

## SUMMIT SPEAKERS



**The Honorable  
Laura Kelly**  
Governor of Kansas



**Calvin Reed**  
Secretary, KS Dept.  
of Transportation



**Mayor Mason Ruder**  
City of Hays



**Julie Lorenz**  
Principal Consultant,  
1898 & Co.



**Shawn Wesner**  
Executive Director,  
Kansas Infrastructure  
Hub



**Matt Unruh**  
Assistant Director,  
Kansas Water Office



**Deb Ohlde**  
Executive Director, North  
Central Regional Planning  
Commission



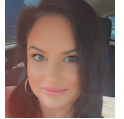
**Kent Glasscock**  
Executive Director, Flint  
Hills Regional Council



**Wendi Stark**  
Legislative Liaison,  
League of Kansas  
Municipalities



**Eric Sheets**  
Environmental Director,  
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas



**Andrea Sibley**  
City Administrator, City  
of Caney



**Brandon Bowman**  
State Program Director,  
Oklahoma Rural Water  
District



**Jennifer Bumgarner**  
Hub TA Provider,  
Southeast Region



**Phyllis Wahahrockah-  
Tasi**  
Hub TA Provider, Great  
Plains Region/Tribal  
Governments



**Shannon Praete**  
Hub TA Provider,  
Northwest Region

## Annual KS Infrastructure Hub Summit

# 2026

Date: **Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Location: **Hilton Garden Inn | Hays, Kansas**



## SUMMIT AGENDA

**8:00 - 9:00**

### Check-In

**Regional TA Meet & Greet (optional):** Participants can meet one-on-one with their regional Technical Assistance (TA) Providers to discuss current projects, needs, and questions in a smaller setting before the Summit officially begins.

**Hub TA Providers**

**9:00 - 9:10**

### Welcome Governor Laura Kelly

**9:10 - 9:15**

### Welcome To Hays Mayor Mason Ruder, *City of Hays*

Wi-Fi Network: Hilton Honors Meeting  
Password: meetbasic

**9:15 - 9:25**

**The State of the Hub & Charting the Day Ahead:** This session highlights what participants can expect, the goals for the day, and how communities across Kansas are using the Hub to expand project capacity and strengthen partnerships.

**Shawn Wesner, Hub Executive Director**

**9:25 - 9:35**

**Retrospections:** This session will reflect on the evolution of the Hub, from its early development to the role it plays today in supporting communities across the state. Participants will hear about key milestones, lessons learned, and how insights from communities are helping shape the Hub's future.

**Calvin Reed, KDOT Secretary**

**9:35 - 9:50**

**Small Town, Big Results: How Caney Leverages the Hub to Succeed:** Hear how the City of Caney turned limited staff capacity into real infrastructure progress. Participants will learn practical strategies, success stories, and ways to use the Hub to strengthen project readiness and pursue new funding opportunities.

**Andrea Sibley, Caney City Administrator**

**9:50 - 10:40**

**What We're Seeing Across Kansas: Trends & Opportunities:** Hub Steering Committee, Regional Development Organization, and community leaders share insights from communities across the state. This session highlights emerging trends, common challenges, and opportunities for expanding project pipelines, partnerships, and funding strategies.

**Moderated Panel with Hub Steering Committee, Regional Development Organizations, and City Administrators**

**10:40 - 11:00**

**The Case for Regional Partnerships:** Infrastructure challenges rarely stop at city limits. This session explores why regional collaboration is essential, how partnerships can stretch resources and overcome staffing constraints, and why collaborative approaches can accelerate project readiness across communities.

**Julie Lorenz, Principal Consultant, 1898 & Co.**

**11:00 - 11:15**

**Break**

**11:15 - 12:30**

**Regional Collaboration Labs:** Communities across Kansas are exploring new ways to work together to tackle infrastructure challenges and move more projects forward. In this interactive breakout session, participants will meet within their regional groups to discuss infrastructure needs and opportunities across their area. Discussions will focus on identifying projects in the pipeline, exploring where projects often stall between concept and construction, and examining opportunities for regional collaboration or project bundling that could help communities overcome staffing, funding, or technical capacity barriers. Participants will also discuss ways to strengthen project readiness and identify potential regional priorities.

**Facilitated Discussion by Regional Development Organizations & Hub Technical Assistance (TA) Providers**

**12:30 - 1:15**

**Lunch Break**

**1:15 - 1:45**

**How Oklahoma Accelerates Water Infrastructure Projects:** Summit participants requested the opportunity to hear from Oklahoma's Funding Agency Coordinating Team (FACT). This session highlights how coordinated federal and state funding partners help communities navigate funding programs and accelerate water and wastewater projects.

**Brandon Bowman, State Programs Director, Oklahoma Rural Water District**

**1:45 - 2:15**

**PRE-AWARD: When is an application prepped for success?** Securing funding starts long before applications are submitted. This session explores key steps to prepare projects for competitive funding opportunities and how to position them for success.

**Jennifer Bumgarner, Hub TA Provider, Southeast Region**

**2:15 - 2:45**

**POST-AWARD: Managing Infrastructure Grants Successfully:** Winning a grant is only the beginning. Learn best practices for administering awarded funding, meeting reporting and compliance requirements, and keeping projects on track from award to completion.

**Shannon Praete, Hub TA Provider, Northwest Region, and Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, Hub TA Provider, Great Plains Region/Tribal Governments**

**2:45 - 3:00**

**Final Thoughts & Next Steps:** Wrap-up session summarizing key takeaways, insights from the day, and how participant input will shape upcoming regional workshops and ongoing Hub support.

**Shawn Wesner, Hub Executive Director**