



WEAT

North Texas Section



WEAT
North Texas Section

2026 FEBRUARY SEMINAR

*Water in the Balance: Navigating Demand, Directives,
Dollars, and a Dynamic Workforce*

February 10, 2026
Hurst Conference Center
1601 Campus Drive
Hurst, TX 76054

Don't miss these features inside !

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Leadership Message

Message from the **President**

Happy New Year, WEAT-NTS!

As we kick off 2026, I'm grateful for the energy you bring to our Section and the work you do every day across North Texas. Thank you to everyone who helped close out 2025 with a strong December meeting and to those who supported our year-end activities. I'm pleased to share that our proposed bylaws and constitution updates were presented, voted on, and approved—you'll find a short summary in this newsletter.

What's ahead (January–February):

We were back together for our January Dinner Meeting on Thursday, January 15 at the Texas Star Golf Course Conference Center (Euless). Jeff Mlak and Joe Thompson from UTRWD presented on maintaining process control during rapid growth.

I also encourage current and aspiring leaders to attend the **WEAT Leadership Summit** on Friday, February 4 at Upper Trinity Regional Water District (Lewisville)—a complimentary, statewide forum focused on volunteer leadership and program building. There's also an open networking dinner on Thursday, February 3 in downtown Lewisville—everyone's welcome.

Register here: [Water Environment Association of Texas | WEAT Leadership Summit](#)

Mark your calendars for our **33rd February Seminar** on Tuesday, February 10 at the Hurst Conference Center. It's a full day of practical content and connection; see the newsletter and the website for agenda details and registration.

Register here: [2026 February Seminar Event Registration](#).

Get involved:

This issue includes several quick ways to plug in. You'll see a call for sponsorship (thank you, partners, for making our programs possible) and committee updates that need your voice. If you or your firm are considering a 2026 sponsorship, now's a perfect time to jump in.

Leadership Message

Message from the President

We're also sharing updates and asks from our committees:

- Sporting Clays—look for details for the March 6 tournament and ways to volunteer.
- Membranes & Mudbugs—watch for the committee's save the date and how you can help.
- Future City and DFW Science Fair—our outreach leads are looking for mentors and/or judges.

YP News—January and February gatherings are a great on-ramp for new members; please invite an early-career colleague.

Finally, if you know an Operator who deserves the spotlight, send us a nomination—we'd love to celebrate the professionals who keep our systems running safely and reliably.

Thank you for everything you do to strengthen the North Texas water community. I look forward to seeing you at February Seminar in Hurst—let's start the year connected, learning, and leading together.

With appreciation,

Paula Monaco, PhD, PE
President, WEAT-NTS



WEAT-NTS & WEF Events

Date	Event	Location
2/10/26	February Seminar	City of Hurst Conference Center 1601 Campus Drive Hurst, Tx 76054
3/6/26	Sporting Clays	Dallas Gun Club 3601 Stemmons Fwy Lewisville, Tx 75067
4/17/26	Membranes and Mudbugs	DWU Central WWTP 1020 Sargent Rd Dallas, Tx 75203

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

Text WEATNTS to 22828
to get started!



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817-806-1700
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469-619-1241 | [Email](#)

Awards

Andre Garces
214-631-6100 | [Email](#)

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Spencer Lindsay
407-615-9606 | [Email](#)

Public Outreach

Santos Sotelo
682-348-7279 | [Email](#)

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Troy Pangburn
682-348-5406 | [Email](#)

Plant Tour (Membranes and Mudbugs)

Heather Wootton
817-829-0290 | [Email](#)
Allison Bennet | [Email](#)

Constitution/Education

Amy Robinson
817-332-8727 | [Email](#)

Nominations

Lance Phillips
817-953-6814 | [Email](#)

Scholarships

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469-619-1241x108 | [Email](#)

OPStoberfest

Ola Wenno
214-346-3337 | [Email](#)

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Megan Martin
972-532-2440 | [Email](#)



WEAT-NTS FEBRUARY SEMINAR 2026 PROGRAM

TIME	AGENDA	CEUS*	
7:30 AM	Continental Breakfast	Water	WW
8:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks		
Adapting Treatment for a Changing World			
8:30 AM	A Gallon of Water for Your Query: Sustainable Approaches to Quenching AI's Thirst Santiago Velez, PE, Diana Chumak, PE (Gresham Smith)		
9:00 AM	Ready, Set, Startup: Commissioning of Sherman's New MBR Industrial Treatment Facility Quentin Geile, PE (Plummer Associates)		0.5
9:30 AM	PFAS in Potable Reuse: Treatment Barriers, Risks, and Regulatory Alignment Swaroop Puchalapalli, PE (STV)	0.5	0.5
10:00 AM	MORNING BREAK	0.25	0.25
10:15 AM	Project of the Year Presentation		
10:30 AM	Treatment Process Selection Where Growth and Environmental Pressures Meet: A Central Texas Case Study Alex Doody, PE (CDM Smith), Tim Walker (City of Georgetown)		0.5
11:00 AM	Wastewater Renaissance: New Technologies Reshaping the Way Texas Facilities Look at Treatment Ana Pena-Tijerina, PE (Plummer Associates), Andrew Schranck, PE (Black & Veatch)	0.5	0.5
We Know What to Build – Now Let's Talk About How			
11:30 AM	Balancing Best-Fit Delivery: Navigating from CMAR to PDB to Meet the Need for Speed Russ Wachter, PE (Carollo), Johnathan Polak (Archer Western)		
12:00 PM	LUNCH		
12:45 PM	Using PDB to Navigate Rough Waters and Balance People, Planet, and Profit Nicole Stephens, PE (Stantec)		0.5
1:15 PM	When the Neighbors Offer to Pay for Odor Control: Accelerating Solutions Through Public-Private Cooperation Burhan Zaveri, PE (Mead & Hunt), Mark Perkins, PE (Mead & Hunt)		0.5
1:45 PM	Funding the Flow: Confronting Infrastructure and Regulatory Pressures Amid North Texas' Rapid Growth Tonya White (Garver)		
Finding Efficiency Through Technological Advancement			
2:15 PM	Adapting to Rapid Regional Growth: NTMWD's Transformation in Capital Project Delivery and Organizational Modernization Bret Ellis, PE (NTMWD)		
2:45 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK	0.25	0.25
3:00 PM	Smart, Secure, and Sustainable - Modernizing SCADA Infrastructure for a Balanced Water Future Crystal Harness (City of Ennis), Affan Hasan, EIT, Mauro Perez (McKim & Creed)	0.5	0.5
3:30 PM	Design to Digital Twin: Transforming Revit Models into a Digital Twin for Asset Management Alan Tucker (AECOM)		0.5
4:00 PM	Experience Build(er)ing Your City Jason Grimm, PE (City of Frisco), Stephen Johnson, PE, Alec Propst, PE (Freese and Nichols)		
4:30 PM	Closing Comments and Adjourn		
4:45 – 6:00 PM SEMINAR RECEPTION			

*February Seminar is approved for a total of 2.0 Water CEUs and 4.5 Wastewater CEUs.



WEAT NORTH TEXAS SECTION

Sporting Clays Tournament

Friday, March 6, 2026
7:30 a.m. to early afternoon
Dallas Gun Club, Lewisville, Texas

EVENT DETAILS

The 17th Annual WEAT-NTS Sporting Clays Event will be filled with food, fun, and good old-fashioned competition between friends. Proceeds benefit the WEAT-NTS Scholarship Fund.

- Suitable for experienced and inexperienced shooters
- Bring your own equipment or rent at the range
- 100 clay targets per participant
- Shells sold separate from registration
- Mulligans or do-overs available for \$5 each and can be purchased on site
- Total number of stations are dependent on the number of registered teams
- Two courses might be used based on team registrations
- Four shooters per team. Individuals not on a team will be assigned a team at the event
- Lunch and drinks provided
- If heavy storms occur, event will be rescheduled
- Shooters age 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult

RULES

For the safety of shooters and bystanders:

- Waiver forms will be required at check-in
- Each station will have a WEAT-NTS volunteer
- Eye and ear protection is mandatory
- Gun breech or actions must be open to show gun is unloaded at all times unless in the cage and ready to fire
- Never load gun until in the cage and ready to fire
- Never load more than two shells in a gun
- No shot size larger than 7-1/2s (7-1/2s, 8s and 9s only)
- Guns must have full stock and minimum 21-inch barrel
- Alcohol is prohibited

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place teams and individuals. Additional prizes for:

- Most honest team and individual score
- Top female shooter
- Sponsorship recognition award
- Most improved

Questions or volunteer opportunities contact:

Nyla Hubbard (214-578-8051)

nhubbard@mckimcreed.com

SCORING

Scoring is simple. Your team will receive one scorecard per shooter, with individual scoring based on 100 shots. For every target you break, the scorer will mark an X in the blank provided; if you miss, you mark an O. The number and type of pairs will vary by station. The high score is determined by the total sum of targets hit.



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DELUXE PACKAGE

includes packaged sponsorship, 4 shooter fees,
4 ammo (100 rounds each) and 4 raffle tickets

(MUST BE PAID by 2/6/26). \$1,000

PRICE

REGISTRATION FEE FOR SHOOTERS

includes breakfast, lunch, giveaways, and eye/ear protection

Individual Shooter's fee (Paid before 2/6/26) \$150

Individual Shooter's fee (Paid after 2/6/26) \$175

PRICE

AMMUNITION (100 ROUNDS)

12 gauge or 20 gauge (PAID before 2/6/26) \$60

12 gauge or 20 gauge (PAID after 2/6/26) \$80

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Lunch tickets (non-shooters only). \$20

Mulligan (do-over). \$5

Raffle ticket available on site. No limit on tickets. \$20

Golf Cart Rental, 4-Seat (Paid before 2/6/26) \$150

Golf Cart Rental, 4-Seat (Paid after 2/6/26) \$175

Golf Cart Rental, 6-Seat (Paid before 2/6/26) \$275

Golf Cart Rental, 6-Seat (Paid after 2/6/26) \$300

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Exclusive Station sponsorship: Only your sign at a station . . \$225

Station sponsorship: Sign at one station \$150

Event sponsorship: Included on main event signage \$150

Packaged Sponsorship: Station + Event sponsorship \$250 ← Save \$50!

Premium Packaged Sponsorship: Exclusive station + Event . . \$325

Breakfast Sponsorship (Limited to 1!) \$1,000 ← Meal sponsors receive priority placement

Lunch Sponsorship (Limited to 2!) \$2,500 ← on event signage and special recognition



Please register online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/weatnts/2026-sporting-clays-registration>

From DFW Airport - Take North Exit to SH-121 North and continue on SH-121 Bypass towards McKinney, exit at Lake Vista/MacArthur and turn right on the I35 South service road. Entrance is 100 yards on the right.

From downtown Dallas - Take I35 north. Exit 446 Frankford Rd. Make a U-turn onto the southbound service road. Entrance is 100 yards on the right.

From Denton - Take I35 south. Exit #447B – TX 121. Go through the intersection and continue on the service road. Entrance is 100 yards on the right.



Entrance off I-35 Frontage

Dallas Gun Club
3601 South Stemmons
Lewisville, TX 75067

Registration Deadline
Wednesday,
February 25, 2026

On-site registration
will not be available.

volunteer as a Science Fair Judge

3 Volunteer Opportunities

~~1. Future City Competition - January 24th at
Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus
East~~

See Recap!

2. Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair
- February 28th at Fair Park

3. Fort Worth Regional Science and
Engineering Fair - February 23th at University
of Texas at Arlington

- Interact with student teams, review science fair boards, question and answer with students
- Approximate commitment: 4-6 hours for each event
- Memorable impact on talented young professionals

Contact to sign up: Santos.Sotelo@kimley-horn.com

MEMBRANES AND MUDBUGS

A Melding of the Minds at
DWU's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant



REGISTRATION
AND SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
COMING SOON



WEAT
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We are seeking abstracts from Young Professional working on a topics related to the wastewater industry. Both design and construction project are encouraged as well as process presentations from operators. Submission are not limited to DWU projects but must be within the North Texas area.

Abstracts must be submitted by **Friday, February 27, 2026.**

[SUBMIT ABSTRACTS HERE](#)

Scholarships

Hello WEAT North Texas Section members,

We're excited to recognize our **Spring 2026 WEAT-NTS Scholarship Award Recipients!** These students represent the next generation of water professionals, and we're proud to support them as they continue their education.

WEAT-NTS Scholarship Recipients (Spring 2026)

- ◆ Jackson Pettit
- ◆ Samuel Wen
- ◆ Sadie Wilson
- ◆ Luke Ahlemeier
- ◆ Emma Bush
- ◆ Avery Hoff
- ◆ Lydia Laman
- ◆ Julia O'Hare
- ◆ Florence Richard

Daryl Hall Scholarship Recipients (Spring 2026)

- ◆ Nicholas Bargains
- ◆ Joseph Muraski
- ◆ Samantha Christian
- ◆ Anika Mathur
- ◆ Jake Schmerse
- ◆ Trinity Warren
- ◆ Michael Evans
- ◆ Gage Guthrie
- ◆ Abigail Bush
- ◆ Dareen Issa
- ◆ Morgan Menard
- ◆ Maya Musallam

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee, volunteers, sponsors, and members whose ongoing support makes these awards possible. Your involvement directly helps students pursue degrees that strengthen the future of our industry.

Please join us in congratulating all recipients!

Respectfully,
WEAT-NTS Scholarship Committee

December Lunch Meeting Recap

On December 11, WEAT-NTS members enjoyed an unseasonably warm afternoon in The Colony, Texas, gathering outdoors on the Gas Monkey patio for a unique and engaging lunch meeting. The session featured a joint presentation by **Appy Sharma** and **Juan Rodriguez** (Eagle Construction), **Joshua Wheeler** (Plummer), and Joel **Nickerson** (North Texas Municipal Water District), who shared insights from the Sabine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion—a compelling case study in effective leadership during change.

The speakers highlighted how leadership, communication, and teamwork at all levels—contractor, owner, and engineer—enabled the project to move forward successfully despite constant challenges. Key factors contributing to success included:

- ◆ Strong field leadership
- ◆ A robust safety culture
- ◆ Mentorship
- ◆ Clear and proactive communication strategies

The team demonstrated how proactive leadership can turn disruption into opportunity, using real-world examples from the project to illustrate the power of collaboration and adaptability in overcoming obstacles.

This outdoor event combined great weather, networking, and valuable professional insights—closing out 2025 on a high note for WEAT-NTS.



January Dinner Meeting Recap



The North Texas Section of WEAT kicked off the year with an outstanding January Dinner Meeting featuring **Jeff Mlak**, Operations Manager, and **Joe Thompson**, Operations Supervisor from the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD). Their presentation “**Maintaining Process Control and Efficiency During Unprecedented Service Area Growth**” provided a deep dive into how UTRWD is maintaining tight process control, stable biology, and perfect permit compliance for phosphorus removal—all while experiencing some of the fastest growth and flow increases in North Texas. The discussion focused on Jeff and Joe’s operational strategies that keep biological processes stable during high-load and high-variability conditions, including impacts of sharing Doe Branch flows at Riverbend.

Thank you Jeff and Joe for sharing your best practices for maintaining reliability and operational resiliency under challenging conditions.

Recent constitution and bylaw revisions were presented and approved by the Section members at the January Dinner Meeting.

Constitution revisions included:

- ◆ Identifying the North Texas Section of WEAT tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)(3) and has it’s own Employer Identification Number outside of WEAT
- ◆ Clarifications were provided for Deputy-Treasurer as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee

Bylaws revisions included:

- ◆ Clarifying duties and responsibilities of the President-Elect and Treasurer
- ◆ Adding Past President and Past Section Representative duties and responsibilities.

WEAT-NTS X GREENSPACE DALLAS STREAM CLEAN UP

WEAT-NTS joined forces with Greenspace Dallas to organize a cleanup of the Frasier Dam Recreation Area on Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Redeeming the Stream

The stream cleanup was a success, thanks to more than 20 volunteers who faced the morning chill with determination.

Community Connections

By collaborating with Greenspace Dallas, we successfully connected with a diverse group of individuals engaged in the DFW community.

Delicious Food

Following the beautification of Frasier Dam, volunteers were invited to Community Beer Co. for refreshments and to foster deeper connections within the group.



More Information

santos.sotelo@kimley-horn.com



WEAT

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FUTURE CITY COMPETITION



Event Recap



ABOUT

The Future City Competition-North Texas is a project-based learning program that has motivated students for over 20 years to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math by encouraging them to imagine, research, design, and build a city of the future.

INVOLVEMENT

WEAT-NTS served as a Special Award Sponsor, with three of our judges present on the competition day. We presented our awards to the group demonstrating Excellence in Water Engineering and to another group for Excellence in Wastewater Engineering.



TAKEAWAY

Judging the competition gave us the opportunity to inspire future generations and also exposed us to new ideas that we can apply to our careers and ongoing professional development.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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ADD YOUR NAME HERE

See Sponsorship Opportunities on page 18 or [CLICK HERE](#).



Sponsorship Opportunities

WEAT-NTS offers three levels of sponsorships for the July 2025 – June 2026 year, plus multiple individual sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsorships will support:

- WEAT-NTS and Darryl Hall Scholarship Funds
- Dinner Meetings
- Young Professionals
- Outreach Programs (Science Fair, Future Cities, Trinity River Cleanup, etc.)

Classic Dinner Sponsor \$250

- ✓ One Dinner Meeting
- ✓ Recognition of Classic Sponsors includes:
 - Announcement on front page of newsletter (name of firm) for the sponsored meeting
 - Announcement in meeting reminder emails (name of firm)
 - Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint
 - Verbal recognition of sponsors by President at beginning of the meeting

Gold Sponsor \$1,250

- ✓ Recognition at ALL six meetings (includes Fall BBQ Cook-off) for the price of five
- ✓ Recognition of the Gold Sponsors is the same as Classic Sponsors at all six meetings

Platinum Sponsor \$1,950

- ✓ Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor at ALL six meetings (including the Fall BBQ Cook-off)
- ✓ Recognition of the Platinum Sponsors is the same as Gold Sponsors, plus:
 - Company name included in all newsletters, meeting announcements, meeting reminder emails, and Company Link on WEAT-NTS website
 - Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint
 - Recognition of Platinum Sponsors by President at the beginning of each meeting
 - Recognition as YP Sponsor, with \$100 from sponsorship being earmarked toward local YP events
 - Recognition as WEAT-NTS Scholarship fund contributor

Individual Sponsorship Opportunities

- ◆ Fall Opstoberfest BBQ Cook-Off: \$250
- ◆ Sporting Clays: Options starting at \$150
- ◆ WEAT-NTS Scholarship Fund Contribution: \$100
- ◆ Daryl Hall Scholarship Fund Contribution: \$100
- ◆ NTS Newsletter Business Card Ad (6 issues) and website link: \$150
- ◆ NTS February Seminar: \$300
- ◆ NTS February Seminar Table Sponsor: \$500
- ◆ NTS February Seminar Break Area Sponsor: \$1,000
- ◆ NTS February Seminar Reception Sponsor: \$1,000
- ◆ NTS Young Professionals Sponsor: \$100
- ◆ Recognition of Individual Sponsors includes:
 - ◆ List of sponsors in newsletter announcement
 - ◆ List of sponsors in event reminder emails
 - ◆ Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint