## Final 2023 TxDOT Environmental Conference Agenda

### Monday, September 11, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm to 5:00 pm (Field Trip)</td>
<td>Field Trip - Spring Lake and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University</td>
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<td>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.)</td>
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<td>There is no fee for this field trip, however attendance is limited. Please email <a href="mailto:becki.perkins@txdot.gov">becki.perkins@txdot.gov</a> with your interest in attending to reserve your spot on the list.</td>
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### Tuesday, September 12, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration Desk Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 9:00 am</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Veramendi Salons F-J)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Exhibits Open (Veramendi Salons F-J)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am to 10:30 am</td>
<td>General Session (Veramendi Salons A-E)</td>
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<td>• Welcome, Doug Booher, TxDOT ENV Division Director</td>
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<td>• Keynote, Marc Williams, TxDOT Executive Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP): A Retrospective, Moderator: Doug Booher</td>
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<td>10:30 am to 10:45 am</td>
<td>*** BREAK ***</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 am to 11:45 am</td>
<td>General Session (Veramendi Salons A-E)</td>
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<td>• NHHIP Panel Discussion: Speakers Michael D. Bryant (TxDOT), Jessica Gray (TxDOT), Kyle Madsen (TxDOT), Kevin Resler (FHWA), Varuna Singh (TxDOT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am to 1:30 pm</td>
<td>*** LUNCH (on your own) ***</td>
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1:30 pm to 3:15 pm  General Session Continued (Veramendi Salons A-E)
   • Environmental Affairs Awards Video, Presenter: Kat Goldsmith
   • District Hot Topics, Moderator: Doug Booher

3:15 pm to 3:30 pm  *** BREAK ***

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm  TxDOT Employee Town Hall (TxDOT Staff Only)
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  Reception and Poster Session (Veramendi Salons F-J)

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. The Epic Saga – The Story of State Highway 211 In San Antonio
      Speaker: Clayton Ripps (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)
   2. Smoothing Out Project Delivery, Speakers: Mike Chavez, Michelle
      Lueck, Kimberly Amy (TxDOT), and Shane Valentine (HDR)
      (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)
   4. State Loop 195: An Overview of the Challenges of Section 106 Review
      and Coordination on a New Location Complex Transportation Project in
      Starr County, Texas, Speaker: Chris Ringstaff (TxDOT) (Veramendi
      Salon D)
   5. Update on TxDOT Drone Program (Veramendi Salon E)
      a) Drones with a Purpose: How Unmanned Aerial Systems Can
         Support Environmental Projects and Transportation Goals, Speaker:
         Sergio Roman (TxDOT)
      b) Drone Boot Camp, Speaker: Eugene Robinson (Austin Community
         College)

10:15 am to 10:45 am  *** BREAK***
10:45 am to 12:00 pm  Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 6-10

6. Hazardous Materials: Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Questions and Answers, Speakers: Douglass Mack, PMP and Terry Dempsey, PG (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)

7. Air Quality Updates, Speakers: Tim Wood and Glendora Lopez (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon B)

8. Beyond the Road: Texas Freedom Colonies, Speakers: Renee Benn and Jason Rivas (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon C)

9. Overview of Section 6(f)’s Protections for Certain Outdoor Recreation Lands, Speaker: Patrick Lee (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon D)

10. Staying Current with the Endangered Species Act (Veramendi Salon E)
   a) The Endangered Species Act: An Overview and Considerations for TxDOT Projects, Speakers: Karen Myers (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Matt Buckingham (TxDOT).
   b) Black Rails – Creative Solutions for Cryptic Species, Speaker: Meghan Lind (Stantec), and Matt Buckingham (TxDOT)

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? Speaker: Kyle Honnerlaw (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)

12. The Big Picture: How TxDOT Becomes Involved with Research and Conservation. Speakers: Robin Ayers, Summer Chandler, Suzanne Walsh (TxDOT), and Justin French (Sul Ross University) (Veramendi Salon B)

13. Community Impacts - Introduction to the New CIA Tool and EJ Metrics. Speakers: Jason Kord, Spencer Ward (TxDOT) and Lauren Taylor (WSP) (Veramendi Salon C)

14. Synergies in Mussel Memory: Shared Research Opportunities in Biology and Archaeology through Ongoing Excavations and Freshwater Mussel Studies in Texas, Speakers: Mason Miller (AmaTerra), Dave Buzan and Aaron Petty (Freese and Nichols), (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, Speaker: Lauren Young (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon A)
16. Traffic Noise Barrier Constructability Assessments, Speakers: Ray Umscheid and Meredith Worthen (TxDOT) (Veramendi Salon B)
17. Climate Change Hot Topics, Speakers: Jackie Ploch (TxDOT), Andrew Cooper (Jacobs), and Rich Walter, (ICF) (Veramendi Salon C)
18. Water Rundown (Veramendi Salons D & E)
   a) SCOTUS Sackett Decision on 404 and Beyond, Speaker: Jennifer Walker (USACE Fort Worth District)
   b) 2023 Update: A GIS Model to Predict Wetland/Waters Impacts and Mitigation Needs, Speaker: Ryan Robol (JMT)
   c) Bolivar Ferry Dredging and Beneficial Use, Speaker: David Wilkins (EPR)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
(Outside)
Hands-On Drone Flying Opportunity--Come Fly!

Join us for a drone hands-on demo in the conference hotel parking lot. Whether it will be your first time flying, or you are a pro, stop by to fly one of the training drones. You will have the opportunity to fly “free” or try a short obstacle course. A mobile command unit will be on-site for you to visit and learn the benefits of a mobile unit and the type of tools they can contain.

There is no fee or registration required for this opportunity, just join us outside. Please email michele.wilkins@txdot.gov with questions.

Thursday, September 14, 2023

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

9:00 am to Noon
(Field Trip)
Field Trip - Spring Lake and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University

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. The cost of the field trip is $8.50 and the cost to park is $3 and must be paid the day of the trip. Please
bring exact cash. The field trip will accommodate up to 60 people. Contact kathleen.goldsmith@txdot.gov to secure your place.

8:00 am to 5:00
(Training Opportunity)

Public Involvement Training Opportunity – Public Involvement for NEPA

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.