



NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

RSVP [here](#) by August 13

Texas Star Conference
Center in Euless
or
Virtual: Microsoft TEAMS

PROGRAM: "Consolidating a
Municipality's Current and Future Needs –
Trinity River Authority's TCWSP Triennial
Report"

PRESENTERS: Gabriel Trejo P.E., Arcadis,
and
Mariana Anguiano, P.E., TRA



Thank you to our Meeting Sponsor!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NCT TAWWA Members!

We've started hitting those three-digit summer days! The increasing heat helps give context to the importance of water and the numerous people it takes to provide the quality of life we enjoy. Along with staying hydrated, sharing the value water and adopting ways to reduce water waste should be on every water professional's to-do list. Find ways to save with our summer water conservation tips in this newsletter.

Our Chapter volunteers have been hard at work planning the various events this year. Be sure to join us in-person, or virtually, for the August 15 Chapter meeting at the Texas Star Conference Center. We will hear from Mariana Anguiano, with Trinity River Authority, and Gabriel Trejo, with Arcadis, on the topic of, "Consolidating a Municipality's Current and Future Needs – Trinity River Authority's TCWSP Triennial Report".

Our Young Professionals Committee have organized a volunteer event with the North Texas Food Bank for Saturday, August 26. This event invite is inclusive of all members, young professionals and "young at heart" professionals!

On Thursday, September 19th our Competitions Committee will be hosting our Double Down for Ops Casino Night! The event will be held at Turning Point Beer. This casino night event has been rebranded to align with our Chapter missions and is now officially our Chapter fundraiser to assist sending Texas Top Ops, Meter Competition, Hydrant Hysteria, & Pipe Tapping teams to National Competitions! Be sure to come out and show your support.

Be on the lookout for registration and sponsorship opportunities soon for the Annual Robert F. Pence NCT TAWWA Drinking Water Seminar on Friday, October 25. Be sure to mark your calendars for our Holiday Diner on December 5th and be on the lookout for our Women in Water event details coming soon!

Your North Central Texas Chapter President,



Brandy Martinez, P.E.

Brown and Caldwell

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP

Westside Water Treatment Plant: Advancing Purification for a Growing Population

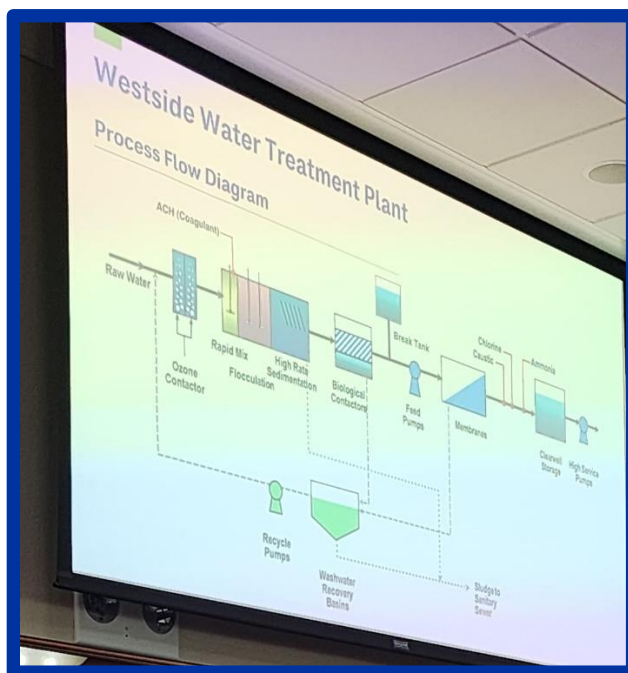
In a recent presentation, David Vallejo of CDM Smith and Erik Irwin from the City of Fort Worth Water Department illuminated the impressive strides made by the Westside Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in membrane filtration technology. Attendees were given an insightful look into how this cutting-edge technology has bolstered water quality and expanded capacity in one of the nation's most rapidly growing regions.



A Leap Forward in Filtration

Since its inception in 2012, the Westside WTP has undergone significant advancements. Initially designed with a capacity of 12 million gallons per day (MGD), the plant now operates at 15 MGD, with ongoing expansion efforts set to increase its capacity to 18 MGD. This WTP is a hybrid nature of the plant, which combines conventional and membrane filtration methods to ensure superior water purification.

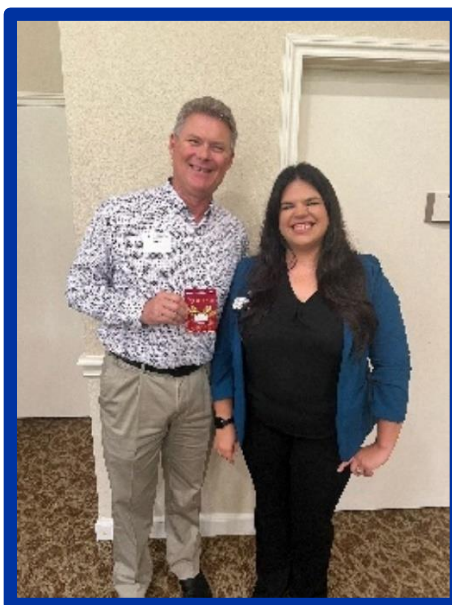
The plant's innovative use of ozone for taste and odor removal, coupled with plate settlers in the sedimentation basin, reflects its commitment to maintaining high water quality standards. Attendees were able to inspect the materials and membrane filtration tubes used for the filtration firsthand thanks to our wonderful presenters.



Meeting the Demands of a Booming Population

Fort Worth, the 12th largest city in the United States, has experienced remarkable population growth, ranking second in the nation for population gain over the past year. As the fastest-growing city among the top 30 most populous U.S. cities, Fort Worth’s water infrastructure must keep pace with this rapid expansion.

To address this need, the Westside WTP is preparing for a significant upgrade. The plant’s future expansion will involve building a twin facility adjacent to the existing plant. This expansion will be implemented in phases, with Phase 1 increasing the plant’s capacity by an additional 35 MGD. Phase 2 will mirror this growth, resulting in a total buildout capacity of 70 MGD.



Raffle Winner: Jon Mortiz - Xylem

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar

October 25, 2024

JOIN US
for a North Central Texas
CASINO NIGHT
and Water Tower Competition

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Dario Sanchez (dario.sanchez@arcadis.com)
Michael McBee (michael.mcbee@freese.com)

THE FUNDS RAISED AT THIS EVENT SEND TEXAS TOP OPS, METER COMPETITION, HYDRANT HYSTERIA, & PIPE TAPPING TO NATIONAL COMPETITIONS.
CONTACT US FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

SAVE THE DATE: NCT TAWWA Chapter
Holiday Dinner
December 5, 2024

YP CORNER

Thank you to all of the young professionals (and young at heart!) who joined us June 13th at Motor Controls Inc. in Dallas for a facility tour. We had an excellent time sharing food and drinks at the Longhorn Icehouse with our coworkers after the tour.

In early August, we met up for a fun outing to the Rangers Game and enjoyed spending time at Texas Live.

Upcoming Events

We have several exciting events planned to continue networking with other young professionals. Keep an eye out for flyers and registration following upcoming events:

- Love putt putt golf? In September we'll all be meeting up at Puttshack in Addison.
- September - Happy Hour & Bingo night at Hop & Sting Brewing in Grapevine.
- November – Tour of Dallas Water Utilities' Elm Fork Water Treatment Plant with happy hour to follow.
- December – YP Christmas party!

Have a good idea for a happy hour spot, facility tour, or team building event? Come join us on the YP committee! We're always looking for new coworkers to join us in planning efforts. Send an email to Tasia Kade at tkade@carollo.com if you'd like more information on what we do or how to join.

Volunteer Opportunity – North Texas Food Bank (August 26th)

Join your fellow YP and YP-at-hearts at the NTFB distribution center to help organize food donations for the local community. Please come with closed toe shoes and ready to work! American Ductile Iron will be sponsoring lunch for participants afterward. Please email Jake Phillips jakephillips@american-usa.com if you are having difficulty registering.

YP Email List

Want to come to more upcoming YP events, but you just keep missing the notification about them? Or are you a non-YP member and would like your younger staff to get more involved with NCT AWWA? Send an email to Tasia at tkade@carollo.com to get your email added to the YP distribution list.

Texas Water 2025 Abstract Submittal is Open!

Share your knowledge with the Texas Water Community!

A goal for Texas Water™ 2025 is to provide the finest technical program possible for the attendees. To this end, we are happy to announce the call for abstracts for presentation at the Texas Water™ 2025 Conference. Now, more than ever, it is vital to continue the Texas Water tradition of sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas that serve to enhance our sector.

This year, the deadline for abstract submittal is **September 9, 2024**. You may notice the deadline is a bit earlier due to the conference being earlier (March 18-21, 2025). **We do not intend to extend the deadline so submit your abstracts as soon as you can.**

[Click here to submit an abstract!](#)

RECENT NEWS

Summer Water Conservation Tips

Have you seen your utility bill this summer? If you have been watering the lawn recently, there should be an increase in water use compared to just a few months ago. For many homes, monthly summer water use can be three times, or more, the average use in winter and the difference is usually from sprinklers. Sprinkler systems provide convenience but can also be a source of big water waste. Follow these tips to maximize your water use:

1. **Know your schedule.** Most cities and water providers have some form of watering schedules. They typically include no watering from sprinklers between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm and only allowing spray irrigation on 1 or 2 days per week. Check your water provider's website if you don't know your schedule.
2. **When to water.** Middle of the night to early morning is best. Also, water deep and infrequently to build strong turf roots that can better withstand our summers. Infrequently means to never water on more than two days per week. To water deep, we have a recommendation on how to do that.
3. **Cycle and soak.** Many lawns in North Texas have clay soils and this makes it difficult for water to reach deep into the ground without causing a lot of runoff. You want to run short cycles and let the water slowly soak into the ground. After an hour, run another short cycle to soak that water further into the soil. Short cycles could be 6 minutes for fixed-sprays and 13 minutes for rotors. Multiple cycles, or start times, can add up to the amount of water your lawn needs that week.
4. **Sign up for watering updates.** Don't know how much water your lawn needs every week? Sign up for free weekly watering updates at WaterIsAwesome.com! Weekly Watering Advice and Water My Yard are great tools to help answer this question every Monday through email or text.
5. **Check for Problems.** Watering in the middle of the night is efficient but you may not be aware of issues that need correction. Conduct a 2-minute visual test of all sprinkler zones at least monthly. Redirect sprays that are watering concrete and flag any leaks. Many adjustments and repairs can be done quickly.
6. **Make a change.** If you have large amounts of turfgrass, consider making adjustments to your landscape to save water. One option is to design with the rule of thirds: 1/3 useable lawn, 1/3 landscape beds with native plants and 1/3 hardscape such as patios and walkways. Check out new Texas Yard Makeover episodes to learn more ways to save water at WaterIsAwesome.com.

UTILITY SPOTLIGHT



Karen Menard, Trinity River Authority

Position: Regulatory Resources Manager

Education: B.S., Microbiology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; M.E., Environmental Management, University of Houston-Clear Lake; M.E., Public Administration, University of North Texas

Certifications: Class A Water Operator, Class A Wastewater Operator

What motivated you to be involved in the water and wastewater utility industry?

I fell into the water industry 27 years ago when my mom made a water quality complaint to my hometown utility, Lafayette Utility Systems, in Lafayette, Louisiana. I was an undeclared science major in college at the time and I happened to be washing clothes at my parents' home when the Chemist came out to test their water. After that chance meeting, I ended up applying for and getting my first water industry job as a part-time lab technician. I ended up falling in love with water and haven't looked back!

What advice would you give to those who are new to this industry, and what do you wish you could tell yourself back when you started?

My advice to the newbies is to always be curious and to learn as much as possible, whether it's observing/interacting with coworkers and management or taking formal/informal training courses. We all have a role to play in making the water industry better and the more we know, the better informed our decision making. My advice to my 19-year-old self is to put yourself out there, even though you're an introvert and it makes you uncomfortable.

What is a current challenge you are facing within the water and wastewater utility industry?

As a regulatory manager, I think the most pressing challenge facing both water and wastewater utilities is PFAS. There is much uncertainty surrounding the future regulatory requirements for PFAS, and this created challenges for all corners of the utility – from CIP Planning/Construction to O&M, Laboratory, Solids Disposal, Legal, etc.

What career success are you most proud of?

I am very proud of having obtained my double A water-wastewater licenses from TCEQ. I was encouraged by Larry Patterson to obtain those licenses when I worked at Upper Trinity Regional Water District.

What do you find rewarding about your work?

As a lifetime Girl Scout, I have always strived to be friendly and helpful, use resources wisely, and make the world a better place. Being in the water industry allows me to accomplish those goals on a daily basis, which is highly rewarding.

Do you encourage members within our industry to pursue licenses and certifications? What benefits have you received from gaining these?

I do! I highly encourage my peers in the water industry to work towards their license and/or certification. I have been better able to help troubleshoot and solve problems by having my licenses. I have been able to pay-it-forward by teaching water classes, including the Calculations module for the SETH project. In addition, I have been able to move into upper-level positions at utilities because of my licenses.

What do you think more people should know about our industry?

Without water and wastewater services, civilization would not exist, and most people go about their day taking it for granted. I wish our general population were more water literate and better understood the value of water.

How have you benefitted from your involvement with AWWA?

I have been an individual member of AWWA since 2004, and I became a member mainly for the educational resources and to stay current on water industry topics. I didn't know what I could volunteer with AWWA until 2013 during the Texas Water conference in Galveston. Later, my boss Jody Zabolio introduced me to Christianne Castleberry, who was/is the Education Division Chair. Jody encouraged me to volunteer with the Education Division, which helped me with networking. More than that, volunteering provided me with a creative outlet (not something technical people usually get to do) and leadership opportunities. I am currently serving as Chair of the Executive Board for the Texas Section.

Please describe your family and/or hobbies and interests.

I am married with two teenagers! I enjoy traveling when I can and reading/watching murder mysteries. My kids keep me busy, and I love supporting them in sports, theater, and other pursuits.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I have water skied in the Atchafalaya swamp! I was young and dumb and do not recommend. 😊

North Central Texas TAWWA Officers

Position	Name	Organization
President	Brandy Martinez	Brown and Caldwell
Vice President	Mariana Anguiano	TRA
Secretary	Andrea Tom	CDM Smith
Treasurer (yr 3 of 3)	Ikram Sayed	Garver
Deputy Treasurer	Elaine Hung	TRA
Arrangements Committee Chair	Meredith McCall	LJA
Arrangements Committee Associate Chair	Bella Boddicker	Carollo
Communications Committee Chair	Caitlin Koranda	LAN
Education & Outreach Committee Chair	Helen Dulac	Grow North Texas
Programs Chair	Chris Bitter	JQ Infrastructure
Virtual Programs	Simone Guidry	Kennedy Jenks
Associate Virtual Programs	Claire Yancey	FNI
Membership Committee Chair	Veronica Enriquez	TRWD
Scholarship Committee Chair	Cate Ball	Plummer
Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar Committee Chair	Chad Bartruff	Brown and Caldwell
Chapter Competitions Committee Co-Chair "Lead"	Dario Sanches	Arcadis
Chapter Competitions Committee Co-Chair	Michael McBee	FNI
Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair	Tony Mbroh	Mbroh Engineering
Young Professionals Committee Chair	Zac Bolen	Plummer
Young Professionals Committee Secretary	Conor Mullis	Pump Solutions
Young Professionals Committee Treasurer	Cheyenne Footracer	Plummer
Young Professionals Committee Past Chair	Cat Turner	Garver
Student Design Co-Chair	Nicole Conner	Kennedy Jenks
Student Design Co-Chair	Steven Mendoza	Carollo
Past President	Dustan Compton	TRWD
Section Trustee	Katie Livas	HDR
Section Deputy Trustee	Stefi Massey	AECOM

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!



This newsletter was brought to you by your NCT TAWWA Communications Committee members. We would like to thank each member who contributed their time to bring you this issue of *The Lake*:

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For questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact [Caitlin Koranda](#). We're open to ideas for potential articles and newsletter contributions.

Thanks for reading.
See you in August for our next issue!

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