

Oka' Presents the

6th Annual

**Sustainability
Conference**

2021 Conference Agenda

Join the webinar



Join the conversation



Day 1

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Opening Session

9:30 am

Welcome
Dr. Katricia Pierson
President, East Central University

Emcee Remarks
Susan Paddock
Executive Director, Oka' the Water Institute at ECU

Water as an Economic Driver

9:45 am

State of Oklahoma Natural Resources
Secretary Ken Wagner
Secretary of Energy & Environment, State of Oklahoma

10:15 am

Economics of Blue River
Dr. Barney Austin
President and CEO, AquaStrategies

10:45 am

Sustainable Water Law
Duane Smith
Duane Smith & Associates

11:15 am

Water Policy & Management for Water-scarce Regions
Dr. Sharon Megdal
Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona

12:00 pm

Keynote Presentation
Governor Bill Anoatubby



*the
Chickasaw
Nation*

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Day 1
Cont.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Soil Health and Water Sustainability

1:00 pm

Regenerating Our Soils

Jimmy Emmons

Soil Health Mentoring Coordinator,
Oklahoma Conservation Commission

1:30 pm

Soil Health Initiatives in Indiana

Dr. Eileen Kladvko

Professor, Agronomy Department; Purdue University
&

Lisa Holscher

Director, Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

2:05 pm

2021 Oka' Summer Research Program

Dr. Jessica Brumley

Asst. Professor Biological & Environmental Sciences,
East Central University

&

Kevin Blackwood

Field Research Coordinator, Oka' the Water Institute at ECU;
Adjunct Professor, East Central University

2:40 pm

Aquifer Storage & Recovery Research

Dr. Randall Ross

Director, RSKERC Groundwater Technical Support Center,
USEPA/ORD/CESER/TSCD

3:10 pm

Regenerative Ranching

Josh Gaskamp

Wildlife and Range Consultant & Technical Consultant Manager,
Noble Research Institute

3:40 pm

Closing Statement & Sponsor Recognition

Susan Paddack

Executive Director,
Oka' The Water Institute at East Central University

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Day 2

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Agency Updates & Policy Directives

9:00 am

Economics of Denison Dam Navigation
Richard Brontoli
Executive Director, Red River Valley Association

9:30 am

Agency Updates
Julie Cunningham
Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
&
Scott Thompson
Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental
Quality

10:15 am

Conservation & Rural Water Updates
Trey Lam
Executive Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission
&
Sustainable Partnerships for a Stronger Oklahoma
Brandon Bowman
Programs Manager, Oklahoma Rural Water Association

11:00 am

EPSCoR- S3OK Update
Dr. Hank Jenkins-Smith
Director; National Institute for Risk & Resilience; University of
Oklahoma
&
Dr. Carol Silva
Director, National Institute for Risk & Resilience; University of
Oklahoma

12:00 pm

Legislative Panel

Senator Frank Simpson
Oklahoma State Senator, District 14; Assistant Majority Floor
Leader

Senator Chris Kidd
Oklahoma State Senator, District 31

Representative Ronny Johns
Oklahoma House of Representatives, District 25

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Day 2

Cont.

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Field Research & Projects

1:00 pm

Monitoring COVID-19 with Wastewater
Dr. Jason Vogel
Director, Oklahoma Water Survey; University of Oklahoma

1:30 pm

ASA: The Importance of Phase 2
Shana Mashburn
Hydrologic Studies Chief, US Geological Survey

2:00 pm

2021 Oka' Summer Research Program
Dr. Christine Pappas
Professor, Department Chair, Politics, Law and Society,
East Central University
&
Dr. Leah Dudley
Assistant Professor, Biological & Environmental Studies,
East Central University

2:35 pm

Opportunities with NRCS Watershed Program
Gary O'Neill
OK NRCS State Conservationist,
US Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation

3:05 pm

A Solution for Failing Septic Systems
Stephen Eoff
Vice President,
Jack Tyler Engineering Incorporated

3:30 pm

Closing Statements & Sponsor Recognition
Susan Paddack
Executive Director,
Oka' the Water Institute at East Central University