

## **SCRIPT: West Texas Legislative Summit 2021**

### **Beyond COVID-19**

7:00 a.m. *Attendees Check-in at Registration. Food lines open.*

PPT: Slide 1

8:15 a.m. **Mr. Shane Plymell, Chamber Chair of the Board, San Angelo Chamber**

PPT: Slide 2 Good morning. My name is Shane Plymell. I serve as Chairman of the Board for the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual West Texas Legislative Summit. Special thanks to those who traveled long distances to join us today.

It is our pleasure to be able to host this year's summit at the Angelo State University campus. I would like to introduce, the ASU president, Ronnie Hawkins for a brief welcome.

PPT: Slide 3 **Welcome- ASU President Ronnie Hawkins**

PPT: Slide 4

**Shane:** Thank you, President Hawkins. It is a pleasure to be in partnership with Angelo State University.

The San Angelo Chamber created the Summit in 2004 as a forum for regional community leaders and elected officials to discuss issues affecting West Texas. We share information about the opportunities and challenges related to each year's featured topic. This year our federal theme is **Beyond COVID-19.**

We are pleased to have our event honorary co-hosts: U.S. Congressman August Pfluger, State Senator Charles Perry and State Representative Drew Darby.

**PPT: Slide 5** We would like to take a moment to recognize the sponsors of last night's opening reception. It was a wonderful time and a great way to commence this year's Summit. If the businesses will please stand as I call your name - please hold your applause.

Our Reception sponsors:

- **Chevron USA**
- **Texas Pacific Land Corporation**
- **Port of Corpus Christi Authority**

**PPT: Slide 6** Our Beverage sponsor:

- **United Airlines**

**PPT: Slide 7** Our Reception Venue sponsor:

- **The Cactus Hotel**

**PPT: Slide 8** And a thank to this morning's Breakfast sponsor:

- **Lower Colorado River Authority**

**PPT: Slide 9** Our Summit is one of the premier events in all of Texas. Joining us today are state and federal officials, mayors and city Council representatives, county judges and commissioners, businesses, educators, and Chamber members and staff. Thank you all for coming. We have forged wonderful partnerships through these groups to make this event a success.

**PPT: Slide 10** This year, our program of events has gone digital, and we invite you to download our electronic program by scanning our QR code, located at the check-in tables, shown on the screen behind me, or by visiting [www.sanangelo.org/wtfs-21](http://www.sanangelo.org/wtfs-21). We are excited about this new format, as you will be able to access everything from your phone or computer, and have direct access to our panelist's online resources, our sponsors website links, and more. Please alert a staff member if you are having any trouble accessing the program and they can assist you.

**PPT: Slide 11**

***Don Cheek-retirement***

It is important for the Chamber to take a moment to thank an individual who has been with us for many years and is retiring this year, Mr. Don Cheek.

You may recognize him as the quiet, but efficient gentleman running around ensuring that every event on the ASU campus is run perfectly. We want to take this time to thank him for his support in our community and love for his job. His commitment to excellence and to the various Chamber events, has

been immeasurable. We hope you enjoy your retirement. Don, would you please come accept a token of our appreciation for your years of service to WTLS?

*Present small painting (Walt to present)*

Thank you for always being a part of the Summit.

PPT: Slide 12

8: 25 a.m. To begin our Summit, we would like to thank the sponsors for the first panel. As I call your name, please stand and be recognized.

- Angelo State University
- Foster Communications
- Texas Tech University System
- Texas Mutual Insurance

PPT: Slide 13

As our education panelists to make their way to the stage, I wanted to let you all know that following the discussion, our panelists will take questions from the audience. If you would like to ask a question, please write it down on the provided index cards and raise your hand for a Chamber member to collect it from you.

PPT: Slide 14

And now, it is my pleasure to introduce our first moderator, **Chancellor Tedd L. Mitchell of the Texas Tech University System.**

**Mitchell Bio:** Dr. Mitchell is the fifth chancellor and chief executive officer of the Texas Tech University System, a \$2 billion, higher education enterprise consisting of Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Angelo State University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. On Sept. 1, 2021, Midwestern State University will officially become the System's fifth member institution. The TTU System enrolls more than 57,000 students, employs 20,000 people, has an endowment valued at more than \$1.3 billion and operates in 18 cities across Texas and internationally. Dr. Mitchell works collaboratively with the Board of Regents, System Administration, and university presidents to enhance the System's profile and support shared missions of advancing higher education, health care, research, and community outreach.

For our first panel, **Reimagining Education by Reshaping for the Future**, please join me in welcoming Chancellor Mitchell.

[PPT: Slide 15](#)

**8:30- 9:30 a.m. - Reimagining Education by Reshaping for the Future**

**Moderator: Dr. Tedd Mitchell**

- Congressman Chip Roy
- Commissioner Mike Morath
- Dr. Donald Tharp

- Mr. Colby Nichols

9:30 a.m. **Mr. Plymell:** *goes to the podium, to thank panelist.*

PPT: Slide 16

Thank you, Dr. Mitchell and panelist for a great discussion. We're also grateful to the companies and organizations who were willing to serve as general summit sponsors this year.

PPT: Slide 17

I also want to take this time to remind you that you can download our digital program using the QR code displayed on the signage outside and on the screen, or by visiting [www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21](http://www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21).

PPT: Slide 18

We would like to take a moment to recognize our Networking Break sponsors. If you would all, please stand. Now, at this time, we are going to take a 15-minute networking break, please listen for the bell and return to this room by 9:45. Thank you.

9:30-9:45 a.m. *Networking break*

PPT: Slide 19

9:45 a.m. **Mr. Plymell:** Welcome back, everyone. Our second panel of the day is Essentially Crucial Infrastructure: Trade, Transportation, Pipelines, and Ports, and we would like to recognize the sponsors for this next panel.

#### PPT: Slide 20

Each sponsor, please stand when your name is called. Audience, please hold your applause until all sponsors have been recognized.

- City of San Angelo Development Corporation
- Ports to Plains Alliance
- Reece Albert
- UBS Financial Services

#### PPT: Slide 21

Again, I'd like to remind everyone that following the panel discussion, we will hold a Q & A. There are index cards available to write questions on and if you will raise your hand, a Chamber member will pick up your card to be answered at the end of the panel.

It is now my pleasure to introduce **Commissioner Alvin New, Texas Department of Transportation Commissioner and our moderator for the infrastructure panel.**

#### PPT: Slide 22

**New Bio:** The Honorable Alvin New is a commissioner on the Texas Transportation Commission. Born on the South Plains, Mr. New came to San Angelo to attend Angelo State University. He grew up working on a family farm, and has a small farm and a ranch now. Alvin worked in the oilfield,

lived in company housing related to his father's natural gas related career, and is involved in the oilfield now. His career was in retail in central and west Texas and New Mexico. He was also Mayor of San Angelo and chaired the local transportation related Metropolitan Planning Organization then. This background supports his work for rural Texas on the commission. Texas has 173 rural counties out of its 254-county total. While focusing on all of Texas and all counties, Mr. New is statutorily assigned rural emphasis in his appointment by the Governor. Mr. New's extensive experience easily surpasses the qualification to be our moderator for our panel on **Essentially Crucial Infrastructure: Trade, Transportation, Pipelines, and Ports panel**.

PPT: Slide 23

**9:45 - 10:45 am Panel 2-Essentially Crucial Infrastructure: Trade, Transportation, Pipelines, and Ports panel**

**Moderator: Commissioner Alvin New**

- Congressman Brian Babin
- Congressman Jodey Arrington
- Commissioner Christi Craddick
- Mr. John Osborn
- Mr. Sean Strawbridge
- Mr. Luke Legate



PPT: Slide 24

10:45 a.m. **Mr. Plymell:** Thank you, panelist and **Commissioner New** for another great discussion.

PPT: Slide 25

As we move to our next panel regarding agriculture and water, we want to thank our sponsors for this panel. As before, please stand as your name is called and audience hold your applause until all names have been called.

- Texas Farm Bureau
- Gulf Coast Authority
- Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers
- Twin Mountain Fence

PPT: Slide 26

As a reminder, our panelists will hold a Q & A at the end of the discussion. There are index cards available to write questions on, and if you will raise your hand, a Chamber member will collect it from you.

It is my pleasure to introduce the moderator, **Senator Charles Perry** for our next panel.

PPT: Slide 27

**Perry Bio:** State Senator Charles Perry is a life-long West Texan and a practicing CPA from Lubbock. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 2014 after serving two terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Geographically, he represents the largest Senate District in the Texas. Sen. Perry currently chairs the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs and is Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. He also sits on the Senate Committees for Education, Finance, Redistricting, and Transportation and he co-chairs the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Advisory Committee. Gov. Abbott appointed him to the Southwestern States Water Commission and the Western States Water Council. Sen. Perry graduated from Sweetwater High School and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and management information systems from Texas Tech University. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Senator Perry provides insight and great experience to serve as our moderator for the panel on **The Resilience of Agriculture and Water**.

PPT: Slide 28

**10:45 am to 11:45 am Panel 3-The Resilience of Agriculture and Water.**

**Moderator: Senator Charles Perry**

- Congressman Roger Williams
- Congressman Ronny Jackson
- Commissioner Emily Lindley
- Ms. Alisha Schwertner

Thank you, panelists, and **Senator Perry** for another great discussion on vital pieces of west Texas, agriculture, and water.

PPT: Slide 29

11:45 a.m. **Mr. Plymell:** *goes to the podium, to thank panelist and announce break.*

PPT: Slide 30

As we transition to lunch, we want to extend a special thanks to the following lunch sponsors.

- America's SBDC Texas Network
- Atmos Energy
- EDF Renewables
- Texans for Lawsuit Reform
- TSTC Foundation

Please stand and be recognized. Now we will take a brief break as we get set up for lunch. We do need everyone to please exit this room to do so and move out into the foyer. Once the serving line is open, please get your plate, go through the line, and find yourself a seat.

PPT: Slide 31

As a reminder, you can download our digital program using the QR code displayed on the signage outside and on the screen, or by visiting [www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21](http://www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21). Thank you.

PPT: Slide 32

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.    *Networking break*

PPT: Slide 33

12:05 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:** ***MOVE TO THE LUNCH PODIUM***

Please make your way into our seating area. We would like to take this time to thank each of our partners who help us produce such a quality program each year. As you can imagine, it takes a team of very dedicated individuals to organize an event of this magnitude. This event would not happen without our Planning Committee, which consists of:

- Mrs. Karin KIRK-EN-DOLL, Regional Director of for Congressman August Pfluger
- Ms. Laura Lewis, District Director for State Senator Charles Perry
- Mrs. Cheryl DeCordova, District Director for State Representative Drew Darby
- Mr. John Austin Stokes, Concho Valley Council of Governments
- Mr. Walt Koenig, President of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. Brook Dickison, Angelo State University, Chairperson

And thank you to the Chamber staff for their hard work. A special thanks to Mrs. Tricia Peterson, Director of Events and Fundraising, and Mrs. Ashlea

Downing, Director of Marketing and Communications, for working tirelessly to make sure this event is a success.

12:05 – 12:07 p.m. **Blessing - Dr. Clifton Jones**

**PPT: Slide 34**

12:07 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:** At this time, I would like to ask Congressman August Pfluger to make his way to the podium.

**Pfluger Bio:** Serving his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman August Pfluger represents 29 counties in Texas' 11th congressional district, including the cities of San Angelo, Llano, Brownwood, Granbury, Midland, and Odessa.

Congressman Pfluger grew up in San Angelo and graduated from San Angelo Central High School. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and served nearly two decades as a decorated fighter pilot, later as an advisor to President Trump on the National Security Council, and currently as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

In Congress, Representative Pfluger is a strong advocate for national security, promoting our farmers and ranchers, protecting the unborn, energy prosperity, and securing our borders. He is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security, where he serves

as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism. He is also a co-leader of the Texas Ag Task Force and a member of the Republican Whip Team.

Congressman Pfluger is a conservative Republican, a proud husband and father, and a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. He and his wife Camille live in San Angelo with their three young daughters, Vivian, Caroline, and Juliana. We are proud and blessed to welcome honorary co-host Congressman Pfluger as our keynote speaker to discuss **Security Challenges**.

#### 12:07 pm to 1:25 pm Lunch Keynote Security Challenges

*SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF POWELL FAMILY (Senator Perry, Representative Darby to help present gift)*

PPT: Slide 35

1:25 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:**

Thank you, **Congressman Pfluger**. At this time, we will take a break, please step out into the foyer to allow the ASU staff to turn over the room we will resume our panel discussions at 1:45 p.m.

PPT: Slide 36

Please remember you can download our digital program using the QR code displayed on the signage outside or on the screen, or visit [www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21](http://www.sanangelo.org/wtls-21).

PPT: Slide 37

1:25 - 1:45 pm *Networking break*

PPT: Slide 38

1:45 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:** *MOVE BACK TO STAGE PODIUM*

Welcome back for the final panel of the day. As a reminder, we will hold a Q & A at the end of the discussion. If you would like to ask a question, please write it down on the provided index cards and raise your hand for a Chamber member to collect it from you.

PPT: Slide 39

Before we begin, I'd like to take a moment to thank our final panel sponsors.

As before, please hold your applause AEP Texas

- Conservative Texans for Energy Innovation
- Golden Spread Electric Cooperative
- Permian Basin Petroleum Association
- AEP Texas

Our next set of panelists are on the frontlines of energy issues, as is our next moderator, State Representative Drew Darby.

PPT: Slide 40

**Darby Bio:** Drew Darby was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2006 to serve the people of House District 72. Drew is a lifelong West Texan, a native of San Angelo, and attended San Angelo public schools. Representative Darby graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Finance and minoring in Accounting. He earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas in 1971 and is a graduate of the Emerging Political Leaders Program at the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia. Drew currently serves as a member of the House Committee on Energy Resources and the House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures. In previous sessions, Representative Darby has served as a member of the Legislative Budget Board, the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee, chairman of the House Committee on Redistricting, and as a subcommittee chairman for the House Committee on Appropriations.

A successful businessman, Drew is the owner of Surety Title with offices throughout West Texas, and Of Counsel to the Energy and Real Estate practice group at the law firm of Jackson Walker, LLP. He is a member of the Texas Farm Bureau, the National Rifle Association, and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser's Association.



Drew's past leadership positions have been as a former member of the San Angelo City Council, former Chairman of the San Angelo Water Advisory Board, and former Chairman of the Lake Nasworthy Advisory Board.

Drew and his wife, Clarisa, have five children and nine grandchildren. They are members of the First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo.

Please welcome to the stage our moderator, State Representative Drew Darby for our next panel discussion- **Energy: Management, Consumption and Change.**

PPT: Slide 41

1:45-3:15 p.m. Panel 4- Energy: Management, Consumption and Change

**Moderator: Representative Drew Darby**

- Congressman Kevin Brady
- Congressman Michael Burgess
- Congressman Dan Crenshaw
- Congressman Randy Weber
- Representative Tom Craddick
- Commissioner Jim Wright
- Mr. Karr Ingham

3:15 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:** *goes to the podium, to thank panelist.*

Thank you, **Representative Darby** for another great discussion on energy.

PPT: Slide 42

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. **Mr. Plymell:** *Closing Remarks*

It is now my great pleasure to ask our honorary co-hosts and final speakers of the day to give some closing remarks. Let's welcome again United States Congressman August Pfluger, Texas State Senator Charles Perry and Texas State Representative Drew Darby.

PPT: Slide 43

3:15- 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks- Congressman Pfluger, Sen. Perry and Rep. Darby

3:30 p.m. Adjournment by Chamber President, **Walt Koenig**

PPT: Slide 44

**Mr. Koenig:** Thank you all for attending our 17<sup>th</sup> annual West Texas Legislative Summit. Our thanks to the Summit Planning Committee, our Chamber staff and sponsors, all of whom contributed greatly to the organization of this event.

Thank you to Angelo State University, and to Mr. Shane Plymell for being the emcee of today's program. We appreciate your commitment to be here today. I especially want to thank our elected officials, our panelists and our keynote speaker. You did a tremendous job, but more importantly, we appreciate the work you are doing for Texas at the state capitol and also in Washington D.C.

I've been asked to remind the County Judges and Commissioners who would like to obtain CEU credit to make sure you have signed and filled out all of the proper paperwork at the registration desk and turn it in before you leave.

See ??? at the Howard County table in the foyer. We want to thank our educational partner Howard College for helping us obtain the credits for the Commissioners, and to the Texas Association of Counties for guiding us through the process.

You may recycle your name badges in the boxes you see on the way out.

We appreciate each of you for being here today and look forward to seeing you at our West Texas Legislative Summit in 2022.

PPT: Slide 45

**THE END**