



On-Site Sewage Facilities

Thursday, August 22, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m.** **Check-in, Networking, and Refreshments**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Welcome and Introduction**
Todd Running, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- 9:10 a.m.** **H-GAC's OSSF Database and Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program**
Jessie Casillas, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Bill Ervin, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- 9:40 a.m.** **NCTCOG On-Site Sewage Facility Data Collection**
Alyssa Knox, North Central Texas Council of Governments
- 9:50 a.m.** **Roundtable/Peer Exchange**
- 10:50 a.m.** **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension OSSF Resources**
Anish Jantrania, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 11:20 a.m.** **2023 Rule Changes and ½ Acre Lots**
Randy Chelette, Texas On-Site Wastewater Association
- 12:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**

Presentations from today's workshop will be available at:

www.h-gac.com/clean-water-initiative-workshops



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

TODAY'S PRESENTERS

TODD RUNNING



Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, has served at H-GAC for over 32 years. He is responsible for conducting water quality assessments for one river and three coastal basins in the Houston-Galveston area. He has also developed and directed over two dozen special studies regarding water quality issues in the H-GAC region. Under his leadership, H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program has produced a long series of innovative reports integrating advanced technology and the web. Over the last 15 years, H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program has continually expanded its ambient monitoring program to more sites and collected more parameters, with no increase in funding. Todd is also responsible for overseeing the development of Watershed-Based Plans and the annual update of the Regional Water Quality Management Plan. Todd serves on the Environmental Committee of the North Houston Association and the Advisory Boards of the Bayou Preservation Association and the Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston Clear Lake. He is also a Certified Stormwater Inspector.

JESSIE CASILLAS



Jessie Casillas is a Senior Planner for the Community and Environmental Department at H-GAC. Jessie has professional experience in GIS techniques and is the Data Manager of the Clean Rivers Program. While at H-GAC, she has been responsible for the Water Resources spatial datasets in sourcing, compiling, maintaining, and producing visual products of various environmental datasets. As the Data Manager, she has taken on the role of tabular datasets as well and is actively pursuing certification in SAS Data Management. Jessie received her Bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Texas at Austin in 2011 and her Master's degree in Water Resources Management at Texas A&M University in Galveston in 2018. She also received a graduate certificate in GIS at Texas A&M University in 2018. Prior to her tenure at H-GAC, she was part of various research teams that focused on ecology and evolutionary biology.

BILL ERVIN



Bill Ervin joined the Community and Environmental Department at H-GAC as a Senior Planner in 2023. He leads H-GAC's Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program, which provides funding to qualified homeowners for the repair and replacement of failing conventional septic systems or aerobic on-site sewage facilities. Bill also works with the Water Resources team to develop water quality management plans and strategies. Before joining H-GAC, Bill accrued experience as a project manager in wastewater, groundwater, and soil geology with local municipalities, and public and private companies. Bill has a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from Our Lady of the Lake, San Antonio.



**Houston-Galveston
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TODAY'S PRESENTERS

ALYSSA KNOX



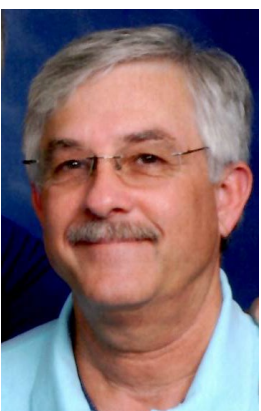
Alyssa Knox is an Environment and Development Planner II at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). She has been with NCTCOG since March 21, 2022. At NCTCOG, she serves as the project lead for the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) program, and proudly assists on the Regional Energy Management Program and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. Alyssa holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences and has previous experience in the non-profit sector working on community outreach programs with at-risk youth. She completed a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the University of Texas at Arlington in May 2023.

ANISH JANTRANIA



Anish R. Jantrania is an Extension Professor in the Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. He is based at the Blackland Research & Extension Center in Temple, Texas. Dr. Jantrania has over 30 years of experience working in the wastewater industry, in the public and private sectors, with a focus on Onsite Water Reuse systems with the emphasis on integrating these systems in the current water infrastructure to improve its climate resiliency. His research and extension interests focus on sustainable infrastructure to ensure the availability of clean water to meet society's water demands, and to ensure safe sanitation to protect public health and environmental quality. Before joining Texas A&M, Anish has worked in Virginia, Massachusetts, and West Virginia, and has studied in West Virginia, South Carolina, Ohio, and India. Anish is a nationally recognized technical expert and speaker at environmental health and other technical conferences such as ASABE, WEF, NEHA and NOWRA. Anish is a registered professional engineer in Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts, and West Virginia.

RANDY CHELETTE



Randy Chelette, Executive Director of the Texas On-Site Wastewater Association (TOWA), graduated high school in 1979 and followed his father into shrimping as a captain of vessels ranging 60-90 ft. He started in the OSSF industry in 1991. For most of his career he worked in outside sales and technical support, hands-on product installation, and troubleshooting support. He has also developed installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting training course materials and speaks at industry forums and conferences. In 1995, Randy was elected to the board of TOWA and served for 6 years. He was elected again in 2009 and served another 6 years as a volunteer. In February of 2015, Randy went to work full time as Executive Director of TOWA, managing the association's day-to-day affairs. Randy still shrimps along the Texas beaches pulling a sport trawl with his bay boat for personal use to keep the family tradition going, and will forever be connected to the waters of the Texas Gulf Coast.



**Houston-Galveston
Area Council**

On-Site Sewage Facilities: Roundtable Discussion

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE

- What is the leading cause of complaints related to OSSF issues? Is lack of education a factor? How often is the homeowner's income a barrier to resolution?
- Can you recommend any focus areas for H-GAC's Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program or educational workshops?

DATA TRACKING

- When a community is converted from OSSF to sanitary sewer, is that information tracked?
- What methods do you use to track OSSF maintenance agreements?

OSSF DATABASE

- Have you used H-GAC's OSSF mapping tool? If so, how do you interact with the tool? How can we improve the tool's functionality based on your needs?
- When is the best time to ask for permit data? For example, is the start of the calendar year too busy? Would asking for smaller datasets (e.g., six months vs. one year) be more manageable?

RESOURCE NEEDS

- What vendors have you worked with and what has been your experience? Do you find that vendors experience more demand than time, supply, and staffing constraints allow?
- Do you have the resources you need to do the number of inspections needed? Or—what is the demand for inspectors, especially with smaller lot sizes now qualifying?