

Coastal Science and Engineering Collaborative

May 23 -24, 2019

Lower Rio Grande Valley

Sand Dunes **B and C** at Pearl **Hotel and** Resort

Registration required (add link)

(310 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597)

Purpose

- Pursue a LRGV-Wide Comprehensive Watershed Assessment to Support Regional:
 - Regional Water Resource Management
 - Regional Flood Response & Resiliency
 - Regional Watershed & Ecosystem Protection

Day 0: May 22, 2019

Arrival & Networking – Sand Dunes A, B, C, and D

1. 18:00 – 20:00 Networking Dinner
2. **Keynote Speaker – Honorable Ernest Aliseda, Former UT System Regent**

Day 1: May 23, 2019

Plenary - Introductions, Overview & Landscape Assessment

3. 08:00 – 08:10 Welcome & Introductions
Andrew Ernest, Professor of Civil Engineering, UTRGV
4. 08:10 – 08:30 USACE Watershed Assessments: Objectives. Process & Example
USACE/Dr. Russo
5. 08:30 – 09:20 Synopsis of LRGV Water Roles, Responsibilities, Issues & Opportunities (Round Table?)
 - a. LRGVDC
Ron Garza, Executive Director (Confirmed)
 - b. Cameron County
David A. Garza, Commissioner, Precinct 3 (Confirmation Pending)
 - c. Hidalgo County
David L. Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct 1 (Confirmed)
Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct 4 (Confirmed)
 - d. Willacy County
Eduardo Gonzales, Commissioner, Precinct 4 (Confirmation Pending)

Day 1: May 23, 2019 (cont.)

Overview & Technical Sessions

6. 10:00 - 10:15 Networking Break
7. 10:15 - 12:00 State & Federal Water Resource Management Programs, Examples & Opportunities for the LRGV. Presentations by Agency Leadership.
(Program Staff from relevant Agencies to participate in Day 2 Local Issues Breakouts & Bringing It Together Regionally Brainstorming Sessions to connect need with Opportunities)
 - a. TGLO
Jet Hay, Deputy Director of Integration, Community Development and Revitalization (CDR) (Confirmed)
 - b. Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee
Dorothy Young
Texas Commissioner on Environmental Quality
Water Supply Division
Request Pending
 - c. TWDB
Request Pending
 - d. USEPA
Adele Cardenas-Malott, Senior Policy Advisor (Confirmed)
8. 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch **Keynote**
 - a. **Keynote Speaker** – Texas Comptroller of Accounts, Glenn Hegar
9. 13:00 – 15:00 LRGV Hydrology, Drainage & Flood Management
 - a. LRGV Hydrology
Jungseok Ho, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Professor, UTRGV
Augusto Sanchez-Gonzalez, Director of Estuary Program, Cameron County
 - b. Hidalgo **County Drainage District #1**
Raul E. Sesin, General Manager (Confirmation Pending)
 - c. **Cameron County Drainage District #1**
Albert Barreda, Chief of Operations General Manager (Confirmation Pending)
 - d. **Willacy County Drainage District #1**
Paul Greenhill, District Manager (Confirmation Pending)
 - e. **U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)**
Juan E. Uribe, Jr., Area Operations Manager, Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project (Confirmation Pending)
10. 15:00 – 15:15 Networking Break
11. 15:15 – 17:00 Tools & Technology Available for Addressing Issues
 - a. **U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Tools** (Elissa Yeates/Joseph Gutenson, ERDC)
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Michael Ku, Long Term Mitigation Advisor
Tesse Kofahl, Program Coordination & Partnerships (Confirmed)
 - b. **US Geological Survey (USGS)** - Kristine Blickenstaff

Day 1: May 23, 2019 (cont.)

Overview & Technical Sessions

- c. **National Weather Service (NWS)**- Greg Waller service Coordination Hydrologist, West Gulf River Forecast Center
- d. Real-Time Hydrologic Forecasting
Abdoul Oubeidillah, Ph.D., **UTRGV**
- e. Coastal Storm Surge Modeling
Jungseok Ho, **Ph.D., UTRGV**
- f. LRGV Water Resource Management Cyberinfrastructure
Andrew Ernest, **Ph.D., UTRGV**

Day 2: May 24, 2019

Plenary II - Overview

- 1. **09:00 – 09:30** USACE Projects & Programs: Process for Identifying & Applying for Federal Support, Lisa Mairs, Program Manager for planning assistance to the States (PAS) and Continuing Authority Program (CAP), Galveston District, USACE.
- 2. **09:30 – 9:35** Introduction of Plenary Speaker
Office of Senator John Cornyn, Ana-Maria Garcia, Regional Director
- 3. **09:35-10:00 – Speaker**
 - a. Keynote Speaker - Jayne Harkins, P.E., USIBWC Commissioner
- 4. **10:00 - 10:15** Networking Break

Issue Prioritization, Formulation & Steps Forward

- 5. **10:15 – 11:00** Local Issues Breakouts: Synopsis of Issues, Projects, Needs at an Urban-Level that can be Integrated to Refine the Regional Need, Connections with State & Federal Opportunities
Are There Local Projects/Needs That Can Be Addressed Short-Term?
Are There Local Projects/Needs That Are Best Rolled into a Larger, Regional Initiative?
 - a. Hidalgo County (**USACE facilitator**)
 - i. **HCDD#1**
 - ii. Edinburg
 - iii. Mercedes
 - iv. Pharr
 - v. Weslaco
 - b. Cameron County (**USACE facilitator**)
 - i. **CCDD#1**
 - ii. Brownsville
 - iii. Harlingen
 - iv. South Padre Island

Day 2: May 24, 2019 (cont.)

Issue Prioritization, Formulation & Steps Forward

- c. Willacy County (USACE facilitator and USIBWC Commissioner)
 - i. WCDD#1
 - ii. Port Mansfield
 - iii. Raymondville
 - iv. San Perlita
- 6. 11:00 – 12:00 Bringing it Together Regionally: Brainstorming (Post-It)
 - a. Local-to-Regional Issue Correlation: Are there Local Issues Best Managed Regionally?
 - b. Regional Gap Analysis: What are the Knowledge/Data Gaps?
 - c. Issue Identification/Prioritization: Are there Regional Issues that can be Addressed Short Term? Which ones Need a Long-Term Strategy?
 - d. Action Item Identification/Prioritization
 - e. Open Discussion
 - f. Next Steps
- 7. 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
 - a. Texas Work Force Commissioner, Juan Alvarez III