

Oregon Water Resources Congress

2020 Annual Conference

Virtual Event

DRAFT Agenda

Times and topics subject to change

Monday, November 30

1:00-4:00 **Small Hydro Workshop** – Presented by Northwest Hydroelectric Association
No cost, separate registration required. See NWA workshop [agenda](#) for details.

Tuesday, December 1

1:00 **Welcome – OWRC President Brent Stevenson**

1:20 **Message from U.S Senator Jeff Merkley**

1:35 **Lessons Learned from Reservoir Expansion Project**
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District

2:15 **Current and Future WaterSMART Funding Opportunities**
Leah Meeks, Regional Water Conservation Program Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

2:50 **Key 2020 Federal Activities and Perspectives on 2021**
Moderator: Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District
Peter Carlson, Will & Carlson
Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance
Ian Lyle, National Water Resources Association (NWRA)

Wednesday, December 2

9:00 **Water Supply and Snowpack Outlook for 2021**
Speakers TBD

9:45 **Message from U.S Congressman Greg Walden**

9:55 **Agricultural Channel Maintenance Program, Key Budget & Legislative Concepts**
Stephanie Page, Oregon Department of Agriculture

10:35 **DEQ's Integrated Report, Key Budget & Legislative Concepts, & Other Water Quality Program Updates**
Justin Green, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

11:15 **Bureau of Reclamation Regional Update**
Lorri Gray, Director, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Interior Region 9, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Noon **Break for Lunch**
Optional Office Staff Breakout Session

1:05 **Essential Salmonoid Habitat, 404 Assumption, Removal-Fill, and Other Updates from the Oregon Department of State Lands**
Bill Ryan, Deputy Director, Department of State Lands

- 1:45 **Oregon Water Resources Department Budget & Legislative Update**
Tom Byler, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department (invited)
- 2:20 **Update from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Budget, Legislative, and Instream Water Right Applications**
Curt Melcher, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 3:00 **SDAO Best Practices for District Board Members & District Managers**
Tips for Reducing Risk and Other Best Management Practices & Understanding Recent Changes to Laws and Rules Affecting Districts
Special Districts Association of Oregon

Thursday, December 3

- 9:00-11:00 **Annual Membership Meeting – OWRC Members Only, RSVP Required**
Board Elections
President's Report
Budget Overview
State of the Organization Report
Presentation of SDAO-SDIS Safety Award
- 11:20 **OWEB Funding Opportunities and Water Vision Next Steps**
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Noon *Break for Lunch*
- 1:05 **Message from U.S Congressman-Elect Cliff Bentz**
- 1:20 **Legal Update: Recent Cases and Decisions Impacting Irrigation Agriculture Legal Update**
Stoel Rives, LLP
- 2:00 **Managing and Recovering from Catastrophic Events**
2020 Wildfires and Floods Slideshow and Discussion
Speakers TBD
- 3:00-4:30 **Federal Affairs Committee Meeting**
Develop and Discuss 2021 Federal Program Priorities
Open to all members, registration required.

OWRC's 2020 Annual Conference is an educational event in partnership with the Special Districts Association of Oregon and the Special Districts Insurance Services