



LRGV TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE PARTNERSHIP
STORMWATER
CONFERENCE 2023

**The Lower Rio Grande Valley
TPDES Stormwater Task
Force Partnership, Inc.
Announces Its 25th Annual
Conference**

**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Javier Guerrero
(956) 929-7189**

PRESS RELEASE

**25th Annual LRGV Stormwater Management and Planning Conference
South Padre Island Convention Center, South Padre Island, TX
May 24th – 26th, 2023**

SPI, TX-The Task Force and its partners are pleased to announce the 25th Annual *Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Management & Planning Conference at SPI, TX*. Our conference focuses on research topics germane to South Texas and the U.S.-Mexico border region. It is our goal to develop team-based and research inspired programs to train and educate our future engineers. Working with our partners, we have brought together representatives from academia, private industries, environmental groups, research communities and state and federal agencies to be a part of a team exchanging ideas concerning environmental and engineering issues impacting coastal and semi-arid regions and the Rio Grande Valley and transferring that information to the decision makers and stakeholders who influence the economic, social, and physical infrastructure along the border region.

Our keynote speakers include:

Kathleen Jackson – Public Utility Commission of Texas Commissioner, **Dawn Buckingham** - Texas General Land Office Commissioner, **Bobby Janeka** - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Commissioner, **Alex Meade**-Texas Department of Transportation, **Jet Hayes**- General Land Office Deputy Director over Program Integration of Community Development & Revitalization.

Sponsorships and Exhibitor Booths available. Please contact Melisa Gonzales at (956)605-0650 or via email at mgonzales@lrgvstormwatertaskforce.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Keynote: 10:30 am, May 24th, 2023

KATHLEEN JACKSON

Texas Public Utility Commission

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Kathleen Jackson to serve as a commissioner on the Public Utility Commission of Texas on August 5, 2022. She previously served as a Board Member of the Texas Water Development Board since 2014. She was first appointed to the TWDB by Governor Rick Perry on March 18, 2014 and reappointed by Governor Abbott on March 9, 2017.

Jackson has a diverse background representing agricultural, environmental, industrial, and wholesale-supply interests, which includes developing and implementing water management strategies for Southeast Texas. As a registered professional engineer, Jackson served as public affairs manager for one of the world's largest petroleum and petrochemical producers.



Keynote: 12:00 pm, May 24th, 2023

BOBBY JANECKA

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Bobby Janecka serves as one of three appointed Commissioners responsible for oversight of the state environmental agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). His work focuses on leading the TCEQ Border Initiative, serving as the State Liaison Officer for Texas with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and representing the agency as a member of the Texas Energy Reliability Council. He also serves as a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Governmental Advisory Committee representing the interests of the TCEQ to provide advice to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of issues. His previous experience includes roles in the Office of the Governor, Texas House of Representatives, and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He is a graduate of the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service, the University of Texas at Dallas, and the Governor's Executive Development Program at The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs



Keynote: 12:00 pm, May 25th, 2023

DAWN BUCKINGHAM

Texas General Land Office

Commissioner Buckingham's family were among the first settlers to Texas seven generations ago, and that tough, independent, pioneer spirit is deeply rooted in her personality. True to her Texas roots, her commitment to service began early, serving as a volunteer firefighter, and attending the Texas A&M Fire School. She is also an avid hunter, outdoorswoman, and steward of the land. She made history in 2016 as the first woman elected to the Texas State Senate from Travis County. Without slowing down, she made history again in 2022 when elected as the 29th, and state's first female Commissioner of the General Land Office, Texas' oldest state agency.



Speaking: 9:30 am, May 24th, 2023

JET HAYS

Community Development and Revitalization Texas General Land Office

Jet Hays came to the Texas General Land Office in 2017 and is the Deputy Director, of Program Integration for the Community Development and Revitalization (CDR) Division. He oversees CDR specific automation systems, Studies focusing on improving CDR housing programs and improving planning tools with state level and local studies, Liaison with State and Federal Agencies and is responsible for maintaining the State sponsored FEMA short term housing program in a standby status.

Jet served 33 years with the Texas National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was responsible for the Disaster Recovery Planning and Operations where he developed and refined hazard plans for events such as hurricane response, floods, severe winter weather, special security, and catastrophic events.



Keynote: 7:30 pm, May 23rd, 2023

MAJOR EUGENE E. ROBERTS, PMP

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Galveston District

Maj. Eugene “Gene” E. Roberts serves as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District’s Deputy District Engineer, a position he has held since January 10, 2023. In this role, he leads engagement with partners and projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and coordinates efforts across support staff to support the District’s mission. He also leads military manning requirements and engagements with USACE Headquarters.

Maj. Roberts was commissioned in the U.S. Army and Texas Army National Guard in September 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management from DeVry University, a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Construction Management from Norwich University and holds Project Management Professional credentials. Maj. Roberts is a graduate of the Defense Planner Course at the U.S. Army War College, the Engineer Officer Captains Career Course, and the Basic Course.



Keynote: 10:00 am, May 25th, 2023

MARIA ELENA GINER, PHD

International Boundary Water Commission

President Joe Biden in August 2021 appointed Maria-Elena Giner to serve as the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Dr. Giner, the second woman and first Latina to hold the post, previously served as General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), an institution that developed environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border in association with the North American Development Bank. During her tenure at the BECC, she focused on policies that addressed U.S.-Mexico cooperation on water, energy, and climate change.

Dr. Giner’s education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin. She is also a registered professional engineer, first-generation college graduate, and daughter of an immigrant. Dr. Giner is from the border region and attended Loretto Academy High School in El Paso, Texas. She is bicultural and bilingual.

