



2025
GULF COAST
WATER CONSERVATION
Symposium

May 21, 2025 | Houston, Texas



PROGRAM

THANK YOU TO OUR *Sponsors!*

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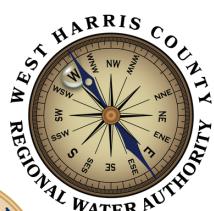
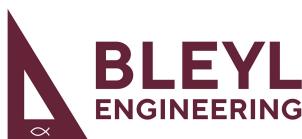
SILVER



**Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL**



BRONZE



GULF COAST WATER CONSERVATION *Symposium*

Thank you for joining us today! The Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium brings together local water utility and resource managers, engineers, architects, educators, communicators, and community members to learn about water resource management and water conservation, and provides information on implementing successful water conservation programs, funding opportunities for water conservation projects, engaging customers, and planning for the future.

We look forward to an incredible event and invite you to share your experience on social media using the hashtag #GCWCS25!

SYMPOSIUM MC



ASHLEY GREUTER, P.G.

Director of Research & Water Conservation, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District
Ashley manages the Science and Research Program focused on evaluating high-quality, relevant data to support the advancement of subsidence research and monitoring and oversees the District's award-winning Water Conservation Program. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, in Geology from the University of Florida, a Master of Science in Geological Sciences from the University of Massachusetts, is a licensed Professional Geoscientist in Texas and serves as the USA Affiliate for UNESCO's Land Subsidence International Initiative.

VENUE

SALON A

Location for Speaking Sessions

SALON B

Location for Breakfast & Lunch

PRE-FUNCTION

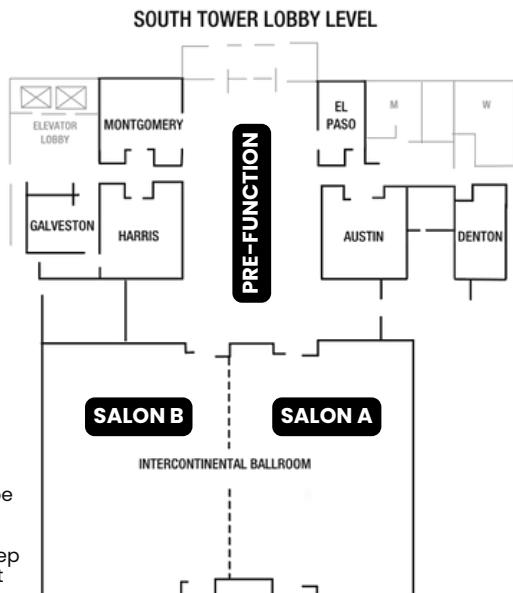
Location for Registration & Refreshments

PARKING

Complimentary parking is available in the self-service parking garage. Parking validation stickers will be given at the registration area upon registration. Lost parking tickets are subject to Marriott's \$50 fee. The event host is not responsible for lost parking tickets and is not responsible for any other types of parking accommodations.

MOBILE DEVICES

All mobile devices (cell phone, laptop, tablet, wearable technology, etc.) must be silenced with no vibration and put away during speaking sessions. If you need to use your mobile device, please quietly step outside the ballroom ensuring you do not disturb speakers or attendees.



Schedule

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

Pre-Function Area

Please show your photo ID or registration confirmation to pick up your name badge, welcome pack, and parking validation at the registration table. Your name badge must be worn at all times.

**We recommend that you store your validated parking ticket inside your name badge for safekeeping.*

8:30 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Salon B

After you have completed the registration process, enjoy a continental breakfast before the morning speaking sessions begin.

9:30 AM MORNING SPEAKING SESSIONS

Salon A

WELCOME REMARKS



MIKE TURCO

General Manager, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District & Fort Bend Subsidence District

Michael J. Turco obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and a Master of Science in Geology (Hydrogeology) from the University of Nebraska and began his career in the water industry with the U.S. Geological Survey, working on many water data collection and research projects throughout Iowa and Nebraska. In 2004, he moved to Houston, Texas, to be the Chief Hydrologist of the Gulf Coast Program until accepting the position of General Manager at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) and Fort Bend Subsidence District (FBSD) in 2013 with the goal of supporting our region's growth by protecting groundwater resources with reasonable and effective regulation backed by the best available science to ensure a sustainable water future, free from the impacts of subsidence. He is involved in many influential water groups, such as the Region H planning group, Region 6 Flood Planning Group, the Texas Water Association, and UNESCO's International Symposia on Land Subsidence.

WHY WATER ISSUES ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY



COMMISSIONER TOM RAMSEY, P.E.

Harris County Commissioner - Precinct 3

Commissioner Tom Ramsey holds over 45 years of experience as a Professional Engineer. He served as the Mayor of Spring Valley Village for 8 years and is now on his second term as County Commissioner for Precinct 3. As County Commissioner, he's responsible for 75% of unincorporated Harris County, which has more residents than the City of Houston. His office is responsible for the maintenance of 6,800 miles of roads, 72 parks, and 10 Community and Nature Centers. In 2023, he was named Engineer of the Year by Houston area engineering societies and received the Distinguished Graduate Award from Zachry Department of Civil and Environment Engineering at Texas A&M University. He was also named the 2024 Public Official of the Year by ASCE National.

DESALINATION – IS IT POSSIBLE?



CHRIS MUNSON, P.E.

Project Director - Black & Veatch

Chris Munson, P.E., is responsible for leading Black & Veatch's water team in Houston. He has over 25 years of experience in the evaluation and design of water and wastewater treatment facilities and is well-versed in managing large, multi-disciplinary project teams to successfully execute complicated water and wastewater projects throughout both design and construction. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1997 and a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering in 1998, both from Penn State, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Louisiana.



ROBERT D. UPTON, P.E.

District Engineer - Gulf Coast Water Authority

As the District Engineer at the Gulf Coast Water Authority, Robert D. Upton, P.E., oversees Engineering, Development Plan Review, and the Capital Improvement Program. Before GCWA, as the Director of Engineering and Public Works for the City of Pearland, he guided the Engineering, Capital Projects, Water and Wastewater Utility Services, and Internal Services Divisions. His experience includes water and wastewater design and construction, alternative contract procurement, project management, policy development, and implementation. He received a Civil Engineering degree from Northern Arizona University in 1996 and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Arizona.

PROTECTING TOMORROW'S WATER: UTILIZING LOCAL RESOURCES FOR LASTING CONSERVATION**DENISE MA***Water Conservation Program Coordinator, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District*

Denise earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from St. Mary's University and her Master of Arts in Education from Relay Graduate School of Education. She began her career as a high school Biology and AP Environmental Science teacher. Wanting to make a bigger impact in conservation and environmental sustainability, Denise joined the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District in 2023, where she supports the District's award-winning water conservation programs.

Keynote**CONSERVATION BY WAY OF SEA – MUNICIPAL DESALINATION FOR A TEXAS GULF COAST CITY****DREW MOLLY, P.E.***Chief Operating Officer – City of Corpus Christi*

Drew Molly obtained his Civil Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and is a licensed engineer in the state of Texas who maintains a Class A water license and Class D wastewater operations license. Drew has dedicated his career to ensuring safe and sustainable water resources, which has earned him the American Water Works Association's George Warren Fuller Award and Engineering News-Record's Top 25 Newsmaker.

REDUCING CONSUMPTION IN THE GULF COAST BY THE BILLIONS**JULIA FRANKOVICH, P.E.***Project Manager – BGE / North Fort Bend Water Authority*

Julia has over a decade of engineering experience encompassing a variety of projects from planning to design. Her primary focus is water planning for North Fort Bend Water Authority with an emphasis on reducing groundwater consumption through surface water delivery and promotion of reclaimed water use and water conservation to the northern Fort Bend County area.

**WHITNEY MILBERGER***Project Manager – BGE / North Fort Bend Water Authority*

Whitney primarily serves as the conservation and communications manager for the Authority. Her quest for over two decades has been to help educate the industry and community about actual plant water needs versus common perception. She also serves as the State's Landscape, Irrigation, and Horticultural representative for the Texas Water Development Board's Water Conservation Advisory Council.

12:00 PM LUNCH

Enjoy a delicious lunch buffet while networking with symposium participants. Be sure to check each table for participants' favorite water-saving tips and resource submissions!

Thank you to our Luncheon Sponsor, the Fort Bend Subsidence District!

**FORT BEND
SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT****1:00 PM AFTERNOON SPEAKING SESSIONS**

Continue to next page for more information about the afternoon speaking sessions.

ONE WATER PANEL DISCUSSION



MODERATOR: DR. MATTHEW BERG

CEO & Principal Scientist - Simfero

Matthew Berg is the CEO & Principal Scientist of Simfero, a science-based research and strategy firm located in Houston. He has over 20 years of experience working on numerous water resources issues in agency, academic, and private sectors. Dr. Berg enjoys leading conversations with elected officials and also teaching bilingual kindergarten classes how to dance out the hydrologic cycle. In addition to several national awards, he has been named to Houston Business Journal's 40 Under 40.



PANELIST: ZACHARY PETROV

Attorney - Johnson Petrov LLP

Zachary Petrov practices water law and has been involved in water issues for over a decade. As a law student, Zach worked for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation working on a variety of environmental legislation. He received his undergraduate degree in financial consulting from Southern Methodist University and juris doctorate from the University of Tennessee College of Law. After graduating from law school, he moved back to Houston and regularly provides counsel to local governments throughout the State of Texas on water issues and funding of water infrastructure.



PANELIST: SARAH GOSSETT ROBINSON

Program Manager - US Water Alliance

Sarah Gossett Robinson is a Program Manager at the US Water Alliance, a national nonprofit organization advancing policies and programs that build a sustainable water future for all. Sarah has a decade of experience working in water management. Prior to joining the Alliance, Sarah worked at Houston Water, where she developed and provided community programs aimed at improving Houston's water infrastructure and resiliency. She also worked at Galveston Bay Foundation, serving as the Water Programs Manager. Sarah graduated with a master's in natural resource management and a BS in environmental geosciences, both from Texas A&M University. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, and any activity that is on or near a body of water.



PANELIST: BOB STOKES

President & General Counsel - Galveston Bay Foundation

Bob Stokes is President and General Counsel of the Galveston Bay Foundation in Kemah, Texas. He has served in that role since June, 2004. Bob had served on the board of the Foundation for five years prior to taking over as President and had served as the board's chair for the previous two years. Prior to that, Bob practiced law for 10 years, most recently in the Environmental Division of the Harris County Attorney's Office. Bob is a 1990 graduate of Yale University and a 1994 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law.



PANELIST: JENNIFER WALKER

Director of the Texas Coast and Water Program - National Wildlife Federation

Jennifer Walker is the Director of the Texas Coast and Water Program at National Wildlife Federation. She focuses on water policy with an emphasis on water planning, infrastructure funding, and urban water management. She has helped develop and inform strategic action by utilizing scientific and technical expertise, engaging stakeholders, and approaching resource management challenges with a solutions-oriented perspective. In 2021, she was appointed by the Texas Water Development Board to represent Environmental Interests on the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council and she serves as Chair of Austin's Water Forward Task Force. Jennifer has a BS in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.

STREAMS OF KNOWLEDGE: CONSERVING WATER THROUGH EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP



MARGO WATSON

Water Resource Manager - City of Sugar Land

Margo graduated from Texas Tech University in May 2020 with a B.S. in Geosciences. Navigating the workforce during the pandemic presented unique challenges, but through her work with FEMA and the private sector, she developed the skills and resilience needed to thrive. Today, she serves as the Water Resources Manager for the City of Sugar Land, where she helps oversee the city's diverse water supplies. This includes managing the Groundwater Reduction Plan through groundwater wells, surface water, and reclaimed water systems. Additionally, Margo manages initiatives to promote water conservation, ensuring the sustainable use of our resources for future generations.

Continue to next page for more information about the afternoon speaking sessions.

MAXIMIZING WATER CONSERVATION BY REFINING TURF WATER REQUIREMENTS TO HOMEOWNER SATISFACTION

**CHARLES SWANSON***Extension Program Specialist II Landscape Irrigation - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*

Charles Swanson is a TCEQ Licensed Landscape Irrigator and conducts training programs to support the Irrigation Industry. Based at Texas A&M University in the Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department, Charles coordinates the Texas A&M School of Irrigation and manages the daily operation of the Texas Evapotranspiration Network and the WaterMyYard Programs. He also manages the Smart Irrigation Laboratory where he performs testing and evaluation of smart irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors and irrigation sprinklers.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN HOUSTON

**TANZEEM CHOWDHURY***Senior Staff Analyst - City of Houston / Houston Public Works*

Tanzeem Chowdhury is a Senior Staff Analyst at the City of Houston. He started his career as a Civil Engineer in the Energy sector and worked in 4 different states. He was an engineer and a construction project manager prior to his current role. He started working for Houston Public Work's Stormwater team right after Hurricane Harvey and took part in the rebuild effort. Tanzeem is a proud graduate of University of Houston.

**RACHEL HERR, P.E.***Project Manager - Half, Inc.*

Rachel has worked on a range of multi-disciplinary civil engineering projects for both public and private clients. She specializes in water resource engineering, post-construction stormwater management, water quality best management practices (BMPs), low-impact design, and hydraulic/hydrologic modeling and design. Rachel's roles have included project management, designing site plan layouts and performing stormwater facility design, applying modeling software, compiling permit applications and engineering design for clients ranging from private companies to state, county and local agencies.

3:00 PM WATER BINGO & NETWORKING

Salon A

Join us in a fun and educational game of water bingo! Then, grab some refreshments and take part in this opportunity for building relationships with others through networking.

4:00 PM SYMPOSIUM ENDS

Thank you for joining us today! Your feedback is incredibly important to us. Scan the QR code to take a short survey about your experience today and help us improve planning efforts for future events.



#GCWCS25

The 2025 Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium is presented by:



HARRIS-GALVESTON
SUBSIDENCE
DISTRICT
1975 - 2025

The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) is a special-purpose district created by the Texas Legislature in 1975, authorized as a groundwater regulatory agency to cease ongoing and prevent future subsidence in Harris and Galveston counties. In addition, HGSD provides water conservation, education, and outreach programs to underscore the importance of reducing reliance on groundwater and promote water efficiency best practices in our communities.

The District's goal is to protect and conserve the groundwater resources in order to prevent subsidence in Harris and Galveston counties. Part of that goal includes equipping permittees, residents, businesses, and educators with water conservation tips, tools, and resources. Wasting water not only affects individual households and their budgets, but also puts a strain on our natural and infrastructure resources.

HGSD's award-winning Water Conservation Program includes H2O Lab!, a school program offering water education to local 3rd-6th grade students, a grant program funding water efficiency projects, Smarter About Water - a dedicated platform for sharing water conservation tools and resources, and WaterMyYard, an irrigation program collaborating with several entities to provide watering recommendations for yards in the region.

Learn more by scanning the QR codes below and follow us on our social channels:



ABOUT HGSD



WATER
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM



SMARTER ABOUT
WATER