



OKA' CON 2023
THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 8-9th, 2023

Day 1, Wednesday, November 8th

Location: Halle Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

- 8:00a CHECK-IN | COFFEE
- 9:00a OPENING CEREMONIES
- Emcee, John Hargrave, Chief Executive Officer, East Central University Foundation
 - President Wendell Godwin, East Central University
 - **Keynote Speaker**, Lt. Governor Chris Anoatubby, The Chickasaw Nation
 - Dr. Duane Smith, Executive Director, The Oka' Institute
- 10:10a BREAK
- 10:30a A LOCAL LOOK
- Cody Holcomb, City Manager, City of Ada
 - Dr. Saba Tahmassebi, Director, U.S. EPA Kerr Lab

Location: Chickasaw Business Conference Center – Foundation Hall

- 11:30a LUNCH | NEXT STEPS FOR THE WATER SETTLEMENT
- Moderator, John Hargrave, Chief Executive Officer, East Central University Foundation
 - Stephen Greetham, Attorney
 - Dr. Duane Smith, The Oka' Institute
 - Dr. Christine Pappas, Oka Institute's Policy and Education Coordinator
 - Q&A from Audience

Location: Halle Brown Ford Fine Arts Center – Ataloa Theater

- 1:00p ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY
- Tye Baker, Senior Director Environmental Protection Services Division of Legal and Compliance, Choctaw Nation
 - Kris Patton, Director of Natural Resources, Chickasaw Nation
- 2:00p BREAK
- 2:30p FIRESIDE CHAT – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
- Kenneth Corn, State Director Rural Development, USDA
 - Scott Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoman Department of Environmental Quality
 - Troy Golden, City Manager, City of Tishomingo
- 3:30 ECONOMICS & WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Jim Eldridge, Economic Development Manager, OG&E
Brent Kisling, Chief Executive Officer, NexTo LLC

- 4:00p GLOBAL REACH
- Dr. Duane Smith, Executive Director, The Oka' Institute
 - Dr. Stephen Agong, Visiting Professor Department of Politics, Law & Society, and The Oka' Institute

[Location: Chickasaw Business Conference Center - Lobby](#)

- 4:30p NETWORKING RECEPTION

[Location: Chickasaw Business Conference Center – Foundation Hall](#)

- 6:00p – 7:30p IMMERSIVE DINNER
- Duane Smith, Executive Director, The Oka' Institute
 - Brent Greenwood, Chickasaw Artist
 - Martin & Pratt Duo, Cowboy Songwriters, Caleb Martin and Gary Pratt

Day 2, Thursday, November 9th

[Location: Halle Brown Ford Fine Arts Center](#)

- 8:30a STAR GRANT
- Dr. Todd Halihan, Professor, Interim Department Head and the Sun Company Clyde Wheeler Chair in Hydrogeology at Oklahoma State University, and Chief Technical Officer for Aestus, LL Oklahoma State University, *Overview of the ASA*
- Dr. Sabrina Beckmann, Assistant Professor in Geomicrobiology at Oklahoma State University, *Monitoring the Microbes of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer*
 - Dr. Tingying Xu, Assistant Professor in Geochemistry at Boone Pickens School of Geology at Oklahoma State University, *Geochemistry of Recharge*
 - Dr. Yipeng Zhang, Assistant Professor in Hydrogeology at Boone Pickens School of Geology at Oklahoma State University, *Modeling Aquifer Changes to Evaluate Benefits*
- 9:50a BREAK
- 10:10a AQUIFER STUDIES
- Dr. Todd Halihan, *How Does Byrds Mill Spring Work*
 - Guy Sewell, *Serial Retention Structures to Recharge Groundwater*
 - Dr. Douglas Beak, EPA Ada, *EPA Research at CAMARR*
 - Duane Smith, *Stakeholder Participation in Research*
- 11:30a LUNCH
- 12:30p BUSES DEPART FOR FIELD TRIP

1:00p [BYRDS MILL](#)
2:00p [ASA EAR RESEARCH SITE](#)
3:00p BUSES DEPART FOR ECU

CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE

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