

Tuesday, July 25th

Co-Chairs:

Senator Jim Honeyford, Washington State Legislature

David Hill, Director, Centres and Institutes and Research Advocacy, University of Lethbridge

Rep. Cliff Bentz, Oregon; Chair, CSG West Legislative Council on River Governance

*PNWER Working group co-meeting with CSG-West Legislative Council on River Governance. Open to all participants

Water is essential to all life! It is economic. It is political. It brings out passion in people. Population growth, changing climate, increasing extreme weather events (storms, floods and droughts) and growing water scarcity are challenging our capacity to ensure that water does not become a limiting aspect of our future environmental, societal and economic prosperity.

Water also knows no political boundaries, albeit political jurisdictions within the same watersheds and basins often have differing institutional, legislative and regulatory processes that impact how water is managed – who gets to use water, when and for what purpose. Too often water continues to be taken for granted or solutions are viewed from a too narrow perspective. This year's Water Policy Group meetings will explore the opportunities that exist to begin to change the conversation around water – to build new collaborations that are focussed on workable solutions..

How are states, provinces and municipalities in the Pacific Northwest preparing for the extreme weather events, land use conflicts and threats to water supplies and water quality that are likely to result from global climate change? This session will feature researchers, legislators, municipal planners and other stakeholders who will discuss their efforts to prepare for an uncertain future. Discussion will focus on collaborative policy solutions to these challenges.

A panel of researchers from across the engineering/infrastructure, natural and social science and NGO areas where they can share findings and insights to point to the potential of collaborative solution finding.

- Environmental Review of Columbia River Systems Operations, Dave Kennedy, Executive Manager for Environmental Planning and Analysis, Bonneville Power Administration
- Kathie Dello, Associate Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, Oregon State Climate Office
- Laura Kilcrease, CEO, Alberta Innovates

2017 PNWER Annual Summit
Portland, OR
July 23-27

A panel of municipal planners and utility managers discussing water resiliency- heightened water risk management, be that storms, flooding, drought infrastructure deficits and sea-level rise.

- **Emily York**, Climate & Health Program Lead, Oregon Health Authority- Flooding, droughts, and access to clean water, and the effects on public health.
- **Michael Stuhr**, Director, Portland Water Bureau- seismic resilience of water systems
- **George Caan**, Director, Washington Public Utilities District Association- Alignment of state policies to provide access to safe and reliable water supplies for economic development in rural areas.

A panel of legislators from across the PNWER region exploring the challenges their jurisdictions are facing in water sustainability – for people, the environment and the economy. They will also explore how they are proposing to move forward and address these emerging challenges.

- **Senator Jim Honeyford**, Washington State Senator
- **Senator Michelle Stennett**, Idaho State Senator
- **Government of Alberta**

AFTERNOON SESSION

2:30-2:40: Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Oregon Representative Cliff Bentz, Chair, Legislative Council on River Governance

2:40-3:10: Update on Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion

In 2016, a federal court rejected much of the federal government's recovery plan for Columbia River salmon and steelhead and gave federal agencies until March 1, 2018 to submit a new plan that complies with federal environmental laws.

- **John Shurts**, General Counsel, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

3:10-3:50: Relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex

Oregon plans to reintroduce endangered fish upstream of the Hells Canyon Dam Complex on the Snake River. Under Oregon's draft Clean Water Act certification proposal, Idaho Power would be required to trap the fish above the dam and transport them for release downstream. Idaho has objected to this plan.

- **Senator Lee Heider**, Idaho
- **Greg Haller**, Conservation Director, Pacific Rivers (invited)

3:50-4:30: Obtaining and Financing New Water Rights in a Bucket-for-Bucket Era

- **J.R. Cook**, Northeast Oregon Water Association
- **Tom Byler**, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department

4:30-5:10: Creative Water Infrastructure Financing

America's infrastructure is aging, but repair or replacement is expensive. How can stakeholders at all levels--individual farmers, water districts and state and federal governments--work together to rethink water infrastructure and find new ways to pay for it?

- **Rhys Roth**, Director, Center for Sustainable Infrastructure at Evergreen State College