



## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Dirk Aaron,**  
**General Manager, Clearwater Underground**  
**Water Conservation District**

He has held his current position since June of 2011. Prior to that he served as an Extension Agent for the Texas AgriLife

Extension Service for more than 30 years. He currently serves as the President of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts and has Chaired their Legislative Committee the past three years. Dirk was recently elected to the board of directors of the Texas Water Conservation Association. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in 1981 and received his Master of Science Degree in 1991 from Texas Tech University.



**John Dupnik,**  
**Deputy Executive Administrator of the Office of**  
**Water Science and Conservation at the TWDB**

He is a Texas licensed Professional Geoscientist and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Geology from Texas State University and a Masters degree from the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT – Austin where his research focused on groundwater management in Texas. Prior to the TWDB, John was the General Manager of the Barton Spring/Edwards Aquifer Conservation where he was employed for 13 years. He also has nine years of prior experience in State government with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.



**Charles Porter, PhD,**  
**Water Rights and Water Law Expert**

He is an award-winning author, speaker, testifying real estate expert in over 600 cases nationwide, and has served in various faculty teaching roles at St. Edward's University since 2008. In 2016 he earned a Ph.D. in Economics and Business from the Universitat Jaume I in Spain with "Cum Laude" distinction. He is a water rights and water law expert. He has authored books, continuing education curriculum for real estate agents and public and scholarly articles since 2005. Recently, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Realtors for the term 2017-2021. His newest book is titled ***Public Water Policies: The Ultimate Weapons of Social Control*** (New York and London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018). He also serves on the Advisory Council of the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas and is a founding member of the Director's Circle



**Jason T. Hill, Attorney-at-Law,**  
**Jason T. Hill and Company**

He served as an agriculture, water, and natural resources advisor in the Texas Senate. He then earned his law degree from Baylor Law School. Since that time, he has built a law practice of helping individual Texans, businesses, and governmental bodies position themselves for success on a vast array of water rights, land rights, and environmental issues.



**Ed McCarthy, Attorney-at-Law,**  
**McCarthy & McCarthy, LLP**

His practice is focused in natural resources concentrating on water related matters. He has practiced before various state agencies, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Attorney General, Texas General Land Office, and the Railroad Commission. He is a frequent guest lecturer at Universities and presenter at Continuing Legal Education Seminars on water rights and related topics. As a lobbyist, he represents clients before both the Texas Legislature and United States Congress. After graduating from St. Mary's Law School with distinction in May 1981, Ed served as a Briefing Attorney on the Supreme Court of Texas. Later Ed served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Army. In 1985, Ed joined McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore L.L.P., and became a Partner with the law firm in January 1989, where he practiced until 2003 when he joined Jackson, Sjoberg, McCarthy & Townsend as a partner. In 2017, Ed joined his son to form McCarthy & McCarthy, LLP.



**Vanessa Puig-Williams, Attorney-at-Law,**  
**Executive Director and General Counsel for the Trinity**  
**Edwards Springs Protection Association**

She is an attorney in Austin, Texas whose law practice and life is focused on land and water conservation in Texas. In addition to advising non-profits and landowners, Vanessa is also fellow at the Meadows Center at Texas State University, and a board member of the Hill Country Alliance and the Watershed Alliance. She received her J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law in 2006 and practiced in the environmental protection division of the Texas Attorney General's Office for several years.