



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2022

- Annual Texas Groundwater Conference, June 1, 2, Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, Austin, Texas
- Texas Groundwater Summit, August 30-September 1, Hyatt Regency Hill Country, San Antonio, TX, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, December 5-9, Las Vegas Convention Center.
- Texas Plant Protection Conference, December 6,7, Brazos Center, Bryan, TX

2021 Election of Officers and Board Members

Due to the lingering effects of COVID-19, the TAIA Board of Directors decided to hold a virtual election for 2022 officers and board of directors members in lieu of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Officers and board members elected were: President, Craig Jones; Vice President, David Wiens; Secretary-Treasurer, Jeromy Gowdy; North Region Representative, Ross Roberts; East Region Representative, Jason Hester; South Region Representative, Josh Brown; West Region Representative, Jesus Mendez; At-Large Representative, Bobby DeLeon; At-Large Representative, Trey Hilger.

Plans are under way for a joint meeting with the 2021 and 2022 Board of Directors to evaluate the current status of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association. (See **From the President**, page 3)

TAIA Participation in Recent Ag Conferences

Exhibitor at the Texas Plant Protection Conference, December 7, 8, 2021 in Bryan, Texas, as a sponsor and also hosted a special session on Irrigation and Water Management.

Exhibitor and Sponsor of the Water College organized by the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation, January 20, 2022, Lubbock, Texas.

Exhibitor and sponsor of the Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium, February 24, 2022, Amarillo, Texas, conducted by the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and the City of Amarillo.

New Members Welcome

The Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association thanks all it's members for their past and continuing support. How about recruiting some of your friends and colleagues to join TAIA in 2022 and strengthen our organization?

Did You Know?

The Texas Water Research and Information Center was established by Texas A&M College Board of Directors in 1952; it was renamed the Water Resources Institute in 1963. It is one of 54 institutes within the National Institutes for Water Resources supported by the U, S. Geological Survey. The Annual Water for Texas Conference was initiated in 1955.

TWRI provides science-based, community supported solutions for the state's water quantity and quality challenges through internal expertise and external collaborations. In cooperation with local stakeholders it provides project development and management, watershed and aquifer assessment and planning, professional training and public outreach.

Among the programs of the TWRI are Restoring and Protecting, Sustaining and Enhancing, Engaging and Educating.

Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

The Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship was created in honor of Dick Laursen, a life-long irrigation specialist. Dick was born in 1942 into a Nebraska ranching/farming family. He began his career as a purchasing agent for a pivot manufacturer; then moved on to Rainbird Ag before partnering to open SWISH Inc., an irrigation company. With his partners, Dick spent the rest of his life building SWISH, until his death in 1998. He was one of the founding members of TAIA. The scholarship was established in 2002 and has assisted students pursuing ag related majors in each of the years since.



Seventeen applications were received for the 2022 Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee has selected Hadlee Cook, Canyon, Texas, as this year's recipient. *(with Eddy Riggins, past president)* Hadlee is graduating from Canyon High School where she has been very active in FFA and 4-H, as well as other school, civic and church activities. She will be attending West Texas A&M University in Canyon, majoring in Agribusiness.

She joins the current recipients: Mallie Williams at Tarleton State University, Carley Turner at Angelo State University, and Emma Weinheimer at West Texas A&M University.



From The President

TAIA Members,

We are coming out of an unusual two years in which things have been different for all of us, collectively as well as individually. Our Association is entering its 31st year of existence; we are where we are today thanks to the dedicated efforts of those who established and directed the association these many years. With time, all things change so now seems the time to re-view our goals and objectives, in an attempt to stay relevant and of service to the irrigation industry. To that end I want to share with the entire membership a note I recently sent to members of the Board. We welcome your input to this process.

Greetings Board members from your TAIA President,

I hope everyone is having a prosperous Spring and is weathering the fun-filled supply chain issues and growing inflation that we have all come to enjoy in this industry. I can say that I am eager to wrap up install season and head in to summer, and hopefully God will bless us with a little bit more rainfall like He gave us a few nights ago. I know everyone is busy, but I wanted to reach out to you all and hopefully start some dialog about the state of the TAIA, and what we might want from it moving forward. If you are anything like me, there are a lot of question marks about what the TAIA does and what role do we play as a member of it. I know Kern stays busy as our boots on the ground. For the rest of us though, the reality of being a member of this board, or holding an office, is little more than a job title and a few emails in the ol' inbox every once in a while.

I met up with Kern, our executive secretary, yesterday for coffee and discussed this a bit. Full disclosure, I started the conversation by saying "Kern, I know I am supposed to be the president and all, but honestly I don't even really know what the TAIA does" He explained that back in the day we had some small political sway on Ag issues. We also sponsor a couple of water conferences and we offer a scholarship. Outside of that, not much.

So, my question to you: Are we interested in making this into something more? Is there anything this leadership team could be doing collectively to make the TAIA more significant? I don't have the answer to that right now and I am sure most of you don't either. How about this though – Would you folks be interested in a luncheon later on in the summer for just the board members? We could have a casual round-table conversation about these questions and brainstorm some ideas. It would take place in Lubbock, which I know would be a challenge for a few members but the majority would be close by. If nothing else it is a free lunch and a chance to check in with some other folks from the industry. I'm thinking July, and I would send out an official invite as we get closer to time. As for now, please just have it on your mind.

*Thank you all for your participation, and I wish you the best as we head into the summer growing season,
Craig*

Please seriously consider this and share your thoughts with the 2022 Board of Directors; please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members, or the executive secretary.

I look forward to input from the TAIA membership,

Craig

WWW.TAIA.ORG



T A I A

PO Box 10613
Lubbock, TX 79408
Phone: 806-786-5644
E-mail: taia@taia.org

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Craig Jones, Netafim

At-Large: Trey Hilger, Eco-Drip

Vice-President: David Wiens, Green Planet Drip

Nominations Committee:

Secretary: Jeromy Gowdy, Watermaster

Craig Jones, Netafim
Bobby De Leon, Rivulis

Immed. Past President: Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply Co.

Scholarship Committee:

West Rep.: Jesus Mendez, WinSupply

David Lott, Fresno Valves (Chair)
Mark McCormick, Agriculture Precision Supply
Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply

East Rep.: Jason Hester, Nelson Irrigation

Auditing Committee:

North Rep.: Ross Roberts, Diversity D

Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation,
Layne Hardesty, Equipment Supply Co.

South Rep.: Josh Brown, Irrigation-Mart

At-Large: Bobby DeLeon, Rivulis

Affiliate Members of:

Texas Agriculture Council, www.texas.coop
Irrigation Association, www.irrigation.org
The Groundwater Foundation, www.groundwater.org
Texas Groundwater Association, www.tgwa.org
Texas Water Conservation Association, www.twca.org