

The Montana Water Summit

At the Confluence of Land and Water

March 3-4, 2020

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial (2301 Colonial Drive, Helena)

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Monday, March 2

Welcome to Helena: Catch up with colleagues over hors d'oeuvres, no-host microbrew and a screening of the short video "Montana's Water Future."

5 – 8 p.m. **Welcome Reception** (optional) (Ten Mile Creek Brewing - 48 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena)

Tuesday, March 3

7:30 a.m. **Check-in** - **No same-day registration** (Main hotel lobby)

8:30 **Opening Remarks**

- *John Tubbs*, Director, DNRC
- *Andy Werk Jr.*, President, Fort Belknap Indian Community
- *MT Congressional delegation* (Senator Tester, Senator Daines, Representative Gianforte)

Welcome

- *Ann Schwend*, DNRC and Facilitator *Shawn Johnson*, Managing Director, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana

Water and Landscapes: Montana's shifting legacy of open space, land use trends, how water moves through landscapes and how seemingly unrelated land and water management decisions shape Montana's water future.

9:15 **The West and a Changing Legacy of Open Space** - *Chase Hibbard*, President, Sieben Live Stock Company. How Montana's legacy of open space and the mythology of Big Sky Country may give the wrong impression of the value and availability of Montana's lands and waters.

9:45 **Water** – *Eloise Kendy*, Director, Environmental Flows Program, The Nature Conservancy
Overview of Montana's water resources and how water moves through landscapes. What are the big picture impacts to water from varied land uses?

10:10 **Break** (Capitol/State Rooms)

10:30 **Landscapes** – *Megan Lawson*, Headwaters Economics
Overview of land conversion and development in Montana: history, trends, projections.

10:55 **Discussion and Q&A** – Discuss and prioritize questions for presenters with folks at your table, then display them for the room using Slido. Facilitator *Shawn Johnson*

11:45 **Break** (for Great Water Conversations lunch set-up)

12:00 **Great Water Conversations Lunch** A special topics lunch - all about water! **Instructions:** Cruise through the buffet line (in Capitol/State Rooms), then head to the table you selected in advance. Look for the numbered table that matches the number on your nametag. Tables are in Grand Ballroom, Capitol/State Rooms and Natatorium.

The Land Development Story: What decisions, policies and economics inform land development? How does land use influence water and ecosystems? How can we better consider water and ecosystems in land use planning?

1:30 **Land and People (Panel, Part I)**– What policies, personal decisions and economics guide land development and what policy gaps exist?
Introduction: Moderator *Jerry Grebenc*, Senior Planner and Certified Floodplain Manager, Great West Engineering

- *Cole Mannix*, Associate Director, Western Landowners Alliance
- *Developer*
- *Mike Inman*, Planning Director and Certified Floodplain Manager, Park County

2:45 **Break** (Capitol/State Rooms)

3:00 **Water and Ecosystems (Panel, Part II)**– How does land conversion impact water and other natural resources, especially when development occurs in the floodplain? Why is floodplain connectivity so critical for water storage and more?
Introduction: Moderator *Karin Boyd*, Professional Geologist, Applied Geomorphology, Inc.

- *Casey Ryan*, Hydrologist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- *Lindsey Albertson*, Assistant Professor of Ecology, Montana State University
- *Christine Sundnas*, Manager, Gallatin Local Water Quality District

4:15 **Keynote: Water and Land Management Challenges and Opportunities on Tribal lands –**
Loren BirdRattler, Project Manager, Blackfeet Agricultural Resource Management Plan & Endowed Chair, Native American Studies, Montana State University

Social: Heavy hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar and live music by Helena's Copper Queen.

5:00 **Drinks** (Hotel Bar/Natatorium)

6:00 **Food & Music by Copper Queen** (Natatorium)

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (Buffet) (Capitol/State Rooms)

8:15 **Welcome and Day One Highlights** – Facilitator *Shawn Johnson*, Managing Director, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana

8:25 **Opening Remarks** – *Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney*, Chair, Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee

Sector-Specific Solutions: Exploring sector-specific solutions, case studies and innovative tools.

- 8:40** **Keynote: Floodplains by Design – Innovation in Washington** – *Bob Carey*, Director of Strategic Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy, WA
- 9:15** **Montana Solutions Vignettes:** Short snapshots of local efforts to address land/water challenges
- Protecting Beaver and Restoring Wetlands: The Ksik Stakii Project – *Termaine Edmo*, Blackfeet Environmental Office
 - On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Challenges and Solutions - *Mike Koopal*, Whitefish Lake Institute
 - Healthy Soil, Healthy Watershed – *Dave Scott*, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
 - Urban Solutions: Low Impact Development – *Marisa Sowles*, Geum Environmental Consulting
- Discussion and Q&A** - Facilitator *Shawn Johnson*
- 10:30** **Break** (Capitol/State Rooms)
- 10:50** **Solutions Sessions** (concurrent)
- 1. Land Development and State/County Review** – Led by *Jerry Grebenc*, Great West Engineering and *Renee Lemon*, Fish Wildlife & Parks with *Kathy Olsen*, DNRC and *Ashley Kroon*, DEQ
Unpacking the interagency review process for certain developments: Is it comprehensive? What about water? Explore potential policy gaps as well as potential solutions.
 - 2. Irrigation Efficiency and Water Conservation in Montana** – Led by *Wyatt Cross* and *Whitney Lonsdale*, Montana Water Center
Understanding how irrigation efficiency and water conservation methods help meet watershed management objectives: Exploring the current Montana Water Consortium project.
 - 3. Forest Health and Municipal Water** – Led by *John Hagenruber*, U.S. Forest Service with *Bill Avey*, USFS, *Sonya Germann*, DNRC and *Brad Langsather*, City of Helena
Lessons learned from a collaborative forest management effort to enhance municipal watershed resilience.
- 12:20** **Lunch** (Capitol/State Rooms)
- 1:30** **Solutions Sessions** (concurrent)
- 4. Engaging Atypical Partners in Watershed Work** – Led by *Ethan Kunard*, Montana Watershed Coordination Council
Bridging the divide between land and water resource planning requires innovative partnerships. How do we initiate these unique partnerships, and how can they lead to more effective watershed conservation implementation?
 - 5. The Future of Floodplains: From Risk Reduction to Resilience** – Led by *Nathan Korb*, The Nature Conservancy with *Bob Carey*, TNC, *Traci Sears*, DNRC and *Gayla Wortman*, Cascade Conservation District
Transferring lessons-learned from Washington’s Floodplains by Design Program into a Montana context.
 - 6. Integrating Water into Local Land Use Planning** – Led by *Erin Rugland* and *Zach Sugg*, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy with *Carl Hamming*, Powell County and *Nate Weisenburger*, AE2S
Transferring lessons-learned from Southwestern states into a Montana context.
- 3:00** **Real-Time Wrap-up and Deliverables** (Grand Ballroom) Join *Sarah Bates*, Regional Deputy Director, National Wildlife Federation and *Shawn Johnson* for parting thoughts.