



WEAT

North Texas Section

July 2020 Lunch Meeting

Date:	Thursday, July 30, 2020	1.0 hour
Time:	12:00 - 1:30 PM	of water and wastewater operator credit has been requested through TCEQ
Location:	Webinar	

Things Change: It's How we Adapt that Matters – Utility Operations and Management During COVID19

John Bennett (Trinity River Authority of Texas, Deputy Executive Manager, Northern Region), Dan Halter, PE, ENV SP (Dallas Water Utilities Central WWTP Plant Manager), and Orren West (Director of Maintenance for Metro Wastewater Reclamation District in Denver) will discuss how each of the utilities have maintained operations since the onset of COVID19 as well as operations changes that have occurred. Topics to be covered include specific operational changes and what changes will continue on after things return to normal; dealing with supply chain interruptions and how contract agreements might have changed for the future; and safety measures implemented to help keep your plants staffed as necessary. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from local experts, as well as gain a national perspective on impacts to operations.

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Don't miss these features inside !



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Leadership Message



Message from the **President**

Grace Sober

It was the fall of 2008 and I found myself a senior at the University of Texas. To jog your memory, the GDP was plummeting, unemployment was on the rise, and we were in the midst of what would later become known as the Great Recession.


Dr. Malina, the highly esteemed late environmental engineering professor, recommended that if we were serious about a career in wastewater, we start attending the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) meetings. I'm not sure what 22-year-old is serious about wastewater, but I knew I was serious about not moving back in with my parents.

I walked into my first WEAT meeting in Austin. As I looked around the room at the aging professionals (I say that tongue in cheek with endearment and respect) who were willingly choosing to spend their evenings discussing wastewater, I thought to myself, things are looking pretty bleak. But, then the

meeting started, and my life was changed forever. **You see, what I learned then and continue to witness now, is to the members of WEAT, wastewater is more than a paycheck, it is a passion.** It didn't take long for me to realize I wanted a career like these WEAT members; I wanted to make a difference and leave a legacy of clean water for future generations.

12 years later, because of the dedication and leadership of WEAT members, I've had the opportunity to help deliver infrastructure projects across the world and now have the honor and responsibility of leading the WEAT North Texas Section as President for the next year.

I share this story with you because in the midst of the current COVID crisis and current political and social state, it is easy to let that same anxiety and dread of 2008 creep back up again. But as you all recall, we survived that recession, and we will survive this too. We will



survive because we are passionate about what we do. We will survive because we have made a commitment with our careers to protect the natural environment and safeguard the public health.

The North Texas Section of WEAT continues to grow because of the passion of its members and their dedication to investing in future generations. We write scholarship checks that send our members and their families to college. We promote interest in the industry by supporting local science fairs and schools that inspire students to pursue a career in wastewater. We support operators through Operations Challenge. We provide learning and leadership opportunities for our members through facility tours and meetings.

As a member of the North Texas Section of WEAT, you are a part of these initiatives and successes. You are the reason that someone like me, 12 years ago, was given an opportunity to find a career doing what they love. I challenge you to remember why you're passionate about wastewater and to keep that story close to you and tell it often. If you need some inspiration, please keep reading the newsletter as it includes quotes from our previous section presidents on why they are passionate about wastewater.

As your incoming president, I am dedicated to upholding the leadership legacy that has preceded me and look forward to hearing from you, our members, on how we, as an organization, can continue to provide the resources you need to live your passion during a challenging period of history. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at gdsobor@lan-inc.com in the event you have questions, concerns or want to get more involved.



Why WEAT?

"I have always been fascinated by water. It has enough force to create large canyons and yet gentle enough to take a long sit in the hot tub. It is the center of life whether you drink it or swim in it. Water has beauty and majesty. I can spend hours watching a stream flow."

► [Phil Spitzer, WEAT-NTS President 2019–2020](#)



"I'm proud to be part of this industry because I get to spend my work days creating, envisioning, building, and improving facilities that make our air and water cleaner. While many of us in this industry don't think of ourselves as "environmentalists", the work we do generates genuine, tangible benefits to human health and to environmental quality in the communities we serve. As I approach my 40th year in this industry, I am in awe of what we (and those who have gone before us) have accomplished during that time. I am a member of WEAT because it gives me opportunities to meet and know many incredible people who each contribute their own talents and skill sets to help our industry achieve the amazing things it does."

► [Mark Perkins, WEAT-NTS President 2018–2019](#)

"WEAT is like a family full of great people and many friends for life..... and my family always offered to contribute their time to fundraisers and other activities and promote WEAT's mission."

► [Eva Gorgi, WEAT-NTS President 2015–2016](#)





"I am a member of WEAT because of the family focused culture of learning and opportunity provided to all."

▶ [Jeff Sober, WEAT-NTS President 2014–2015](#)

"I'm proud to be a part of WEAT in that it offers outstanding opportunities to connect individuals with a common interest in providing safe water for the public to enjoy recreationally or in a cup. I feel we are empowered to educate those around us and share the work that goes into making this happen."

▶ [Erin Flanagan, WEAT-NTS President 2011–2012](#)



"Why am I a WEAT member? My family is literally and figuratively impacted by water. From my profession to the majority of our leisure time, water impacts everything we love to do. Why would I not want to protect it for my future generation of outdoorsman that my grandsons will most certainly be."

▶ [John Bennett, WEAT-NTS President 2009–2010](#)

"Water is so intrinsic to our everyday lives that many in the U.S. overlook it – take it for granted. For me, to be the director of WEAT feels like I'm part of something that is necessary on the most fundamental level. It feels like I'm part of a big team that is constantly improving, changing, and growing – we are constantly working for a greater collective good. And I can't imagine a more rewarding livelihood."

▶ [Julie Nahrgang, WEAT Executive Director](#)

WEAT Membership

The WEAT community continues to grow and we are fortunate to enjoy the broad continued support of our diverse community. As part of our ongoing efforts to engage our industry in these interesting times we are not only continuing our efforts to provide valuable educational opportunities virtually to WEAT members, we are also working to ensure all of our members have access to other information that they may find educational and entertaining.

Membership and sponsorship are critical to the mission and ongoing work of WEAT as evidenced by the more than 2,600 Texas professionals who have dedicated their careers to protecting and enhancing our state's water resources. Being a WEAT Member is a value to you, your employer, and our environment.

Your Value

- Grow valuable professional and leadership skills
- Further career through numerous industry networking opportunities
- Great training opportunities with continuing education at a discounted rate
- Dependents of members are eligible for multiple scholarships
- Be part of a team and something larger than you!

Your Employer's Value

- Savings on Professional Development
- Voicing your concerns to Regulators and Legislators
- Savings on educational programs that help maintain licenses
- Access to cutting-edge technology and treatment tips
- Engage with client base at many levels and build supplier contacts

Our Environment's Value

- Protect and enhance the water environment
- Safeguard our public health
- Help maintain a clean water environment for future generations
- Protect, value, and manage our precious resource
- Through effort and advocacy, show the true cost of our precious water resources

Whether you are a Consultant, Utility, Operator, Young Professional, or Student, WEAT has a membership level to fit your needs. To find out more about WEAT and to become a member, please visit <https://www.weat.org/>.

The North Texas Section of WEAT is the largest in the state and we are very proud to hold that distinction. The many and varied activities of WEAT-NTS, including our meetings, scholarships, science fair support, and university outreach to name only a few, are made possible by your membership and the generous support of our [sponsors](#). If you are not already a member and a sponsor of WEAT and WEAT-NTS we encourage you to [join us today](#).

For even more information about WEAT-NTS we encourage you to check out our website and our brand-new [WEAT-NTS Public Access Google Drive](#). Our Google Drive folder contains copies of the WEAT-NTS constitution and bylaws and archives of our newsletter, which are also available on the website. We are also very pleased to offer public access to our WEAT-NTS photo archives which offers some amazing photos of our many events going as far back as 1990's! Whether you're well-seasoned WEAT-NTS member looking for a trip down memory lane or a new member of the WEAT-NTS family and appreciate visual proof of the longevity and dedication Grace outlined in her [Leadership Message](#) we invite you to take a visual tour. If you are already a WEAT-NTS member and would like to get more involved in chapter activities or have an idea to improve any aspect of WEAT-NTS please reach out to [Nicole Conner](#) or [Grace Sober](#). **We'd love to hear from you!**

“ Most importantly to me, WEAT has provided me with some of my best friends. It is an organization that fosters a love of both the water environment and the people that are working to make it better. ”

▶ [Kathy Fretwell, Kennedy/Jenks](#)

“ I always learn something at WEAT functions that helps me optimize our operations for my employer and rate payers. ”

▶ [Curtis Smalley, City of Waco](#)

“ WEAT allows me to stay abreast of current technology in a competitive environment; it provides 'comtemporization.' Networking with WEAT members is meeting and learning from the best of the best. ”

▶ [Richard Eason](#)

“ I was encouraged by my boss to join, and then later he strong-armed me into an officer's role in the local section! Best decision he ever made for me! ”

▶ [David Jackson, Freese and Nichols](#)

“ WEAT provides the opportunity to form partnerships that can lead to projects and lasting friendships. It allows a company to be seen and involved with our industry. ”

▶ [David Briggs, CDM Smith](#)

WEAT-NTS & WEF Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact Person
7/13/20	Texas Water 2020	Virtual	Mark Perkins
7/30/20	July Lunch Meeting	Webinar	Rami Issa
7/31/20	2020 Mentoring Program Registration Deadline	-	Kaylee Dusek

Section meetings are typically held in the months of January, March, May, July, October, and November.

Call for Newsletter Committee Volunteers

Interested in helping develop content for the WEAT-NTS newsletters?

Do you have ideas to improve our platform?

Join the new committee!

Please contact Kaylee Dusek at kaylee.dusek@kimley-horn.com for more information.

INTERESTED IN MENTORING?

Are you interested in educating college students about our industry?

Contact [Allison Blake](#) to speak at Universities and Colleges around the state!



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Receive newsletters, organization announcements, and other relevant information by e-mail.

Text **WEATNTS** to **22828** to get started!



Texas Water



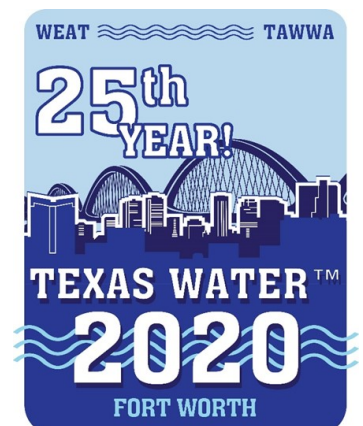
Mark Perkins
WEAT Co-Chair, Texas Water 2020

Well....Texas Water 2020 didn't happen as we envisioned it a year ago. Thanks to a lot of time, energy and dedication from numerous volunteers, speakers, and presenters, however, and with the safety and health of those who are responsible for our State's water in mind, Texas Water 2020 will be held virtually, launching the week of July 13. While we all hope we can return to the in-person format we look forward to each year, we are excited about the possibilities for this new platform.

- ◆ We will have over 100 recorded versions of peer-reviewed technical sessions.
- ◆ The sessions will be made available "on demand" once they are posted, allowing for convenient viewing at any time.
- ◆ The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has approved many of our sessions for offer operator training credit.
- ◆ We'll also have our exceptional Poster Presentations to complement the technical sessions

Many of our Texas Water special events will still be held virtually, such as:

- ◆ The Opening Session/Keynote Address
- ◆ The Women of Texas Water session
- ◆ The Young Professionals recognition event
- ◆ The Engineering Ethics Course
- ◆ The Water for People Silent Auction
- ◆ Dodson's Drive **Virtual** Fun Run
- ◆ Curtis Smalley Environmental Event



And a **Virtual Exhibit Hall**, which will give you the opportunity to (virtually) visit the wonderful vendors that have continued their support of the conference and also play on online version of our "Match-the-Name Game" scavenger hunt for some amazing door prizes.

We strongly encourage our members to check out the offerings and to support WEAT during this challenging time; more information can be found as it becomes available at <https://www.txwater.org/index.cfm>.

State News

LOTS of News from WEAT!

Like many organizations in these times, the North Texas Section is making good use of virtual meetings and webinar formats to stay in touch and continue our mission of service. Our May 2020 Lunch Meeting was a virtual meeting that featured WEAT Executive Director Julie Nahrgang with an update of water-related regulatory changes and an overview of interim changes from the 86th Legislature. Over 60 people participated, and feedback was positive. Check out the abundant opportunities being developed at both the Section and State level of WEAT, and join us for the July meeting coming up!

At the state level, WEAT is transitioning and embracing an opportunity to rebuild. A COVID-19 Working Group developed in March/April looked at how to pivot our efforts and business model. Highlights from the June WEAT Board meeting:

1. An amended budget was approved. The changes to online/virtual meetings instead of in-person conferences, including Texas Water and specialty conferences, has meant a loss of income for WEAT this year. The new budget reflects that and adjusts priorities to accommodate the reduction but is not a fully balanced budget. A potential loss of approximately \$220,000 is foreseen in the amended budget, although WEAT remains financially strong with healthy reserves. The Board authorized pre-approval of funds to meet the shortfall by the MRC from the Rainy Day Fund, if it does become necessary.
2. New officers for WEAT have been serving on an interim basis since Texas Water was delayed and restructured to a virtual conference. Bylaws changes were voted in to allow the transfer of leadership roles without having a vote of the membership physically present at Texas Water, and to allow the Board to meet virtually as long as all Board members are notified and given access to the meeting platform. The model now in place is the same one that WEF uses for nominations and elections. Elections are now held at the annual meeting of the Board with the Section Reps serving as electors instead of at the Association's annual meeting.

3. The 2020-2021 Interim Board Members were affirmed to full Board Members: WEF Junior Delegate Leigh Cerda, Treasurer Allison Hage, and Vice President Matt Jalbert. In addition, reappointments were approved for Historian David Briggs, PWO Chair John Bennett, YP Chair Kyle Kubista, Parliamentarian David Jackson, and Current Past WEF Delegate David Jackson.
4. This year, WEAT will update its Strategic Plan. A series of one-page descriptions have been developed to simplify the presentation of the current Plan; check them out on the WEAT website. An Ad-Hoc WEAT Business Planning Committee was created to look at the future business model for WEAT to continue to support our membership during this difficult period and going forward. David Milligan was elected to chair the committee as well as lead the Strategic Plan update.
5. Texas Water Update: check the WEAT website! About 100 prerecorded presentations will be available. All live events require registration.
6. The Workforce Development Committee announced that the first individual will soon be hired through the Operator Apprenticeship Program. The Advanced Operator Training Program has been expanded with additional courses and self-paced training options.
7. Volunteers are needed for the Section and Committee Mentoring Programs; don't worry, a guidance document has been developed to help you, so jump in! Contact Jeff Caffey of Plummer Associates.
8. WEAT's Leadership Summit will be online on August 13. This is always a source of great discussions, sharing lessons learned and cross-pollinating our efforts across the state.
9. WEAT's operational capacity reduced with leaving of both Matias Pasch and Melissa Sansing. Julie Nahrgang will prioritize growth initiatives and is hiring a part-time person to assist.

One last note: virtual meetings can potentially allow more folks around the state to participate, without the burden and cost of travel. Are you ready to grow?

For more information, contact:

SECTION-REP

Sherri van der Wege





Save the Date!
September 18th, 2020
Waterchase Golf Club
Fort Worth, TX

Registration opens
July 24, 2020

Event details and changes due to COVID-19 to follow
with registration and sponsorship opportunities



Operator Corner



TRIVIA

The first 2 respondents with the correct answers will win a [Gift Card](#).

1. How many times is COVID mentioned in the newsletter?
2. What does PWO mean?
3. What anniversary is the TEXAS WATER conference celebrating?
4. Name a member of the July meeting Discussion Panel.
5. Name the best operator you know (name and agency).

Submit your answers to shrirang.golhar@dallascityhall.com or
agarces@plummer.com



Call to Action

PWO Committee

The **Professional Wastewater Operators (PWO) Committee** is looking for member involvement and input. If you'd like to be a "voice to the operators" for WEAT, come on by and help us

- Promote the wastewater operator career
- Support the Operations Challenge, create new activities, and help grow the skills of wastewater operators
- Enhance the visibility and recognition of the essential wastewater operators and demonstrate the professionalism and dedication needed to ensure water quality for the public
- Be the voice of your organization/utility within WEAT-NTS

WEAT-NTS is seeking committee members and bright ideas from our members so we can increase the Operator involvement and participation in WEAT-NTS.

Please reach out to shrirang.golhar@dallascityhall.com, pspitzer@ntmwd.com, or agarces@plummer.com to share your ideas for or interest in becoming a PWO Committee volunteer.

Officers & Committee Chairs

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Communications Nicole Conner 214-288-7609 Email	Nominations Matt Jalbert 469-475-0922 Email	Seminar Noel Pattengale Email	Suparna Mukhopadhyay 214-346-2849 Email
Constitution/Bylaws Amy Robinson 817-332-8727 Email	Photography Malcolm Cowdin 972-262-5186 Email	Website Andy Paulson 469-619-1241 Email	YP - Fort Worth Paula Monaco 817-806-1718 Email
Finance Elle Frier 214-640-1769 Email	Programs Rami Issa 214-326-1983 Email	Nicole Conner 214-288-7609 Email	Kevin Flinn 682-747-5389 Email

Scholarships



WEAT NTS has been receiving **scholarship** applications for the 2020 to 2021 school year for the past couple of months. Applications are closed as of 06/26/2020 and we are pleased to announce that we have **received over 30 applications**. Over the course of the next few weeks, the WEAT NTS scholarship committee will be reviewing the applications and both Daryl Hall and WEAT scholarships will be awarded before the 2020-2021 school year starts. As a reminder our scholarship efforts are made possible by funds raised during various WEAT events and the generous support of our sponsors. **Last year the scholarship committee awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships to 21 recipients**. Reviewing the applications is always an exciting moment as we get an insight into the life stories and hopes and dreams of so many young and talented people. It always reminds us that the future is bright!

Personal News



Garver is proud to welcome Facilities Team Leader Justin Rackley to our Texas Water Team! Justin will lead the delivery of large facility improvements projects from our Dallas office.

Perkins Engineering Consultants, Inc. is pleased to announce that Harrison Duban has joined the firm. Mr. Duban recently completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University, and is assisting PECEI's treatment plant and pumping design services.



Elle Frier recently launched Frier Group, a professional engineering firm offering on-site wastewater design for both residential and commercial systems and other engineering services.



Design Services include:

- Septic System Design
- Residential and Commercial On-site Wastewater Systems
- Site & Soil Evaluations
- Aerobic and Conventional Systems
- Graywater & Reuse Systems
- Regulatory Compliance & Permitting
- Project Management

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See Sponsorship Opportunities on page 28 or [CLICK HERE](#). Contact [Rami Issa](#) for questions.

Sponsorship Opportunities

WEAT-NTS offers three levels of sponsorships for the July 2019 – June 2020 year, plus multiple individual sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsorships will support:

- WEAT-NTS and Daryl Hall Scholarship Funds
 - Dinner Meetings
 - Section Activities (Fall BBQ and Sporting Clays Tournament)
 - February Seminar
 - Young Professionals
- Outreach Programs (Science Fair, Future Cities, Trinity River Cleanup, etc.)

Classic Dinner Sponsor	\$250
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For One Dinner Meeting •Recognition of Classic Sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcement on front page of newsletter (name of firm) for the sponsored meeting - Announcement in meeting reminder emails (name of firm) - Display of digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint - Verbal recognition of sponsors by President at the beginning of the meeting 	

WEAT-NTS Scholarship Fund Contributions	\$100
Newsletter Advertising (6 issues) and website link	\$150
NTS February Seminar	\$300
NTS February Seminar Table Sponsor	\$500
NTS February Seminar Break Area Sponsor	\$1,000

Gold Sponsor	\$1,250
<p>Recognition at ALL six meetings (includes Fall Cook-off) (for the price of five)</p> <p>Recognition of Gold Sponsor is the same as Classic Sponsor at ALL six meetings</p>	

***Daryl Hall Golf Tournament and Sporting Clays events sponsorships are advertised separately.**

Platinum	\$1,950
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recognition as a platinum sponsor at ALL SIX meetings, including the fall BBQ •Recognition of Platinum Sponsor is same as Gold Sponsor, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company name included in all newsletters, meeting announcements, meeting reminder emails, and link on website - Display of digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint - Recognition of Platinum Sponsor by President at the beginning of each meeting - Recognition as February Seminar Sponsor including logo display in advertising and at event - Recognition as YP Sponsor, with \$100 from sponsorship being earmarked toward local YP events - Recognition as WEAT NTS and Daryl Hall scholarship fund contributor 	