



Oregon Water Resources Congress **2024 Annual Conference**

Best Western Plus Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon

DRAFT Agenda

Monday, December 2

1:00-4:30 **Pre-Conference Workshop – Riverview Room (hotel building)**
Using GIS Technology to Improve District Water Management
Speakers TBD

4:00-6:00 Registration Check-in – *Atrium, Gorge Building*

Tuesday, December 3 – *All Events in Gorge Building unless noted*

7:15 Registration Check-in

8:00 **Welcome – OWRC President Craig DeHart, Middle Fork Irrigation District**

8:10 **Water Management and Infrastructure Challenges from Around the West**
Speakers TBD

8:50 **Cybersecurity Threats to Water Infrastructure**
TBD, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) (invited)

9:40 *Break – Trillium Room*

10:10 **Message from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden** (*Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee*)

10:15 **Oregon's Natural Resources Priorities & Agency Updates** (**invited*)
Geoff Huntington, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor Kotek's Natural Resources Policy Office
Brenda Bateman, Director, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
*Debbie Colbert, Director, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)**
*Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**
Ivan Gall, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Sarah O'Brien, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

11:50 **Message from U.S. Congresswoman Andrea Salinas** (*CD-6, House Agriculture Committee*)

12:00 **General Lunch** – *Gorge Room*

District Directors' Lunch – (*For District Board Members*) – *Shoreline Room*

Water Attorneys' Lunch – (*Open to Attorneys attending conference*) – *West Trillium*

Office Staff Lunch – (*Open to all district office staff*) – *Table in Gorge Room*

1:05 **Keynote Speaker: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**

1:45 **Investing in the Next Generation: Adopt a Farmer Program & Other Ag Education Efforts**
Mallory Phelan, Aglink of Oregon (invited)

2:20 **Perspectives from Cities & Municipal Drinking Water Providers on Shared Water Issues**
Michael Martin, League of Oregon Cities

2:55 *Break – Trillium Room*

- 3:15 **2024 Federal Activities & Perspectives on What to Expect in 2025**
Lane Dickson, OWRC Federal Lobbyist, The Ferguson Group
Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance
Greg Morrison, Executive Vice-President, National Water Resources Association (NWRA)
(invited)
- 4:10-5:10 **Federal Affairs Committee Meeting – Riverview Room (in hotel building)**
Join the FAC for an in-depth discussion of federal activities and help inform OWRC’s draft federal program priorities for 2025
- 5:00-7:00 **Exhibitor’s Reception – Trillium Room**
- 8:30-11:00 **OWRC Hospitality Suite – Riverside Suites #1 & #3**

Wednesday, December 4 – all meetings in Gorge Building unless noted

- 7:15 **OWRC Members Only Breakfast**
- 8:15 **Annual Membership Meeting – OWRC Members Only**
Includes Board Elections
- 9:30 *Break – Trillium Room*
- 9:50 **Message from U.S. Congresswoman Val Hoyle (CD-4, House Natural Resources Committee)**
- 9:55 **Upcoming U.S. Dept. of Energy Technical Assistance, Project Scoping Tools, & West-Wide Metrics for Irrigation Modernization Opportunities**
Jed Jorgenson, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- 10:45 **Instream Water Rights: Priorities, Process & Perspectives**
Speakers TBD
- 11:45 **Message from U.S. Congressman Cliff Bentz (CD-2, Chair of Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, & Fisheries; House Natural Resources Committee)**
- 12:00 **General Lunch**
- 1:05 **Message from U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, (Chair of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies)**
- 1:15 **Weather Predictions & Water Supply Outlook for 2025**
Andy Bryant, Service Hydrologist, NOAA National Weather Service
- 1:55 **Message from U.S. Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer (CD-5, House Agriculture Committee)**
- 2:00 **Recent Cases & Decisions Impacting Irrigated Agriculture**
Kirk Maag, Stoel Rives LLP
Marika Sitz, Jordan Ramis PC
- 2:50 *Break – Trillium Room*
- 3:15 **SDAO Best Practices for District Board Members & District Managers**
Understanding Claims Process, Tips for Reducing District Liability & Other Best Management Practices
Frank Stratton, Executive Director, Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO)
Mike Jacobs, Sr. Risk Management Consultant, SDAO; Other Speakers TBD
- 5:15 **Reception (with no-host bar) – Gorge Room**
- 6:15 **OWRC & Oregon Water Resources Foundation (OWRF) Dinner Banquet – Gorge Room**
Join us for our annual banquet dinner and program. The program will include OWRF 2024 scholarship recipients, silent auction, raffle prizes, awards, entertainment, & more!
- 9:00-11:30 **OWRC Hospitality Suite – Riverside Suites #1 & #3**