

# INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE WATER PRACTICES

Water Resources Research Center Annual Conference  
Hosted in Partnership with the Gila River Indian Community



wrrc.arizona.edu

June 9-10, 2015  
Wild Horse Pass  
Hotel And Casino  
Chandler, AZ



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
College of Agriculture  
& Life Sciences  
Cooperative Extension



## Agenda

### Tuesday, June 9 – 11:30 am to 5:30 pm

11:30-12:30 Registration and Light Luncheon

12:30-1:00 Opening Remarks

**Sharon Megdal**, Director, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center  
**Shane Burgess**, Vice President, University of Arizona / Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
**Stephen Lewis**, Governor, Gila River Indian Community

#### Traditional Prayer and Blessing

**Robert Stone**, District Five Council Representative; Gila River Indian Community

1:00-1:45 **Keynote Speaker: John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund**  
Arizona water issues from a tribal perspective

1:45-3:00 **The Nature of Tribal Water Rights.** Tribal representatives will discuss the history and future of negotiating Native American water rights in Arizona.

**Moderator:** **Rod Lewis**, Gila River Indian Community

**Panelists:** **Margaret Vick**, Water Attorney (Havasupai and Colorado River Indian Tribes)  
**Robyn Interpreter**, Water Attorney (Yavapai-Apache Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe)  
**Jason Hauter**, Senior Counsel, Akin Gump  
**Katherine Ott Verburg**, Attorney, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Dept. of the Interior

3:00-3:20 Break

3:20-4:35 **Tribal Water Successes and Challenges.** Highlights of tribal water successes and challenges will be discussed by a panel of Arizona tribal water management leaders.

**Moderator:** **Dennis Patch**, Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes

**Panelists:** **Norm DeWeaver**, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.  
**Jason John**, Navajo Department of Water Resources  
**Cheryl Pailzote**, White Mountain Apache Department of Water Resources  
**Bucky Preston**, Hopi Water Issues Expert

4:35-4:55 **Tara Jackson, President, Arizona Town Hall**, Engaging in the Arizona Town Hall

4:55-5:30 **Keynote Speaker: Ofelia Zepeda, Professor of Linguistics, University of Arizona.** Native American poetry reading.

6:00-8:00 Evening Reception

## Wednesday, June 10 – 7:00 am to 5:30 pm

- 7:00-8:00**      **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00-8:10**      **Traditional Prayer and Blessing,**  
Tim Terry, Gila River Indian Community
- 8:10-8:30**      **Senator Carlyle Begay,** Arizona State Legislature, District 7
- 8:30-9:15**      **Spiritual and Ceremonial Views of Water.** Panelists will reflect on how tribes relate to water in songs and offerings, and how water is respected in indigenous communities.  
**Speakers:**      **Herman T.J. Laffoon,** Colorado River Indian Tribes  
                         **Vincent Randall,** Yavapai Apache Tribe
- 9:15-10:00**      **Keynote Speaker: David DeJong, Director of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project and author of “Forced to Abandon our Fields, the Agricultural History of the Gila River Indian Community”**  
An Indigenous History of Agriculture at Gila River: A Look to the Past.
- 10:00-10:20**      **Break**
- 10:20-11:35**      **Tribal Riparian Restoration In Arizona.** Arizona tribes have a long history of restoring native riparian areas. Tribal representatives will discuss current efforts in riparian restoration.  
**Moderator:**      **Delia Carlyle,** Vice-Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community Council  
**Panelists:**      **Pete Bungart,** Hualapai Tribe  
                         **Charles Enos,** Department of Environmental Quality, Gila River Indian Community  
                         **Paul J. Buck,** San Carlos Apache Tribe
- 11:35-1:15**      **Luncheon, Recognizing 10th Anniversary of Arizona Water Settlements Act, Public Law 108-451**
- 1:15-2:30**      **Arizona Groundwater, A Precious Resource.** Tribal water professionals will discuss management decisions related to groundwater, diversifying water portfolios with groundwater recharge.  
**Moderator:**      **Karletta Chief,** University of Arizona  
**Panelists:**      **Nicole Horseherder,** Navajo Activist and To’ Nizhoni Ani’  
                         **Ardeth Barnhart,** Director, UA Renewable Energy Network  
                         **Alex Cabillo,** Hualapai Water Resources Department
- 2:30-3:30**      **The Next Generation of Tribal Water Use: Our Youth Represent the Future.** Panelists will discuss current tribal programs developed to engage youth in traditional agricultural practices.  
**Moderator:**      **Karen Francis Begay,** University of Arizona  
**Panelists:**      **Janene Yazzie,** Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association  
                         **Stetson Mendoza,** Gila River Indian Community  
                         **Clifford Pablo,** Tohono O’odham Community College
- 3:30-3:45**      **Break**
- 3:45-4:30**      **Keynote Speaker: Harry Walters, Navajo Historian.** Water Culture of Indigenous Communities in the Arid Southwest: A Look Forward
- 4:30-5:15**      **Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future.** Panelists will discuss how past lessons can be applied to successfully manage water supplies within and beyond Arizona.  
**Moderator:**      **Katosha Nakai,** Central Arizona Project  
**Panelists:**      **Rod Lewis,** Gila River Indian Community  
                         **Ann Marie Chischilly,** Northern Arizona University  
                         **Tony Skrelunas,** Grand Canyon Trust
- 5:15-5:30**      **Closing Comments, Traditional Prayer and Blessing**  
**Barnaby Lewis,** Gila River Indian Community