

LRGVDC & AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP – GROUP 1



Location: SPI Convention Center, 7355 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, TX
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 – Theater Room
Time: 8:00AM TO 1:00PM (Breakfast and Lunch provided)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the American Flood Coalition, in partnership with the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force Partnership, Inc. and the 25th Annual LRGV Stormwater Planning & Management Conference, and Watershed Protection Planners are pleased to host a Regional RGV Seminar designed with elected officials and community leadership in mind.

7:00am – 8:00am Breakfast, Coffee, Conversation and Networking
8:00am – 8:05am Welcome by **Joe Hinojosa**, General Manager, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15,
Chair of the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force
8:05am – 8:15 am Welcome by the **Honorable David Garza**, Cameron County Commissioner,
Chair of the Stormwater Conference Planning Group
8:15am – 10:00 am “Lightning Round” – 10-minute presentations: facilitated by **Chase Kronzer**, American Flood
Coalition and **Manuel Cruz**, Executive Director, LRGVDC

8:15 am – 10 :00 am: Lightning Round (Conference Plenary I) – 10-minute presentations. Please note that some of these speakers will deliver the same presentation in more detail during the technical sessions May 24 (afternoon) – May 25 (all day). Check your conference program:

“TGLO Update”

Jet Hays

Deputy Director over Program Integration of Community Development and Revitalization
Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX

“Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement Basics”

Gayle Davidson

Community Assistance Program Manager
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Harlingen, Texas

“USEDA Update”

Apurva Naik

Economic Development Integrator
U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA), Austin, TX

“TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Program”

Cody Ransone, CFM, CTCM, CTCD

Flood Mitigation Grant Coordinator, Flood Science and Community Assistance, Water Science and Conservation
Texas Water Development Board, Austin, TX

“Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan Amendment”

Robert L. Saenz, PE, CFM, PMP, DBIA

Vice President
HALFF Associates, Inc., McAllen, TX

“TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Category I Harlingen Regional Project”

Godfrey Garza

Senior Drainage Advisor
Civil Systems Engineering, Inc., Harlingen, TX

*“TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Category I LRGVDC-LRGV Regional Project
LRGV Regional Flood Management Programs & Efforts”*

Andrew Ernest, PE, Ph.D.
Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc. – Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX

“TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Category I Willacy County Regional Project”

Jose Munoz, PE
Guzman & Munoz Engineering and Surveying, Inc., Mercedes, TX

“TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Category I Brownsville Regional Project”

Anne Whitko, CFM
Senior Water Resources Project Manager
HALFF & Associates, Inc., Brownsville, TX

“The Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan”

Joshua Oyer
Coastal Resiliency Program Manager
Texas General Land Office. Austin, TX

“Putting Clean Coast Texas To Work For Coastal Communities”

Jason Pinchback
Manager, Coastal Resources
Texas General Land Office. Austin, TX

Break: 10:00 am – 10:15 am

10:15 am – 10:35 am: Lightning Round, continued (Conference Plenary I)

“TWDB Region M Water Plan Update”

James E. Darling
Attorney
TWDB Region M Planning Group, Chairperson, Weslaco, TX

“Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and USACE Update”

Lisa McCracken Mairs
Project Manager
Flood Risk Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, Galveston, TX

10:40 am PLENARY I KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kathleen Jackson, Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission of Texas

Chair: Honorable David Garza, Cameron County Commissioner

11:15 am – 12 noon - Conference Plenary I Speakers – 10-minute presentations (Lightning Round Cont.)

“Texas Department of Transportation Funding Update”

Rex A. Costley, P.E.
Texas Department of Transportation
Pharr Deputy District Engineer, Pharr, TX

“Hidalgo County Reclamation Project and General Overview”

David Fuentes
Hidalgo County Commissioner Pct. 1, Weslaco, TX

“City of Lafayette, LA, Use Nature-based Systems approach with Detention Systems.”

David Reazin
Physical Scientist
Water Division/Community Infrastructure Section, Assistance Programs Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Dallas, TX

“Hidalgo County Pct. 4 Regional Project Update”

Velinda Reyes
Chief Administrator for External Affairs
Office of Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Commissioner Pct. 4, Edinburg, TX

12 noon – 1 pm Luncheon

12:30 pm LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Robert “Bobby” Janeka, Commissioner on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Chair: Honorable David Garza, Cameron County Commissioner

