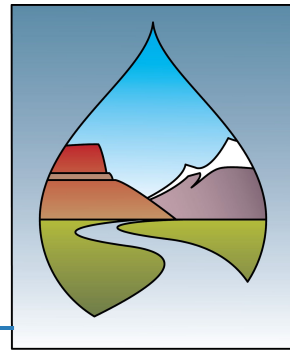


WESTERN STATES
WATER COUNCIL

WSWC Business Meeting Full Council

Washington, DC · Apr 23, 2026

Agenda · Apr 23, 2026

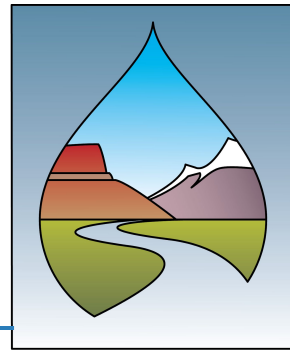


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- 9:00 am** **Welcome & Introductions** – Julie Cunningham, Chair & J.D. Strong
- 9:15 am** **Discussion: Administration & Congress** – J.D. & Michelle Bushman
- 11:00 am** **Committee Breakouts** – Committee Chairs
- 11:45 am** **Committee Reports** – Committee Chairs
- 12:00 pm** **Buffet Lunch @ Reservoir Center**
- 1:00 pm** **Discussion: Priorities for Activities, Webinars, Workshops & Task Groups** – J.D. & Michelle
- 2:00 pm** **Full Council Vote: New, Consolidated, & Sunsetting Positions** – J.D.
- 2:30 pm** **Executive Committee Meeting (closed)** – Chair Cunningham
- 4:30 pm** **Close/Adjourn** – Chair Cunningham

Welcome & Introductions

9:00–9:15 am | Cunningham & Strong

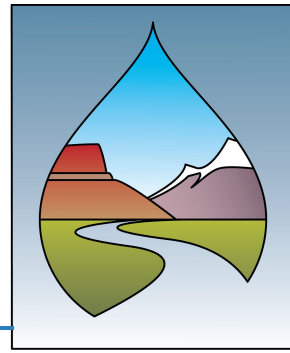


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- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Approval of San Pedro Minutes**
 - Joint Committee Meetings
 - Full Council Meeting
- **Staff Update**
 - Farm Bill letter 4/22; other policy letters
 - Searchable Legislation Update
 - Advocacy Brochure & Policy Webpage
 - Newsletter Changes

Discussion: Admin & Congress

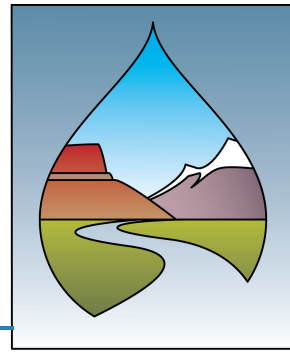
9:15–11:00 am | Strong & Bushman



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- **Takeaways from Hill Visits**
- **Takeaways from Data Center Meeting**
- **Takeaways from 4/22 Roundtable**
- **Advocacy & Collaboration Priorities for 2026**
- **Topics to address at 4/24 WestFAST Principals Meeting**

Hill Visits

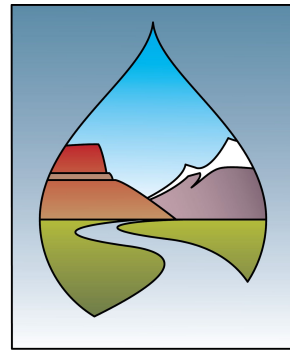


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- Farm Bill (\$1B cuts to EQIP–impacts West, Title II precision ag focus) (FSA prevent plant program – snow drought not a qualifying event this year)
- Future of Landsat (finding a federal home, commercial options)
- Colorado River (Senate caucus considering action; funding increase \$50M to \$100M)
- Data Center bill (WSWC potential to review language)
- Great Salt Lake (Maloy looking for Bear River support ID, WY, and NV, CO)
- S2S (encouraging NOAA to follow directive in approps report language)
- Don't count out Dems' ability to attach water project earmarks
- Indian Water Rights Settlements – \$20M/yr to work with

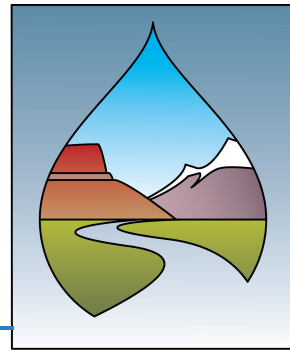
Data Center Meeting Highlights

- Data Centers consider an energy time horizon (5-15 years) for construction, but not a water supply time horizon (TX reality check: 15-30 years)
- Various reasons for lack of information sharing
 - Industry competition (NDAs, redacted details)
 - Outreach to local Economic Development Centers or city councils or landowners that omit water agencies and keep agreements confidential to reduce opportunities for opposition; focus on new jobs, tax base, available land; not water-energy resources
- Data center industry perceives public objections as fueled by well-funded misinformation about the impact of AI on jobs (data centers used for much more than AI)
 - Rural neighbors in water stressed areas worry about existing conservation requirements cutting even deeper when a local farmer sells their property + water rights to a data center company with the money to dig deeper wells.
- Data centers investing in substantial public infrastructure—including water treatment plants, transmission lines, and resilience projects—and some even purchase water rights to return to the public system



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Roundtable Takeaways



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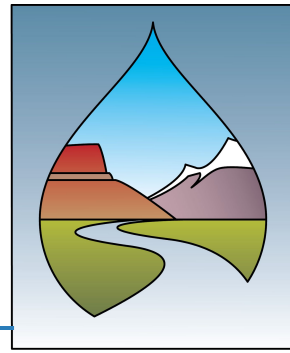
Administration (WPC):

- Flag WPC collaboration when meeting with multiple agencies
- Leveraging partnerships with states (training, priority projects/data needs, technical assistance)
- Data, infrastructure, MOUs, agency core competencies, right-sizing regs (303(d))

Congress:

- Big vehicles (Farm Bill Lite, America Great Outdoors Act, NDAA, Approps, IWR settlements)

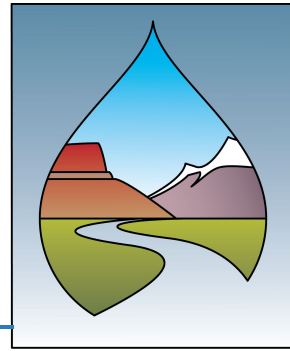
Advocacy & Collaboration Priorities for 2026



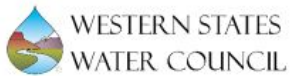
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- Data & Forecasting
- Infrastructure
- Indian Water Rights Settlements
- Farm Bill
- Drought
- Clean Water Act
- Energy & Water
- Good Sam
- Other

WestFAST Principals' Meeting Friday



WESTERN STATES
WATER COUNCIL



WestFAST Principals Meeting
Washington, DC • April 24, 2026

EPA Headquarters • Colorado/Mississippi Room

William Jefferson Clinton East
1201 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

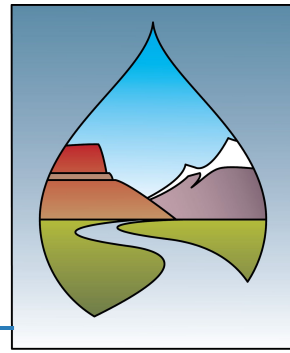
What do we want to follow up on?

Draft Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:10 am **Welcome and Introductions** – J.D. Strong, WSWC Executive Director
- 9:10 - 9:20 am **Brief Background on WestFAST** – Christopher Carlson, WestFAST Chair
- 9:20 - 9:25 am **Recent Collaborative State-Federal Work** – Michelle Bushman, WSWC Deputy Director & General Counsel
- 9:25 - 9:55 am **Improving State-Federal Collaboration on Water in the West** – State/Federal Discussion
- What are the primary challenges and obstacles to federal agency collaboration?
 - Where do federal agency policy priorities/pillars overlap related to water?
 - How does federal support/funding enhance state water-related priorities and where can we improve?
- 9:55 - 10:30 am **Opportunities for New Water-Related State-Federal and Federal-Federal Agency Collaboration** – State/Federal Discussion
- How can collaboration among federal agencies increase efficiency and effectiveness in supporting state efforts?
 - Are there specific opportunities where new state/federal engagement could address overlapping priorities?
 - How can we strengthen WestFAST to improve federal agency support to state water managers?
- 10:30 - 10:50 am **Followup Questions from Water Policy Committee Roundtable** – State/Federal Discussion
- 10:50 - 11:00 am **Next Steps for WestFAST and WSWC** – J.D. Strong
- 11:00 am **Adjournment**

Committee Breakouts

11:00–11:45 am | Committee Chairs

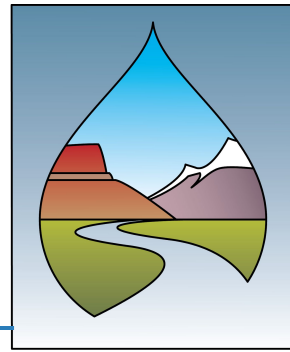


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- Review new policy format & workflow
- Review & discussion of sunseting & consolidated positions
- Review of any carryover workplan tasks & discussion priorities
- Recommendations for Full Council

Committee Reports

11:45 am–12:00 pm | Committee Chairs

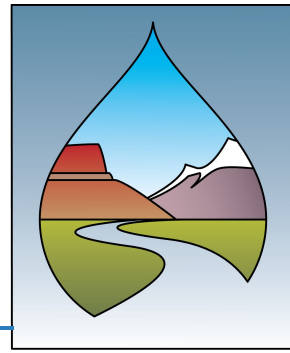


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- **Water Resources** – Ria Berns, Alt. Chair
- **Legal** – Chris Brown, Chair
- **Water Quality** – Jennifer Zygmunt, Chair

Priorities: Activities, Webinars, Workshops & Task Groups (slide 1 of 3)

1:00– 2:00 pm | Strong & Bushman

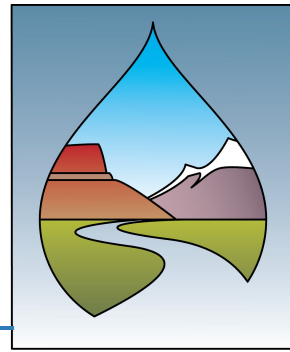


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- **Data Centers**
 - States Workshop on Data Centers (new laws, water reuse regs)
 - WestFAST webinars (DOE, Lincoln, other?)
 - Joining discussion w/sister organizations
 - Commenting on federal draft language (Rep. Bice)
- **WOTUS and Waters of the State (post-Sackett)**
 - States Workshop to share experiences, permitting, statutes
- **Indian Water Rights Settlements**
 - Hill visits (virtual/in person); advocacy with NARF

Priorities: Activities, Webinars, Workshops & Task Groups (slide 2 of 3)

1:00– 2:00 pm | Strong & Bushman

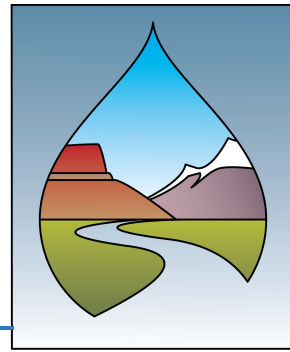


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- **Data & Forecasting**
 - USGS Streamgages
 - Data needs going up, funding going down
- **Infrastructure**
 - SRFs advocacy
 - hydropower, rural development
- **Water Reuse**
 - States Workshop/webinars on direct/indirect potable reuse (aquifer recharge, data centers)
- **Non-tribal Reserved Water Rights**
 - State-Federal Workshop on MOUs/cooperative relationships

Priorities: Activities, Webinars, Workshops & Task Groups (slide 3 of 3)

1:00– 2:00 pm | Strong & Bushman

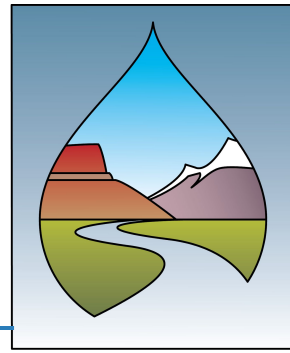


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- Farm Bill
- Drought
- Good Sam
- Strat Plan/Committee Workplan cleanup?
- Updating the WSWC Rules of Organization
- Other?

Policy Position Votes

2:00 – 2:30 pm | Committee Chairs

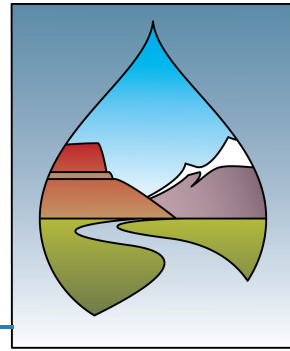


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- **Data Position** – Water Resources Committee
- **Infrastructure Position** – Water Resources Committee
- **Revised SRF Position** – Jennifer Zygmunt, WQ Cmte Chair
- **#490 Tribal WQS** – Jennifer Zygmunt, WQ Cmte Chair
- **#499 Fed Preemption** – Chris Brown, Legal Cmte Chair
- **#503 Fed Rules & Regs** – Chris Brown, Legal Cmte Chair

Executive Committee Meeting

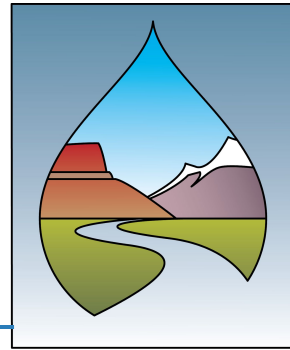
2:30 – 4:30 pm | Cunningham & Strong



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- **Director Performance & Contract Review** – Candace Hasenyager, Secretary-Treasurer
- **Budget Update** – Hasenyager & Strong
- **Strategic Plan Update** – Strong
- **WaDE/WestDAAT Update** – Strong
- **Meeting Rotation Schedule** – Strong & Bushman
- **DC Meeting Evaluation** – Strong & Bushman
- **Summer Meeting Topics** – Strong & Bushman

Budget Update



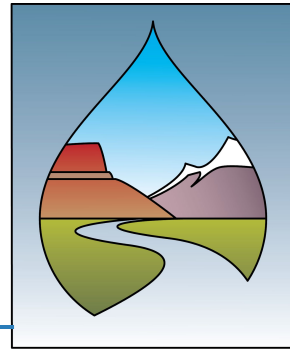
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WSWC FY2026 Financial Snapshot (Budget rev.1 vs Actual — thru Feb 28, 2026)							
	Percent Fiscal Year Passed:		66.67%				
Key totals (all funds)							
	Budget (Total)	Actual to date (Total)	% of annual budget	Remaining	Budget (WSWC)	Actual (WSWC)	Budget remaining (WSWC)
Member dues (assessments)	\$612,000.00	\$540,000.00	88.2%	\$72,000.00	\$612,000.00	\$540,000.00	\$72,000.00 *
Total income	\$751,255.68	\$590,518.21	78.6%	\$160,737.47	\$646,780.00	\$573,461.81	\$73,318.19 **
Total expenses	\$822,390.45	\$538,410.79	65.5%	\$283,979.66	\$677,845.45	\$432,641.61	\$245,203.84
Net (income - expenses)	-\$71,134.77	\$52,107.42			-\$31,065.45	\$140,820.20	
Expense spend by major category (thru Feb 28, 2026)							
Category	Budget (Total)	Actual to date (Total)	% annual budget used	Notes			
Personnel	\$497,514.45	\$334,962.66	67.3%				
Professional services	\$181,951.00	\$100,330.00	55.1%	Ex Director personnel expense shifted to contract expense in September 2025			
Meeting Expenses	\$40,000.00	\$34,616.47	86.5%	Most of April DC Meeting expenses already paid			
Travel Expenses	\$30,000.00	\$16,491.23	55.0%				
Office & facilities	\$22,000.00	\$16,193.42	73.6%	Storage unit closed; no longer paying rent as of March			
IT, data & digital	\$38,425.00	\$27,979.00	72.8%				
Publications & communications	\$6,500.00	\$5,828.01	89.7%	mostly early fiscal year expenses			
Contingency/other	\$6,000.00	\$2,010.00	33.5%	meeting registrations			
Uncategorized	\$0.00	\$0.00					
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$822,390.45	\$538,410.79	65.5%				
PTIF #555 Operating Reserve Snapshot (thru Feb 28, 2026)							
Reserve item	Amount (\$)	Coverage	Coverage	Notes			
Beginning balance (6/30/2025)	\$696,380.68			FY2025 year-end balance			
Transfers in FYTD	\$150,000.00			8/14/2025 transfer in			
Transfers out FYTD	-\$175,000.00			transfers out 10/8, 12/8, 1/8 and 3/4			
Interest earned FYTD	\$21,523.06			Interest reinvested in reserve fund, not other 2 PTIFs			
Ending balance	\$692,903.74			approx. the same as we started FY 2026			
Reserve target (12 mos WSWC expenses)	\$677,845.45			FY2026 non-WaDE expense budget rev. 1			
Above/(below) target	\$15,058.29	1.02x	12.3 mo				

* Remaining 2 states paid dues in March; all dues now collected for FY 2026

** \$49,919 received from Lincoln Institute WaDE grant in March

Strategic Plan Update



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 moved the Strategic Plan from design into execution. • Strongest progress: meeting redesign, policy and advocacy work, budget transparency, and the transitional data/tools track. • Biggest choices now are scope: what to prioritize, what to launch first, and what should wait. 	Q3 / Mid-Year Snapshot	
	67% Fiscal year elapsed	65% Total expense budget used
	64% WSWC-only budget used	\$692.9k Operating reserve balance
	\$15.1k Above reserve target	100% FY2026 dues collected by March

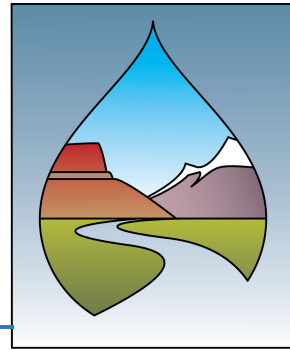
Goal-by-goal dashboard

Goal	Status	Q3 highlights	Next
G1 Meetings that matter	ON TRACK	DC Roundtable planning substantially completed: notices, registration, agenda design, outreach, and coordination with ICWP and WestFAST. Fall meeting path also advanced.	Use April feedback to shape the fall format.
G2 Engagement & workflow	DECISION POINT	Groundwork laid for task groups, standing-committee cleanup, and a more intentional workflow. April discussion is needed before launching too much at once.	Approve only the first 2-3 task groups.
G3 Policy with a punch	ON TRACK	CWA section 401 comments were submitted. Initial policy consolidation bundles and a clearer advocacy workflow were prepared for DC discussion.	Approve BLUF policy format and top priorities.
G4 Communications & access	PACED	Targeted progress was made on website repairs and resource-hub options, but major communications and onboarding work was intentionally not overbuilt in Q3.	Decide what is needed in Q4 versus later.
G5 Accountability & operations	ON TRACK	Mid-year budget revision work, clearer financial reporting, dues follow-up, and reserve monitoring all advanced. This dashboard is part of that improvement.	Endorse a simple quarterly reporting model.
T Data & tools transition	DECISION POINT	WaDE / WestDAAT / WestCAT reached a strategic decision phase. Q3 work focused on clarifying options, obligations, costs, and the path to member direction.	Confirm the path and communications.

On track = active progress within scope | Decision point = member direction needed | Paced = intentionally limited to protect capacity

Strategic Plan Update

Glimpse into staff's world!
(Tasks tied to Strategic Plan goals, date/completion tracking, etc.)



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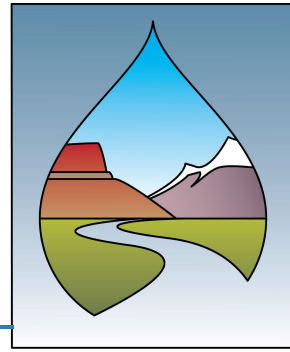
FY2026 3rd Quarter Task Log

Every task has an initiative tag and an owner. Status to be updated by owners by Monday, 3pm MT.

Goal legend: G1 = Meeting productivity & outcomes · G2 = Member engagement & networking · G3 = Policy & advocacy · G4 = Communications & knowledge sharing · G5 = Operations & finance · T = Transitional Data & Tools (Q1 only)

Goal	Rock	Task	Owner(s)	Due	Status	Priority	Ask/Blocker	Notes
G5	Operations: ExCom Mtg	Poll ExCom for best date in late Jan/early Feb and draft agenda	JG	1/16/2026	Done	High		Agenda: Data decision; budget reporting; mid-FY
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Confirm ICWP alignment points and co-led topics	JD, MB	1/24/2026	Done	Med	ICWP input	
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Tracking sheet for attendees & costs	JG	1/24/2026	Done	Med		
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Confirm registration platform; build registration page	JG	1/24/2026	Done	Med		Includes co-branding w/ ICWP
T	WaDE: Options Memo	Gather usage metrics and summarize state dependencies	RJ	1/24/2026	Done	High	Access to analytics	
G1	Meetings: Webinars	Plan follow-up workshop/webinar (Jan 2026) + site setup/registration	MB	1/26/2026	Done	Low	Align w/ ICWP	From seasonal list
G5	Operations: Budget	Prepare mid-FY budget revision proposal	JD	1/26/2026	Done	High		For ExCom decision
T	WaDE: Options Memo	Compile system inventory & confirm any remaining grant closeouts	RJ	1/26/2026	Done	High	Need legacy access; confirm state dependencies	From seasonal list (WaDE/WestDAAT/WestCAT)
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Draft agenda v1 (≥50% discussion blocks)	JD (MB review)	1/27/2026	Done	High	ICWP alignment on topics/slots	
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Registration fee approach (range + rationale)	JG	1/27/2026	Done	High	Coordinate with ICWP	
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Send invitations to WestFAST Principals, WestFAST Members	JG (MB review)	1/27/2026	Done	Low		
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Send invitations (Water Policy Committee, House/Senate Staff)	JG (MB review)	1/27/2026	Done	Low		
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Email/newsletter announcements (Jan & Mar)	EC	1/31/2026	Done	Med		Reference room block deadline Mar 19
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Update public WSWC meeting page	JG	1/31/2026	Done	Med		From seasonal list
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Hotel rooming list management	JG	2/1/2026	Done	Med		Room block deadline is March 19.
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Flights/hotel holds for MB, EC (JD done)	MB, EC	2/3/2026	Done	Low		Seasonal list
T	WaDE: Options Memo	Draft slide deck + concise memo with options, costs, risks, timelines, recommended path	JD	2/4/2026	Done	High	RJ metrics; MB legal notes	For ExCom special meeting
G1	Meetings: DC Roundtable	Add registration information to website	JG	2/6/2026	Done	High		
T	WaDE Data	Kansas water right / overlay update.	RJ	2/6/2026	Done	Low		
G5	Operations: Records	Plan storage unit clean-out (phase plan; safety first)	MB	2/10/2026	Done	Low		From seasonal list

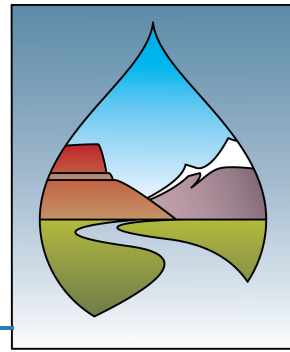
WaDE/WestDAAT Update



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- Lincoln Institute agreed to pay for 6-mo runway
- Need to execute Agreement and/or invoice
- Will revise webpage to caveat last update + note our lack of maintenance/monitoring

Meeting Rotation Schedule



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2026 WSWC Meetings

Spring	WSWC Meetings and DC Roundtable, Washington, D.C Xylem Reservoir Center for Water Solutions Washington, D.C. April 20-24, 2026
Summer	Held Virtually July 13-17, 2026 (TBD on timeslots)
Fall	New Mexico last held on 10/20/2017 in Albuquerque

2027 WSWC Meetings Projections

Spring	Oregon last held on 8/3/2018 in Newport
Summer	Held Virtually
Fall	Idaho last held on 10/26/2018 in Coeur d'Alene

2028 WSWC Meetings Projections

Spring	WSWC Meetings and DC Roundtable, Washington, D.C.
Summer	Held Virtually
Fall	Arizona last held on 3/22/2019 in Chandler

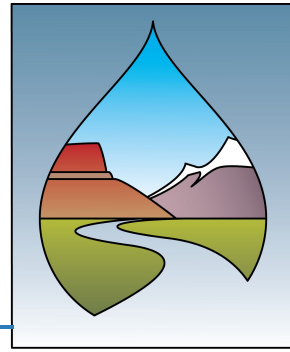
2029 WSWC Meetings Projections

Spring	State of Washington last held on 7/18/2019 in Leavenworth
Summer	Held Virtually
Fall	Colorado last held on 10/18/19 in Breckenridge

2026 Meeting Dates

- July 13–17 Summer Virtual Meetings
 - Business meetings on July 14–16
- Oct 21–23 Fall Meeting in Las Cruces, NM

DC Meeting Evaluation



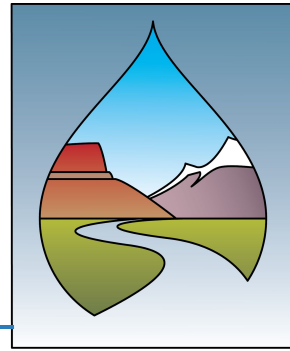
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What went well?

What can we improve?

Do you want to keep doing this?

Summer Meeting Agenda



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- Data & Forecasting
- Infrastructure
- Indian Water Rights Settlements
- Farm Bill
- Drought
- Clean Water Act
- Energy & Water
- Good Sam
- Other?

Questions?

