Texas APWA Reporter

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

The Magazine of the Texas Public Works Professional



2026 APWA PWX RECAP

2026-2027
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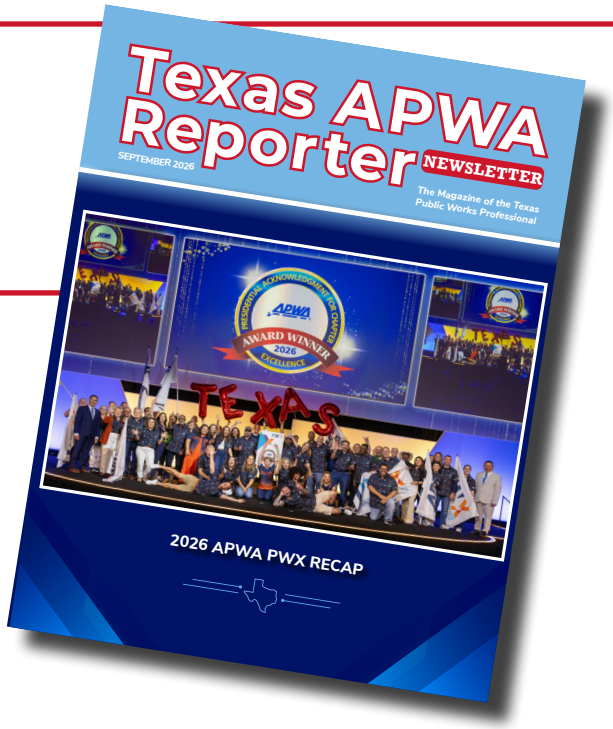
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Texas APWA Reporter NEWSLETTER

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2026 APWA PWX RECAP



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CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Spencer Maxwell



Message from the President: *What an incredible week in Houston, y'all! After years of planning and hard work by volunteers from across the Texas Chapter, PWX 2026 was everything we hoped it would be. It was so exciting to welcome public works from around the country (and around the world) to Texas and have the opportunity to show off our Chapter, our members, and the incredible work being done in public works throughout Texas.*

I'll start by saying thank you! Hosting an event the size of PWX takes an enormous team, and Texas Chapter members put in their efforts in every way imaginable. Our volunteers spent countless hours coordinating events, planning logistics, welcoming attendees, and doing everything needed to make the week a success. I was incredibly proud to see so many familiar faces wearing volunteer shirts and representing the Texas Chapter!

A Texas Sized Welcome

We wanted PWX attendees to experience a little bit of Texas while they were here, and our volunteers delivered. From the Golf Tournament to the Brewery Tour, 5k Run, Get Acquainted Party, and Chapter Dinner, there were opportunities throughout PWX to reconnect with old friends, meet new people, and have some fun!

The BBQ Cookoff gave our National APWA board members a true taste of Texas. (I'm sorry to report that the team from Canada won first place in the Brisket competition, but that gives us the opportunity for a rematch next year!) The Futures Program gave the next generation of public works professionals an opportunity to connect and learn about the industry, while the National Equipment Roadeo showcased the incredible skill of equipment operators from around the country. The Chapter hosted the first Silent Auction at PWX, and the Camp Hope Pop-Up provided an opportunity to give back to a great cause. Each event made PWX in Houston something special.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of our sponsors. Their financial support and participation allowed PWX attendees to create memorable experiences while highlighting the strong partnership between the public agencies, contractors, vendors, and consultants who make up the public works community. To every organization that sponsored an event, provided volunteers, or supported the Texas Chapter's PWX efforts: thank you. Your investments made a difference, and we sincerely appreciate your support of APWA and the public works profession.
The Annual Conference Will Return Next Year!

Hosting PWX meant doing something unusual for the Chapter: we took a year off from holding our own annual conference so we could focus our energy on welcoming APWA to Houston. I think everyone who participated in PWX would agree that it was well worth it.

But don't worry, the annual conference will be back on June 7-9, 2027 in Denton! The Annual Conference Planning Committee is already hard at work planning our return, and if you'd like to get involved in planning the education sessions and other exciting events, please let me know. I know many of us will be ready to reconnect with our Texas APWA friends and get back to one of the traditions that makes our chapter so strong.

What's Next

PWX really was a tremendous milestone for the Texas Chapter, but it wasn't the finish line. The relationships and momentum generated in Houston give us the opportunity to build an even stronger Chapter together. We'll continue to focus on member engagement, professional development, supporting our branches across the state, developing the next generation of leaders, and providing opportunities for our members to connect and serve our communities.
Thank you again to everyone: Our volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, APWA staff, and everyone else who helped make PWX Houston a truly memorable experience. Texas showed up, and you made us proud!

I look forward to carrying that energy into the year ahead and seeing y'all at events across Texas.

Spencer Maxwell, PE
2026-2027 Texas Chapter President
Associate, Freese and Nichols

TML CORNER: Interim Hearings Expand, Regulatory Reviews Increase, and Key Issues Advance Toward Fall Discussions

By Jonathan Wheat, P.E., Director of Engineering, City of Carrollton


JONATHAN WHEAT OF TML REPRESENTATIVE

Welcome back to the TML Corner. Your public works teams continue to respond to increasing expectations tied to infrastructure management, water supply planning, transportation safety, and right of way oversight. Interim hearings across multiple House and Senate committees will shape the regulatory environment you work in every day. Staying informed helps you prepare your department for changes that influence local planning authority, fee accountability, resource demand, and emergency coordination.



Testimony on Data Centers and Local Authority

The House Committee on State Affairs took invited and public testimony on data centers and high voltage transmission lines. The League encouraged lawmakers to include cities in all policy discussions and preserve zoning and planning authority. Counties reported that they possess far fewer regulatory tools than cities and requested new authority to manage large site impacts. State agencies, industry groups, and residents also provided testimony about siting, water and power demand, and community compatibility.

Committee Work Affecting City Operations

Over the next several weeks, House and Senate committees will study issues affecting municipal services, including city finance tools, fees, property tax requirements, transparency statutes, water demand, and transportation funding.

Senate Local Government – September 2

The committee will review several charges. One charge directs the panel to examine implementation of recent housing affordability bills and recommend measures to strengthen property rights. Another charge asks the committee to evaluate how cities collect and use fees, including utility connection charges, permit and inspection fees, and drainage fees. The committee will consider whether added transparency and independent audits are appropriate.

Jonathan Wheat, PE

jonathan.wheat@cityofcarrollton.com

House Natural Resources – August 24

The committee will monitor recent legislation related to water and sewer service provided jointly or concurrently by public entities. It will also review long term water supply projections, project selection criteria, and regional planning processes. Members will evaluate the feasibility of project types eligible under the New Water Supply for Texas Fund and identify obstacles that limit project delivery.

Senate Transportation – August 25

The committee will examine how TxDOT is using new funding for rail grade separation projects and evaluate the safety and mobility improvements produced. It will review autonomous vehicle deployment and related rulemaking, quantify collision impacts, and consider recommendations that maintain public safety as technology advances.

House Select Committee on Government Oversight – August 26

Members will study the applicability and effectiveness of the Texas Public Information Act and review exemptions from disclosure. The committee will also examine the authority of political subdivisions to hold Open Meetings Act meetings outside their respective boundaries.

Senate Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs – September 1

The committee will study the water demands of energy intensive technologies. Members will examine cooling systems used by data centers and consider recommendations that support transparency for water providers and protect water affordability for residents and agricultural producers.

Senate Local Government – September 1

Charges include reviewing homestead exemption increases and identifying how many homeowners pay no school property tax under recent legislation. The committee will also examine appraisal district governance, budgeting authority, and cost allocation practices, and consider whether additional controls are needed.

Senate Economic Development – September 3

The committee will review hotel occupancy tax collection, reporting, and use. It will evaluate whether local incentives operate as intended. Another charge asks the committee to examine project finance zones and consider whether legislative approval should be required for newly proposed zones.

House Subcommittee on Transportation Funding – September 2

The committee will evaluate TxDOT's formula and discretionary funding categories, review projected statewide transportation needs, and assess continuation of the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund. Members will consider improvements to allocation methods and transparency.

Required AI and Cybersecurity Training

State law requires AI and cybersecurity training for all local government employees with access to a computer system or database. Cities must certify compliance by August 31. DIR maintains a list of approved training courses, and TMLIRP offers free certified options.

TML Policy Summit: APWA Request for Public Works First Responder Recognition

At the upcoming TML Policy Summit, I will present a request on behalf of the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association seeking statewide recognition of public works professionals as first responders. The request supports consistent emergency management terminology and aligns with federal recognition already in place. The designation applies only to public works personnel engaged in emergency operations. It does not expand municipal obligations related to benefits, compensation, retirement, or workers' compensation.

As each of you know, cities depend on public works employees to support emergency operations. These employees restore access routes, protect infrastructure, clear debris, assess damage, and help maintain essential facilities and utilities. Statewide recognition would improve consistency in emergency coordination and reflect the essential functions your teams perform during critical events.

PWX 2026 Records Firsts and a Texas Sized Legacy



Houston delivers an unforgettable week for public works

Everything was bigger in Texas at PWX 2026.

From August 30 through September 2, nearly 4,000 public works professionals gathered at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston for APWA's premier annual conference. The week brought record-setting exhibits, first-time events, Texas hospitality and countless opportunities to learn, connect and give back.

For the Texas Chapter, PWX was the culmination of years of planning by more than 100 committee members and hundreds of volunteers. Working alongside APWA staff, sponsors, exhibitors and agency partners, the host committee set out to create an experience that felt unmistakably Houston and unmistakably Texas.

The City of Houston played a major role in that effort, contributing personnel, equipment and resources throughout the conference. Mayor John Whitmire also helped welcome attendees during the Opening General Session, underscoring Houston's support for the public works professionals who keep communities moving every day.









A DISTINCTLY TEXAS WELCOME

From committee jerseys and Space Cowboy branding to belt buckles, challenge coins and bright orange volunteer shirts, local touches appeared throughout the week. Those details were fun, but the real Texas welcome came from the people. Volunteers greeted attendees, answered questions, supported events and helped visitors find their way through a very busy conference.

The Texas Chapter hospitality area also welcomed a special Houston guest during PWX: Orbit, the Astros mascot! Orbit brought the Astros World Series trophy, giving attendees the chance to pose for photos with the mascot and a piece of baseball history.



The Get Acquainted Party at Stampede Houston brought the theme to life on Sunday night. More than 2,000 guests filled the country dance hall for line dancing, live longhorn photos, a mechanical bull, music, food and plenty of room to reconnect with friends from across North America. It was energetic, a little over the top and exactly the kind of welcome the host committee hoped Houston would deliver.





NEW TRADITIONS BEGIN IN HOUSTON

PWX 2026 began with a Texas-sized first: the inaugural National BBQ Showdown. Eleven teams representing agencies, chapters and public works partners competed in pork ribs, pork shoulder, open protein and brisket. The City of Webster earned Grand Champion honors, while the Atlantic Canada Chapter's Quispamsis Royal Nova BBQ Team took first place in brisket and gave Texas a reason to request a rematch.

The showdown blended competition, hospitality and professional camaraderie, and it quickly became one of the most talked-about events of the week. What started as a Houston host idea may have created a new PWX tradition.



CONNECTIONS BEYOND THE CONVENTION CENTER

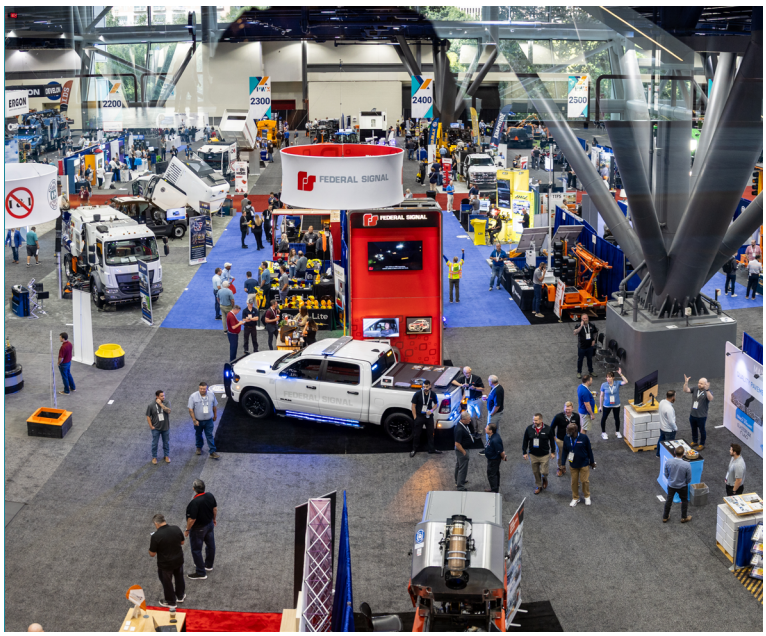
Several host events gave attendees a chance to experience Houston beyond the convention center. Golfers took on the historic Memorial Park Golf Course, 100 guests explored the city's craft beer scene during the Brewery Tour, and runners and walkers followed Buffalo Bayou during the PWX 5K. College Day also welcomed students and emerging professionals for an inside look at careers, resources and connections across the public works community.

These events reflected an important part of PWX: some of the strongest professional relationships are built outside the classroom, through shared experiences and conversations that continue long after the conference ends.



AN EVENING TOGETHER AT THE TEXAS CHAPTER DINNER

On Tuesday, September 1, members and guests gathered off-site at Social Beer Garden HTX for the Texas Chapter Dinner. The evening offered a chance to share a meal, catch up with colleagues and enjoy time together away from the convention center during a busy PWX week.



THE LARGEST EXHIBIT FLOOR IN PWX HISTORY

Inside the George R. Brown Convention Center, PWX 2026 featured the largest exhibit floor in conference history. Heavy equipment, emerging technologies, workforce resources, live demonstrations and specialized pavilions created a high-energy environment where attendees could compare solutions and talk directly with industry experts.

The sold-out floor reflected both the strength of the public works industry and the confidence sponsors and exhibitors placed in Houston. Their support also helped the Texas Chapter expand special events, volunteer resources, attendee experiences and future scholarship opportunities.





COMPETITION AT THE NATIONAL EQUIPMENT ROADEO

The National Equipment Roadeo brought skilled operators from across North America together outside the convention center. Competitors tackled backhoe, mini-excavator, zero-turn mower and storm-pipe-cutting challenges designed to test precision, safety and technical skill.

Texas competitors made a strong showing. Alejandra Moz of the City of Baytown won the storm pipe cutting event, Bruce Gick of the City of Georgetown won the backhoe competition, and Blanca Rubio of the City of Baytown earned first place in the women's backhoe and mini-excavator division. City of Baytown operator David Kirkpatrick also placed third in backhoe, while several additional Texas competitors finished among the top ranks.

The Roadeo celebrated the expertise of the operators whose work is essential to safe, reliable infrastructure—and gave a national audience the chance to see that talent firsthand.













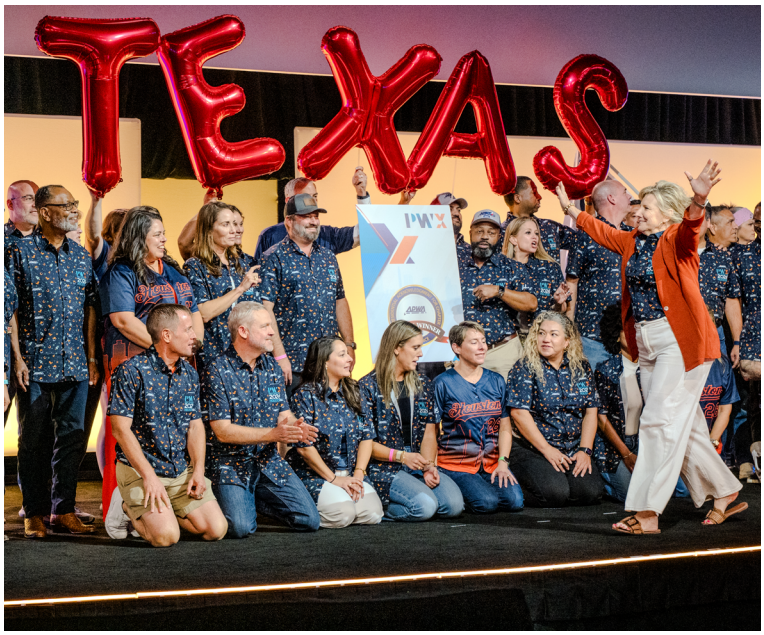


GIVING BACK TO HOUSTON

The host committee also introduced the first PWX Silent Auction, benefiting the Houston Food Bank and Rebuilding Together Houston. Sponsors, exhibitors, committee members and supporters donated items and experiences, and attendees brought a generous competitive spirit to the bidding.

The auction created a meaningful way for PWX visitors to leave a positive impact in the host city. It also reflected something public works professionals understand deeply: strong communities depend on people showing up for one another.

The chapter also organized a charity event benefiting Camp Hope, creating another opportunity for the public works community to give back during PWX.



TEXAS EXCELLENCE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Texas agencies, professionals and volunteers were well represented throughout the week—in educational sessions, committee meetings, competitions, awards programs and informal conversations across the conference.
The Texas Chapter also received its 29th Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence. The PACE Award recognizes chapters for strong management, member services, financial stability, public awareness and contributions to the profession. A large Texas group gathered on stage to accept the honor, creating one of the week's proudest moments for the chapter.



TEXAS CHAPTER HOST COMMITTEE



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WEEK

Attendees experienced four days of programming, but the work behind PWX 2026 stretched across several years. Committee leaders and volunteers planned logistics, sponsorships, communications, competitions, hospitality, special events, transportation, signage, registration and countless details that most attendees never had to see.

Public agencies across Texas supported employees who served on the host committee and volunteered during conference week. The City of Houston provided exceptional local support, and agencies from throughout the state contributed people, equipment, expertise and time. Sponsors and partners trusted the committee's vision and helped turn ambitious ideas into real experiences.

That collaboration was the defining story of PWX 2026. Houston's success belonged to everyone who attended a planning call, filled a volunteer shift, transported equipment, welcomed a guest, solved a last-minute problem or simply asked, 'What else can I do?'

Meet the people who helped bring PWX 2026 to Houston: view the full host committee.

A LEGACY BEYOND THE RECORDS

PWX 2026 will be remembered for its record-setting exhibit floor, inaugural events and Texas-sized hospitality. More importantly, it will be remembered for the relationships strengthened, ideas shared, professionals celebrated and community organizations supported.

The host committee is now documenting lessons learned and sharing its playbook with future host chapters. In that way, Houston's impact will continue well beyond one conference week.

To every sponsor, exhibitor, agency partner, committee member and volunteer who helped make PWX 2026 possible: thank you. Houston welcomed the public works world, and Texas showed what can happen when a profession comes together with creativity, commitment and heart.

STRATEGIC PLAN
2026–2029

VISION STATEMENT
Advancing quality of life for all

MISSION STATEMENT
*Support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through **advocacy, education, and membership engagement.***

PILLARS	PEOPLE	PURPOSE	PRESENCE
	Create a welcoming and engaging membership experience.	Provide excellence in workforce development, education, and credentialing.	Promote the value of public works to government leaders, the public, and the media.
STRATEGIC GOALS	• Collaborate with chapters to provide support and resources that enhance member engagement and satisfaction. • Optimize communication tools so members receive accurate, relevant, and timely information. • Foster a strong, collaborative community of public works professionals by creating meaningful opportunities to share ideas, exchange solutions, and strengthen connections.	• Be the leading resource for public works agencies to implement effective workforce recruitment and retention strategies. • Create and deliver education opportunities that meet the evolving needs of all public works roles and career stages. • Advance APWA's credentialing and accreditation programs to set the standard for public works.	• Elevate awareness and recognition of Public Works First Responders as essential partners in emergency response and community resilience. • Increase advocacy engagement by APWA chapters and members to create and share impactful messages on public works' critical role and positive contributions in communities. • Demonstrate the positive fiscal impact of public works on the nation's economy and public health.

APWA Workday



The Texas Chapter of APWA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met in the beautiful city of San Antonio Texas on Friday July 10th, 2026, for the annual Texas Chapter-APWA Workday Planning Session. It was structured as a full-day working session focused on organizational leadership, strategic planning, member engagement, and developing priorities for the Texas Chapter of APWA.

The event was held at a beautiful JW Marriott Hill Country Resort and Spa. The backdrop of the Hill Country of Texas was a perfect place for new President Spencer Maxwell to begin his tenure as President of the Texas Chapter of APWA.

The meeting began with arrival and breakfast, followed by the President Spencer Maxwell's welcome and an overview of the goals for the Workday. Attendees then participated in introductions and an icebreaker to encourage interaction and collaboration among the participants.

The group reviewed the history and organizational structure of APWA and the Texas Chapter, providing background and context for the chapter's role and operations. This transitioned into a discussion of the APWA 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, with particular attention given to the organization's strategic priorities.





A significant portion of the morning focused on the Strategic Pillar: People. Discussion centered on increasing branch engagement, involving the next generation of public works professionals, and improving access to educational opportunities. The group then held a breakout planning session involving branch and chapter officers, directors, and committees to discuss transitions and future planning.

After lunch, the meeting shifted to the Strategic Pillar: Purpose. Participants discussed ways to maximize the impact of PWX scholarships and stipends, improve the stipend program process, and establish a stronger knowledge-management plan.

The next section addressed the Strategic Pillar: Presence, with discussions focused on the role of public works professionals as first responders, reimagining the chapter's 2027 Day at the Capitol, and increasing participation in the APWA awards program.

The final working portion of the meeting focused on creating the TX-APWA Strategic Plan. Participants were brought together to translate the earlier discussions and priorities into a strategic direction for the Texas Chapter.

The day concluded with closing remarks and a group photograph.

In summary, the Workday was designed as a strategic planning and organizational development session. The meeting brought TX-APWA leadership and participants together to:

- Strengthen engagement among branches, committees, and chapter leadership.

- Develop strategies for attracting and engaging the next generation of public works professionals.
- Improve educational opportunities, scholarships, and stipends.

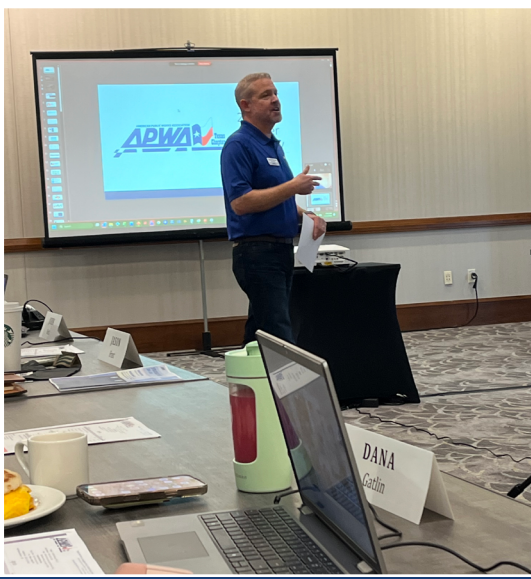
- Strengthen APWA's presence and visibility through initiatives such as Day at the Capitol and the awards program.

- Clarify leadership roles and responsibilities during upcoming transitions.

- Develop and align the TX-APWA Strategic Plan with APWA's broader 2026–2029 strategic priorities.

- Establish actionable priorities for the chapter's future.



PWITX: Frisco hosts Class 7 Session 2 students



Brian Moen discussing the transportation mission in the EOC

The Public Works Institute of Texas (PWITX) conducted tours and classes for Class 7 Session 2 from Tuesday July 21 through Friday July 24, 2026.

On Tuesday, there was a voluntary tour offered to see the Frisco Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Public Works Service Center. The highlight of the EOC was provided by Brian Moen, the Assistant Director for Transportation, Engineering Department, sharing how transportation/traffic is effectively dealt with on the road network and discussed future initiatives and strategies. Afterwards, Gabe Johnson, Director of Public Works, showed the class the PW facility's modernization efforts for the various administrative and operations areas.

Classes were scheduled the balance of the week from Wednesday through Friday. There was a total of 16 classes, 25 hours of instruction provided by 16 instructors. There were many engaging conversations and information-sharing flowed well.

Stephanie Buckingham, with Freese and Nichols and Joanne Kamman with Quiddity were honored as PWITX Professors for their many past presentations as well as their future commitment to continue instructor roles.

Thursday night an Alumni Networking Social Event was set up for both the alumni as well as the current students. Judging by the smiles and laughter of the group, a good time was had by all. After students finish and receive their National Certification, they are welcomed into the Alumni Association for further networking, continuous education, social activities and opportunities for leadership and/or teaching roles in the PWITX program, as well as at the various levels of APWA.

Ines Roach, the PWITX Administrator, once again exceeded standards for logistical support, ensuring the arrangements for hotel, host facilities and food were outstanding. Our municipal host, the City of Frisco, had their staff ready and able to support the training session.



Joanne Kamman displaying her newly awarded Professor attire

With the conclusion of Session 2, Class 7 has completed the halfway point of their PWITX professional development journey. The two remaining sessions will be hosted by Austin and San Antonio during the next year.

A new class will be formed (Class 8) starting April 2027. If you have any questions about the program or want to register, please contact Ms. Ines Roach, PWITX Administrator at either https://Texas.apwa.org/pwitx/ or Publicworksinstitute_tx@outlook.com



Chair Tim Tumulty conferring the title of PWITX Professor to Stephanie Buckingham



Host Frisco PW Director Gabe Johnson toured the Service Center and welcomed the class.



Thursday evening enjoying stories between students and alumni.

APWA REPORTER SAFETY CORNER PRESENTS:

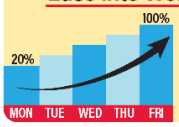
HEAT AWARENESS

Prevent Heat Illness at Work

Outdoor and **indoor** heat exposure can be dangerous.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Others

Ease into Work. Nearly 3 out of 4 fatalities from heat illness happen during the first week of work.



- ✓ **New** and **returning** workers need to build tolerance to heat (acclimatize) and take frequent breaks.
- ✓ **Follow the 20% Rule.** On the first day, work no more than 20% of the shift's duration at full intensity in the heat. Increase the duration of time at full intensity by no more than 20% a day until workers are used to working in the heat.



Drink Cool Water
Drink cool water even if you are not thirsty — at least 1 cup every 20 minutes.



Take Rest Breaks
Take enough time to recover from heat given the temperature, humidity, and conditions.



Find Shade or a Cool Area
Take breaks in a designated shady or cool location.



Dress for the Heat
Wear a hat and light-colored, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing if possible.



Watch Out for Each Other
Monitor yourself and others for signs of heat illness.



If Wearing a Face Covering
Change your face covering if it gets wet or soiled. Verbally check on others frequently.

First Aid for Heat Illness

The following are signs of a medical emergency!



- Abnormal thinking or behavior
- Slurred speech
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness

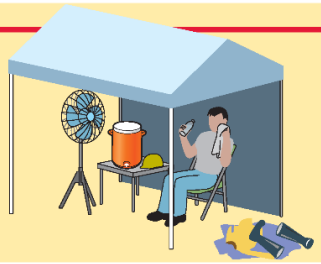
1. » CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
2. » COOL THE WORKER RIGHT AWAY WITH WATER OR ICE
3. » STAY WITH THE WORKER UNTIL HELP ARRIVES



Watch for any other signs of heat illness and act quickly. When in doubt, call 911.

If a worker experiences:

- Headache or nausea
- Weakness or dizziness
- Heavy sweating or hot, dry skin
- Elevated body temperature
- Thirst
- Decreased urine output



Take these actions:

- » Give water to drink
- » Remove unnecessary clothing
- » Move to a cooler area
- » Cool with water, ice, or a fan
- » Do not leave alone
- » Seek medical care if needed

OSHA® Occupational Safety and Health Administration

For more information: 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)
TTY 1-877-889-5627 www.osha.gov/heat

Federal law entitles you to a safe workplace. You have the right to speak up about hazards without fear of retaliation. See www.osha.gov/workers for information about how to file a confidential complaint with OSHA and ask for an inspection.

OSHA 3431-05R 2021

Heat + humidity + heavy physical work + direct sun + PPE can overwhelm the body quickly.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

HEAT EXHAUSTION

The body is losing too much water and salt.

- Heavy sweating
- Headache
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Weakness or unusual fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Irritability or extreme thirst
- Cool, pale or clammy skin
- Elevated temperature or rapid heartbeat
- Decreased or dark-colored urine

ACT NOW

- Stop work and move to shade, A/C or a cool vehicle.
- Remove unnecessary clothing and PPE.
- Cool with water, ice packs, wet towels or a fan.
- Give cool water if alert and able to drink.
- Notify the supervisor and Safety; do not leave alone.
- Get medical help if symptoms worsen or do not improve.

HEAT STROKE

LIFE-THREATENING MEDICAL EMERGENCY

- Confusion, disorientation or unusual behavior
- Slurred speech
- Loss of coordination or stumbling
- Seizures
- Fainting or unconsciousness
- Very high body temperature
- Rapid heartbeat
- Hot, dry skin OR heavy sweating

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

- Move the worker to shade or a cooler location.
- Begin rapid cooling immediately; do not wait for EMS.
- Remove unnecessary clothing and PPE.
- Use cold water, ice, wet towels or ice packs at the neck, armpits and groin.
- Stay with the worker until help arrives.
- Never force a confused or unconscious worker to drink.

IMPORTANT: A worker with heat stroke may still be sweating. Mental changes are the clearest emergency warning sign.

SANITATION-WORKER PREVENTION CHECK

BEFORE ROUTE	DURING ROUTE	WATCH CLOSELY
Start hydrated; fill water and electrolyte supplies; check the forecast/heat index; identify cool-down locations.	Drink about 1 cup of cool water every 20 minutes; take recovery breaks; rotate heavy tasks; use the buddy system.	New/returning workers, overtime crews, workers in direct sun, and anyone wearing added PPE need closer monitoring.

While working in hot weather conditions, the human body may not maintain a normal temperature just by sweating. If this happens, employees may become dehydrated, and a potential heat-related illness may occur. The most common health problems caused by hot work environments include:

Heat rash is caused by excessive perspiration and looks like a red cluster of pimples or small blisters. Heat rash usually appears on the neck, upper chest, in the groin, under the breasts, and in elbow creases.

Heat cramps are muscle pain usually caused by the loss of body salts/fluids. Employees should replace fluid loss by drinking water or carbohydrate-electrolyte replacement liquids (e.g., Gatorade) every 15 to 20 minutes.

Heat exhaustion may include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, confusion, thirst, heavy perspiration, and a body temperature higher than 100.4oF. Employees experiencing heat exhaustion should be moved to a cool area, given fluids to drink and cold compresses for their head, face, and neck.

Heatstroke is the most severe heat-related effect. Heatstroke occurs when the body temperature increases above 104oF. Symptoms can include confusion, loss of consciousness, and lack of sweat. Heatstroke must be treated as a medical emergency, and the employee must receive immediate medical attention.

To mitigate heat-related illness, department procedures should address:

Acclimation – A physical process to allow an employee's body adjusts to the environment over a period of time. Based on data obtained from OSHA, this process usually takes five to seven days. This process could take up to three weeks, depending on the individual and their work environment. Employees who are not adequately acclimatized to the heat may experience temporary heat fatigue resulting in a decline in performance, coordination, or alertness.

Safe Work Practices - Supervisors should ensure that employees working outdoors, working indoors without air conditioning or ventilation, take scheduled breaks in cool areas. Ensure there is plenty of cool water to drink on-site and take water breaks as needed. If feasible, provide overhead protection for shade.

Drink plenty of water. Drink liquids 30 minutes before going outside and continue even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol, caffeine and sugary drinks.

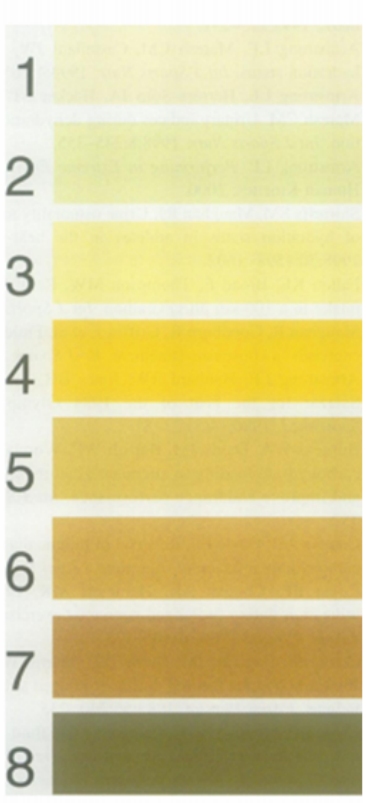
HYDRATION CHECK

USE URINE COLOR AS ONE PRACTICAL WARNING SIGN — NOT AS A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

Aim for pale-yellow urine. Darker urine or decreased output may indicate dehydration.







The Urine Color Chart shown here will assess your hydration status (level of dehydration) in extreme environments. To use this chart, match the color of your urine sample to a color on the chart. If the urine sample matches #1, #2, or #3 on the chart, you are well hydrated. If your urine color is #7 or darker, you are dehydrated and should consume fluids.

The scientific validation of this color chart may be found in the *International Journal of Sport Nutrition*, Volume 4, 1994, pages 265-279[194] and Volume 8, 1998, pages 345-355.[195] Adapted by permission from Larry Armstrong, 2000, *Performing In Extreme Environments*, (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics).[196]

HYDRATION HABITS

- Drink cool water regularly, even when you are not thirsty.
- For work lasting more than two hours, electrolyte beverages may help replace salts lost through sweating.
- Avoid relying on energy drinks or high-sugar beverages for hydration.
- Keep water accessible on the truck and during field assignments.

REPORT THESE WARNING SIGNS

- Very dark urine or much less urine than normal
- Dizziness, weakness, nausea or persistent headache
- Muscle cramps that do not resolve
- Symptoms that continue after cooling and hydration
- Any confusion, abnormal behavior, slurred speech, seizure or unconsciousness — CALL 911

NOTE: Some medications, vitamins, foods and medical conditions can change urine color. If you have concerns or persistent symptoms, seek medical care.



APWA ACCREDITATION UPDATE

"There are also moments where you not only question why one has not been doing certain things, but also question why we have been doing things 'this way' for so long. Accreditation with APWA is fundamental for an organization to provide best management practices, consistency, and the best possible succession plan one can leave behind. The process will also show strong relationships within the organization"

-Cody Collier, Assistant Public Works Director, Little Elm, TX

APWA Accreditation provides an opportunity for agencies to earn an accreditation after completion of an evaluation and review process. The evaluation and best practice review process serves to provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the Public Works Management Practices Manual.

It is a voluntary, self-motivated approach to objectively evaluate, verify, and recognize compliance with the recommended management practices.

Great Job!!!

Re-Accredited Agencies:

- City of Plano Department of Engineering
- City of Plano Department of Public Works
- City of Corinth Public Works Department
- City of University Park Public Works Department

Newly Accredited Agencies:

- City of DeSoto Public Utilities Department

Congratulations to the Newly Certified

CPII: Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector

- **Roberto Alberto, CPII**
  Construction Inspector, City of Frisco, Texas
- **Bradley J. Box, CPII**
  Construction Inspector III, City of Frisco, Texas
- **Harold A. McKinley, CPII**
  Public Infrastructure Inspector, City of Houston, Texas
- **Jamarcus A. Nickerson, CPII**
  Public Infrastructure Inspector, City of Houston, Texas

CSM: Certified Stormwater Manager

- **Austin J. Adams, CSM**
  Field Operations Supervisor, City of Fort Worth, Texas
- **Juan D. Miller, CSM**
  Stormwater Inspector, City of Converse, Texas

CPWP-S: Certified Public Works Professional – Supervision

- **Austin J. Adams, CPWP-S**

Field Operations Supervisor, City of Fort Worth, Texas

CPWP-M: Certified Public Works Professional – Management

- **Lance B. Beasley, CPWP-M**

Drainage Supervisor, City of Highland Village, Texas

Learn more

If you are interested in hearing more about APWA Accreditation, below are some upcoming opportunities.

- October 20th 10:00-11:00am CST: APWA Accreditation Open Forum: "Do You Need Outside Help?"
- November 17th 11:00am -2:00pm CST: APWA Virtual Self-Assessment Workshop
- Also, our Texas Chapter has an Accreditation Liaison, Dana Gatlin. She is available to ask any questions anytime about what Accreditation is, how to get started, what the process looks like, help with practice requirements, etc. You can reach her via email at dgatlin@templetx.gov or phone 254-298-5677.

All opportunities are listed on our Texas APWA Chapter events calendar.

"There are also moments where you not only question why one has not been doing certain things, but also question why we have been doing things 'this way' for so long. Accreditation with APWA is fundamental for an organization to provide best management practices, consistency, and the best possible succession plan one can leave behind. The process will also show strong relationships within the organization"

-Cody Collier, Assistant Public Works Director, Little Elm, TX

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CORNER

Rachel Coker, Chair of the Young Professionals Committee



RACHEL COKER, CHAIR OF THE PROFESSIONALS (YP) COMMITTEE

Hello, APWA Texas Chapter members! My name is Rachel Coker, and I'm honored to serve as Chair of the Young Professionals Committee. As we kick off this new section of the Reporter, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and share what I hope our committee can accomplish this upcoming year.

Background

Despite graduating with a Civil Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and a masters in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from UT Austin, I admit that I did not know the true meaning of 'public works' until I entered industry. My career started as a project engineer focusing on municipal water/wastewater treatment, transmission, and utility project. I currently serve as a Regional Engineer for Advanced Drainage Systems across the great state of Texas. My work centers on developing specifications, which meaning I spend a lot of time collaborating with municipalities and counties on the standards that shape our public infrastructure. I've been active with the Southeast Branch for five years and am now in my second year on the Texas Chapter Board. I'm excited to help shape its next year.

What I'd Like to Accomplish

The Texas Chapter YP Committee exists to help early-career professionals build the connections, skills, and confidence to grow within the broad, dynamic field of public works. I'm focused on a few priorities:

1. Growing membership and attendance: A strong YP community starts with strong turnout. I want to make our events easy to find and worth attending at the Chapter and Branch levels.

2. Expanding mentorship opportunities: Create space for YPs to connect with experienced members in low-pressure settings. The thought is that providing opportunities to foster worthwhile relationships, access to tenured professionals in an informal setting, will keep YPs engaged and ultimately keep institutional knowledge alive.

3. Supporting career development: Whether it's certifications, training opportunities, or understanding the career paths available in public works, I want our committee to be a resource that Texas Chapter members can lean on.

4. Raising visibility of the profession among high school students: Many students don't know public works is a viable career option. Our committee can help change that, introducing the next generation to the work we do and the impact it has on their communities.

Get Involved

If any of this resonates with you, please get involved – whether that's attending an event, volunteering, or simply reaching out with ideas. This Chapter is only as strong as its members, and the YP Committee aims to boost engagement among the next generation of leaders.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS



Public Works News Coming out of Austin Texas

Submitted by: Alex Lari, Public Information Specialist Sr, City of Austin

The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department has begun construction on the Asian American Resource Center and Rutherford Stormwater Improvements project. The initiative will improve the quality of stormwater flowing to Little Walnut Creek while enhancing public spaces at the Asian American Resource Center and the City of Austin's Rutherford Campus.

The project addresses water quality challenges in the 132-acre Rutherford Tributary drainage area. The watershed suffers from elevated nutrient levels, poor stream habitat, and stream stability issues that affect Little Walnut Creek.

The project will create cleaner water by expanding an existing biofiltration pond, adding a wetland area, and constructing a new stream and rain garden. Portions of the existing concrete channel will be modified to better control flooding and create a more natural stream habitat. Limestone blocks will replace concrete-lined side slopes, and vegetated concrete block matting will also be installed. New amenities will be added to the public space as well, including an urban trail, two pedestrian bridges, a play area, and landscaping.

Construction is expected to last about one year. Work will take place in the field behind the Asian American Resource Center, located at 8401 Cameron Road, and the concrete channel near the City of Austin Rutherford Campus at 1520 Rutherford Lane.



Creating a Vision Zero Community

Submitted by: Lee Nichols, Public Information Specialist Senior, City of Austin

The City of Austin is a Vision Zero community. That means it is committed to reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries due to traffic crashes to zero. One important way Austin Transportation and Public Works (TPW) advances this goal is by redesigning high-crash roadways to reduce conflicts between road users.

In January, TPW completed major safety improvements as part of a project along a 5.5-mile stretch of the Cameron Road-Dessau Road corridor. The project includes improvements for transit and intersection safety; new pedestrian crossing islands, a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and shared use paths at various locations; and a new lane configuration, including physical protections for bike lanes.

Six months after completion of the lane configuration adjustment, TPW recorded promising results:





• Data from police shows the number of crashes per year decreased by 27%, while crashes with serious injuries or deaths went down by 16%.

• Emergency response data shows similar trends, with a 46% reduction in traffic incidents responded to by Austin Travis County EMS and a 46% reduction in people seriously injured or killed.

• Dangerous speeding has also declined. The share of drivers going 10 mph or more over the speed limit dropped from 20% to 2%.

• Traffic data shows little relative change in peak period corridor travel times between US 290 and Parmer Lane, with a maximum average travel time increase of 16 seconds in the northbound direction.

While six months is too early to draw definitive conclusions, these early results are an encouraging sign that the project is improving safety while maintaining efficient travel. Construction will continue for approximately one more year, with additional intersection upgrades, pedestrian crossings and street lighting planned.

“I’m extremely proud of this project,” said TPW Director (and TX APWA Past President) Richard Mendoza. “My staff will continue to monitor data on both safety and travel times, but we firmly believe it’s possible to improve safety for everyone — motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists alike — without reducing travel efficiency. So far, that appears to be happening.

“I’m grateful to the TPW employees who listened to community feedback and reshaped this corridor into a safer roadway for all.”



More Than Cost-Cutting: The Case for a Value Study

How municipal public works departments can get more from every infrastructure dollar.
Every public works director in Texas faces the same arithmetic. Construction costs keep climbing, infrastructure ages faster than it can be replaced, and every bond and rate dollar carries the weight of public accountability. We are stewards of finite resources against nearly infinite need. There is a proven discipline built for exactly that problem, and most Texas municipalities still leave it on the shelf: Value Engineering, delivered through a Value Study.

I spent more than two decades on the owner’s side of the table in municipal government, including 14 years as a Public Works Director, before I ever facilitated a value study. So let me make the case as one public works professional to another.

First, what Value Engineering is not. Ask around a public works department and most people will say it means cutting the budget: cheaper materials, trimmed scope, a smaller number. That reputation is the biggest reason the method is underused, and it is wrong. Value Engineering improves the value of a project, defined as the relationship between function and cost. Sometimes that means the same function for less. Just as often it means more function, better durability, easier maintenance, or lower risk for the same investment. The goal is never the cheapest project. It is the best value.

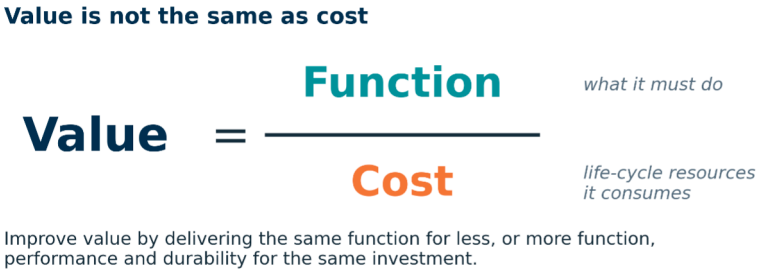


Figure 1. ***Value is the relationship between function and cost, not cost alone.***

A Value Study is not a meeting. It is a facilitated workshop, governed by the SAVE International standard, in which an independent, multidisciplinary team that did not design the project works through a defined sequence called the Job Plan: gather information, analyze functions, generate alternatives, evaluate them, develop the best into costed recommendations, and present them for decision. The step that sets it apart from an ordinary peer review is function analysis. Before proposing anything, the team asks what each element must actually do, and what that function is worth. A pump station exists to move water reliably; a culvert exists to convey flow safely. Separate the function from the solution on the plans, and better ways to deliver it tend to appear.

The goal is never the cheapest project. It is the best value.

Why it fits municipal public works. It is stewardship, formalized: a rigorous process and a documented record that alternatives were weighed before dollars were committed. It is not only for megaprojects. The Federal Highway Administration requires a VE analysis on federal-aid National Highway System projects at $50 million (and $40 million for bridges), but the method scales cleanly down to the work that fills a city capital program: treatment plant upgrades, pump and lift stations, roadway reconstruction, drainage, utility relocations, and facilities. And the timing lines up with how cities budget. A study delivers the most value early, around concept or preliminary design, when the project is defined enough to analyze but flexible enough to change. Run early, it steers the whole project. Run late, when the plans are nearly done, it becomes exactly the cost-cutting exercise that gave the term its bad name.

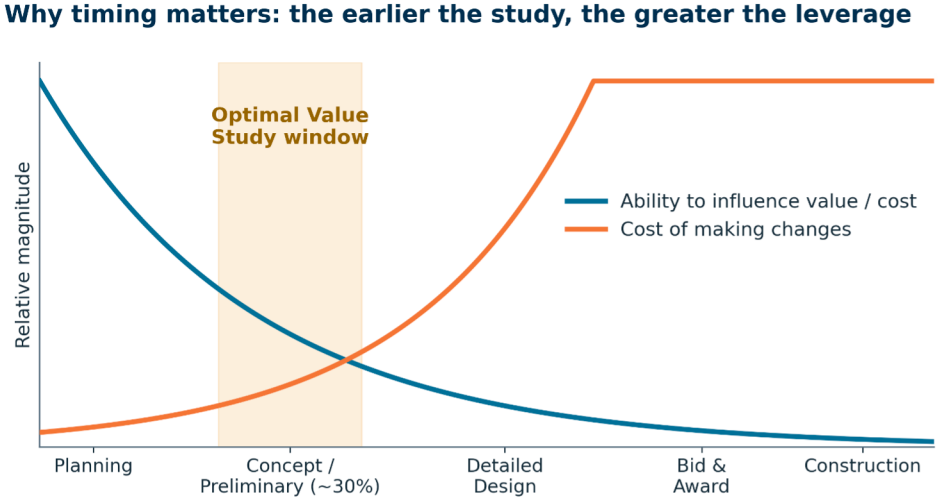


Figure 2. ***A Value Study delivers the most leverage early in design, around the 30 percent stage.***

The payoff is documented, not theoretical. In its FY 2025 accomplishment report, FHWA recorded 371 studies costing about $14.8 million that produced roughly $1.18 billion in approved savings, a 79-to-1 return, on about $32.7 billion in projects studied. Closer to home, in FY 2025 TxDOT completed 27 value studies for about $1.2 million and approved some $154.9 million in recommendations: a 132-to-1 return and roughly 3 percent of studied project costs. And the reports make a quieter point for anyone still hearing “cheaper”: most approved recommendations improved operations and constructability, not just price.

In FY 2025, Texas value studies returned about $132 for every dollar spent.

The usual objections do not hold up. A focused study runs a matter of days and, done early, prevents the far costlier delays of redesign and construction change orders. It is no insult to the design team; the fresh eyes test assumptions, the designers keep ownership, and the best studies make everyone’s work better. As for cost, the study is a small fraction of the project, with one of the most reliable returns a capital program can find.

If your department has never tried one, start small. Pick a project early in design with enough cost and complexity that alternatives matter. Bring in a Facilitator to lead an independent team. Decide up front what success looks like, whether savings, constructability, or risk reduction. Treat the first study as a pilot, document the results, and use them to make value studies a standard step in how you deliver projects.

Public works is, at its core, the disciplined delivery of value to a community. Value Engineering is that same commitment made systematic. The next time a major project reaches your desk, ask one question: has anyone independently tested whether this is the best value, or only whether it works? If it is the latter, it may be time for a Value Study.



Ryan Thomas, P.E., VMA, is Vice President at Pape-Dawson and a Value Methodology Associate. He serves as President of the SAVE International Southwest U.S. Region and Vice President of the APWA Central Texas Branch, and spent 14 years as Public Works Director during a 23-year municipal career at the City of Wildwood, Missouri.

Austin Celebrated National Water Quality Month in August

Submitted by: Alex Lari, Public Information Specialist Sr, City of Austin

Whether you’re paddling on the lake, cooling off in a swimming hole, fishing, or exploring a greenbelt, healthy waterways make those moments possible. They provide habitat for wildlife, support our community, and make Austin unique. August was National Water Quality Month, but protecting our waterways is something Austin Watershed Protection does every day.

Monitoring Water Quality

Our scientists regularly monitor Austin’s springs, creeks, and lakes to detect pollution early and track environmental trends. This data helps us find and address problems as well as develop effective policies that protect Austin’s watersheds.

Water Quality Projects

We design, build, inspect, and maintain stormwater treatment features such as biofiltration ponds and rain gardens that filter pollution from roads, parking lots, buildings, and landscapes before it reaches creeks and lakes.

Protecting Groundwater

Austin has more than 1,500 springs which are fed by underground aquifers. We monitor groundwater quality and levels, investigate reports of unknown water flow to distinguish leaks from natural springs, provide technical expertise for construction projects, and protect sensitive groundwater recharge areas through land conservation.

How You Can Help

- Grow Green: Choose native plants, reduce or eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and capture rainwater with rain gardens or cisterns.

- Report Water Pollution: Report pollution threats to Austin 3 1 1 by phone, online, or through the app. Our investigators respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Scoop the Poop: Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can wash into our waterways. Remember to bring it, scoop it, and trash it — every stinking time!

- Adopt a Storm Drain: Water entering storm drains flows directly to our creeks, so keeping them clear helps protect water quality and prevent street flooding.

Our collective actions make a real difference for the creeks, lakes, and springs that define our city. Follow us on social media for more National Water Quality Month content and visit AustinTexas.gov/Watershed to learn more about the work we do year-round to protect Austin's watersheds.

About Austin Watershed Protection

Austin Watershed Protection protects lives, property, and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flooding, erosion, and water pollution. Visit AustinTexas.gov/Watershed to learn more.



WEST CENTRAL BRANCH UPDATES

Submitted by: Rochelle Futrell, City of Abilene



Public Works Week was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedicated employees who work every day serving our community. In honor of the week, the City Council presented an official proclamation recognizing Public Works Week and the essential role our Public Works professionals play in keeping our city safe, functional, and thriving. To continue the celebration and show appreciation for the team, our Director of Public Works, Max Johnson and Assistant Director of Public Works, Jeff Duebner visited Public Works employees and handed out novelty ice cream treats. It was a fun way to say thank you to our hardworking team members for their commitment, teamwork, and continued service to our community.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY BRANCH UPDATES

Submitted by: Ruth Trevino, Public Works Director, Harlingen Texas









New RGV APWA Branch Board

The RGV APWA Branch recently celebrated the inauguration of its new board at a Topgolf event. The new board includes:

- **President**: David De Leon
- **Vice-President**: Ramiro Robledo
- **Secretary**: Ruth Trevino
- **Treasurer**: Jose Roberto Maldonado

We also took the opportunity to recognize our former President, Mario Vela, who has served as RGV APWA Branch President twice. We are extremely grateful for his continued service, leadership, and mentorship to our board and members. His experience and dedication have been invaluable to the branch.

We were also pleased to recognize two scholarship recipients during the event. Josue Garcia was awarded the APWA Professional Development & Education Scholarship, and Damian Tapia was awarded an Educational Scholarship. We are proud to support them in their continued education and professional development.

August Monthly Branch Meeting – Esri Presentation

At our monthly branch meeting held on August 5, 2026, Esri provided a presentation titled “Public Works and Location: How to Achieve the Vision and Realize the Benefits.” The presentation provided an overview of how ArcGIS and GIS technology can support the full public works mission, including streets, roads and bridges; field and fleet management; operations and maintenance; capital project planning and engineering; public grounds and facilities; and emergency response. The presentation also highlighted how GIS can help agencies integrate data, improve workflows, support better decision-making, and utilize emerging technologies such as real-time data, artificial intelligence, drones, 3D mapping, sensors, and digital twins.

HEIL Storm Water & Drainage Operator Training

The RGV APWA Branch also helped promote a free Storm Water & Drainage Operator Class hosted by the City of Weslaco in partnership with Heil of Texas. The three-day training was held July 14–16, 2026, at the Weslaco Public Works Building.



The hands-on training provided equipment operators with instruction on the safe and effective operation and applications of combination/jetting trucks, street sweepers, grapple trucks, and camera inspection equipment. The training was open to both new and experienced operators and provided a valuable opportunity for public works professionals from throughout the region to learn, share experiences, and network with one another.

Upcoming RGV APWA Events

We also have several upcoming events planned for the RGV Branch:

- **APWA Road-eo** – October 24, 2026, at McAllen Public Works
- **RGV APWA Golf Tournament** – November 7, 2026, at Tony Butler Golf Course

We appreciate the opportunity to share what our RGV APWA Branch has been working on and look forward to continuing to provide professional development, training, networking, and educational opportunities for our members throughout the region.



NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH UPDATES

February 2026 – July 2026 | Prepared for filing with the TX-APWA Chapter

946	936	22	90+
Central Branch members	Registered mailing-list contacts	Board and Committee Chairs	Average meeting registrations

Membership activities

- Current North Central Branch membership is at an all-time high of 946.
- Membership outreach continued to North Central Texas cities, public works professionals, students, and scholarship candidates to broaden participation across the Branch service area with emails, membership meetings and group events.

Branch Updates

- The City of Colleyville hosted the North Central Branch for its February 2026 General Membership Meeting.
- Rinker Materials in Grand Prairie hosted the North Central Branch for its April 2026 General Membership Meeting with a Tour of the Plant and Lunch.
- The City of Frisco hosted the North Central Branch for its June 2026 General Membership Meeting.
- General membership meetings average 90+ registrants.
- The Branch remained financially healthy, with a reported balance of approximately $165,654.73 as of today.
- The branch continues to hold monthly Board Meetings.
- New and Innovative Ideas to Share
- The Board has discussed having 2 Clay Shoots and Golf Tournaments each year since registrations have sold out in less than a week for the events.
- The Branch has been holding more events at the Local Sports Teams.
- The Branch has been reaching out to Companies in the industry to host Lunch & Learns like Rinker Materials.

Branch Key Issue(s)

- With such great turnouts at the General Membership Meetings, we have had to cap registrations for the past 2 years. It is hard to find a space that can hold 100+ people comfortably.
- Trying to find new locations for General Membership Meetings that have plenty of room.

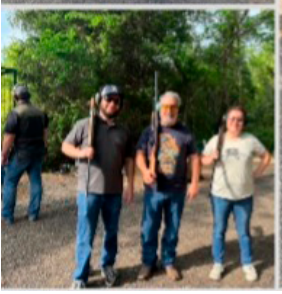
Awards

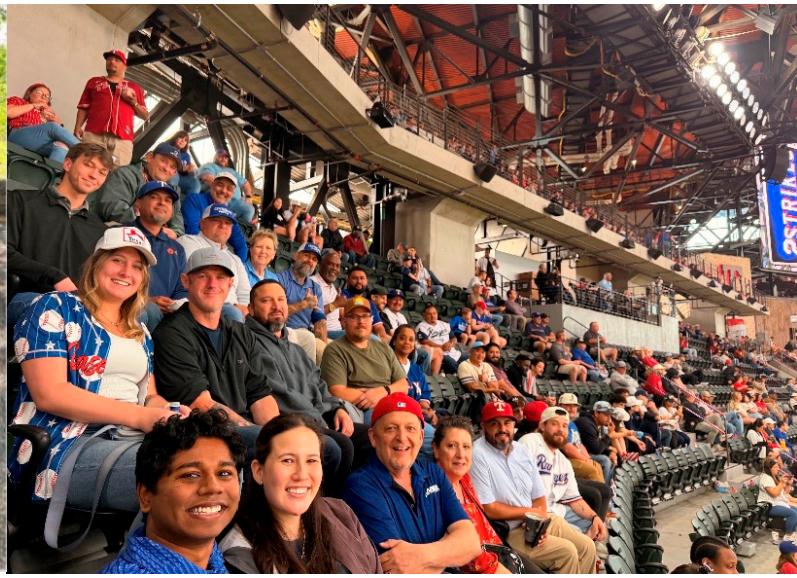
- The 2026 scholarship program awarded five scholarships at various amounts for a total of $10,000.

Branch Activities

- The Branch held its 11th Annual Clay Shoot on April 16th with a record number of people. Over 300 people showed up including shooters, volunteers and sponsors.

- The Branch held a Rangers Game Day with 45 people on April 29th.



EDUCATION & CREDENTIALING

PAST EVENTS

Date	Location	Event and Delivery Method	Registration
2/17/2026	Colleyville, TX	General Membership/In Person	80 on-line/ 12 walk-ins
4/23/26	Grand Prairie, TX	General Membership/In Person	57 on-line/ 15 walk-ins
6/9/26	Frisco, TX	General Membership/In Person	80 on-line/ 17 walk-ins

FUTURE EVENTS

Date	Location	Event and Delivery Method	Registration
Monthly Board Meetings	Irving, TX	In Person	
8/18/26	Bedford, TX	General Membership/In Person	90+
10/5/26	Grand Prairie, TX	28th Annual Golf Tournament	200+
10/20/26	Richardson, TX	General Membership/In Person	90+
10/22/26	Aubrey, TX	Annual Branch Roadeo	100+ including volunteers
11/18/26	Hurst, TX	Annual 1 Day	150+ including volunteers

TEXAS CHAPTER AWARDS

Texas Chapter Awards Series – This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the history of one of the six state awards named after one of our chapter's past leaders. This installment focuses on the John Roark Young Leader Award.

John Roark is a transformative figure in public works and transportation. He graduated from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University) in 1953. He served as an engineering officer at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota from 1954 to 1956.

He returned to Texas in 1956 working for several general contracts in the central Texas region. In 1958, he joined the city of Temple as the city engineer and eventually became the director of Public Works. He left Temple in 1962 to return to Texas A&M to purse a Master's degree which he obtained in 1963.

From 1963 to 1965, he worked for the city of Waco as the city's chief engineer. While at Waco, he developed analytical computerized programs for a system of street maintenance which greatly aided inspection and financial planning. From 1965 to 1969, he served as director of Public Works for the city of Wichita Falls.

His next stop was with the North Central Texas Council of Governments where he served as the Director of Transportation from 1969 to 1979. He was the chief architect of the long range transportation plan and shifted NCTCOG toward multimodal planning. Although refined over the years, the same basic travel demand model is still being used today by NCTCOG staff.

After his successful public sector career, John transition to leadership roles in several private planning and engineering firms serving as vice president at PAWA (Pinnell, Anderson, Wilshire and Associates). He was instrumental in the development of the Crescent Hotel in downtown Dallas.

John was active in APWA at both state and national levels being a member for over 40 years. He was the chapter's top Public Works Leader of the year 1973 and subsequently was selected as a top 10 national PW leader of the year in 1974. He served as national President of APWA from 1995 to 1996. In addition, to his public and private sector career, John also served in the Texas Air National Guard eventually retiring as a Brigadier General.

John was consistently committed to developing the next generation of transportation professionals. During his time at NCTCOG, he encouraged staff to write and deliver presentations to professional organizations, helping them build confidence, expertise, and visibility within the industry. He would often tell his younger staff, that they should actively participate in meetings. He would prod them to ask questions, and share their knowledge with the group, He served as a mentor to emerging transportation leaders, including Doug Allen, Tom Ryden, Terry Watson, and Michael Morris. In recognition of his lifelong dedication to leadership development, the Executive Board of the Texas Chapter of APWA has named the Young Leader of the Year Award in his honor.



Front left to right, Michael Morris, John Roark and Gordon Shunk

GET INVOLVED: Help Shape the Future of the Texas APWA

Our Chapter doesn't run on its own - it's powered by volunteers. From events and education to advocacy and outreach, everything we do is made possible by members who step up and get involved.

Volunteering is a great way to grow your network, build leadership skills, and get more out of your APWA experience. Whether you have a little time or want to take on a bigger role, there's a place for you at both the Chapter and Branch levels.

Many of our current leaders started by joining a committee or helping with an event. If you've ever considered getting more involved - or even serving on the Chapter Board in the future - this is the perfect place to start.

We're always looking for engaged members to join committees, support events, and help lead the way forward for public works in Texas.

Want to learn more about committees?
Visit:https://texas.apwa.org/homepage/about/chapter-committees/

You can also reach out to your Branch leadership or a Chapter committee chair to get connected - we'd love to have you involved.



Interested in Volunteering?

Click Here

Current Open Positions on the Texas Chapter Site

Below is a snapshot of recently posted roles on our site (as of this writing). Please check the full listing for more details. (Job Opportunities)

Job Title	Agency
Director of Public Works	City of La Frisco, TX
Senior Assistant Director	City of Houston, TX
Executive Director of Public Works	City of Mansfield, TX
Director of Traffic Management	City of Lubbock, TX
Chapter Financial Administrator	Texas-APWA
Development Engineer	City of Richardson, TX
City Engineer	City of Galveston, TX
Engineering Services Administration	City of Garland, TX
Director of Fleet and Facilities	City of Missouri City, TX

Texas APWA Job Opportunities

Connecting Public Works Talent Across Texas
Looking for your next career move - or the right professional to join your team? The Texas Chapter APWA Job Opportunities page connects agencies and job seekers across the state.

For employers, posting is simple and affordable. Submit your position online, pay the $100 fee, and your listing appears on the Chapter website for 60 days—reaching a statewide network of public works professionals.

For job seekers, it's your one-stop shop for roles in engineering, operations, management, and infrastructure. Bookmark the page and check back regularly for new postings.

Visit texas.apwa.org/job-opportunities to post or explore openings.