



MAY 15-18
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS



RIVER RALLY 2020

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RIVER RALLY 2020

— IMPORTANT DATES

March 1

Field trip
registration opens.

Mid-March

Scholarship
recipients notified.

April 1

Early bird
registration ends.

May 15–18

River Rally 2020, see
you in San Antonio!



— OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND OUR COMMUNITY

River Network seeks to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and in the work of organizations across our network. We welcome, involve, and value all perspectives, voices, styles, and identities, with special attention to racial power dynamics. We foster inclusion by building internal structures and processes that promote a sense of belonging.

We encourage inclusion throughout our network by validating the inherent worth and dignity of all people with an expectation of mutual respect.

River Rally is an interactive space for anyone interested in river and water issues to engage in a variety of topics. We recognize and honor the value of diverse perspectives and strive to create a safe place for all participants to connect, converse, and share their knowledge with each other. We do not, however, tolerate behavior that threatens, harasses, or otherwise jeopardizes this community and any individuals in it. Please share in our collective responsibility to create and hold a space for the benefit of all who attend River Rally.



IMPORTANT INFO

Personal Pronouns

During registration we asked for your pronouns, and they will appear on your River Rally badge if you chose to provide them. Why do we do this? River Network is committed to fostering inclusion and promoting a sense of belonging through our internal structures and processes. We recognize that using an individual's correct personal pronouns is a way to show respect and foster an inclusive environment. Help us create and maintain a welcoming and respectful space for all at Rally by acknowledging the personal pronouns of all attendees. To learn more, please visit mypronouns.org.

Scholarships

The scholarship application period is now closed. You should find out if you have received an award by mid-March and will have until the early-bird deadline (April 1) to pay any remaining balance on your registration. If, for any reason, you decide you cannot attend the event, you may cancel your registration without penalty before April 1.

Mentoring

Early conference registrants have the opportunity to sign up for one-on-one, 50-minute mentorship sessions with esteemed water conservationists and community organizers at River Rally. Register before April 15, 2020, to be invited to participate in a mentorship session with an expert of your choice.

Volunteer at Rally

Registration discounts are available in exchange for volunteer hours at River Rally. To view and apply for available volunteer shifts, visit rivernetwork.org/scholarships.

Visit riverrally.org for the latest info.

STAY CONNECTED

Official hashtag: **#RiverRally2020**
Facebook: facebook.com/rivernetwork
Twitter: twitter.com/rivernetwork
Instagram: [river_network](https://instagram.com/river_network)

Join the buzz, and share your thoughts, photos, and River Rally highlights!



2020 AGENDA



FRIDAY, MAY 15TH

4:30pm	Welcome Reception
5:30pm	Opening Remarks
7:00pm	Dinner on Your Own
9:00pm	Wild & Scenic Film Festival

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

8:00am–10:00am	Breakfast and Keynote
10:30am–12:00pm	Workshops – Session 1
12:30pm–1:30pm	Lunch and Networking
2:00pm–3:30pm	Workshops – Session 2
4:00pm–5:30pm	Workshops – Session 3
5:30pm–8:30pm	Dinner on Your Own
9:00pm	Open Mic

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

7:00am–9:00am	Breakfast and Plenary
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops – Session 4
11:30am–5:30pm	Field Trips
5:30pm–10:00pm	Awards Reception and Celebration

MONDAY, MAY 18TH

7:00am–9:00am	Breakfast and Plenary
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops – Session 5
11:30am–12:45pm	Networking and Idea Exchanges
1:00pm–2:00pm	Lunch and Closing Remarks
2:15pm–3:45pm	Workshops – Session 6

WORKSHOP THEMES

River Rally 2020 features workshops presented by water and conservation professionals from across the US, covering a variety of issues under the themes below. —

Working with Farmers and Ranchers

We all need food and fiber, but what does it take to have agriculture and healthy rivers exist side-by-side? We invite you to share your experiences that demonstrate what is possible in collaboration with farmers and ranchers, the connection to soil health and crop diversification, challenges of equity and justice in rural America, how communities have stood-up against bad actors, and improvements to water contamination and river flows.

Building Resilient Cities and Communities

How do we help rivers become part of the social vitality and economic future of cities and communities? What opportunities exist to help these communities become less vulnerable to the impacts of floods and droughts? How do we make sure to avoid harm to vulnerable populations caused by restoration and recovery? We invite you to share your lessons including how partnerships among water advocates and producers have expanded your perspective.

Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water

Everyone needs safe, clean and affordable water to drink. However, drinking water may not be as safe as generations of Americans have come to expect and a growing number of people in our country face unaffordable water bills while water utilities struggle to fund maintenance or replace aging pipes. How do we address these challenges in both urban and rural areas? We invite you to share your lessons and insights.

Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies

Does your work include empowering citizens, organizations, and governments to protect, strengthen, and implement water laws and policies? Does your work include new water law and policy innovations that support conservation or infrastructure investment or address concerns of those who are more vulnerable due to income, influence, or discrimination? If so, please share your story, the keys to your success, and your advice to others.

Civic Participation and Our Water Future

The cornerstone of a vibrant democracy is an engaged and empowered electorate, one that is informed, shows up at public meetings, votes in elections, and demands accountability. If your work involves civic participation and engagement, we invite you to help demystify how to get started and how this activism has been used to goals related to clean water and healthy rivers.

Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Conservation and community engagement informed by science, underpinned by proven technology, and supported by data allow us to achieve more impact and demonstrate value. Have you been able to engage your community in data collections efforts that have expanded your reach? What practical approaches and tools are working for you that are transferrable to others or scalable for bigger impact?

Addressing Climate Risk for Greater Water Security

How are you using climate science, modeling, and other data to inform better decision-making in a time of persistent drought and record floods? Are you pushing towards solutions that manage groundwater and surface water to let rivers remain alive? What novel approaches exist to financing resilient infrastructure, restoration, and protection of water resources or disaster preparedness and how can data help?

Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Do you have insights about organizational effectiveness, avoiding burnout, leading cultural change, achieving fundraising goals, understanding nonprofit finances, measuring progress, building membership programs, or becoming more diverse, equitable, and inclusive? If so, we invite you to share your approaches, insights, and tools with nonprofit leaders from coast to coast.

Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications

A top-notch board of directors and strong communications can help your organization have greater impact, raise more money, and become more creative and responsive. What are the fundamentals of being a great board member? What are you doing to sharpen board members' skills? How do you (and your board) share the stories of your work? What are the most effective ways to communicate with impact about water

Workshop Tracks

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, or Climate Justice – E

Texas – 

Water Infrastructure – I

Lightning Rounds

During each workshop time block, head to the Villa room for four 20-minute, back-to-back presentations on highly focused topics across each of our themes. It is sure to be an exciting, information-packed experience!

FRIDAY MAY 15

URBAN WATERS LEARNING FORUM: Leading with Equity for Flooding Resiliency and Investments in Water Infrastructure 8:00AM–1:00PM

This Urban Waters Learning Forum is sponsored by EPA and hosted by River Network and Groundwork USA. This half-day workshop will be facilitated by *Darryl Haddock (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance)* and *Jennifer Arnold (Reciprocity Consulting, LLC)*. Historically marginalized populations suffer disproportionately from the effects of flooding and inadequate investments in water infrastructure. An intentional focus on equity is key to increasing resilience, creating input opportunities for community feedback, and targeting future investments to positively impact vulnerable populations. We will use examples from different urban waters contexts to show how institutionalized racism and other forms of inequity play out and what can be done to address them.

URBAN WATERS LEARNING FORUM 1:30PM-4:30PM

The afternoon session will offer facilitated networking opportunities, giving attendees a chance to share their work and have deeper discussions around a variety of topics of interest to urban waters practitioners. We will also present the 4th Annual Urban Waters Learning Network Awards. The Forum is open to all EPA and NFWF Urban Waters grant recipients, Urban Waters Federal Partners, and other urban waters practitioners.

Congratulations to the 2020 Urban Waters Learning Network award winners: Alicia Lehrer (Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council), Alicia Smith (Junction Coalition), Andrea Savage (formerly with Groundwork Denver), and the organization Groundwork Indianapolis.

Welcome Reception and Opening Remarks • 4:30pm

Kick off Rally by meeting new friends, reconnecting with those you haven't seen, and get into the spirit of Rally with prominent local speakers who will welcome us all to the San Antonio area. _____



Darrell T. Brownlow—Chairman of the Board, San Antonio River Authority—is a fifth generation South Texan, resident of Wilson County, and landowner and rancher in LaSalle County. He is a 1982 graduate of Floresville High School and of Texas Tech University with a BS (1987), MS (1989), and PhD (1991), all in geology. Additionally, Brownlow has completed International Executive Management programs at Stanford Graduate School (Palo Alto, CA), Insead (Fountainbleu, FR) and Egade Graduate School – Monterrey Tech (Monterrey, MX).

Currently, Darrell is a Principal in Carrizo Consulting LP through which he consults on construction material sourcing, development and other mining related issues both nationally and internationally. Additionally, he consults to various large energy firms and organizations as well as privately owned ranches on water supply and water management strategies related to a variety of groundwater related issues. He has authored and co-authored several technical articles and publications on subjects ranging from CO2 capture and sequestration in the cement industry to availability of Carrizo Aquifer water for Eagle Ford Shale development.

Prior to serving as a Director of the San Antonio River Authority, Brownlow was Governor Perry's appointee to the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District from 2000 to 2011.

Darrell and his wife Brooke have two children, Jordan and Dustin.



Melissa Cabello Havrda is a proud native of District 6 in San Antonio, Texas. Councilwoman Cabello Havrda attended Taft High School in the district and earned her B.A. majoring in political science from St. Mary's University, a Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and an MBA from UTSA.

While working on obtaining her degrees, Councilwoman Cabello Havrda served her community by holding the position of special assistant to former Mayor Ed Garza. She then served as project coordinator to Mayor Emeritus Lila Cockrell and former Councilwoman Bonnie Conner at the San Antonio Parks Foundation. Councilwoman Cabello Havrda has also taught Business Law and Criminal Court Systems at Northwest Vista Community College. She is a practicing attorney and proud small-business owner, operating The Law Office of Melissa Cabello Havrda, PLLC. Her primary area of practice is disability law, but also helps clients in family, probate, and misdemeanor criminal law.

Councilwoman Cabello Havrda will be serving as Mayor Pro Tem during River Rally.



Nelson W. Wolff has represented Bexar County in various political offices. He served in the Texas House of Representatives, in the Texas Senate, and the San Antonio City Council as Mayor. He currently serves as Bexar County Judge, a position he was appointed to in 2001 and has since been elected to five times, most recently in November 2018. He is only the second person in more than a century to serve as both Mayor of San Antonio and Bexar County Judge.

Judge Wolff has focused on improving county services. County improvements in highway and flood control infrastructure have increased during his tenure. Under his leadership, Bexar County was the primary funder of the Mission Reach ecosystem restoration project along the San Antonio River, which was a community investment that proved vital to the UNESCO World Heritage designation of the San Antonio Missions. Bexar County is also the primary funder of the San Pedro Creek Improvement Project that will provide flood control and facilitate investment near downtown San Antonio; the 1st phase opened on May 5, 2018—Bexar County's 300th birthday.

Judge Wolff and his wife Tracy have six children and seven grandchildren.

**WILD &
SCENIC FILM
FESTIVAL
9:00PM**

With support from South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), spend the first night of Rally enjoying a program of thought provoking and beautiful films from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Film titles will be announced as Rally approaches.

These films are available through the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour Program. Visit wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/ for details.



SATURDAY MAY 16

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 • 10:30AM–12:00PM

Building Multi-Racial Organizations for Our Waters

We will discuss the differences between diversity, equity, inclusion, and multi-racial leadership and share stories—both successes and challenges—as Milwaukee Water Commons works to build a multi-racial organization focused on our waters.

Brenda Coley and Kirsten Shead, Milwaukee Water Commons

Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Olivares

Natural Defenses Against Climate-Driven Flooding

As extreme rainfall events occur more and more frequently, communities across the country face unprecedented flooding. Learn how green infrastructure and nature-based defenses can protect both communities and rivers from climate-driven disasters.

Emily Powell, National Wildlife Federation; Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance; Danielle Goshen, Galveston Bay Foundation; Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy

Addressing Climate Risk for Greater Water Security, Room: Goraz

A Tale of Two Richmonds: Equity, Climate, & History

In Richmond, VA, and Richmond, CA, we're examining the impact of climate change on our communities through the lens of historic policies of discrimination. Learn how data and community-based conversations are shaping climate resilience strategies.

Rob Jones, Groundwork RVA; Matt Holmes, Groundwork Richmond

Building Resilient Cities and Communities, Room: Camino Real

Building Bridges Across the Political Divide

An interactive, hands-on training for advocates and communicators. Learn how to find influencers, build relationships with decision makers, and advocate effectively for conservation priorities.

Chandra Brown, Influence Advocacy, LLC
Civic Participation and Our Water Future, Room: Sabino

The Five Myths of Board Membership

This workshop will help you navigate some of the common myths and misconceptions on what it means to be a board member; how to develop, recruit, and retain effective board members; and the vital role the Executive Director plays.

Amy Zola and Allison Elder, San Antonio River Authority

Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications, Room: Encino

Advancing Stormwater Mitigation with Science

Learn to use science to engage the community and demonstrate the value of stormwater mitigation measures. Speakers will highlight the use of data from three perspectives: green stormwater infrastructure, ecological biodiversity, and triple bottom line.

Jake Aalfs, Brandon Herman, and Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority

Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Lantana

Gathering of Statewide & Regional River Groups

Join leaders and staff of statewide and regional network organizations to discuss current federal and state policy issues and the different approaches groups are using to lead messaging, policy advocacy, and coalition-building in their states or regions.

April Ingle and Brenna Goggin, River Network

Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies, Room: Zapata

Restoring Freshwater to Texas Ecosystems

Workshop participants will learn how to effectively work with willing farmers and ranchers to restore freshwater flows to important Texas ecosystems. These flow restoration efforts will be related to similar work in other western states.

Sharlene Leurig, Texas Water Trade; Kyle Garmany, The Nature Conservancy

Working with Farmers and Ranchers, Room: Carranza

Getting the Lead Out While Protecting Watersheds **E I**

Learn about Denver Water's plan to reduce lead in drinking water while preventing additional nutrient pollution in regional watersheds, understand the challenges and benefits of reducing lead exposure, and how to address lead in your own community.

Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water, Room: Madero

LIGHTNING ROUND BUILDING RESILIENT CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ROOM: VILLA

Green Design for a Resilient Caño Martin Peña **E I**

San Juan, Puerto Rico, was devastated by floods following Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Learn how community-based green infrastructure design assistance benefited these communities affected by urban flooding.

Clark Wilson, US EPA Office of Research and Development

Daylighting the Saw Mill River **E**

Learn how architects, artists, community groups, city officials, and more came together to daylight Yonkers, NY's forgotten underground Saw Mill River, leading to ecological, economic, and cultural revitalization. Discover ideas and proven methods for how to daylight your own hidden waterways.

Brigitte Griswold, Groundwork Hudson Valley

Addressing Gentrification and Displacement for Community Resilience **E I**

Gentrification and displacement are some of the most complex challenges facing cities across the nation. This workshop will explore cross-sector efforts to address the unique complexity of urban environmental justice with a specific focus on green infrastructure and community resilience.

Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

Drinking Water Guide: A Resource for Advocates **E**

River Network's Drinking Water Guide covers the basics of drinking water from the source to your taps. This quick session will provide a high-level overview of the Guide along with tips for how to use it in your community.

Sheyda Esnaasshari, River Network
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water



SATURDAY MAY 16 – WORKSHOP SESSION 2 2:00PM–3:30PM

Weaving Together Art, Water, & Social Justice

The Blue Art Collective returns to explore two powerful mechanisms for equitable water work: creative placemaking and art builds. Join us to continue the conversation about weaving together social justice and water conservation through art. *Sarah Davidson, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council; Kevin Jeffery, MRV Architects, Erin O’Grady, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*
Civic Participation and Our Water Future, Room: Olivares

Ensuring One Water Delivers for Healthy Waterways

The new “One Water” approach to maximizing urban water supplies may threaten rivers if protections for environmental flows are not baked in to water-supply planning. Learn how to make sure river protections are part of your city’s water future. *Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation; Myron Hess, Tributary Consulting, Law Office of Myron Hess*
Building Resilient Cities and Communities, Room: Goraz

Clean & Safe Water in a Time of Change

Climate change is inherently a water issue. Local utilities must adapt to changes that both ensure clean and safe water services and can help advance community resilience. We will explore case studies of innovative utilities prioritizing water resilience. *Kristina Surfus, National Association of Clean Water Agencies*
Addressing Climate Risk for Greater Water Security, Room: Camino Real

Scaling Investment to Meet Local Water Challenges

This interactive workshop will challenge water leaders to scale localized infrastructure investments to address pressing water supply, stormwater runoff, and water treatment challenges facing their communities. *Cynthia Koehler, WaterNow Alliance; Ed Harrington, Municipal Financial Consultant; Drew Beckwith, City of Westminster, CO*
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies, Room: Sabino

The Power of Hidden River Histories

We will learn to use historical skills to empower us to tell stories of our communities. Using as examples historical maps, journal entries, and photos, we will discuss what it takes to create livable and just pasts and futures for our rivers. *Scot McFarlane, Columbia University; Ramya Swayamprakash, River Historian and Ph.D. Candidate*
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications, Room: Encino

Birds, Bivalves, Botany: Assessing Ecological Lift

Restoration of the San Antonio River has resulted in ecological lift of the urban river system. Learn about simple tools and practical approaches for measuring lift using plants, birds, and freshwater mussels as bio-indicators. *Lee Marlowe, Martin Reid, and Chris Vaughn, San Antonio River Authority*
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Lantana

Improving Aquatic Habitat on Private Lands

Trout Unlimited and River Network have partnered to identify and implement on-the-ground restoration projects with benefits to rural stakeholders. Learn how we’ve done it, how to scale it up, and how to pay for it. *Richard Guytenbeek, Trout Unlimited; Nicole Seltzer, River Network*
Working with Farmers and Ranchers, Room: Zapata

Understanding Your Organization’s Reach

Calculate your organization’s current reach and learn how to increase engagement. Participants will explore how to use the reach their organization currently has to acquire higher-level sponsors and increase attendance at events. *Theresa Huck, South Yuba River Citizens League*
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Carranza

Safe Drinking Water Act 101

The Safe Drinking Water Act is the main federal law governing drinking water, and yet many groups are unfamiliar with how it works. Join us for an overview of this landmark law, including its strengths and weaknesses, and an in depth look at several provisions you can watchdog back home. *Katherine Baer, River Network; Nick Leonard, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center; Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action*
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water, Room: Madero

LIGHTNING ROUND WORKING WITH FARMERS AND RANCHERS ROOM: VILLA

Federal Funding for River Conservation **E**

Federal agency funding can often provide a foundation for building partnerships to improve river health, drought resiliency, and other community priorities. Come learn about program funding available from USDA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and EPA.
Melinda Kassen, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank

Are you leading projects that restore river flows and/or ground water? Would you like to connect with businesses who may want to support them? If the answer is “Yes!” attend this session to learn about the Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank.
April Ingle, River Network

Working with Your Neighbors: Developing Local Voices of Farmer- Led and Other Watershed Groups **E**

Does your organization struggle to convey its mission and messages to residents of rural watersheds? Explore the challenges around messaging and discover successful approaches from the Upper Mississippi River Basin.
John (Duke) Welter, Trout Unlimited

SATURDAY MAY 16 – WORKSHOP SESSION 3 4:00PM–5:30PM

How to Be a Lead and Copper Rule Watchdog **E I**

Attendees will learn how to be an effective lead and copper rule (LCR) watchdog through the audit protocol developed and piloted by Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in Michigan. Hear about the LCR Guide and the loopholes to watch out for!

Nick Leonard, Great Lakes

Environmental Law Center

**Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable
Drinking Water, Room: Goraz**

Enhancing Equity & Shifting the Current Paradigm **E**

Want to teach youth and adults (and your staff) about the intersection of environmental justice and resilience? Join us to explore these topics using games and activities from the collaboratively developed Learners to Leaders: EJ Literacy curriculum.

D Garcia, Groundwork Denver; Jennifer

Fong, Groundwork Richmond CA

**Building Resilient Cities and
Communities, Room: Sabino**

Making a Splash When Talking About River Flows

In this interactive training, participants will learn how to navigate messaging to different audiences in red states. Discover which messages will resonate with each audience and who should be the messenger.

Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC

**Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and
Effective Communications, Room: Encino**

Assessing Climate Resiliency on a Watershed Scale **E I**

Climate does not adhere to municipal borders. The Lower Grand River Watershed's Climate Resiliency Plan offers strategies that will build a better and more climate resilient watershed through hands-on projects, data collection, and civic engagement.

*Wendy Ogilvie and Eileen Boekestein,
Grand Valley Metro Council*

**Addressing Climate Risk for Greater
Water Security, Room: Lantana**

Streamline the Life Cycle of Your Data

Have yellowed data collection sheets jammed in a cabinet? This workshop is for you. The Water Data Collaborative wants to help you manage, integrate, and visualize their data. Learn a streamlined process and best practice resources to quickly collect and disseminate data with resources like Water Reporter, Salt Watch, and open data management tools.

John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons; Sam Briggs, Izaak Walton League of America; Adam Griggs, River Network
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Zapata

Lessons on Network-Building from the Delaware River

Learn how a network-based strategy is supporting a large coalition to create change basin-wide. Leave this interactive session with tools for balancing the benefits and costs of collaboration, cross-state advocacy approaches, and forming effective partnerships.

Kelly Knutson, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed; Grant La Rouche, National Wildlife Federation; Sarah Clark, Institute for Conservation Leadership
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Madero

LIGHTNING ROUND ROOM: VILLA

The Dynamic Duo: ED and Board Chair

Batman and Robin moved in unison with a one-two punch, landing on their feet focused on the next move. Your dynamic duo is the ED and Board Chair. Participants will discuss these different leadership roles and leave with ways to build a stronger relationship.

Sara Wilson, CPCC, Mayes Wilson & Associates, LLC
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications

Why You Need an EDI Strategy!

This fast-paced workshop, developed in conjunction with Bavacuda Consulting, will lead participants through the rationale as to why watershed conservation organizations should have an equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) strategy.

Jumana Vasi, Midwest EJ Network
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Setting the Stage for Effective Meeting Management

Do your meetings always start the same way? There are better ways to set up, introduce, and run a meeting to produce meaningful discussions and generate creative ideas. This workshop will review some tips to help hold more effective meetings.

Amy Zola, San Antonio River Authority
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications

Planning for Impactful Communications

Learn how to build an effective communications plan and identify primary content strategies given your organizational capacity, target audience, and engagement goals.

Amy Boal, River Network
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications

SUNDAY PLENARY – 8:00AM–9:00AM

100 YEARS: LESSONS FROM THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER

The San Antonio River plays a central role in the history, culture, and economy of Southern Texas. Recognized as a global leader for both riverfront development and ecosystem restoration, the San Antonio River demonstrates how balancing economic development and habitat restoration helps move us toward a future where all people have access to clean water and healthy rivers. Join us for a candid conversation with diverse speakers, paying special attention to transferrable lessons relevant where you live, work, and play.



Melissa Bryant is the Director of Technical Services and has been with the San Antonio River Authority since 2002. Melissa attended Texas A&M University in College Station, TX where she graduated with a BS in Agricultural Engineering. She also received her MS in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Melissa is a licensed Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering. She is also a Certified Floodplain Manager and has her Project Management Program Certification. Melissa has over 20 years of professional experience working in the field of water resources.

Melissa oversees the Watershed Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Real Estate Departments, and Sustainable Infrastructure Unit. Her leadership role expands to serving at the state level for the Texas American Water Works Association (AWWA) as the 2020-21 Chair. She also serves in a national leadership role as a Co-Chair for the Stormwater Committee on the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA). Locally, Melissa participated in the City of San Antonio's Climate Action & Adaptability Plan Natural Resources Committee.



Kristen Hansen is the Manager of the Watershed Parks and Operations and has been with the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) since 2012. Her leadership includes the development of new River Authority parks throughout the watershed, operations and maintenance of seven nature-based parks across four counties as well as the Mission Reach and Museum Reach of the San Antonio River Walk and the newly opened San Pedro Creek Culture Park. Kristen also leads the operation and maintenance of 40 River Authority flood retention dams.

Kristen received a Master of Science degree in Parks Administration from Indiana University.

Kristen's past experiences include working as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service throughout the country, as a Park Supervisor for Orange County Parks and Recreation, and as a Park Manager for the Washington Township Community Park Systems in Avon, Indiana.

Kristen continues her passion and enjoyment of the outdoors with her two daughters.



Lori Houston was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of San Antonio in July of 2015. Prior to her arrival to the City Manager's Office she served as the Director of the Center City Development & Operations Department (CCDO). Through her leadership, the City has facilitated the development of an additional 49 housing projects that will ultimately yield 6,275 housing units in the downtown area. These projects represent an investment of over \$1 billion in downtown San Antonio. Lori also led the redevelopment of Travis Park and the formation of a committee to re-imagine Alamo Plaza.

Prior to working in the Center City Development & Operations Department, Lori worked in the City Manager's Office where she managed several high profile initiatives to include serving as the Project Manager for the \$72 million Museum Reach Urban Segment of the San Antonio River Improvements Project, which extended the San Antonio River Walk 1.3 miles north.

In her role as Assistant City Manager, Lori has oversight responsibilities for CCDO as well as the Department of Arts and Culture, the Planning Department, the Neighborhood & Housing Services Department, Library System, World Heritage Department, and the Alamo Master Plan.



Steven Schauer is the Director of Government and Public Affairs for the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority). He has been with the agency since January 2007. His major responsibilities include developing and implementing strategic communication and engagement activities, coordinating local, state, and federal legislative agendas, directing the educational outreach programs, and conducting national and international relations.

As the River Authority's spokesman, Steven regularly hosts domestic and foreign visitors in San Antonio, and he has presented at river-related conferences across the United States. Steven has also had the pleasure of accepting speaking engagements in India, South Korea, China, Japan, and Australia, where he accepted the 2017 International Riverprize on behalf of the River Authority.

Steven has served in various capacities (Executive Producer, Director, Writer, Videographer, and Editor) for several award-winning River Authority documentaries, including the most recent film about paddling the San Antonio River from San Antonio to Seadrift—a 260-mile paddling trip he also had the immense joy of leading.

His educational background includes a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin (2001) and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Incarnate Word in San Antonio (1994).

SUNDAY MAY 17

WORKSHOP SESSION 4 • 9:30AM–11:00AM

Plastics Crisis: Fighting a Petrochemical Buildout

Break Free From Plastic is a global movement that seeks to shift the narrative of plastics toward rural and urban communities who face disproportionate impacts from plastics production. Learn how to weave these themes into your ongoing advocacy work.

Yvette Arellano, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.); Tricia Cortez, Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC Inc.)

Building Resilient Cities and Communities, Room: Olivares

TMDLs: Thinking Beyond Permit Limits

By challenging traditional TMDL implementation, two watershed-based groups are utilizing holistic and cost-effective watershed management approaches to identify and implement watershed-scale projects aimed at improving biodiversity and stream health.

Deanna Doohaluk, TCF/DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup; Susan Myerov, Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies, Room: Goraz

Adventures in Volunteer Monitoring

Learn how River Alliance of Wisconsin is improving the reach and sustainability of their aquatic invasive species monitoring programs, as they share results, experiences, and creative new materials inspired by volunteer and partner feedback.

Natalie Dutack, River Alliance of Wisconsin
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Camino Real

Connecting Rural Conservation to Urban Restoration

A Michigan case study shows how connecting upstream agricultural conservation to downstream urban restoration creates opportunities for unique partnerships and funding. Workshop activities will help you identify opportunities in your own watershed.

Eileen Boeckstein and Carlos Calderon, Grand Valley Metro Council/Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds
Working with Farmers and Ranchers, Room: Sabino

Connecting Institutions and Advocates

Water advocates and utilities can address social disparities and create win-wins by changing their relationships. Hear from a utility director and a community-based organization leader on what worked and what they wished they'd known at the start.

Emily Simonson, US Water Alliance; Oluwole "OJ" McFoy, Buffalo Sewer Authority; Brenda Coley, Milwaukee Water Commons
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Encino

Meeting the Rural Resilience Imperative

This lively workshop on rural resilience will open your eyes to the importance of rural adaptation and new methods to learn about and protect the vast forests, farms, and watersheds we all depend upon for our air, water, food, fiber, and natural systems.

Gwen Griffith, Model Forest Policy Program; Edward (Ned) Gardiner, NOAA Climate Program Office
Addressing Climate Risk for Greater Water Security, Room: Lantana

Online Advocacy Programs for Citizen Engagement

Which online advocacy programs fit your organization? What do they cost in time and dollars? What results can you expect? Follow the West Virginia River Coalition's experience with different programs as it increases citizen engagement by 260%!

Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Kathleen Tyner, West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Civic Participation and Our Water Future, Room: Zapata

En Español: How to Reach and Activate Latino Communities **E I**

The session will serve both as the launch of the newly-developed River Network Drinking Water Spanish-language Guide, as well as a case study to review, discuss, and analyze methodologies to create culturally relevant outreach materials and educational tools to empower Latino audiences and other diverse communities around water-related issues.

Felipe Benitez, Corazón Latino; Sheyda Esnaashari, River Network
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water, Room: Carranza

Fundraising and the Board: Who Does What

Your Board exists to provide leadership and support in all of your organization's programmatic areas—including fundraising! Learn the “why” of board fundraising, actionable steps and fundraising tactics to set your Board up for success.

Katie Murphy, River Network
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications, Room: Madero

LIGHTNING ROUND ROOM: VILLA

The What, Who, & How of Nonprofit Advocacy Work

One of the greatest myths surrounding 501(c)(3)s is that they cannot participate in advocacy or lobbying. Learn the difference between advocacy and lobbying, how they are defined by law, the regulations governing them, and what activities 501(c)(3)s can and cannot do.

Brenna Goggin, River Network
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies

Protecting Free Speech for Water

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) have been used to curb free speech and healthy debate on issues of public interest. In this workshop, Harpeth Conservancy will explain what these lawsuits are, how they have been used, and how to counter them through communications and other strategies.

James Redwine, Harpeth Conservancy
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies

How to Build a Movement in a Year—A Wisconsin Water Agenda

Learn about the River Alliance of Wisconsin's bold agenda that reimagines water resource management in keeping with their social, environmental, and economic needs.

Raj Shukla, River Alliance of Wisconsin
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies

FIELD TRIPS

On Sunday, put down your laptop and get some fresh air! Field trips are an opportunity to dive deeply into the practical application of a specific topic, explore solutions being implemented successfully at the local level, and enjoy the natural beauty of San Antonio and the surrounding region.

All field trips will leave at 11:30am on Sunday and participants will receive a box lunch. All field trips will end at the Awards Barbecue site.

Birds, Bugs, Botany Spectacular! San Antonio River Guided Nature Tour

Join bird, bug, and botany experts to tour short loop trails of the Mission Reach and an original remnant of the San Antonio River. See and learn about the River's past and current conditions with an emphasis on native flora and fauna.

Urban Green Infrastructure Interactive Learning Tour

This guided tour of the Watershed Wise Rebate projects that use Green Stormwater Infrastructure to treat runoff is an interactive learning opportunity with group discussion.

Waterfront Park Development Along the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek

By river boat and walking, participants will learn about the beauty and economic benefits of the San Antonio River Walk and San Pedro Creek Culture Park and the flood mitigation projects that make this globally recognized urban river park possible.

Kayaking the Mission Reach Urban Ecosystem Restoration Project

Enjoy a guided, five-mile kayak tour on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River Walk. You can expect to have a great time paddling on the San Antonio River while learning about one of the nation's largest urban ecosystem restoration projects.

Confluence Park: An Architectural and Educational Achievement

The Confluence Park interactive tour will demonstrate its educational interpretation that is as much of an architectural triumph as it is an environmental stewardship success.

Mission Reach Freshwater Mussel Survivability Kayaking Trip

Kayak a section of the San Antonio River Mission Reach to see and discuss this massive ecosystem restoration, home to the Freshwater Mussel Survivability Study being conducted by the San Antonio River Authority.

Environmental Stewardship at the San Marcos Springs

Participants will join the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment to experience historic Spring Lake and the San Marcos Springs with a glass-bottom boat ride, a wetlands walking tour, tour of Discovery Hall and endangered species exhibit, and a citizen scientist water quality monitoring activity.

World Heritage Missions Tour

Attendees will receive a briefing on the World Heritage Work Plan that was designed with community input to prepare for increased activity throughout the World Heritage area. Attendees will receive a tour of Padre Park and cover the San Antonio Mission Reach Project, Mission San José, and an acequia demonstration at the farm lands at Mission San Juan.



Deep Dive Into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in San Antonio

Facilitators Darryl Haddock (WAWA) and Jennifer Arnold (Reciprocity Consulting), in partnership with San Antonio's Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, will lead participants through a deep dive of strategies to address institutionalized racism and other forms of inequity in the context of flooding resiliency and water infrastructure investments. Learn from local community organizers working on urban waters and engage in caucusing, where people of color and white people meet separately, then debrief different perspectives and experiences together. We ask that field trip participants be involved in formal DEI work in their organizations and have a basic foundation for this advanced session. *Priority registration to Urban Waters Learning Network members.*

AWARDS BARBECUE AND CELEBRATION

5:30–10:00pm — Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway Street, San Antonio

On the last night of River Rally, gather with attendees and guests for the annual River Hero awards presentation and celebration. River Heroes are nominated annually by their peers, selected by their peers, and celebrated among peers. With this award, we recognize individuals who bring people together to solve water problems, seek solutions that are inclusive and equitable, go “above & beyond,” never give up, and inspire and help others to make a difference.

This year, we're celebrating in style with an outdoor Texas barbecue at San Antonio's Witte Museum, complete with dancing and live music. Don't miss this special celebration of the 2020 Compton Award winner, our second Emerging Leader Award recipient, and the River Heroes.

Transportation between the Westin and the Witte Museum will be provided.

MONDAY PLENARY – 8:00AM–9:00AM OUR NEXT 100 YEARS: BUILDING SOIL HEALTH + WATER SECURITY

Farms, ranches, and rangelands occupy 44% of US land and use approximately 80% of our water supply. As we search for opportunities to create a future that includes food, fiber, and healthy rivers, farmers and ranchers are essential partners. Join us and hear from innovative, trend-setting farmers and ranchers in Texas and elsewhere about what is possible when soil health is part of the equation. A regenerative agriculture revolution is taking hold. We challenge you to contemplate what it means for you and your river.

MONDAY MAY 18 – WORKSHOP SESSION 5 9:30AM–11:00AM

Use Community Knowledge to Achieve Water Equity **E I**

Participants will be trained on the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Toolkit and how to implement toolkit strategies in their communities. Learn from community leaders who have used CBPR to achieve more equitable outcomes.

Diana Toledo and April Ingle, River Network Civic Participation and Our Water Future, Room: Olivares

Empowering Community Watershed Science

Ever wonder why Google can't tell you how healthy your river is? Does it seem like you are re-creating the wheel with your monitoring and science programs? Find out how we're all part of a broken system and how the Water Data Collaborative wants to help turn your datasheets into actionable results.

Adam Griggs, River Network; John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons; Sam Briggs, Izaak Walton League of America Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Goraz

Strategies for Agriculture- Municipal Partnerships **E I**

One Water recognizes the symbiotic relationship between sound food production systems and sustainable water management. This workshop examines existing agriculture-municipal partnerships, the business case, and strategies to accelerate innovations.

Scott Berry and Katy Lackey, US Water Alliance Working with Farmers and Ranchers, Room: Camino Real

Healthy Forests for Clean Drinking Water **E I**

Keeping our drinking water safe, clean, and affordable requires upstream watershed protection. This workshop will describe strategies to preserve natural lands important for source water protection.

Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council; Ellen Koehler, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; Josh Leisen, Huron Pines Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water, Room: Sabino

So You Want to Be a Leader?

Leadership is a process, one that includes building on competencies, asking questions, and a desire to learn. This workshop will help you to think through what it means to be a leader, how it differs from management, and identify areas of growth.

Brenna Goggin, River Network Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Encino

Rooted in Nature: Achieving Equitable Resilience

The session will highlight the lessons-learned and the victories achieved in the implementation of nature-based projects and development of cross-sector approaches in advancing equity in the wake of climate-related disasters.

Jordan Macha, Bayou City Waterkeeper; Iris Gonzalez, Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience

Building Resilient Cities and Communities, Room: Lantana

Clean Water Act 101

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Clean Water Act, including what it regulates and how people and organizations can use it to protect their local rivers, lakes and streams.

Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates; Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways

Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies, Room: Zapata

Getting More BANG from Your Strategic Plan

The product of strategic planning is not a document; it is the consensus that stands behind it. In this workshop, participants will learn how to organize an inclusive process that will help drive the organization forward with vision and energy.

David Allen, Development for Conservation
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications, Room: Madero

LIGHTNING ROUND ROOM: VILLA

Kids in StreamsSM: A Cascading Approach to Water Quality Education

Kids in StreamsSM was an EPA Environmental Education grant-funded project in Kansas City involving middle school, high school “Teacher Cadets,” and college students with Education career paths. Using a cascading approach of participant

levels, the water quality-monitoring curriculum expanded impact for all.

Lynn Youngblood, Blue River Watershed Association

Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Advancing Environmental Justice: Empowering Youth

Learn how the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps is changing their future with their own hands and working at the intersection of racial environmental justice and climate change.

Paulina Lopez and Carmen Martinez, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
Civic Participation and Our Water Future

Stewardship Networks: We're in This Together

We discuss how partners from government, universities, and non-profits have mapped stewardship networks and projects in the Denver Metro area to understand and strengthen the civic capacity to care for the natural resources of Denver’s neighborhoods.

Travis Warziniack, US Forest Service
Civic Participation and Our Water Future

New Voices at the Water Table

Can priority neighborhoods build leadership among their residents? The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is working on just that in Providence, RI. Come find out how students engage adults to become leaders in priority neighborhoods.

Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

MONDAY MAY 18 – IDEA EXCHANGES

11:30AM–12:45PM

Continue the conversation! This year River Network will again offer Idea Exchanges, unique opportunities for you to build your knowledge and network on the issues fundamental to your work. With support from skilled facilitators, you will have the opportunity to have structured conversations on topics you suggest that are designed to build your connections at River Rally and beyond. You'll also explore ways to support each other's efforts and spark new alliances and alignment to achieve common goals across the network.

Tell us what topics you want to connect on! Leading up to River Rally, you'll have multiple opportunities to suggest which topics, challenges, and opportunities you want to explore. Nominate topics through our online form up until 11:30am on Sunday at Rally.

Our team will curate 10 topics from those nominated and provide the schedule and room locations during breakfast on Monday and at Q&A.

MONDAY MAY 18 – WORKSHOP SESSION 6

2:15PM–3:45PM

Volunteer Programs That Transform Organizations

You can design your volunteer program to build advocacy, increase diversity, and train spokespeople and program leaders. We'll explore the exemplary volunteer program of the Huron River Watershed Council, which has transformed the organization. *Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council*
Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions, Room: Olivares

Stakeholder Collaboration to Reduce PCB Sources

PCBs in our waterways are becoming an increasing concern nationwide. Learn how the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force, consisting of point source polluters, state agencies, and conservation groups; identifies PCB sources and works toward reduction. *Mike Petersen and Chelsea Updegrove, The Lands Council*
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring, Room: Goraz

The Confluence of Agriculture and the Environment

To be successful, watershed management planning needs agricultural involvement. This workshop highlights how agriculture interconnects with watershed and stream management planning, from initiating local planning efforts to implementing multi-benefit improvements, along with what producers identify as their greatest water-related challenges and how they are dealing with changing dynamics around water.

Phil Brink, Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Water NetWORK; Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance; Callie Hendrickson, White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts; Gretchen Rank, Mancos Conservation District
Working with Farmers and Ranchers, Room: Camino Real

How's My Waterway?

Learn about EPA's "How's My Waterway?" application and the data it provides. Attendees will feel empowered to communicate water quality information to their community in order to protect and restore their waters.

Kiki Schneider, US EPA, Office of Water; Miranda Chien-Hale, US EPA, Office of Water, Watershed Branch
Addressing Climate Risk for Greater Water Security, Room: Sabino

Civic Participation: More Than Just Volunteering **E**

Organizations often struggle to engage the public in restoration and decision-making on a long-term basis. This workshop will describe innovative strategies to engage hard to reach audiences and merge government projects with bottom-up activism.

Gretchen Mikeska, District Department of Energy and Environment; Erin Garnaas-Holmes, Clean Water Fund; Dennis Chestnut; Danielle Burs, DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; Trey Sherard, Anacostia Riverkeeper
Civic Participation and Our Water Future, Room: Encino

Making a Stronger Case for Water **E**

Take a deep dive into communicating about water conservation. In a highly interactive workshop, we will explore assumptions about diversity (geographic, ethnic, economic), the place of climate in our work, and what we can learn from other movements.

Brandon Hayes, Bold Bison Communications and Consulting
Hidden Secrets: Engaged Boards and Effective Communications, Room: Lantana

Water Affordability: An Urban & Rural Challenge **E I**

Water affordability is as much a rural issue as it is an urban issue. We will share the findings of a water affordability study using Ohio as a statewide case study, explore its regional applicability, and discuss bipartisan policy solutions.

Crystal M.C. Davis, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Manny Teodoro, Texas A&M University
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water, Room: Zapata

Stay Up to Speed on Water Policy

Get quick updates on the latest federal water policy news, learn ways to engage, and hear about water policy developments happening at the state and local levels around the country. We'll also have small group discussions for networking and to exchange ideas and tips on effective water policy development and advocacy.

Kristine Oblock, Environment America; Julian Gonzalez, Earthjustice; April Ingle, River Network
Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies, Room: Carranza

Mobilizing Communities in Land and Water Work **E I**

Learn from stewardship leaders in Detroit and Kansas City about how to revitalize and build resilient communities through service learning, green infrastructure, clean water access, and prioritizing economic opportunities that benefit neighborhoods.

Jill Erickson, Heartland Conservation Alliance; Alicia Smith, Freshwater Future
Building Resilient Cities and Communities, Room: Madero



LIGHTNING ROUND ROOM: VILLA

Combatting Harmful Algae Blooms

This workshop will discuss Harpeth Conservancy's experience in attempting to combat harmful algal blooms in the Harpeth River in Middle Tennessee, as a case study by addressing technical and legal issues in measuring and managing nutrient pollution.
Ryan Jackwood, Harpeth Conservancy
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Increasing Government Support for Citizen Science ^E

Citizen science is key to a swimmable, drinkable, fishable future. This presentation on Swim Drink Fish's Great Lakes monitoring hubs celebrates the growing support to engage citizens in science and recreational water data collection.
Gabrielle Parent-Doliner, Swim Drink Fish
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring

The Environmental Flow Information Toolkit (EFIT) ^{TX}

The EFIT is a geospatial decision support tool that uses multiple data sources to identify areas for environmental flow protection and restoration. The workshop will review the EFIT development process and its application to streamflow conservation.
Johanna Valente, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Expanding Impact Through Science, Technology, and Monitoring

National Forests: America's Best Water Source

With 180 million Americans dependent on drinking water sourced from National Forests and with the need to ensure this water can be tapped now and into the future, new partnerships can enhance and strengthen water protection and resiliency work.
Marlies Wierenga, WildEarth Guardians
Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water



*This is a working agenda and subject to change.

COMPTON AWARD



Daryl Vigil

Co-Director, Water & Tribes in the Colorado River Basin

T. Daryl Vigil, Jicarilla Apache, Jemez Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, is the co-director of Water & Tribes in the Colorado River Basin and the Water Administrator for the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Chairman of Water is Life a Tribal Partnership; official spokesperson for and past Chairman of the Colorado River Ten Tribes Partnership; member of the Coordination Committee of the Next Steps of the Colorado River Basin Supply Demand Study; member of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Planning, Construction, and Operation Committees; member of the Coordination Committee of the San Juan River Recovery and Restoration Project; past Secretary/Treasurer and Board of Trustees member of the Colorado River Water Users Association; past Chairman of the Board of the Jicarilla Apache Utility Authority; and the past President/CEO of the Apache Nugget Corporation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation's Gaming Enterprise.

The Compton Award is a special recognition from River Network's Board of Directors of one individual whose admirable and noteworthy achievements have benefited multiple communities and rivers over many decades.

RIVER HEROES



Amanda Pitzer

*Executive Director of Friends of the Cheat
(Kingwood, WV)*

Pitzer is a tenacious and dedicated educator and water advocate, having initiated many programs that earned her recognition in West Virginia. In her 10-year tenure at Friends of the Cheat, Pitzer has successfully constructed 9 treatment projects to combat acid mine drainage, secured the preservation of 3800 acres of the Cheat River Canyon, and established the Upper Cheat Water Trail with 9 public access sites.



Catherine Coleman Flowers

*Founder and Director of Center for Rural Enterprise
and Environmental Justice (Montgomery, AL)*

Coleman Flowers founded the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise to address the root causes of poverty in Alabama. Now an internationally recognized advocate for the human right to water and sanitation, Coleman Flowers works tirelessly to promote sustainable initiatives that strengthen families in rural and impoverished communities.



Maya van Rossum

*Founder of Green Amendments for the Generations
(Bristol, PA)*

For over 25 years, van Rossum has dedicated her life to protecting the Delaware River watershed. Now the founder of Green Amendments for the Generations, van Rossum has secured many legislative victories for the Delaware River Basin and its surrounding communities including a moratorium on fracking and the establishment of the nation's highest water quality standards for PFAS in New Jersey.



Sky Jones-Lewey

Education Resource and Protection Director of Nueces River Authority (Uvalde, TX)

Jones-Lewey has lived her entire life on the banks of the Nueces River in southwest Texas and has served as a formal river advocate since 2000. Jones-Lewey joined the Nueces River Authority as its first Director of Resource Protection and Education and has since touched the lives of thousands by pioneering a number of innovative and award-winning programs including Up2U and the Riparian Landowners Network curriculum.



Dr. Tom Vaughan

Biologist and Co-Founder of the Rio Grande International Study Center (Laredo, TX)

For 3 decades, Dr. Vaughan has made a sustained contribution to the conservation of the Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Watershed. In addition to founding the RGISC, Dr. Vaughan is credited for creating a water quality data program with the city of Laredo, leading free kayak excursions on the Rio Grande, preventing the near destruction of Manadas Creek in the early 2000s, and collected 13,000 signatures to save the Casa Blanca wetland.



*This is a working agenda and subject to change.



OUR MISSION & VISION

River Network empowers and unites people and communities to protect and restore rivers and other waters that sustain all life. We envision a future with clean and ample water for people and nature, where local caretakers are well-equipped, effective and courageous champions for our rivers. We believe that everyone should have access to affordable, clean water and healthy rivers.



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