## Draft 2023 TxDOT Environmental Conference Agenda

### Monday, September 11, 2023

1:30pm to 5:00pm | Join us for a tour of the USFWS operated San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center (SMARC) on Monday September 11. SMARC conducts research and propagation efforts for multiple federally listed species that overlap with TxDOT projects. On this tour you'll see behind-the-scenes efforts to promote the populations of freshwater mussels, San Marcos and Texas Blind Salamanders, Houston Toads, and Texas Wild Rice. Those attending should meet in the conference hotel parking lot by 1:30 and be prepared to have your shoes sanitized prior to entry at SMARC. (Leave the fancy shoes for the conference on Tuesday.)

There is no fee for this field trip, however attendance is limited. Please email becki.perkins@txdot.gov with your interest in attending to reserve your spot on the list.

### Tuesday, September 12, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration Desk Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 9:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Veramendi Salons F-J)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Exhibits Open (Veramendi Salons F-J)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am to 10:30 am</td>
<td>General Session (Veramendi Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Welcome, Doug Booher, ENV Division Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Keynote, Speaker: Marc Williams (Texas Department of Transportation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP): A Retrospective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am to 10:45 am</td>
<td>*** BREAK ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 am to 11:45 pm</td>
<td>General Session (Veramendi Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● NHHIP Panel Discussion: Speakers TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 pm to 1:30 pm</td>
<td>*** LUNCH (on your own) ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm to 3:15 pm</td>
<td>General Session Continued (Veramendi Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Environmental Affairs Awards Video, Presenter: Kat Goldsmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● District Hot Topics, Moderator: Doug Booher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm to 3:30 pm</td>
<td>*** BREAK ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>TxDOT Employee Town Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm to 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception and Poster Session (Veramendi Salons F-J)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wednesday, September 13, 2023

8:00 am to 4:30 pm | Registration Desk Open
8:00 am to 9:00 am | Continental Breakfast (Veramendi Salons F-J)
8:00 am to 4:30 pm | Exhibits Open (Veramendi Salons F-J)
9:00 am to 10:15 am | Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 1-5

1. SH 211 Bexar County Greenfield Project, Speakers: Clayton Ripps (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)
2. Common Issues with Environmental Documents, Bridge Constraints, and Effective Project Delivery, Speakers Mike Chavez and Michelle Lueck, (Veramendi Salon B)
3. Metals: Development of Texas-Specific Background Threshold Values, Speaker: Kenneth S. Tramm, PhD, PE, PG, CHMM (Modern Geosciences) (Veramendi Salon C)

Session Summary: Dr. Tramm will provide an update on his extensive work developing defensible Background Threshold Values (BTVs) for selected metals in Texas. When the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) was proposed in 1999, median values for selected metals (e.g., arsenic and lead) were presented as a “starting place.” However, these have become a default criteria that can lead confusion and significantly affect project costs.

4. Archeology Case Study from Pharr District, Speaker: Chris Ringstaff and FRA Cultural Resources Program, Speaker: Jimmy Berrara (FRA) (Veramendi Salon D)
5. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones), Speakers: Sergio Roman (TxDOT), Gene Robinson (Austin Community College), Michele Wilkins (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon E)

10:15 am to 10:45 am | ***BREAK***

10:45 am to 12:00 pm | Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 6-10


Session Summary: Douglass Mack and Terry Dempsey will hold a questions and answers presentation related to the Initial Site Assessment (ISA) for Hazardous Materials.

7. Air quality will be performing one session on Air Quality Updates, Speakers: Tim Wood, Glendora Lopez (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon B)
8. Texas Freedom Colonies, Speakers: Renee BennLee and Jason Rivas (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon C)
9. Protected lands/4F/6F/26, Speaker: Patrick Lee (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon D)
10. Bio, Speaker: TBD (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon D)
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm  *** LUNCH (on your own) ***

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm  Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 11-14
   11. *TxDOT is an MS4?* This session provides a high-level, introductory overview of *TxDOT's Statewide MS4 Permit and the associated Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)*, Speaker: Kyle Honnerlaw (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)
   12. *A New Era in Federal Discretionary Grants.* Speaker Robin Ayers, (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon B)
   14. *Freshwater Mussel Surveys with Data from Archeological Excavations,* Speakers: Maison Miller, Dave Buzan and Aaron Petty (AmaTerra), (Veramendi Salons D & E)

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm  *** Break ***

3:15 pm to 4:30 pm  Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 15-18
   15. *Navigating ENV Contracts:* Lauren Young (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)
   17. *Climate Change Hot Topics,* Speakers: TBD (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon C)
   18. *Water,* Speaker: TBD (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salons D & E)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm  Join us for a drone hands-on demo in the parking lot. We will have a mobile command unit that you can try (as time permits).

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

8:00 am to Noon  Registration Desk Open

8:00 am to 9:00 am  Continental Breakfast *(Veramendi Salons F-J)*

9:00 am to Noon  (Field Trip)  
   Join us for a field trip to the jewel of San Marcos, Spring Lake and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University *(https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu)*. The field trip includes a guided tour of Spring Lake on a glass bottom boat, a walk through the wetland boardwalk, a visit to the Discovery Center and Aquarium, and a talk on the cultural resources and tribal connection to Spring Lake. Cost of the field trip is $8.50 and cost to park is $3 and must be paid the day of the trip. The field trip will accommodate up to 60 people. Contact kathleen.goldsmith@txdot.gov to secure a slot.
Join Anita Bradley and Michelle Lueck for a fun day of training as they teach Public Involvement for NEPA (ENV112). (Veramendi Salons D & E)

The class will prepare you to develop an effective public involvement program and how to better conduct public involvement efforts for transportation projects.

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:
1. Explain the benefits of active, outreaching public involvement;
2. Describe the laws, regulations, policies and procedures;
3. Plan, organize and conduct effective public involvement efforts; and
4. Prepare accurate and appropriate documentation.

Space will be limited and the class is currently full. To get on the waitlist, contact kathleen.goldsmith@txdot.gov.