

IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN ARIZONA: A FRESH PERSPECTIVE



**WRRRC
CONFERENCE
2017**



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



**AGRIBUSINESS
& WATER
COUNCIL
OF ARIZONA**



BKW - Farming in Arizona since 1939

Agenda

7:30 – 8:00 am

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 – 8:15 am

WELCOME ADDRESSES

- Sharon B. Megdal, *Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona (UA)*
- Shane Burgess, *Vice President, Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, and Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UA*

8:15 – 9:20 am

LEADERSHIP TO GET TO SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Movie: *Groundwater: to enact a law for the common good*

Panel Discussion, led by Kathy Ferris, *Senior Fellow, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State University (ASU)*

- Mark Killian, *Director, Arizona Department of Agriculture*
- Ron Rayner, *3rd Generation Farmer and Partner, A-Tumbling-T Ranches, and Board of Directors, Family Farm Alliance*
- John Sullivan, *Deputy General Manager, Salt River Project (Retired)*

9:20 – 9:40 am

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION VS. EFFICIENCY

Keynote, Noel Gollehon, Senior Economist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

9:40 – 9:55 am

BREAK

9:55 – 10:55 am

WHOLE FARM MANAGEMENT FOR EFFICIENT WATER USE

Panel Discussion, Wade Noble, *Coordinator, Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition - Moderator*

- Ramona and Terry Button, *Ramona Farms*
- Arnott Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer, Duncan Family Farms*
- Paul Brown, *Associate Director, Arizona Cooperative Extension, UA*

10:55 am – 12:00 pm

IS FOLLOWING THE ANSWER TO WATER SUSTAINABILITY?

Panel Discussion, Amelia Flores, *Tribal Secretary, Colorado River Indian Tribes - Moderator*

- David Bradshaw, *Assistant Water Manager, Agriculture Water Management, Imperial Irrigation District*
- Meghan C. Scott, Esq., *Attorney, BARD Water District*
- Jack Seiler, *Trustee, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and farmer*
- Dan Keppen, *Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance*

12:00 – 1:10 pm

LUNCHEON AND CELEBRATION OF TUCSON'S DESIGNATION AS A UNESCO CITY OF GASTRONOMY

Introduction: Karen Dotson, *Manager, Organic Farming Program, BKW Farms*

- Jonathan Mabry, *Historic Preservation Officer & Archaeologist, City of Tucson*

1:10 – 1:55 pm

POSTER PRESENTATIONS, DESSERT

1:55 – 2:15 pm

ROLE OF THE NRCS IN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN ARIZONA

Keynote, Keisha Tatem, Arizona State Conservationist, NRCS, USDA

2:15 – 3:15 pm

PLANNING FOR CENTRAL ARIZONA'S LOOMING AGRICULTURAL WATER SHORTAGE

Panel Discussion, Katosha Nakai, Manager, Stakeholder Relations & Strategic Development Central Arizona Project - Moderator

- Jason Hauter, *Senior Counsel, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Brian Betcher, *General Manager, Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District*
- Dan Thelander, *Partner, Tempe Farming Company*

3:15 – 3:30 pm

BREAK

3:30 – 4:50 pm

AGRICULTURAL WATER CHALLENGES OUTSIDE OF CENTRAL ARIZONA

Keynote, Clint Chandler, Assistant Director, Water Planning and Permitting Division, Arizona Department of Water Resources

Panel Discussion, Joe Sigg, Chief Administrative Officer, Arizona Farm Bureau - Moderator

- John Hart, *Vice President, Cochise County Farm Bureau, and Farmer*
- Doug Dunham, *Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Water Resources*
- Richard Searle, *Cochise County Pistachio Grower, and Rancher*
- Mark Clark, *Manager, Mohave Valley Irrigation District, and Bullhead City Councilman*

4:50 – 5:20 pm

CLOSING REMARKS: WHERE WE ARE HEADED: WHAT CAN ARIZONA AGRICULTURE DELIVER IN THE FUTURE?

Panel Discussion, Sharon B. Megdal, Director, Water Resources Research Center, UA - Moderator

- Kevin Rogers, *State President, Arizona Farm Bureau, and Farmer*
- Jeff Silvertooth, *Associate Dean, and Director of Extension & Economic Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UA*
- Tom Davis, *President, Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona, and Manager, Yuma County Water Users' Association*

5:20 – 5:30 pm

POSTER PRIZES

- Claire L. Zucker, *Program Director, Water, Environmental, and Energy Solutions (WEES) Initiative*
- John Kmiec, *President, Southern Arizona Water Users Association, and Utilities Director, Town of Marana*

CLOSING COMMENTS

- Jean E. McLain, *Associate Director, Water Resources Research Center, UA*