



UTPB™

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

8:45 - 9:15 AM	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Becky Spurlock, Senior Vice President, The University of Texas Permian Basin • Ben Warden, 2026 Advisory Board Chairman • Brian Sellers, Permian Water Infrastructure Manager, ExxonMobil
9:15 - 9:45 AM	<p>MORNING KEYNOTE: Water, Energy, and Capital – an Economic Outlook Shaping the Permian Basin</p> <p>A timely economic outlook on the forces shaping the Permian Basin, examining the critical intersection of water, energy, and capital. Dr. Perryman's opening keynote will provide a forward-looking perspective on market dynamics, investment trends, and the region's long-term growth trajectory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ray Perryman, CEO, The Perryman Group
9:45 - 10:30 AM	<p>Texas Water Policy in Motion: What the Legislature & Texas Water Development Board are Prioritizing</p> <p>Texas water policy is entering a new phase as lawmakers, regulators, and industry leaders work to expand supply, modernize infrastructure, and address long-term water scarcity. This panel brings together Chairman Cody Harris and TWDB Director Brady Franks to discuss the most important legislative and regulatory developments shaping water policy today. Topics will include infrastructure funding, regulatory alignment, produced water reuse, and the policy tools Texas is considering to secure its water future while supporting economic development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION: Chairman Brooks Landgraf, Texas House of Representatives • Chairman Cody Harris, Texas House of Representatives • Brady Franks, Director, Texas Water Development Board • MODERATOR: Ashley Kegley-Whitehead, Chief Communications Officer, Infinity Water Solutions
Break	
10:45 - 11:15 AM	<p>Legal Update & Implications – Ownership, Liability, & Reuse of Produced Water</p> <p>This session will explore recent issues with produced water disposal and reuse, including potential liability with disposal and efforts to reuse. It will also address recent litigation involving produced water and rights to water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION: Shannon Napier, Managing Counsel, Diamondback Energy • Paul Tough, Attorney, McElroy, Sullivan, Miller and Weber, LLP • Adam Friedman, Partner, McElroy, Sullivan, Miller and Weber, LLP
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>Data Centers & Produced Water – From Need to Future Opportunities</p> <p>Diverse perspectives explore the nexus of produced water and data center and power generation cooling demand in the Permian Basin. How could treated produced water support the growing number of data center and power generation assets proposed in the Basin? Is produced water the key to 'water positive' operations and offsets through true additionality? What will it take to realize a produced water-cooled data center industry in the Permian?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Ramirez, VP of Digital Infrastructure and Sustainability, LandBridge • John Temple, Director of Data Center Engineering, Hanwha Data Centers • David Freeman, Senior Director of Project Development, NRG • Brittany Cheben, Permian Water Strategy Manager, Chevron • MODERATOR: Kelly Bennett, Co-Founder and CEO, B3 Insight
Lunch Buffet	
12:45 - 1:45 PM	<p>LUNCH KEYNOTE: Maynard Holt, Founder and CEO, Veriten</p>
1:45 - 2:30 PM	<p>Water Quality & Permitting: What's Changing, What's Coming, and What to Watch</p> <p>A forward-looking discussion of the evolving regulatory landscape for water quality and produced water permitting in Texas. This presentation plans to include: pending updates, areas of regulatory uncertainty, and what they mean for operators, infrastructure developers, and project timelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
2:30 - 2:45 PM	<p>Texas Railroad Commission Update</p> <p>A look at the strength and reliability of the state's oil and natural gas industry, highlighting its critical role in meeting the nation's energy needs. Drawing on the Railroad Commission's oversight of production activity, pipeline infrastructure and waste water disposal, the update will underscore how responsible regulation supports both economic development and sustainable operations across the Permian Basin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Wright, Chairman, Texas Railroad Commission



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	Break
3:00 - 3:45 PM	<p>Injection, Pressure and Seismicity – From Data to Decision-Making</p> <p>Injection reservoirs in the Permian Basin region receive more than 20 million barrels of fluid daily. As injection volumes remain high, considerations such as reservoir pressurization, induced seismicity, impacts to legacy wellbores, and remaining injection capacity increasingly drive operational decision-making. This session will focus on how data – from regional studies, pilot observations, and dedicated monitoring programs – can be translated into field-wide strategies for injection and reservoir management. Key topics will include declining capacity in existing disposal zones, evaluation of alternative injection reservoirs, and integration of geologic and operational data to define injection limits. Panelists will address how datasets are being collected, interpreted, and used to support real-time decision-making. Ultimately, this session aims to bridge research, operations, and data collection by demonstrating how rigorous analysis of subsurface data can guide best practices and improve management of disposal systems across the Permian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Smye, Ph.D., Geoscientist & Principal Investigator, Center for Integrated Seismicity Research, Bureau of Economic Geology • Pat Patton, VP of Products, B3 Insight • Vance Long, VP Exploration, Waterbridge • MODERATOR: Hannah Chittenden, Geoscience Manager, Diamondback
3:45 - 4:30 PM	<p>Monitoring Technologies and Tools for Reservoir Management and Risk Forecasting</p> <p>Effective reservoir management and risk mitigation in large-scale injection settings increasingly depend on the ability to monitor subsurface and surface responses in near real time. Advances in data acquisition, analytics, and modeling are enabling new approaches to track pressure changes, deformation, and injection impacts with greater resolution and confidence. This session will explore emerging monitoring technologies and analytical tools—leveraging both public and proprietary datasets—that are being developed and deployed to support reservoir management. Topics will include advances in distributed sensing technologies, satellite-based deformation measurements (e.g., InSAR), passive seismic interferometry, and integration of multi-scale datasets. By connecting technological innovation with operational application, this session will highlight pathways toward more resilient, data-driven reservoir management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Curry, Technical Team Lead for Injection and Seismicity Research, ExxonMobil • Laura Ortiz, Ph.D., Seismologist, Texas Railroad Commission • Robert Moak, Founding CEO, Tensora • Shujuan Mao, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, The University of Texas • MODERATOR: Sara Morey, Water Program Lead, ExxonMobil
4:30 - 5:00 PM	<p>Midstream Infrastructure – Balancing Volumes, Costs and Value</p> <p>Water midstream leaders share their perspectives on the evolving landscape of oilfield water management. Drawing on historic trends and emerging solutions, the panel explores how companies are balancing volumes, costs, and long-term infrastructure value while keeping production flowing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Lake, VP Commercial, Western Midstream • Ross Lera, VP Commercial Development, Select Water Solutions • Chris Herrington, Senior Director of Commercial Operations, Waterbridge • MODERATOR: Alan Van Reet, Co-Founder and COO, Triton Midstream
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Networking Happy Hour
6:00 - 6:30 PM	Dinner Buffet
6:30 - 7:00 PM	<p>Dinner Awards Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Woodcock Trail Blazer Award – presented to Robert Crain, Executive Vice President, Texas Pacific Water Resources • Woman in Energy Making Waves Award – presented to Katie Smye, PhD, Geoscientist & Principal Investigator, Bureau of Economic Geology
7:00 - 8:00 PM	<p>DINNER KEYNOTE: From Boomtown to Landman: Storytelling in the Permian Basin</p> <p>Christian Wallace traces his journey from growing up in the West Texas oil patch to creating Boomtown and co-creating Landman, exploring how the Permian Basin has shaped his storytelling. Blending personal history with reporting from the front lines of the modern energy boom, he reveals the human stories behind one of the world’s most consequential industries—and his own path from Andrews, Texas, to Hollywood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Wallace, Co-Creator of Paramount+'s Landman



THURSDAY - APRIL 9, 2026

<p>9:00 - 9:45 AM</p>	<p>Education, Workforce & Recruiting – Building Local Talent Pipeline This session begins with opening remarks from President Woodley, sharing the critical role The University of Texas Permian Basin plays in serving this important region, the state, and beyond. A panel discussion will then explore how UT Permian Basin, our local community colleges, and industry partners are working together to build, develop, and sustain a strong local workforce pipeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• INTRODUCTION: Dr. Becky Spurlock, Senior Vice President, The University of Texas Permian Basin• Dr. Sandy Woodley, President, The University of Texas Permian Basin• Tracee Bentley, President & CEO, Permian Strategic Partnership• Dr. Gregory Williams, President, Odessa College President• Dr. Damon Kennedy, President, Midland College President
<p>9:45 - 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Balancing the Load: Power and Produced Water Challenges in the Permian An in-depth look at how produced water management and power transmission intersect. This panel discussion will explore today's challenges, emerging technologies, and the future opportunities shaping Texas's power infrastructure. Brian Hudson, Managing Director and Senior Vice President, Priority Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harley Henninger, Senior Staff Electrical Engineer, Diamondback Energy• David Michael, Senior Account Manager, Oncor• MODERATOR: Stephen Robertson, Executive Vice President, Permian Basin Petroleum Association
<p>Break</p>	
<p>10:45 - 11:30 AM</p>	<p>Economics and Capital: Everyone Wants More – Energy, Water and Certainty A view from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas on the evolving energy landscape, the outlook, and navigating uncertainty. Then a panel discussion will highlight current challenges and opportunities relating to water and infrastructure investments in the Permian Basin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesse Thompson, Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas• Lucy Brash, Managing Director Head of Natural Resources Equity Capital Markets, J.P. Morgan• MODERATOR: Robert Crain, Executive Vice President, Texas Pacific Water Resources
<p>11:30 - 11:50 AM</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Energy Perspectives on Produced Water Management An overview of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO) recent and ongoing efforts to advance produced water management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hichem Hadjeres, Program Manager for Water Management R&D, U.S. Department of Energy
<p>11:50 AM - 12:10 PM</p>	<p>Water and Decision-Making: A Delicate Balance We all know the saying, "whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting." TXOGA President Todd Staples will discuss legislative water wars and how limited water resources force difficult decisions by policy makers. Water policy in Texas is deeply influenced by competing demands and regional needs. Elected officials often find themselves on opposing sides, but ultimately, water management will require cooperation, long-term planning, and balancing policy to meet the needs of all Texans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Todd Staples, President, Texas Oil and Gas Association
<p>Lunch Buffet</p>	
<p>12:45 - 1:45 PM</p>	<p>LUNCH KEYNOTE: The Nuclear Energy & Produced Water Nexus The largest operational expense for Produced Water treatment is energy inputs. Natura Resources, together with NGL Energy Partners, are exploring how to leverage treatment expertise, a renaissance in nuclear energy technologies, and critical state and federal programs, to solve the Permian's water challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicholas Morriss, Vice President of Business Development, Natura Resources• Shane Walker, Director, Texas Produced Water Consortium (TxPWC)• Chris Harich, Senior Director Technical Operations, NGL Water Solutions



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1:45 - 2:30
PM

From Waste to Worth: Unlocking Value in Permian Produced Water

Discover how industry leaders are transforming the Permian's 20+ million barrels per day of produced water from a disposal liability into strategic assets through advanced desalination, critical minerals extraction, agricultural irrigation, and integrated infrastructure—creating new revenue streams while solving water management challenges.

- **Vrajesh Mehta, PhD, Manager Water Technology, Analytics, and Development, Oxy**
- **Adrienne Lopez, Research and Development Manager, Texas Pacific Water Resources**
- **Caleb Tash, Chief Operations Officer, Element3 Resources**
- **Mark Ellison, Regional Sales Director, IDE**
- **MODERATOR: Richard Brantley, Sr. Advisor to CEO, University Lands**

2:30 - 3:15
PM

End Users - Exploring Downstream End Users of Treated Produced Water

This moderated session takes a comprehensive look at how the Pecos River is managed today and what lies ahead for end users of treated produced water. Discussion will examine the unique characteristics of the river's ecosystem alongside the complexities of water governance, competing demands, and regulatory considerations. The conversation will also explore the role of end users and the potential for future land applications of highly polished, treated produced water – including opportunities in rangeland restoration and agricultural use.

- **Eric Bernard, Landscape Architect and Director of Planning, KDC Associates**
- **Lesli Allison, Chief Executive, Western Landowners Alliance**
- **Ira Yates, President, Friends of the Pecos**
- **Jared Blong, Founder & CEO, Octane Energy**
- **MODERATOR: Rick McCurdy, VP of Innovation and Sustainability, Select Water Solution**

3:15 - 4:30
PM

Closing Networking Happy Hour