

**SYMPOSIUM
ON THE
SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN RESERVED WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS**

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017

5:00 – Early Registration
7:00 pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017

7:00 am Registration

8:00 am Western Water Law and Indian Reserved Water Rights: A Primer
Robert Anderson, Professor, University of Washington School of Law

9:00 am ***Introductory Remarks***

John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund
Tony Willardson, Executive Director, Western States Water Council

Invocation – by invitation

9:30 am **WELCOME**

Montana Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney
John Tubbs, Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources

10:00 am **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **NEGOTIATION OF INDIAN WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS: THE BASICS**

Gathering Background Information and the Role of Technicians in Negotiations

MODERATOR – Arne Wick, Compact Implementation Supervisor, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Rod Lewis, Consultant, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP

David Barfield, Chief Engineer, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Christopher Banet, Trust Resources & Protection Manager, Southwest Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs

12:30 pm **LUNCH** (on your own)

2:00 pm **Identifying Parties and Issues and How Negotiations Bind Larger Groups**

MODERATOR – Sue Noe, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Maria O'Brien, Attorney, Modrall Sperling

Temet Aguilar, Chairman, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians

Duane Mecham, Advisor, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior

3:30 pm **Break**

- 4:00 pm **THE ROLE OF GROUNDWATER IN SETTLEMENTS**
OVERVIEW AND MODERATOR – John Thorson, Federal Water Master, Lummi Decree
Faye Bergan, former Legal Counsel, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
Stanley Pollack, Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Nation Department of Justice
Ruth Thayer, Native American Affairs Adviser, Bureau of Reclamation
- 5:30 pm **Adjourn**
- 6:00 pm **RECEPTION**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017

- 8:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am **THE ADMINISTRATION'S SETTLEMENT POLICY**
Presentation
Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Pam Williams, Director, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:45 **Response Panel**
MODERATOR – Greg Ridgley, General Counsel, New Mexico Office of State Engineer
Norman Johnson, Natural Resources Division Director, Utah Attorney General's Office
Ryan Rusche, Tribal Attorney, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Vanessa L. Ray-Hodge, Attorney, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell
- 11:45 am **Administration Policy Q&A**
- 12:00 pm **LUNCH** (on your own)
- 1:30 pm **DESCRIPTION OF THE BLACKFEET NATION'S WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT**
MODERATOR – Susan Cottingham, Consultant, Western States Water Council
Ryan Smith, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Jay Weiner, Assistant Attorney General, Montana Office of the Attorney General
Samuel Gollis, Trial Attorney, Indian Resources Section, U.S. Department of Justice
John Chaffin, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior
- 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:15 pm **A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE BLACKFEET COMPACT**
Earl Old Person, Chief of the Blackfoot Nation
Joe McKay, Blackfoot Tribal Business Council Member
- 4:30 pm **Adjourn**
- 6:00 pm **DINNER AT GIANT SPRINGS STATE PARK (BLACKFEET SINGERS)**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

9:00 am **SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION: GETTING BILLS THROUGH CONGRESS**

Congressional Outlook for Indian Water Rights Settlements

Brandon Ashley, Sr. Policy Advisor, Senate Indian Affairs

Matthew Muirragui, Professional Staff, House Natural Resources Committee

Melanie Stansbury, Professional Staff, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Lane Dickson, Professional Staff, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

10:45 am **Break**

11:00 am **Response Panel**

MODERATOR – Heather Whiteman Runs Him, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Stephen Greetham, Senior Counsel, Chickasaw Nation

Ryan Smith, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Tracy Goodluck, Deputy Director, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office

12:15 am **WRAP-UP/SUMMARY**

Steve Moore, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

12:45 pm **Adjourn**