



Texas Rural Water Association

RuralWaterCon 2021

March 24-26 | Austin, TX

Water.
The Source
of Life.

Here's What's Happening at RURALWATERCON

Welcome Reception

This meet and greet event is a good opportunity to renew friendships and visit with suppliers. All attendees are invited to this special event on Wednesday evening, March 24.

Opening General Session and Awards of Excellence/Scholarship Ceremony

Our opening session will feature special guests State Representative Alex Dominguez and NRWA Vice-President and Louisiana State Senator Glen Womack. We will also honor recipients of the TRWA Awards of Excellence Program and the Texas Rural Water Foundation Student Scholarship Program.

Concurrent Sessions

The focus of RuralWaterCon is education and training. TRWA provides you with the most current, up-to-date information available regarding water and wastewater system operations and management presented by our expert speakers. Don't miss these timely and informative training sessions!

Board Member Education

RuralWaterCon offers a conference within a conference for board members! Look for the "Board Track" on the agenda to see the educational sessions specifically developed for board members. This year, special guest State Representative Keith Bell will be joining us for a session on Grassroots Advocacy, and we have also brought in a team of consultants to offer this training.

Exhibit Hall

Products and services for the water industry are constantly adapting to new methods and technologies. Some of the latest product advancements will be on display in the Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall will also be the site of the silent PAC auction, and cash prizes will be awarded during breaks.

President's Banquet

The President's Banquet will be held Thursday evening, March 25. Enjoy dinner and entertainment by special guest and comedian, Mike MacRae. This event will also feature a live auction benefiting the Texas Rural Water PAC. You will need to purchase tickets to attend this banquet.

Onsite and Online Silent PAC Auctions

For the duration of the event. You can support the Texas Rural Water PAC by viewing and bidding on items, purchasing TRWA merchandise or you can donate an item to be featured! More information on this will be coming soon.

Convention Registration

Each RuralWaterCon registration fee includes admission to general sessions, workshops, Exhibit Hall, Welcome Reception, exhibit hall luncheon and refreshment breaks. Vendors, consultants and suppliers not exhibiting in the Exhibit Hall will be required to register at the booth fee rate. This year, we are offering a special attendee registration rate for attorneys: \$399 for associate members/ \$499 for non-members.

Your wellbeing is TRWA's number one priority, and we are dedicated to ensuring attendees can do business in a safe environment. We will be implementing social distancing measures and taking extra health and safety precautions, including:

- Placing hand sanitizing stations throughout meeting spaces and hotel common areas
- Hotel and TRWA staff will wear masks; Attendees will be asked to wear masks and they will be provided
- Hotel and TRWA staff will practice frequent hand washing/sanitizing and attendees will be encouraged to do so
- TRWA will offer optional non-touch temperature scans at registration and other stations throughout the event
- Safe spacing will be set up in classroom seating and at dining tables
- Individually wrapped food and extra precautions with food preparation and service
- The hotel is implementing additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols in guest rooms and all public spaces.

In order to properly practice social distancing guidelines, this event will have limited attendance.

Please contact us at (512) 472-8591 or by email at meetings@trwa.org to register or for more information.

RURAL WATERCON 2021

March 24-26, 2021

Renaissance Hotel Austin

9721 Arboretum Blvd | Austin, TX 78759 | 512-343-2626

RuralWaterCon has something for everyone interested in the issues facing rural water systems. Our convention program has been developed with the core concerns and challenges of managing and operating a water system in today's tough regulatory climate. We're excited to be hosting this live event again; however, with the uncertainty of the continuing effects of the pandemic, there is a possibility we will have to pivot to a virtual-only format. If we have to make this change, we will notify all registrants on or around February 22nd and offer options at that time.

Schedule-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, March 24

- 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Convention Registration
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. TRWA/USDA Engineering Conference
See insert for registration information
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Credentials Committee Table
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Vendor Setup in Exhibit Hall
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

Thursday, March 25

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Convention Registration and Exhibit Viewing
PAC Booth open in Exhibit Hall
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Opening General Session with Special Guests, Rep. Alex Dominguez and NRWA Vice-President and Louisiana State Senator Glen Womack
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

HR Issues — Frequently Asked Questions
Speaker: Ann Price, Boulette Golden & Marin LLP

WRAPT: TRWA's Tool for Compliance with the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018
Speakers: Larry Bell and Jason Knobloch, TRWA

Board Track: Governing in Times of Crisis
Speaker: Sam Woollard

Virtual Track: Understanding Apprenticeship Roles & Water Workforce Initiatives-Connecting the Dots
Speaker: Nichol Howell, TRWA

- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ask the Experts Table
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Viewing & Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

CCN Decertification Compensation — What's Fair?
Speaker: Grant Rabon, NewGen Strategies & Solutions

Injured on the Job and Workers' Compensation
Speaker: Bobby Stokes, Flahive Ogden & Latson

Board Track: How to Create a Strategic Thinking Board
Speaker: Kelly Nichols

Virtual Track: Small System Challenges
Speaker: Jatin Mistry, U.S. EPA Region 6

Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Special Guest Speaker, State Rep. Alex Dominguez



Alex Dominguez was first elected in 2018 as the Texas State Representative for District 37. He represents Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, Rio Hondo, Arroyo City, Laguna Vista, and South Padre Island. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee which considers all water related legislation.

Rep. Dominguez was previously elected to serve on the Cameron County Commissioners Court beginning June 2014. He worked on numerous budgets, hiring decisions, and hurricane preparedness. He worked tirelessly with county personnel to create the first all-inclusive playground to the county parks system.

He earned his BA in Political Science from Rice University in 1993. There he was an avid member of the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice Players, and the Justice Court.

He began his career as an educator in the Garland Independent School District where he taught for three years. He taught numerous subjects including ESL, Reading, English, and Texas History.

After teaching, Rep. Dominguez earned his Juris Doctorate from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He won numerous awards including the Mueller Award for the most outstanding oral advocate.

He began his legal career as a prosecutor in the Cameron County District Attorney's Office. He quickly rose to become a felony prosecutor. After his time at the CCDA's Office, he opened the Law Offices of Alejandro Dominguez.

Rep. Dominguez was a board member of CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties for six years. Additionally, he has been a board member and president of the Los Diez Education Foundation for over 20 years helping to raise scholarship funds for first generation college students.

Rep. Alex is married to his wife, Jill. They have one son and two wonderful rescue dogs.

#RuralWaterCon



Find us on Twitter at @TexasRuralWater and join the conversation using our official Convention hashtag!

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Energy Efficient Approach to Groundwater Desalination

Speakers: Steven Sanchez, North Alamo WSC; Jorge Aroyo, Freese and Nichols

Raising Revenue and Managing Expenses to Meet the Needs of System Growth and Operations

Speakers: Pat Allen, Green Valley SUD, Patrick Lackey, P.E., and Jason Vreeland

Board Track: Financial Oversight and Responsibilities

Speaker: Carol Johnson

Virtual Track: Why Have a Customer Satisfaction Survey and Newsletter?

Speaker: TRWA Staff and Invited Member Representative

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Time to Patch My Worn-Out Jeans: Membrane Filtration Replacement

Speakers: Patrick Lackey, P.E.; Adam Telfer, Canyon Regional Water Authority

Board Track: Grassroots Advocacy

Speakers: Texas Representative Keith Bell; Shirley Thompson, College Mound SUD

Virtual Track: TRWA's Emerging Leaders Program

Speakers: Lara Zent, TRWA; and Emerging Leaders Alumni Mark Rogers, Felix Ruiz and Karen Theiss

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. President's Banquet: Join us for dinner, entertainment by comedian Mike MacRae and live PAC auction. *Business/Cocktail Attire. Please see registration page for ticket purchase.*

Friday, March 26

7:00 a.m.

7:00 – 11:00 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Exhibit Hall Viewing / District Caucuses

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker, State Rep. Keith Bell



A lifelong Texan, Rep. Keith Bell resides in Forney, Texas. Before being elected to represent House District 4 in November 2018, Rep. Bell served as a trustee on the Forney ISD School Board for 20 years, elected as president fourteen times. Keith Bell has been in the electrical field since 1976. He founded Intex Electrical Contractors, Inc. in November, 1983 and serves as CEO/President.

Keith holds a Master Electrician's License in Texas and served the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as past chairman of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board. He is also active in numerous trade organizations, including the Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC), where he was elected to a two-year term as President of the Dallas Chapter of the IEC, and later served as the Texas IEC Chapter President. Before taking office, Representative Bell acted as IEC of Texas' Governmental Affairs Chairman for almost two decades. Bell also serves on the Board of Directors at Baylor Scott & White Hospital-Sunnyvale.

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Final Break in Exhibit Hall

10:00 a.m. Exhibitor Breakdown

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Financial Resiliency

Speakers: Kyle Eppler, Wickson Creek SUD; Terry Winn, CP&Y

Planning for Future Water Supply

Speakers: Marisa Vergara, CP&Y; Adam Telfer, CRWA

Board Track: Information Security Awareness Training

Speaker: Allison Kaminsky, TRWA

Virtual Track: People Management

Speaker: Bruce Pearson, TRWA

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Closing General Session: Legislative Update

Speakers: Lara Zent and Trent Hightower, TRWA

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Entertainment at President's Banquet, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Comedian Mike MacRae



Comedian Mike MacRae began performing at the Houston Laff Stop in 1999 and soon developed his trademark style of blending impressions and traditional stand-up. Mike's television debut was on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" in 2001 and he has since performed on "The Late Show with David Letterman," NESN's "Comedy All-Stars," and was a full cast member on the TBS sketch show "Frank TV." Mike has been a part of the Master's Showcase at the Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival and has also performed at the SXSW, Moontower, and Limestone Comedy Festivals. As a regular on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom Show" he has toured theaters across the country as part of their All-Stars Tour, and has most recently toured opening for Patton Oswalt and Mike Birbiglia. Mike is also a writer/performer for various online comedy shows; and as a voice actor has developed distinctive voices and impressions heard on cartoon network and in video games. He has performed at numerous private and corporate events including at The Witte Museum of San Antonio, Security Service Credit Union, and Hewlett Packard.

**Operator license renewal credit will be requested from TCEQ and Continuing Legal Education credit will be requested from the State Bar of Texas for attendance at this conference.*

Visit us online for the latest conference updates and speaker information at www.trwa.org/event/RWC2021



Introducing Virtual RURAL WATER CON PACKAGE

Do you need continuing education credit but cannot travel to Austin? TRWA has created a new virtual package just for you!

Priced at \$199, the virtual package includes:

- Live streaming of the opening and closing sessions!
- Pre-recorded sessions with live Q&A with presenters!
- Online Silent PAC Auction

Thursday, March 25th

Opening General Session

We will live-stream our opening general session with remarks and updates from TRWA Executive Director and General Counsel Lara Zent; TRWA President Chris Boyd, Mustang SUD; keynote speaker Rep. Alex Dominguez and guest speaker NRWA Vice President and Louisiana State Senator Glen Womack.

Virtual Tracks

Understanding Apprenticeship Roles & Water Workforce Initiatives—Connecting the Dots

In this session we will talk about different workforce development initiatives and how they all come together to form a comprehensive workforce strategy. We will discuss the new national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program standards and how this benefits our industry. This session will touch on building partnerships, funding, and leveraging resources to assist your workforce development plans.

Speaker: Nichol Howell, TRWA

Small System Challenges

This presentation will focus on challenges small systems are facing in today's climate, including issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and disinfection byproducts. The session will also provide an Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) update, and discuss ongoing research activities focused on small systems.

Speaker: Jatin Mistry, U.S. EPA Region 6

Why Have a Customer Satisfaction Survey and Newsletter?

Tell your story before someone else does. When bad information starts circulating in the system/community, it's best if your board and staff provide up-front information in a newsletter and get customer buy-in through surveys. In this session the attendees will be provided some templates of both a Customer Satisfaction Survey and a Newsletter and the opportunity to interact with the speaker and other attendees.

Speakers: TRWA Staff and Invited Member Representative

TRWA's Emerging Leaders Program

One of TRWA's strategic goals is to cultivate our next generation of leaders! This session will discuss the need to cultivate new leaders in the rural water and wastewater utility industry and what it means to be a leader in this industry. We'll also discuss TRWA's Emerging Leaders Program, and you'll hear from program graduates.

Speakers: Lara Zent, TRWA; and Emerging Leaders Alumni Mark Rogers, Felix Ruiz and Karen Theiss

Friday, March 26th

People Management

Modern workforces across Texas are becoming more culturally and generationally diverse. This presentation will help water system managers develop the skills necessary to manage and lead individuals with different backgrounds and levels of experience. The session will also explore some of the different types of challenging employees that managers may encounter and offer strategies for leading and motivating these individuals.

Speaker: Bruce Pearson, TRWA

Legislative Update

Please join us live for our closing general session with TRWA Executive Director and General Counsel Lara Zent and TRWA Assistant General Counsel Trent Hightower as they present a legislative update.

Speakers: Lara Zent and Trent Hightower, TRWA

REGISTRATION

Complete a separate form for each registrant. Please print all information.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Spouse's Name (if registering): _____

Utility Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Convention Registration Fee: This fee includes admission to general sessions, exhibit hall, welcome reception, Thursday's lunch and refreshment breaks. No refunds, transfers or credits will be made after March 2.

	Early Bird	After March 1	
Utility Member	\$399	\$429	\$ _____
Non-Member Utility	\$499	\$529	\$ _____
Associate Member (non-exhibiting)		\$1000	\$ _____
Non-Member Vendor, Consultant or Supplier (non-exhibiting)		\$1400	\$ _____
Attorney Associate Member (non-exhibiting)		\$399	\$ _____
Attorney Non-Member (non-exhibiting)		\$499	\$ _____
Virtual Attendee		\$199	\$ _____

Spouse Registration: Spouse registrations are complimentary and include admittance to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Reception and refreshment breaks. A spouse must purchase tickets for any special events.

Optional Event Tickets: Please indicate the number of tickets you wish to purchase for each event below.

President's Banquet (Thurs.): \$65 per person\$ _____

Total:\$ _____

Payment

Check Made Payable to TRWA

Charge \$ _____ to my: AmEx Visa Master Card

Acct. #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

CSV #: _____ (3 digit number on the back for Visa or MC or 4 digit number on front for AmEx)

Cardholder's Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

Hotel Information: If you need overnight hotel accommodations, please contact the hotel directly. Be sure to mention that you are attending the TRWA Convention in order to receive this special room rate. You may book your room online by going to our website and clicking on the RuralWaterCon event page. If you need to a cancel a hotel room after March 2, please contact the TRWA conference department.

Renaissance Hotel Austin: 9721 Arboretum Blvd. | Austin, TX 78759 | 512-343-2626
Single/ double: \$209 | Check in 4:00 p.m. / Check out 11:00 a.m. | Complimentary self-parking



Texas Rural Water Association

Hotel Accommodations:

For reservations, please contact the hotel before March 1, 2021, and mention Texas Rural Water Association to receive the specially negotiated group rate. There are a limited number of rooms at the TRWA discounted rate, so make your room reservations as early as possible. Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each attendee; conference registration does not secure your room. Should the room block become full before March 1, reservations will be accepted on rate/space availability.

Refund Policy:

TRWA will not issue a refund for a registration fee or event ticket if the cancellation is made within 30 days prior to the date of the start of the conference or the event. No exceptions or transfers to other conferences will be allowed. Refunds or transfers will be permitted at any time if the request is made more than 30 days prior to the start of the event.

Register Online - it's quick and easy!

TRWA offers online registration for events! Visit www.trwa.org and save a stamp by registering online.

In accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we invite any registrant to advise us of any disability and request for accommodations necessary for the disability. Please indicate any special needs on an additional sheet of paper.

**Return completed form with payment to: TRWA, 1616 Rio Grande
Austin TX 78701
or register online at www.trwa.org**