

Texas APWA Reporter

NEWSLETTER

The Magazine of the Texas
Public Works Professional

JUNE 2023



TEXAS CHAPTER OF AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

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texas.apwa.net

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 Texas Chapter of APWA

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NEWSLETTER

The Magazine of the Texas
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ON THE COVER

The Mammoth TX-APWA Public Works Conference and Exhibition is coming up on June 27-29, 2023 at the Waco Convention Center. Visit the Waco Mammoth National Monument while you're in town!



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Mammoth Public Works Conference coming up in June

WELCOME!

The Mammoth TX-APWA Public Works Conference and Exhibition is coming up on June 27-29, 2023 at the Waco Convention Center. What's exciting for us is this our 75th Annual Conference! There are lots to do for your family if they join you, such as a visit to the Magnolia Market, Dr Pepper Museum, Cameron Park Zoo, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and Waco Mammoth National Monument (to name a few).

Join over 500 public works professionals and your peers as we unveil the newest equipment and technologies and bring you valuable education tracks focused on public works issues.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

- Professional Development, Focused training, Best Practices and Technical Tours
- Exhibits with innovative technologies that can make your job easier
- Golf Outing
- Welcome Reception with Exhibitors
- Awards Ceremony
- Young Professional Social Night (Brewery Tour)
- Great Benefit for local public works employees: Complimentary entrance (FREE) into the exhibit hall. Registration is not required but a city/entity identification is necessary to obtain entry into the exhibit hall. Local public works employees will have an opportunity to come see new equipment, methods, and products. Registration is required to attend any classes and meals.

The Texas Chapter of APWA and the Central Branch is proud to welcome you to Waco and hope you enjoy your stay for "The Mammoth Public Works Conference".

We look forward to seeing you all there!

A blue ink signature of Jay VonAhsen, P.E.

Jay VonAhsen, P.E.

2022-2023 President, TX-APWA Chapter
Senior Project Manager, Kimley-Horn



TEXAS CHAPTER OF AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Spotlight on a PWITX Graduate: Jose Lemus



Photo by Ines Roach

PWITX Committee congratulates the newest graduate in April 2023, Jose Lemus from El Campo.



Jose was born in the city of Galveston and raised in a small town named El Campo (The Camp.)

His parents raised him with this simple yet powerful saying, “Work HARD and SMART.”

He began his career as a window washer and pressure washing houses. After Graduating High School in 2009 he worked as a lead custodian at Gulf Coast Medical Center. From 2012-2015 Jose worked for a Lease crew in the oil field learning how to lay/thread pipe, set up heater treaters, gas meters, and battery tanks and handle the South Texas heat. Later his construction talents led him to framing cabins and their outer shells.

Jose’s municipal career started in the Street department for the City of El Campo January 2019 and in October of 2019 he transferred to Facility

maintenance. Initiative in the construction fields led him to become Employee of the Year in 2021; and in August he was promoted as the Foreman for Parks and Facilities.

His mentor had given him many opportunities to shine which led him to win an award for Best Park in “Best of Wharton County 2022.” Jose received his Certification as a Facilities and Grounds Manager workshop and later got his TDA Pesticide Applicator licenses. Always into professional development, Jose graduated from PWITX in April 2023.

Jose indicated that PWITX strengthened his skills to communicate, delegate, be efficient, open minded and always support his team!

Jose is married and is raising his two girls in El Campo.

The Public Works Institute of Texas (PWITX) Journey Continues

With over 100+ graduates, the PWITX Program continues on a solid path of growth since the first class started in April 2014. Note that recently, in April 2023, the City of Webster hosted Session 1 for Class 5 with a student roster of 50, the largest ever!

PWITX is managed by the Texas Chapter, American Public Works Association through a Committee chaired by Tim Tumulty.

The Program consists of four, 3-day sessions six months apart spanning over a two year timeframe, resulting in a professional certificate for completing 90+ hours of instruction. The classes rotate between four major geographic areas in Texas: Austin, San Antonio, Houston-Galveston and North Central Texas (DFW).

Daniel Kreuger, the current Committee Director for Curriculum, shares more details about the education and training:

The curriculum for the Public Works Institute mirrors the eleven-unit, two volume text for Public Works Administration as last published by APWA in 2017 and outlined below. The program covers basic and advanced supervision and management within public works functions and duties, as well as operations for public works organizations. The holistic objective is to equip leaders to be more effective in their public works organizations and within their respective governmental entities. With a travelling format

over a two-year period, the Institute engages superbly experienced public works professionals from across Texas as teachers and coaches, and draws from the myriad of public works successes and challenges from Texas major cities and the surrounding regions. The Institute and curriculum are supportive of both individual efforts toward APWA professional certification as a Supervisor and/or Manager, and organizational efforts toward APWA accreditation.

CURRICULUM

Unit 1: Supervisory Techniques and Skills

Unit 2: Basic Management Skills

Unit 3: Communications Skills

Unit 4: Leadership Skills

Unit 5: Community Service/Customer Orientation Skills

Unit 6: Impact of Law on Public Works

Unit 7: Fundamentals of Government

Unit 8: Finance

Unit 10: Overview of Public Works Operations

Unit 11: Creating the Future

For additional information, visit pwitx.apwa.net or contact Ines Roach, Administrator at publicworksinstitute_tx@outlook.com.



Photo by Ines Roach

Class 4 Graduating Class in Oct22 with instructors and Chapter Representatives.



TML Update May 2023

Joshua Mair CPWP-M
City of Converse Director of Public Works

The Final weeks of the 88th Legislature are here, but the importance of local municipalities letting their voices be heard remains. Important deadlines are now being reached in the Texas House, which has significantly reduced the number of bills that can continue moving through the process in session. As you may know, the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association is one of 21 affiliate organizations; our purpose is to assist current and prospective affiliated organizations in determining how best each can become more effective partners with the League in bringing about improved city government in Texas.

This update aims to provide information on bills that can significantly impact local government and how these relate to Public Works. If you need a full accounting of every bill, I recommend visiting the Texas Municipal Leagues Website (TML) at <https://www.tml.org/579/Legislative-Update> here; TML provides regular updates on all legislative items in the session.

The first bill we will discuss is a controversial one. **House Bill 2127** “seeks to prevent cities and counties from adopting or enforcing local ordinances or orders related to any activity contained in several state codes unless expressly allowed by state law. TML anticipates the bill will be considered in the Senate, and if the Senate approves the bill without any modifications, H.B. 2127 will be passed and sent to the Governor. H.B. 2127’s lack of specificity on when a city is considered to be preempted has only created more questions about the bill’s impact. At best, the bill would abdicate the legislature’s traditional role in setting specific limitations on city regulation to the courts. At worst, the bill attempts to dramatically scale back 110 years of Texas home rule city authority by running an end around of Article XI, Sec. 5 of the Texas Constitution.” (Texas Municipal League, 2023) We will have to see where this bill goes; A positive point from a Public Works standpoint, the bill does

not prohibit a city or county from building or maintaining a road, imposing a tax, or carrying out any authority expressly authorized by statute—city officials with concerns about the impact of H.B. 2127 to communicate their concerns to their senators immediately.

S.B. 612 is another bill that significantly impacts local municipalities, specifically those that have passed a street maintenance sales tax ordinance. This bill was proposed to amend Chapter 327 of the Tax Code relating to municipal sales and use tax for street maintenance. The bill would amend Section 327.007 by removing language specific to certain municipalities that allows those municipalities to reauthorize the street maintenance sales and use tax every 8 or 10 years. The bill would allow any city that has had two successful consecutive elections where a majority of voters favored the adoption or reauthorization of the street maintenance sales and use tax to extend the imposition of the municipal sales and use tax for street maintenance for 8 or 10 years. Cities should support this bill.

Please take the time to review other bills, such as **S.B. 369** and **H.B. 3053**, concerning annexation or **H.B. 113**, raising the competitive bid limit to 100k. There are other bills impacting ETJ regulation that cities should take note of that will have tremendous impacts on cities moving forward, so local municipalities must stay diligent and make their concerns known during the final days of the 88th legislature in the State of Texas.

REFERENCES

Texas Municipal League. (2023, May 12). *Legislative Update*. Retrieved from TML: <https://www.tml.org/579/Legislative-Update>



Chapter Links

JOB POSTING INFORMATION

Effective July 1, 2018, the Board of Directors implemented a new change to the job posting requirements on the Chapters website.

To post a job on the Texas Chapter of APWA website, an administration fee of \$100 per job posting will be required for a 30-day posting, and with one 30-day extension of the same posting if requested.

To request a posting please send email to ChapterAdmin@TxPublicWorks.com with all the information and/or link to your website for additional information. Information to be posted must be sent in a word document so that copy/paste can be used to keep information correct.

Once payment has been processed, the job posting will be posted within 24-hours. A link will be sent to you via email to make payment.

If you should have any further questions, please contact Dorothy at ChapterAdmin@TxPublicWorks.com or (713) 364-3041.

View open jobs: <http://texas.apwa.net/jobs>.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship fund was established by the American Public Works Association, Texas Chapter and was created to provide scholarships for higher education (college graduate and undergraduate). It is the goal of the Chapter to award several \$1,000 higher education scholarships. Scholarship awards are contingent upon funding availability.

A specific course of study that offers a career field in public service or other public sector career is required to apply. Examples of technical expertise may include but are not limited to:

- Emergency Management
- Engineering and Technology
- Facilities and Grounds
- Fleet Services
- Leadership and Management
- Solid Waste Management
- Transportation

- Utility & Public Right-of-Way
- Water Resources Management

Applicants will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, course of study, career goals, community service, financial need and letter of recommendation. The weighting of selection criteria follows.

- 10% Completeness of the application
- 30% Public works career field/career goals
- 20% Academic achievement
- 15% Community service
- 25% Financial need/letter of recommendation/sponsor

Download the application at: <http://texas.apwa.net/PageDetails/9102>.

PUBLIC WORKS EXPO (PWX)

APWA is hosting its next international conference, called Public Works Expo (PWX) in San Diego, CA August 27 to August 30, 2023. PWX draws thousands of public works professionals from all over the world.

During PWX, all Chapters of APWA are asked to host a dinner for their respective Chapter on Tuesday night. This dinner is a time for Chapter members to network. This year's dinner will be held on a riverboat cruise in the San Diego Bay, where attendees can relax and enjoy panoramic views of San Diego's skyline, and a beautiful sunset as you socialize with your APWA colleagues.

Please join us if you are attending PWX! Individual tickets are \$95 and includes a meal and two drink tickets.

We also have sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$500-\$2,000 (see sponsor letter on registration site).

For more information and to register, please visit: <http://texas.apwa.net/EventDetails/30003> or go to our Chapter website at texas.apwa.net and click the event under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of the page.

For more information on PWX, visit APWA's website, https://pwx.apwa.net/pwx/event_details.aspx.

PWX also hosts the National Equipment Roadeo, which will occur on Monday, August 28 - stop by to support our Texas competitors!

TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference

August 8-9, 2023



Rio Grande, Big Bend National Park
Photo credit: Hannah Waters

Please join us in-person or online for this year's Public Drinking Water Conference on August 8-9, 2023, in Austin.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration is now open as of June 6. Secure your spot by registering online at <https://cvent.utexas.edu/pdw2023>

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

The 2023 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference will be held in a hybrid format. Attendees have the option to attend online or in-person. You'll need to select how you plan to attend during registration. Pre-registration is required because in-person attendance is limited.

COST

The 2023 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference is offered FREE of charge.

EARN CREDIT HOURS

Water system operators can receive general training credit toward the renewal of their water operator license from TCEQ for the qualifying sessions they attend online or in-person.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

In addition to the scheduled sessions, a variety of workshops are planned for the conference on topics such as:

- Boil Water Notifications
- Water Conservation (bring your water audit or ordinance)
- Water Quality Issues (bring your equipment for monitoring chlorine, chloramines, iron, and manganese)
- Inventory - monitoring plans, data change requests (bring your current monitoring plan)
- RTCR Sample Siting Plan and Submissions (bring your sample site plan)
- Basic Math for Utility Calculations
- Chlorine - injection pumps, nitrification, residual data (bring historical residual data, nitrification action plan);
- Emergency Preparedness Plans
- Drinking Water Watch

- Lead and Copper, Corrosion Control Studies
- Surface Water - jar testing, filter assessments, data verification (bring an historic SWMOR, flash drive for latest version)
- TWICC and more.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Renaissance Austin Hotel

9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

Book your discounted hotel room on or after June 6, 2023: <https://tinyurl.com/pdw2023>

The Renaissance has reserved a block of rooms for attendees at the discounted rate of \$131 per night for a single or a double. The conference rate is valid until July 17 OR until the room block is full. Reservations received after this date are taken on a space available basis and are not guaranteed the discounted rate. To receive the conference rate, visit <https://tinyurl.com/pdw2023>. To reserve via phone, call 800-468-3571 or 512-343-2626. To receive the conference rate, you must identify yourself as a participant of the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference.

We understand that the conference hotel cannot accommodate all conference participants. There are several nearby hotels, some of which have courtesy shuttles to the conference hotel. For information on overflow hotels, please visit: <https://cvent.utexas.edu/pdw2023>

PARKING

Registered attendees receive complimentary day parking in the Renaissance Austin surface lot. Overnight parking is \$10 per night for hotel guests, charged to your hotel room bill. Parking in unauthorized business lots will result in ticketing and towing. As parking is limited, we highly recommend utilizing courtesy shuttles if you are staying at one of the overflow hotels with this option.

For the most up-to-date information about the conference, please visit the conference website at www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html or contact Mason T. Miller at mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov.

Upcoming Chapter and National Events

REMINDERS

- We've shared our public policy priorities for the 118th Congress, now you can watch APWA Director of Government and Public Affairs Andrea Eales talk about them on YouTube. The 90-second video, produced by APWA's Kelly Meyer, may be watched here.
- Follow the APWA Government Affairs team every day on Twitter and LinkedIn. Our social media accounts amplify our in public policy priorities and APWA members' voices.
- We can help you better advocate for your chapter and profession. Contact Andrea at aeales@apwa.net to schedule a training or brief.

Education

Focus on Emergency Management in June! Don't forget to check out the best in education and credentialing in Emergency Management online.

Recent Retirees In Your Chapter?

Retirement is exciting, but also a point where APWA can lose connection to long-time members. Will you help us stay connected? Anyone with 10 years of continuous membership who is retiring from all compensated work is eligible for the retiree membership rate of \$54 per year plus chapter dues. Remind your colleagues and friends to get in touch at MemberServices@apwa.net or (800) 848-2792

Emerging Leaders Academy 2023-2024 Applications Are Now Available!

Application deadline is Friday, July 28. For more information visit the website or contact us at ela@apwa.net.

Certification Certified APWA

We will not be holding a testing block in July due to the upcoming system conversion and website implementations. We will resume the certification exam blocks in the month of August. An exam schedule for the remainder of 2023 will be released shortly. For more information, please contact us at certification@apwa.net or visit our certification page at apwa.net/certification.

Call For Conference Presentations For Snow 2024 Is Now Open

The deadline for session submissions is August 18. Everyone has a story to tell! For more information or to submit a session, visit the Call for Presentations website.

Accreditation

Has your agency been considering starting the self-assessment as the first step in the Accreditation process? At PWX, The Principles of Public Works Self-Assessment workshop will

present focused instruction on understanding the practices and completing the self-assessment process using the manual and software.

Explore 3 New Cutting-Edge Electric Vehicle Tech Boxes In The APWA Resource Center!

resourcecenter.apwa.net

- Cold Weather Challenges and Considerations for an Electrified Fleet
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Implementation, City of Fort Wayne Case Study
- Technician Training and Maintenance Planning for an Electric Fleet

JUNE 22, 2023

Protecting Critical Infrastructure From Cyberattacks

Special 90-minute CLL

Government and public-sector entities are highly attractive targets for cyberattacks because many hold significant volumes of highly coveted data and they're perceived to have virtually unlimited financial resources. Public works professionals need to understand the potential threats and how to become resilient to cyberattacks.

JUNE 20-22, 2023

APWA's Big Cities and Counties Meet in Washington DC

While in the nation's capital, group members will engage with federal agency representatives and Congressional offices, as well as participate in a facility tour led by the DC Department of Public Works. A Capitol Hill brief on workforce development is also being planned.

JULY 27, 2023

Make Federal-Aid Local Project Delivery Easier – Swap Federal Funds

Free for members and nonmembers

Local Agency Federal-Aid Project implementation is a high risk for FHWA and state DOTs due to complex federal requirements and local government's lack of experience with them. The Federal Fund Swap process can allow local governments to follow their normal project delivery processes and eliminate most of the risks involved with federal funds for all government agencies.

CONTINUED >>

Upcoming Chapter and National Events

» CONTINUED

AUGUST 10, 2023

Public Works Perspective On Managing Microtrenching In The Right-Of-Way

Free for members and nonmembers

Microtrenching is being employed by the telecommunication and fiber optics industry, but it has impacts to the right-of-way. This presentation will be a panel discussion from public works professionals with experience developing policy, permitting, and model codes. This session will also include lessons learned from past installations and coordination of microtrenching contractors in the right-of-way.

OCTOBER 2023

Foundational Cybersecurity Concepts For Public Works Professionals

APWA is excited to announce a brand-new certificate program Foundational Cybersecurity Concepts for Public Works Professionals. This program is designed as an introductory level program for public works professionals to identify basic cybersecurity principles, and policies and procedures used for preventing and responding to a cybersecurity attack.

2023

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

June 27-29 | Waco, TX

APWA PWX

August 27-30 | San Diego, CA

Texas Chapter Dinner at PWX

August 29 | San Diego, CA

The Engineering & Public Works Roadshow

September 19 | San Antonio, Texas

Texas Chapter Board Meeting @ TML Conference

October 5 | Dallas, TX

PWITX Session

October | DFW Area

2024

Texas Chapter & APWA Chapter Leadership Training

February 5 | Wichita Falls, TX

Texas Chapter Public Workshop

February 6-8 | Wichita Falls, TX

PWITX Session

April | Austin

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

June 3-5 | San Antonio, TX

APWA PWX

Atlanta, GA

Texas Chapter Board Meeting @ TML Conference

October | Houston, TX

PWITX Session

October | San Antonio

2025

Texas Chapter Public Workshop

February | College Station, TX

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

June | McAllen, TX

APWA PWX

Chicago, IL

Texas Chapter Board Meeting @ TML Conference

October | Fort Worth, TX

2026

Texas Chapter & APWA Chapter Leadership Training

February | North Texas

Texas Chapter Public Workshop

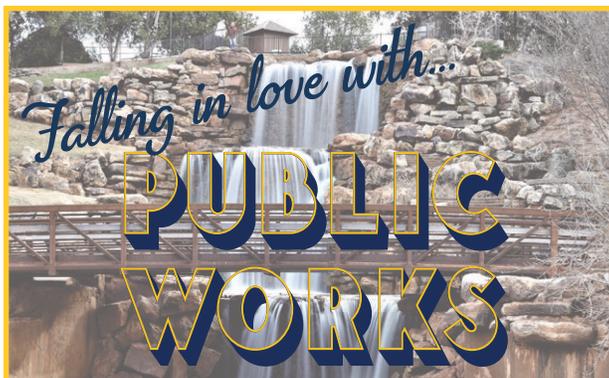
February | North Texas

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

Not occurring (due to PWX)

APWA PWX

Houston, TX | August 30-September 2



Public Workshop & Rodeo

Wichita Falls, TX

MPEC Multi-Purpose Event Center

February 5-7, 2024



Save the date!