

# Texas APWA Reporter

NEWSLETTER

The Magazine of the Texas  
Public Works Professional

MARCH 2024



52nd Annual  
Public Workshop &  
Equipment Rodeo  
**RESULTS**





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2 MARCH 2024

# Texas APWA Reporter **NEWSLETTER**

The Magazine of the Texas  
Public Works Professional

## ON THE COVER

Results of the TX-APWA Public Workshop and Equipment Rodeo are inside! See pages 4 through 7 for all the fun.

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# TML Update

## March 2024

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

Welcome to the March 2024 TML Corner. One might think that because the 88th Legislative Council has concluded, things would be slowing down for the Texas Municipal League (TML), but that could not be further from the truth. The 2024 TML Municipal Policy, which plays a key role in developing the TML legislative program, will meet in Austin on August 12-13, 2024. TML's President Tito Rodriguez will be in attendance and play a pivotal role at the summit.

Texas Municipal League (TML) advocacy efforts are based on a legislative program developed by member city officials. The program is essential to the legitimacy of the League's advocacy efforts. To develop the program, city officials provide input in primarily two ways.

First, member city officials can participate in the League's Municipal Policy Summit during each interim. The report of the Summit takes the form of a resolution that is submitted to the annual conference. The goal of the committee process is two-fold: (1) it allows input on the legislative program from a broad cross-section of cities and city officials, and (2) it educates new city officials on the legislative issues faced by cities. The TML president will appoint the Summit participants in early 2024 based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large. The report of the Summit will take the form of a resolution that is submitted to the annual conference in interim years.

The Summit is an intensive, two-day workshop during which League staff briefs the participants on the myriad legislative issues faced by cities. Most are issues that arise each session, but several consist of solicited or unsolicited issues brought by city officials. Even if no changes are recommended to the fixed program, which is an unlikely

prospect, staff will fulfill its educational goal through continued briefing on the issues. After each subject-matter briefing, the participants make concise recommendations on the issues. Those recommendations are placed into resolution form and submitted to the League's annual business meeting, discussed next.

Second, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's annual conference. Each city, TML region, or TML Affiliate is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The delegates will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to discuss and vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative program. The resolutions form the basis of a fixed legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will be made as needed.

The somewhat complex policy development process is necessary to ensure that the League advocates as directed by its members. The League is nothing without the involvement and expertise of its members, and participation in the process is an invaluable part of protecting municipal authority.

As you may know, the American Public Works Association Texas Chapter serves as an affiliate group. I will personally be in attendance at this summit in August, so keep an eye on upcoming TML Corners for more information.





*Falling in love with...*

# PUBLIC WORKS

**Wichita Falls, TX**  
**MPEC Multi-Purpose**  
**Event Center**  
**February 5-7, 2024**











# 52nd Annual Public Workshop & Equipment Rodeo

## A Recap of the Event in Wichita Falls, Texas

From February 4th to 6th, 2024, the bustling city of Wichita Falls, Texas, played host to the 52nd Annual Public Workshop & Equipment Rodeo. Nearly 300 dedicated professionals, representing various municipalities and public works departments, gathered to share knowledge, showcase skills, and foster connections. The event proved to be a resounding success, thanks in large part to the support of generous sponsors.

The festivities commenced with a dynamic start as the Public Workshop kicked off with an APWA Chapter Leadership Training session. Notable guests included Gary Losier, APWA President, Jill Wilbeck, APWA Senior Manager of Chapter Services, and Cameron Harmeyer, APWA Chapter Services Manager. A total of 35 participants engaged in an enriching session, delving into the intricacies of APWA, the Texas Chapter, and the Texas Chapter Branches. Attendees gained insights on how they could better serve their branch areas, and the event saw a remarkable turnout of new faces.

The second day featured the highly anticipated Equipment Rodeo, including a women's division with 66 competitors. Former Wichita Falls Mayor Stephen Santellana served as the enthusiastic Master

of Ceremonies, adding excitement to the event. In addition to the Rodeo, a Mini-Golf Challenge provided a fun and competitive outlet. The Texas Chapter will send the top three men and the top woman to the APWA National Rodeo in Atlanta, GA, in August 2024. The day showcased skills, camaraderie, and unique challenges, making it a memorable part of the Public Workshop & Equipment Rodeo. The results of the Equipment Rodeo were as follows:

### MEN'S DIVISION:

- **First Place:** Eloy Contreras (City of Fair Oaks Ranch)
- **Second Place:** Joseph Roberts (City of Baytown)
- **Third Place:** David Kirkpatrick (City of Baytown)

### WOMEN'S DIVISION:

- **First Place:** Alejandra Moz (City of Baytown)



In addition to the Rodeo, two new competitions added an extra layer of excitement. The Hydrant Frenzy, hosted by EJ, saw six teams vying for victory. The City of Denton dominated the competition, securing first (Daniel Parish & Abbigayle Otteson), second (Jorge Maldonado & Shane Reynolds), and third place (Eric Rivera & Jerid Crawley). The Cornhole Tournament, featuring 16 competitive teams, was a massive hit, with Curt Cassidy & Joey Arriaga (City of Mesquite) clinching the top spot.





Men's Division Winners: Eloy Contreras, first place; Joseph Roberts, second place; David Kirkpatrick, third place.



Women's Division Winner: Alejandra Moz, first place



Hydrant Frenzy first place winners: Daniel Parish & Abbigayle Otteson, City of Denton



Hydrant Frenzy second place winners: Jorge Maldonado & Shane Reynolds, City of Denton



Hydrant Frenzy third place winners: Eric Rivera & Jerid Crawley, City of Denton

Looking ahead to the future, organizers are enthusiastic about bringing these competitions back, and possibly introducing more, at next year's Public Workshop in College Station.

The afternoon of day two and the entirety of day three were dedicated to education sessions and networking events. Wichita Falls Mayor, Tim Short, extended a warm welcome on Tuesday, emphasizing the critical role of public works. Attendees were also treated to free professional headshots, a successful initiative that organizers hope to continue in College Station next year.

In conclusion, the 52nd Annual Public Workshop & Equipment Rodeo was a remarkable gathering that celebrated the dedication and expertise of public works professionals. The exchange of knowledge, the spirit of competition, the camaraderie forged during this event, and the recognition at the Field Awards Ceremony will undoubtedly resonate throughout the industry until the next gathering in College Station.



Cornhole Tournament winners: Curt Cassidy & Joey Arriaga, City of Mesquite



**View more photos and video online!**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/yhe9PUTZQfstGVjF8>  
<https://www.youtube.com/@Texas-APWATV>





# 2024 State Awards Call for Nominations

<https://texas.apwa.org/homepage/about/awards>

The Texas Chapter of APWA is calling for nominations for the 2024 State Awards program. These awards recognize outstanding public works individuals, teams, organizations, and projects across Texas. The awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in San Antonio this June.

The award categories include:

- **Top Public Works Leader of the Year**
- **Professional Manager of the Year (multiple categories)**
- **Public Works Project of the Year**
  - **Structures:** Public structure rehabilitation, municipal buildings, parks, bridges, etc.
  - **Transportation:** Roads, bridges, sidewalks, bicycle paths, mass transit, etc.
  - **Environment:** Treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation, water and sanitary sewer projects, etc.

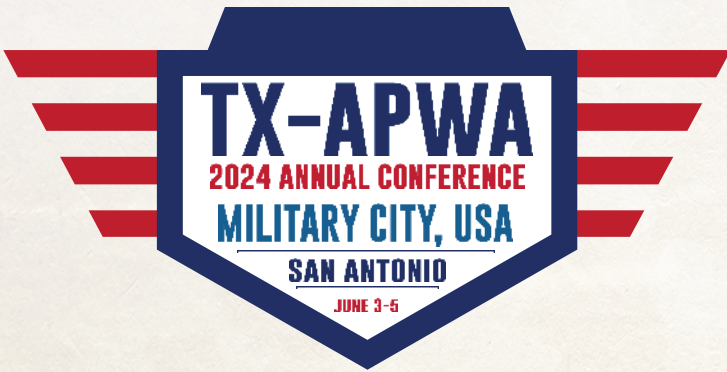
- **Historical Restoration and Preservation:** Restoration and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and facilities, etc.
- **Disaster or Emergency Reconstruction or Repair:** Flood recovery, drought remediation, storm cleanup, etc.

- **Professional Awards** including Distinguished Service to Public Works, Diversity Practices, Sustainability Practices, and Technical/Management Innovation
- **John German Award for Exemplary Service to Public Works**
- **John Roark Young Leader Award**
- **Richard Ridings Community Involvement Award**
- **And many more...**

Award guidelines and nomination forms may be found at <https://texas.apwa.org/homepage/about/awards>. Please email nominations to Matt Froehlich at [mlfroehlich@bgeinc.com](mailto:mlfroehlich@bgeinc.com) by April 5th.







# 2024 TX-APWA Annual Conference Schedule

**JUNE 3-5, 2024 | SAN ANTONIO, TX  
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER**

## SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

Morning .....Decorator Move In  
 Afternoon ..... Chapter Board Meeting  
 Afternoon ..... Registration  
 Afternoon Heavy Move-in, Exhibitor Setup (Large Equipment or Special Requests Only)  
 Evening ..... Exhibitor Setup

## MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

Morning ..... Exhibitor Setup  
 Morning ..... Golf Tournament (Fundraiser hosted by South Central Branch)  
 Morning ..... Technical Tours  
 Afternoon ..... Exhibit Hall Open  
 Afternoon .....Lunch in Exhibit Hall (boxed – no keynote speaker)  
 Afternoon ..... Technical Sessions  
 Evening .....Exhibitor Hall “Extravaganza”  
 Evening ..... Welcome Reception/Family Night

## TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024

Morning ..... Women’s Leadership Event/Breakfast  
 Morning ..... Technical Sessions  
 Afternoon ..... Lunch – Keynote Speaker (TBD)  
 Afternoon ..... Technical Sessions  
 Afternoon .....Awards Reception  
 Evening ..... Awards Ceremony  
 Evening ..... Social Event  
 Evening ..... YP Event

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

Morning .....Breakfast  
 Morning ..... Technical Sessions  
 Afternoon .....Lunch in Exhibit Hall (boxed – no keynote speaker)  
 Afternoon ..... “Finale” Exhibit Hall Closed, Prizes and Silent Auction  
 Afternoon ..... APWA Certifications Course (TBD, Optional Training/Charge)  
 Afternoon ..... Exhibitor Move-out  
 Afternoon ..... After Action Review



# APWA, Texas Chapter Field Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, February 6, 2024 Wichita Falls, Texas

The 2024 Field Awards for the Texas Chapter of the America Public Works Association (APWA) were presented at a luncheon at this year's Public WorkShop in Wichita Falls on February 7, 2024. Cesar Molina (Halff) and Matt Froehlich (BGE, Inc.) co-chair the Chapter Awards Committee which includes members Katherine Mears (Huit Zollars), Ted Nelson (Pape-Dawson), Joel Valdez (K+Friese) and Jim Winward (City of Abilene). The committee and the awards program seek to recognize exceptional public works individuals, teams, organizations and projects from across the state.

The committee received 14 nominations and presented 9 awards. Winners were honored with taking a photo with current Texas Chapter President Jason Kirby (Fort Bend Co. WCID No. 2) and special guest, national APWA President Gary Losier. The Chapter was honored to have Gary present for the entire conference before heading to Washington, D.C.!

The **Equipment Operator of the Year Award** seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in the public sector by recognizing an employee whose ability to operate equipment is truly outstanding, exceeding the norm. The 2024 winner was **Phillip "PJ" Sonnier** with the City of La Porte. PJ is an experienced backhoe, excavator, and heavy equipment operator. He leads a team of 8 and collectively, they completed over 500 water leak repairs. Additionally, PJ and his team fix valves, install and repair fire hydrants, conduct fire hydrant maintenance activities, exercise water valves, and conduct storage yard restorations. Congratulations, PJ!

Next, the **Operations Excellence Award** recognizes individuals, teams, or organizations for an operational innovation developed or practiced by field personnel having significant impact on services meeting the goals of public works in serving the public and protecting the environment.

In the individual category, this year's winner was **Chance Overton** with the City of Abilene. Chance has been actively involved in his profession and his community. He is an active member of the International Municipal Signal Association and is on the committee that develops questions for the certification examination. He is also involved in the Abilene Safety City project where he helps educate elementary school age children on the workings of the traffic signal system. Well deserved, Chance!



In the team category, the Chapter presented this year's award to the **City of Frisco's Stormwater Compliance Team**. Over the past year, the Stormwater Compliance Team assisted with the implementation of the City Works





program, started utilizing drones to perform inspections, and implemented an app to date stamp, time stamp and location stamp photos. They also developed a field operations manual, built percolation instrumentation to measure compliance, implement the sludge judge, and developed a GoPro inspection tool. Way to go, team!

The Chapter's **Field Excellence Award** recognizes individuals, teams, or organizations for actions in the field having significant impact on services meeting the goals of public works in serving the public and protecting the environment.

This year's Field Excellence Award for an individual went to **Nick Cantu** with the City of Abilene. Nick is a construction inspector for the city of Abilene. He is skilled in dealing with the public and the contractors in a way that shows them that their concerns are heard, deescalating tense interactions and confidently conveying accurate information to all parties. As his skill in managing people and processes has increased, so has his responsibility. Nick currently manages over \$12,000,000 in construction projects this year including managing a downtown Abilene project that has lots of attention. Keep up the great work, Nick!



In the team category, this year's Field Excellence Award went to the **City of Houston's Vegetation Management Section**. In 2021, the City of Houston merged two field maintenance teams, one that maintained the roadside ROW and one that maintained channels and drainages ditches, to form the new Vegetation Management Section. The teams used different equipment and the challenge was to cross train employees to be able to use all of the equipment. By 2023, the results were starting to show. Where it was once only possible to mow a section once per year, the new team is now able to perform two mowing cycles per year and in certain zones even doing three. This increase in efficiency has been noticed by upper level management and new goals have been set for the Section and additional resources are scheduled to be added. Well done!



The Chapter recognizes **In-House Projects of the Year** in several different categories. This year, projects were recognized in the structures, environment/water/wastewater and transportation categories.

The **Structures** category focuses on public structure preservation/rehabilitation, municipal buildings, parks, and the like. This year's award went to the **City of Houston's Boyce Street Bridge Reconstruction** project. The Boyce Street bridge was a decayed timber bridge with an estimated 10-year life. As part of the City's small bridge replacement program, in-house crews constructed a 3-box culvert bridge that has an estimated 50-year life span. This work was accomplished over 8-week period where crews often dealt with temperatures over 100 degrees and had to work around high voltage overhead powerlines and other public and private utilities. Top shelf, Houston!



**Environmental/Water/Wastewater** includes treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, sewer projects, and similar projects. This year the Chapter presented two awards! The first recipient was the **City of Denton's Kings Row Channel Rehab** project. Kings Row Channel has a section of approximately 385 feet of earthen channel with a concrete flume in the middle. This section was experiencing serious erosion issues making it difficult to maintain, and holding deep pockets of water that were breeding grounds for mosquitos. The project was planned during the months of July through September to take advantage of seasonal dry weather. The project involved

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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multiple phases with a total cost of just over \$122,000, including cost of labor. Some unusual challenges included dealing with unexpected infiltration immediately upstream of the project, coordination with private development project that was maintaining an upstream detention pond that sent large quantities of water onto their project, without any forewarning. In spite of it all, the project team adjusted and got the project completed much to satisfaction of the adjacent residents. Congratulations, Denton!



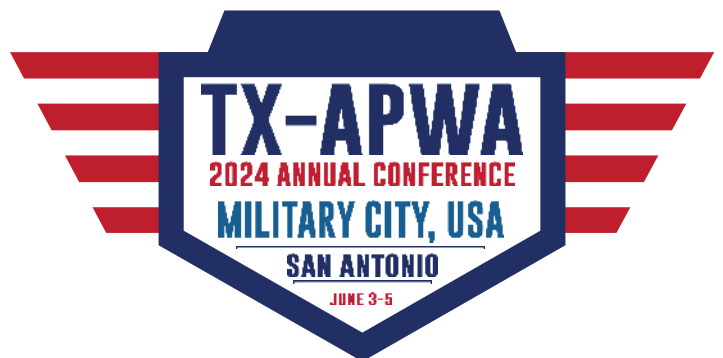
The second recipient was the **City of Fort Worth's Little Fox Channel Restoration** project. The project consisted of two channels that join together for a total channel length of 2,300 linear feet. The bed and slopes were backfilled and compacted, especially a large scour hole measuring approximately 3,000 square feet. To prevent future erosion and scour, this area was covered with coconut erosion blanket and then topped with Scour Stop Transition mats. The blanket is secured with large 8-inch staples and the mats are then installed with special securing straps that are injected into the ground with a jack hammer. The project began in June 2023 and was completed in 3 months. No injuries were reported during this project in spite of having to do some on the job training with the newer equipment operators. Job well done, Fort Worth!



The award for in-house **Transportation** projects recognizes in-house road, bridge, sidewalk, bicycle and walking path projects. This year's winner was the **City of Houston's 11th Street Safety and Bike Lanes**. Over the years, the citizens of Houston had complained about the intersection of 11th Street and Nicholson Street. Complaints were centered on how hard it was to cross the intersection, speed vehicles, and lack a visibility. The challenges were many: a posted speed of 30 mph compared with actual speeds averaging over 38 mph; average daily traffic over 14,000 vehicles per day; limited ROW to add bicycle lanes and a vocal community that wanted change but was having a difficulty articulating exactly what they wanted. After 10 public meetings, a vision emerged. The result was a roadway diet that narrowed the travel lanes, added pedestrian refuged islands and bicycle lanes. The results were 85th percentile speeds dropping to 31.5 mph, no increase in crash data to date and a much, much less vocal public. Great job, Houston!



The Chapter's Awards Committee now turns its focus to the annual State Awards which will be presented at the annual conference in San Antonio this June. Please see the Chapter's website at <https://texas.apwa.org/event/tx-apwa-annual-conference> for more information. Nominations are due by Friday, April 5th.





# Exceeding Goals

## Austin Transportation and Public Works completes 56 miles of sidewalk work a year early

In fall 2023, the City of Austin achieved what every government agency hopes to: finishing a project early and exceeding its original goals.

In 2016, Austin voters approved the largest transportation bond in city history, investing \$720 million to make mobility safer and more convenient for everyone. Included in that bond package was \$37.5 million for new and improved sidewalks.

Austin Transportation and Public Works (TPW) wrapped up that sidewalk work a year early, constructing or repairing 56 miles, going beyond the 50 originally planned under the bond.

TPW staff won't rest on its laurels. Austin's 2023 Sidewalks, Crossings and Shared Streets Plan identified an outstanding need for 810 miles of sidewalks and 370 miles of shared streets — a program that uses traffic-calming strategies and pedestrian-centered design to make

neighborhood streets without sidewalks safer and more comfortable for people walking, biking and rolling.

Thanks to strong community support, TPW has the funding to continue addressing these sidewalk gaps. In bond elections in 2018 and 2020, Austin voters approved an additional \$100 million for walkway improvements.

"I'm proud of the hard work of our staff and gratified to live in a city whose citizens prioritize the mobility and safety of pedestrians," says TPW Director Richard Mendoza. "Austin is a Vision Zero city, meaning it has a goal to systematically reduce serious injuries and fatalities due to automobile crashes to zero. Providing pedestrians and cyclists with safe places to travel is central to achieving that."

For more information on Austin's sidewalk success story, including the city's future plans and an interactive map of sidewalk projects, visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/sidewalks>.





# The Public Works Institute of Texas (PWITX) has a solid presence at the Workshop

There were a number of sightings at the Workshop... no not Big Foot....but rather a number of committee members, instructors, graduates and current students of the PWITX Program.

As usual, the Chapter provided PWITX with a sponsor table so they could share information about the program. In addition, PWITX had a panel discussion that included the Chair, Tim Tumulty, as moderator, with three graduates sharing their journey during and after they received their Certificate of Completion. The three alumni-ambassadors were Chris Collis, Stormwater Inspector Supervisor, for the City of Frisco; Kevin Harvill, Deputy Director of Public

Works, for the City of Baytown; and Jason Maiden, Public Works Supervisor for the City of Carrollton. The session had great attendance and lots of interest was noted. A group photo was taken at the conclusion of the Awards Luncheon that consisted of Chapter members including Committee members, graduates, current students and instructors.

If you have questions about the program or wish to sign to get on the waiting list for Class 6, please contact Ines Roach, the Administrator at [publicworksinstitute\\_TX@outlook.com](mailto:publicworksinstitute_TX@outlook.com). General information can be found on the Texas Chapter website at <https://pwitx.apwa.org>





# The Strategic Planning Process

## Continuous Improvement for the Public Works Institute of Texas (PWITX)

This year, the tenth year in education operations, the Chair, Tim Tumulty, challenged the PWITX Committee to accomplish a comprehensive self-assessment to ensure the efforts towards effective training and professional development was continuously moving forward.

The PWITX Committee members are Tim, Joshua Mair, Ines Roach, John German, Daniel Kreuger, Mark Hines, Elvira Alonza, Heather Merkel, Bob Lowry, Gloria Martinez, Jody Byerly and Bob Kopp. This group took on this important review and generated a plan that produced a Vision and Mission Statement, Corporate Values and developed goals and required tasks.

The direction required solid alignment with the APWA National and State Chapter Strategic Plans. The range was to develop actions plans from 1-5 years. A short summary follows:

**VISION:** To be the Professional education and networking program of choice for Texas public works leaders through a spirit of active engagement and performance excellence.

**MISSION:** Transform public works leaders through professional development, education and networking opportunities to better serve their agencies and communities.

**VALUES:** Integrity, Commitment to Excellence, Innovation, Accountability and Engagement

### GOAL AREA 1: SUSTAINABILITY

- **Goal 1:** Complete a succession plan for all PWITX positions
- **Goal 2:** Develop a five year financial forecast for PWITX
- **Goal 3:** Create a network of strategic partners to enhance the program

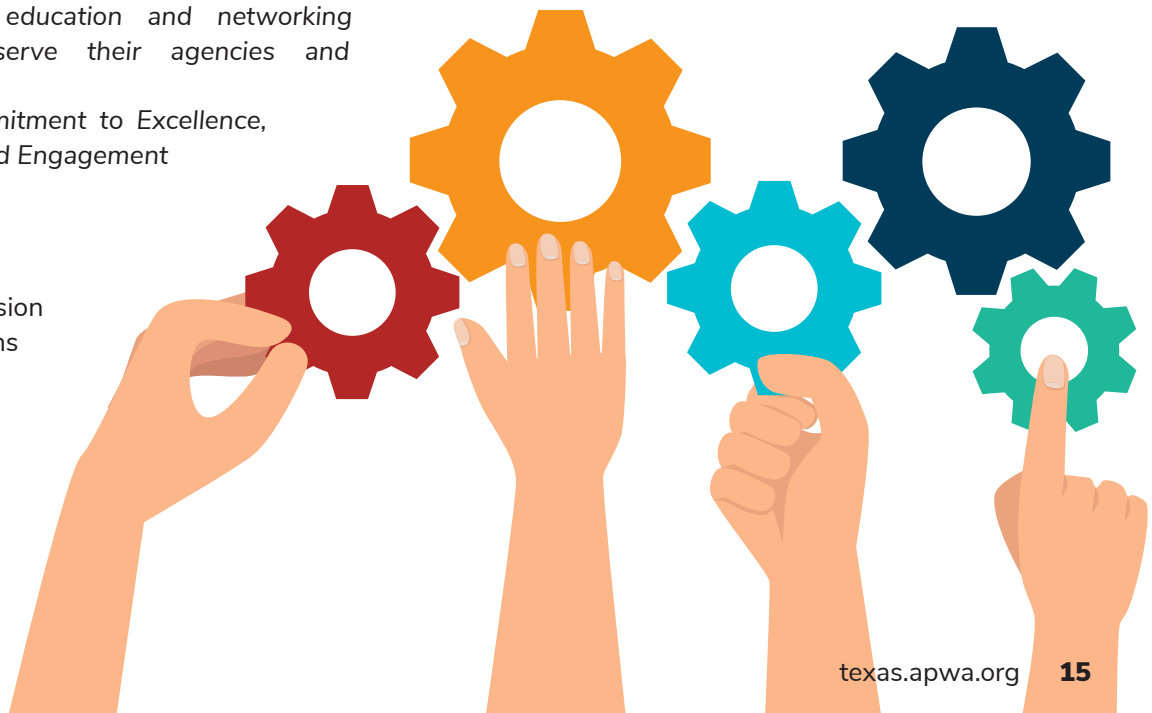
### GOAL AREA 2: OUTCOMES

- **Goal 1:** Expand the curriculum to further develop a broader exposure to the various functional areas and address APWA Programs
- **Goal 2:** Prepare PWITX graduates for leadership positions at the Chapter and Branch levels

### GOAL AREA 3: MARKETING

- **Goal 1:** Engage every county, municipality and business partners with the Texas Chapter membership at the leadership level
- **Goal 2:** Create an Alumni Association (AA) that serves as an advocate, and a sustainable component, for the PWITX Program

We are all encouraged this plan will set a positive course for the Journey ahead to provide the Texas Chapter membership more educational and networking opportunities.





# Rio Grande Valley Branch 4th Annual Equipment Roadeo

**O**n January 13, 2024, Public Works employees from across the Rio Grande Valley came together to compete at the 4th Annual Equipment Roadeo. Vicente Rodriguez from the City of Harlingen became the Grand Champion of the Roadeo and will go on to compete at the TX-APWA 2024 Annual Conference in San Antonio.

## GRAPPLE TRUCK

- 1st: Benito Reyna – City of McAllen
- 2nd: Moises Cavazos – City of McAllen
- 3rd: Sergio Seledon – City of McAllen

## MINI-EXCAVATOR

- 1st: Vicente Rodriguez – City of Harlingen
- 2nd: Alejandro Cepeda – City of Harlingen
- 3rd: Oscar Mendoza Jr. – City of McAllen

## BACKHOE

- 1st: Carlos Perales – City of McAllen
- 2nd: Juan Garcia – City of Edinburg
- 3rd: Vicente Rodriguez – City of Harlingen

## GRAND CHAMPION

Vicente Rodriguez – City of Harlingen









# North Central Branch February 2024 General Membership Meeting

**Katie Barron, President  
North Central Texas Branch**

The North Central Branch held their bi-monthly General Membership Meeting on February 20th at the City of Frisco new Public Library.

President Katie Barron welcomed the large number of attendees, which is the most we have had since before Covid at a membership meeting, outside of the December holiday meetings. We had 88 people register in advance, and 96 in actual attendance!

As part of the membership meeting, Katie officially announced two new Executive Committee members, as approved unanimously at the Executive Board Meeting on February 13th, 2024. Alonzo Liñán requested to step down from his Director position in December, and Austin Duehr announced his resignation, pending a move to Georgia, in January, leaving 2 vacant Director positions. The Board asked Teanna Thompson with the City of Fort Worth and Randy Furguson with the City of Rowlett if they would fill these two positions and remain on the Board moving forward. Both Teanna and Randy have been actively involved in our Branch and we are delighted to have them.

Katie gave an update on the recently-held Public Workshop in Wichita Falls, and highlighted a few items from the conference. She also recognized the Public Workshop Field Award winners from our Branch:

- The City of Frisco Stormwater Compliance Team won the Operations Excellence Award—Team Category
- The City of Denton and the City of Fort Worth TIED for the In-House project of the year in the Environmental / Water / Wastewater Category. The City of Denton for the Kinds Row Channel Rehabilitation

project, and the City of Fort Worth for the Little Fox Channel Restoration Project.

Congratulations to our Branch winners!

Our main speaker for the meeting was Mr. Brian Shewski, PE, PTOE, Transportation Engineering Manager with the City of Plano. Brian gave a presentation on some of the major changes to the MUTCD between the 10th and 11th edition, which was published in late 2023. He focused primarily on the updates related to municipal subject areas and uses, so it was very poignant to our Public Works audience. Even though Texas has not yet adopted the updates in the TxMUTCD, these updates are under consideration and will likely be adopted in 2025, and Brian gave an excellent preview of the major things coming. Thanks to Brian for giving such a great presentation, to BJ Long and the City of Frisco for hosting us, and to Cheryl Taylor, Branch Secretary, for setting it all up!

Our next General Membership meeting is on April 16th, location and topic are being finalized. We hope to see all our NCT Branch members there!

## OFFICERS FOR 2023/24

(July 2023 – June 2024)

### PRESIDENT

**Katie Barron**

City of University Park

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Gabriela Proce**

City of University Park

### SECRETARY

**Cheryl Taylor**

City of Bedford

### TREASURER

**Jacob Reinig**

Kimley Horn

### PAST PRESIDENT

**Cesar Molina**

Half

### DIRECTOR 1

**Stephen Bonner**

City of Denton

### DIRECTOR 2

**Alberto Mercado-Flores**

LAN

### DIRECTOR 3

**Teanna Thompson**

City of Fort Worth

### DIRECTOR 4

**Randy Furguson**

City of Rowlett





# Southeast Branch 1st Quarter General Membership Meetings

The Southeast Branch January General Membership Meeting was hosted by the City of Sugar Land. Brian Butscher, PE, Director of Public Works, presented on How a Storm Water Fee Can Open Doors for a City. It included the process of implementing a fee, the financial details, and the impact to the community.

The February General Membership Meeting was hosted by the City of Missouri City on February 21. Shashi Kumar, PE, CFM, Missouri City Director of Public Works and City Engineer, Jordan Hibbs, PE from EHT, and Hector Acevedo, Plant Operator from Quail Valley Utility District gave us a tour of the City's Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant. The meeting included a tour and discussion on the recent expansion of the Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant from 10 to 20 MGD.



## UPCOMING 2ND ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT

After the success of the inaugural Sporting Clay Tournament, the Southeast Branch will host the tournament again at Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy, Texas on March 29. To register, visit <https://texas.apwa.org/event/tx-se-branch-apwa-annual-sporting-clay-tournament/>.

# COMING UP: 9th Annual APWA North Central Texas Branch Sporting Clay Tournament

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS BRANCH  
**SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT**  
 Thursday • April 25, 2024  
 7:30 a.m. - early afternoon  
 Alpine Shooting Range  
 5482 Shelby Road  
 Fort Worth, TX 76140

Mark your calendars for the Texas APWA NCT Branch's 9th Annual Sporting Clay Tournament on April 25th at Alpine Shooting Range, Fort Worth, TX.

Last year, with 125+ participants and dedicated sponsors, we achieved a significant milestone, accumulating \$24,000+ in registrations, directly supporting our annual scholarship program. This event isn't just about hitting targets; it's about building connections, enhancing our community, and investing in the future of our profession. Spaces are limited to ensure a quality experience for all attendees. Register early to guarantee your participation or join us as a volunteer to contribute to this impactful day.

To register and sign up to volunteer, visit <https://nct-apwa.com/sporting-clay-tournament>. Support the future of our profession. See you there!



# South Central Branch

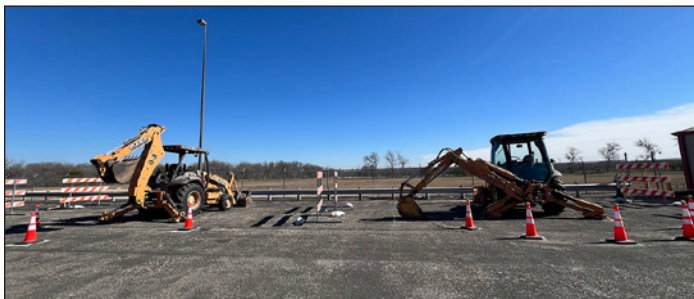
Marissa Sandoval  
Msandoval@mendezengineering.com



## FEBRUARY 2024

South Central Branch came together to help clean the San Antonio Watershed in the Annual Basura Bash Waterways Cleanup. This event began in 1994 with the organization being modified in 2005, and since the start, they have collected over 31 tons of recyclables.

February General Meeting was hosted by Travis Allen, Vice president of National Works, Inc. He presented on the applications in protective coatings, CCTV, and cleaning services on sewer structures.



## JANUARY 2024

This year the 3rd Annual South Central Branch Equipment Road-éo took place, January 19, 2024. With our 1st and 2nd place winners receiving scholarships to represent TX-APWA-SCB at the APWA Public Workshop in Wichita Falls, Texas.

## 3RD ANNUAL DART TOURNAMENT

The 3rd Annual Dart Tournament is a night to get out to network and mingle. The branch encourages members and future members to enjoy a fun night filled with darts and cornhole.

## MARCH 2024:

Upcoming General Membership Meeting on March 19.

## APRIL 2024

The South Central Branch will be hosting its 3rd Annual Clay Shoot Tournament on April 12. With generous support and participation, this has been able to become an annual sell-out event helping raise money for scholarships.





# Central Texas Branch inducts new 2024 officers

The Central Texas Branch held its first quarterly meeting of 2024 in Round Rock's Public Works facility. Outgoing branch president Jim Gray welcomed our new branch board. Tom Yantis, Assistant City Manager of Taylor, presented on the impact of Samsung and other development activities in Taylor. The next Central Branch meeting will be on March 28th at the Buda.

- **Lindsey Geeslin, President**  
Lhoist, Sales Manager
- **John Nett, Vice President**  
Freese & Nichols, Inc., Program Manager
- **Ron Romero, Secretary**  
City of Austin, Assistant Director, Austin Resource Recovery
- **Ryan Thomas, Treasurer**  
KSA Engineers, Inc., Central Texas Public Works Lead
- **Gerry Rangel, Director (Scholarship Chair)**  
Hanson Professional Services, Transportation Engineer
- **Jason Frost, Director (Education Chair)**  
AmeriTex, Technical Promotions Manager - Precast
- **Kristina Ramirez, Director (Membership Chair)**  
City of Harker Heights, Planning & Development Director

Lindsey Geeslin Bush and Kristina Ramirez from the Central Texas Branch attended the City of Temple Council



Meeting in January. Region VII Director David Fabiano presented the City of Temple Public Works Department with their first APWA Accreditation. Temple became the 15th entity in Texas and the second in the Central Texas Branch area to become accredited through APWA. The 239 current public works employees had 424 best practices evaluated and earned a passing rate of 100%. They also had two internal best practices being considered for inclusion in future APWA accreditations.



**CENTRAL TEXAS BRANCH  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

**MARCH 28, 2024**

PRESENTATION BY: CODY CHAMBLISS OF  
ERGON ASPHALT & EMULSIONS

**PAVEMENT PRESERVATION**

**MARCH 28, 2024**  
11:30 AM  
\$10/PER PERON

**CITY OF BUDA**  
CITY HALL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
405 E. LOOP STREET

QUESTIONS/RSVP  
LINDSEY.GEESLIN@LHOIST.COM OR 254-242-4916

**RSVP  
TODAY!**





# TALKING POINTS

## MARCH 2024

### US GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- APWA's Board of Directors will meet in Washington DC, February 7-8, to select a president-elect to replace the late Lisa Rapp. During their visit, the board will also meet with federal officials and US Representatives and Senators.
- You have two opportunities to tell Congress how to make a difference for public works professionals: greater flexibility for water infrastructure projects; and feedback on EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. Just click the links and APWA's Phone2Action app (mobile and desktop) will do the rest. If you aren't receiving APWA legislative action alerts, sign-up by texting PWX to 52886.
- The Government Affairs Committee has updated APWA's policymaker primers on asset management, ROW management, resiliency, and workforce development. The primers are different than APWA's 118th Congress public policy priorities because they underscore the wide-reaching roles of public works professionals rather than the policy prescriptions APWA advocates to the US Congress and federal agencies.
- Wondering what's happening in Congress when the APWA Washington Report isn't informing you? Check for updates and breaking news from APWA Government Affairs on X and LinkedIn.
- Our APWA Government Affairs team is standing by to help APWA chapters expand their outreach and advocacy. Just drop a line to Andrea Eales, Director of Government and Public Affairs at [aeales@apwa.org](mailto:aeales@apwa.org) and we'll schedule a training or brief that will amp your voice and your impact.

### EDUCATION

- **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:** In 2023, chapters offered 19 sessions of APWA's four certificate programs: Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate (WMSC), Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate (WMOC), Public Fleet Management Certificate (PFMC), and Facilities & Grounds Management Certificate (FGMC). We are already planning for fall 2024. As these programs are very popular, early planning is advised. If chapters are interested in holding a certificate program locally, they should contact [education@apwa.org](mailto:education@apwa.org)

### CERTIFICATION

- Updates are underway for the APWA certification pages on the [apwa.org](http://apwa.org) website. Our goal is to improve and expand the information related to APWA certification programs, with efforts being made to enhance content comprehensiveness and user-friendliness. For more information, please contact the certification team at [certification@apwa.org](mailto:certification@apwa.org) or visit our certification page under Education & Careers at [www.apwa.org](http://www.apwa.org).

### TOP TECH

Do you have experience with one of APWA's 2024 Top 5 Trending Technologies in Public Works? Here's your opportunity to share your knowledge. Join a work group today to inform and educate our members on these important advances in the industry.

- Artificial Intelligence—Condition Assessment Data
- Collection
- Availability of Centralized Community GIS Mapping
- Data
- Lead Service Line Identification
- Microgrids
- Sustainability Due to Severe Events—Improving
- Transportation infrastructure

Please contact April Jones at [ajones@apwa.org](mailto:ajones@apwa.org) to join a Top Tech Work Group.

### CONFERENCES

#### NORTH AMERICAN SNOW CONFERENCE & PWX

The PWX Program Review Committee met in Kansas City in January to make final session selections and plan the education program for the conference. Committee members reviewed 457 submitted sessions. We are moving forward in the planning process and notifying speakers of their selection.



### MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

#### 2024 NORTH AMERICAN SNOW CONFERENCE TAKING SHAPE

- This year's 2024 North American Snow Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, kicks off April 28–May 1. #Show4Snow is a time to learn, network, and sharpen your skills. Some highlights are:
- A comprehensive education program that includes hands-on calibration demonstrations and four full- and half-day workshops featuring targeted content designed for fleet and winter maintenance supervisors, operators, and managers.
  - Networking events hosted by members of the KC Metro Chapter to include the Snow Trek on Monday afternoon and Snow Celebration on Tuesday evening.
  - "The Pitch," which is new this year and is a fast-paced theater on the exhibit hall floor with 20-minute presentations and demos of both new and existing products and services from our exhibitors.

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**31,975**

**Public Works Management Practices Manual (11th Edition) Now Available In The Store!**



**Questions, comments, feedback:** [ChapterAdmin@TxPublicWorks.com](mailto:ChapterAdmin@TxPublicWorks.com)