

2025 SSPEED CONFERENCE

FLOOD PROTECTION STRATEGIES: INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

DAY 1 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

8:30 – 9:00	REGISTRATION & COFFEE (THE COMMONS)
INTRO	WELCOME AND OVERVIEW
9:00 – 9:10	Philip Bedient, Director, SSPEED Center & Professor, Rice University Reginald DesRoches, President, Rice
SESSION I.	GALVESTON BAY PARK PLAN
9:10 – 9:30	Rob Rogers, FAIA, ROGERS PARTNERS Architects, Architectural Design
9:30 – 9:50	Jim Blackburn, Co-Director, SSPEED Center, Overview of GBPP
9:50 – 10:10	Avantika Gori, Rice University, SSPEED Center, Advanced Computer Models
KEYNOTE	GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT
10:10 – 10:30	Rob Thomas, Chief Program Manager for the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)
10:30 – 10:50	BREAK (THE COMMONS)
SESSION II.	NATURE-BASED FLOOD SOLUTIONS
10:50 – 11:20	Anne Loes Nillesen, The Netherlands
11:20 – 11:40	Jamie Padgett, Rice University, Chair of Civil & Environmental Engineering
11:40 – 12:00	Noemi Vergopolan, Rice University, EEPS, Remote Sensing & Hydrology
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (THE COMMONS)
SESSION III.	RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
1:00 – 1:20	Charles Penland, Walter P. Moore & Associates, Inc.
SESSION IV.	HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL MAAPNEXT & RESILENCY PLANS
1:20 – 1:40	Ataul Hannan, Director/ Planning Division; HCFCD
1:40 – 2:00	Priya Zachariah, HCFCD
KEYNOTE	HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ISSUES
2:00 – 2:20	Tina Petersen, Executive Director, HCFCD
2:20 - 2:50	BREAK (THE COMMONS)
SESSION V.	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES & INFRASTRUCTURES
2:50 – 3:10	Jim Elliott, Rice University, Center for Coastal Futures & Adaptive Resilience
SESSION VI.	HILL COUNTRY FLOOD: ADVANCED FLOOD WARNING & MONITORING SYSTEMS
3:10 – 3:30	Nick Fang, University of Texas- Arlington
3:30 – 3:50	Jacob Torres, Torres & Associates
CLOSING	FINAL REMARKS
3:50 – 4:00	Philip Bedient, Director, SSPEED Center & Professor, Rice University
RECEPTION	PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS & A POSTER SESSION
4:00 – 5:30	Generously Sponsored by Arva, B Carbon, Earth Optics, and Grassroots. AECOM, Geosyntec, Torres & Associates and Walter P. Moore.

2025 SSPEED CONFERENCE

FLOOD PROTECTION STRATEGIES: INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: MARKET-BASED NATURAL CARBON SOLUTIONS

DAY 2 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

8:00 – 8:30	REGISTRATION & COFFEE (THE COMMONS)
SESSION I.	THE CARBON MARKET
8:30 – 8:50	Welcome and Overview of the Carbon Market, Jim Blackburn, Co-Director SSPEED Center
8:50 – 9:10	Offsets and Certifications—All Carbon Credits are Not the Same Jeff Cohen, Jasmine Zhu, Climate Advisors
9:10 – 9:30	Insetting and the Supply Chain, Jay McEntire, ARVA
SESSION II.	NATURAL CARBON SOLUTIONS
9:30 – 9:50	The Role of the University in the Carbon Market, Chris Ordoñez, Rice University, SSPEED Center
9:50 – 10:10	The Role of a Houston-based Carbon Credit Registry, Eric Unverzagt, BCarbon
10:10 – 10:30	BREAK (THE COMMONS)
SESSION III.	SOIL CARBON
10:30 – 10:50	Soil Carbon from a Buyer's Perspective – The BCarbon/Exxon Mobil Project Adam Usadi, ExxonMobil
10:50 – 11:15	Farmer Collaboration for Sustainable Agriculture Irfon Watkins, Farmer Collaboration for Sustainable Ag., Stephen Gorton, Veterans Carbon
11:15 – 11:35	Contracts & Carbon Credits- What Landowners Should Know Anson Howard, Uhl, Fitzsimons, Burton, Wolff & Rangel
11:35 – 11:55	The Soil Carbon Credit Market, Katie Pearson, Grassroots Carbon
KEYNOTE	BIOCHAR KEYNOTE
11:55 – 12:15	Carrie Masiello, Rice University, Sustainability Institute
12:15 – 12:50	LUNCH (THE COMMONS)
SESSION IV	COASTAL BLUE CARBON
12:50 – 1:05	Overview & Permitting Living Shorelines, Matt Stahman, Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)
1:05 – 1:20	Coastal Blue Carbon and Port Arthur Marsh, Darrin Prescott, Grenian
1:20 – 1:35	Carbon Data and Protecting the Marsh, Dr. Rusty Feagin, TAMU
1:35 – 1:50	Coastal Blue Carbon and Endangered Species, Lalise Mason, Scenic Galveston
SESSION V.	METHANE
1:50 – 2:10	Methane Basics, Dan Arthur, All Consulting
2:10 – 2:30	Methane Market, Dan Romito, Pickering Energy
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK (THE COMMONS)
SESSION VI.	MEXICO
2:45 – 3:05	The Tamaulipan/ Mexico Carbon Credit, Marcela Ronquillo, Earth Carbon
3:05 – 3:25	A Landowner Perspective and Testing, James Clement, Earth Optics
3:25 – 3:45	Mexico and the Carbon Future, Ivonne Cruz, Rice University, Baker Institute
THANK YOU	CONCLUSION & FINAL REMARKS
3:45 – 4:00	Jim Blackburn, Rice University, SSPEED Center