effort to amend the Region H plan to include the brackish groundwater desalination in the State Water Plan. This allowed the BWA to apply for and obtain a SWIFT loan for the Brackish Groundwater RO facility. Mr. Woelke is serving and program manager for the brackish groundwater RO facility.

### **Steven C. Young, PhD, INTERA**

Steve Young is a Principal Geoscientist with INTERA Inc. in Austin. Dr. Young is a Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist. He is also a board member of the Texas Desalination Association and a member of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Water Well Drillers Advisory Council. Dr. Young's expertise includes aquifer characterization and groundwater modeling. He has work extensively in the Gulf Coast Aquifer System and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer.