



2010 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference
The 21st Century – 10 Years In
March 4-5, 2010

GENERAL SESSION – FINAL DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, March 4

7:30 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2

Welcome – Opening Comments
Patrick O’Toole, President

8:20 – 10:00 a.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2

The Energy-Water Nexus. With growing awareness of climate change and an increased emphasis on alternative energy development, there are opportunities and risks throughout the West as managers and policy makers seek to balance energy and water supplies with demands. Hear from three experts on innovative solutions and big-picture implications: Gary Esslinger (Elephant Butte Irrigation District, New Mexico); Dave Stewart (Produced Water Development, LLC, Colorado); and Shaun McKinnon (Environment and Water Reporter, *Arizona Republic* - invited)

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

The Unstable Economy and Impacts to State Water Resources Programs. Although some states have used federal stimulus grants to offset revenue shortages, others are slashing budgets—sometimes in the middle of the fiscal year—to close deficits. Valuable services that help Western irrigators are being frozen or even cut as demand increases and jobs vanish. Listen to leaders from three Western states discuss the effects of unstable revenue systems on water resources programs: Michael E. Anable, Natural Resource Policy Advisor Office of Arizona Governor Janice Brewer (invited); Jennifer Gimbel, Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board; Suzanne Knapp, Natural Resources Advisor to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski.

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Ballrooms 3 & 4

Luncheon / Update on Alliance Initiatives. Dan Keppen, Executive Director

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Break



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GENERAL SESSION

Thursday, March 4
(Continued)

- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **The Environmental Litigation Gravy Train.** The federal government spends about as much money funding environmental lawyers as it does to directly protect endangered species. That startling conclusion can be drawn from an investigation into how many federal dollars are ending up in the pockets of environmental groups' attorneys. Karen Budd-Falen (Budd-Falen Law Offices, Cheyenne, Wyoming).
- 1:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2 **Inside Washington – A Look at DC from The Hill**
Joe Raeder of The Ferguson Group (Washington, D.C.) will moderate this annual conference tradition, which features staff from key congressional water committees.
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 – 4:15 p.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2 **New Partnerships in the Western Water World.**
Western irrigators are finding new ways of doing business and are seeking new partners to get that business done. Hear from three water leaders who are working with farmers and ranchers to improve decision-making, stay in business, and benefit the environment. Mark Deutschman (Houston Engineering, Inc., Minnesota); Joe Whitworth (The Freshwater Trust, Oregon); Scott Yates (Trout Unlimited, Wyoming).
- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2 **Update on Alliance Information Quality Act Lawsuit and Other Bay-Delta Litigation and Policy Matters.** In California, where half a million acres of productive farmland were fallowed due to government decisions and drought last year, numerous efforts are underway to push for honest science, provide transparency, and deal with scientific uncertainty in water resources decision-making. Brenda Davis (Davis Law Firm, Sacramento, California) will discuss the first lawsuit ever filed by the Family Farm Alliance, and Jon Rubin (Law Firm of Diepenbrock Harrison, Sacramento) will summarize litigation and policy developments that have implications for California and the West.
- 5:15 – 5:30 p.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2 **Alliance Annual Meeting**
- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Ballrooms 4 & 5 **Reception**



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GENERAL SESSION

Friday, March 5

7:15 a.m.
Ballrooms 1 & 2

Registration Desk Open

7:45 – 9:15 a.m.

Green Political Power - How Did Their Garden Grow? A diverse and influential panel of Western water experts will investigate the legal, political and historic aspects behind the conservation community's rise to power in the last four decades. Our distinguished panelists include: Justice Greg Hobbs (Colorado Supreme Court); Bill Kahrl (California author and public relations consultant); and Dr. Don Pisani (Merrick Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma).

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

The View from the Obama Interior Department. John Tubbs (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.) will present, with emphasis placed on Interior's water conservation initiative that will be rolled out in February.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 11:45 p.m.

Reclamation Roundtable. The Commissioner of Reclamation and the five regional directors of Reclamation will discuss hot Western water issues in this time-honored Alliance conference tradition. Panelists include Michael Connor (Commissioner of Reclamation) and Regional Directors Larry Walkoviak (Upper Colorado River Region), Lorri Gray (Lower Colorado River Region), Bill McDonald (Pacific Northwest Region), Don Glaser (Mid-Pacific Region) and Mike Ryan (Great Plains Region). Introduction: Patrick O'Toole, President, Family Farm Alliance

11:45 – 12:00 p.m.

Award Presentation, Closing Comments and Adjournment
Patrick O'Toole, President