



## PRESIDENT’S NOTES:

Jason McCormick, McCormick Water Strategies, AWRA-WA Section President



As the incoming AWRA-WA President, it is my pleasure to support our continued mission of providing the quality water resources professional experience you have come to expect from this organization of distinguished professionals. In 2018 and beyond, our goal is to

serve as your gateway to improve your water resources knowledge base in a field where so much is changing, and yet so many challenges remain unchanged. On behalf of the 2018 Board of Directors, I eagerly welcome your input, ideas, and participation to provide quality information sharing and networking across water resource disciplines.

2017 and 2018 have been whirlwind periods in water resources in Washington State. Media headlines have literally been swirling in water, with the Washington State Legislature working overtime to acknowledge and address the scale of rural domestic water supply challenges. As such, the 2017-2019 Capital Budget became the focal point of this contentious rural water supply issue, and the State was without a Capital Budget beyond the end of session for the first time in modern history. Almost a year later, state entities received a Capital Budget and the water resources community received a new section of water code. Leave it to water rights to do historic things.

The 2018 AWRA-WA Annual Conference, hosted every year since 1981, will dive headfirst into these

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water issues. This year’s Conference Planning Committee began work in early December 2017, has reached out and engaged our membership, and has settled on a title, theme and location based on your input. This year’s conference title is, “**Hirst, Foster, Boldt, and Beyond: A New Era of Water Management?**.” The conference will be held as The Mountaineers in Seattle on October 16<sup>th</sup> (Page 3).

In other news, AWRA-WA is continuing to work towards its’ other goals of:

- Inspiring students and young professionals to enter the field through **supporting AWRA Student Chapters**.
- Hosting informative and engaging **Monthly Dinner Meetings**.
- An exciting new effort to support students and young professionals through the **AWRA Mentoring Program**.

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## SAVE THE DATE: WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL AND APRIL/MAY DINNER MEETINGS

Please Join AWRA-WA in Partnership with Washington Water Trust on April 18 for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival Trust at the Egyptian Downtown Seattle Theatre. There will be an April 24 or 25 dinner meeting on the topic of the 2018 Legislative Update, and a

hydrology presentation by Jenny Saltonstall likely on May 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>, though these events are still listed as “tentative”. For more information all of AWRA-WA’s upcoming events, go to <http://waawra.org>

(Continued from page 1)

AWRA-WA supports student chapters each year with monetary funding, and in 2018 will be increasing funding for annual Student Fellowships. Both AWRA CWU and UW Student Chapters are doing well, hosting events, and are engaged with the water resources community.

We have hosted two dinner meetings 2018, and are excited to be collaborating with Washington Water Trust for the **2018 Wild and Scenic Film Festival on April 18 at the Egyptian Theater in downtown Seattle**. Dinner meetings are already scheduled for May and June. In addition, we have launched a Mentorship Program pairing students and young professionals with senior professionals for career mentoring (see box on this page). We are excited about this pilot program, and are hopeful to make it a successful offering for many years to come.

While spring is upon us in the valleys on both sides of the Cascades, mountain snowpack is still piling up. Snow water equivalent modeling indicates that 2018 should see above average water supplies for much of the state. It may be too early to begin celebrating an abundance in our streams, since actual summer water supplies will be determined as the snow finishes accumulating and begins receding over the next couple of months. However, now is as good of a time as ever to celebrate the abundant skills, experience, and passion in the professional community of the Washington State Chapter of the AWRA. You are the stewards of Washington's water resources, each doing your own part to care for these important resources well beyond the 2018 water year. It is from this historical experience that we know each of you who makes up AWRA-WA will continue to serve as Washington State's compass to navigate the most perplexing water resources challenges. Welcome aboard on this journey!

## AWRA-WA JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED

Next deadline is June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Email Topics to Greg McLaughlin, AWRA-  
WA Newsletter Editor:  
[greg@washingtonwatertrust.org](mailto:greg@washingtonwatertrust.org)

## AWRA-WA LAUNCHES MENTORING PROGRAM

### SIGN UP AS A MENTOR OR MENTEE

By Tom FitzHugh, Water Resources Scientist,  
Stantec

AWRA-WA has launched a mentorship program. The goal of the AWRA-WA mentorship program is to connect young professionals and students in the field of water resources with experienced professionals who share a similar specialty and are interested in building a mentoring relationship.

Those interested in being mentored can apply on our website, and will be required to enter some basic information, which will help AWRA-WA connect you with an appropriate mentor. At this time, the program is relatively informal, and AWRA-WA's main role is to connect mentors with mentees. The exact content and timing of mentorship activities will depend on the preferences of the mentor and mentee. We plan for the program to evolve over time in order to best meet the needs of our membership. We are always interested in your ideas about to make the program more effective, so any feedback on our approach is welcome.

We are also always looking for experienced professionals who are interested in being mentors. Those interested can volunteer by filling out some basic information on our website. Volunteers' information will be entered in our database of possible mentors, and mentors will always be contacted to confirm their availability and interest prior to connecting you with a potential mentee.

Finally, AWRA-WA is planning a mentorship event for some time later in the year. Details on that have not been worked out yet, so stay tuned! For any questions about the mentoring program, please contact Tom FitzHugh ([thomas.fitzhugh@stantec.com](mailto:thomas.fitzhugh@stantec.com))

## 2018 AWRA-WA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**HIRST, FOSTER, BOLDT AND BEYOND: A NEW ERA IN WATER MANAGEMENT?  
OCTOBER 16, 2018 THE MOUNTAINEERS SEATTLE CONFERENCE ROOM**

By Dave Christiansen and Felix Kristanovich



AWRA-WA has been busy planning the next Annual Conference for Washington's water resource professionals, continuing a tradition that started in 1981. AWRA-WA's annual conference has become the venue in Washington State for timely, current, and relevant discussion that connects water resources professionals across the state.

The 2018 conference is, "Hirst, Foster, Boldt, and Beyond: A New Era of Water Management?", and will occur on October 16, 2018 at The Mountaineers in Seattle, WA. The theme will revolve around the notion that, historically, decisions on water management under prior appropriation were very prescriptive and narrowly defined under a statute primarily adopted in 1917. Modern desires for changes, flexibility, and creativity on the use of water and water rights have been limited by the Washington State Supreme Court's application of a ridged code and case law framework. This conference will explore how the significant legal cases such as Hirst, Foster, Boldt, and others are driving a New Era of Water Management.

This year's theme will address head on the impacts of Hirst and related legal decisions. The conference title appropriately includes a question mark, because while these landmark decisions mark a defining crossroads in Washington State water policy, there are just as many questions remaining. What, actually will change about water resource management? What hasn't really changed at all? What's next?

### 2018 AWRA-WA BOARD MEMBERS

President: **Jason McCormick**  
[jason@mccormickwater.com](mailto:jason@mccormickwater.com)

Vice President: **Rabia Ahmed**  
[rahmed@maulfoster.com](mailto:rahmed@maulfoster.com)

Treasurer: **Jennifer Saltonstall**  
[jsaltonstall@aesgeo.com](mailto:jsaltonstall@aesgeo.com)

Secretary: **John Chandler**  
[john.chandler@pse.com](mailto:john.chandler@pse.com)

Editor: **Greg McLaughlin**  
[greg@washingstonwatertrust.org](mailto:greg@washingstonwatertrust.org)

Past President: **Steve Nelson**  
[snelson@rh2.com](mailto:snelson@rh2.com)

Director: **Tyson Carlson**  
[tyson@aspectconsulting.com](mailto:tyson@aspectconsulting.com)

Director: **Amanda Cronin**  
[amanda@ampinsights.com](mailto:amanda@ampinsights.com)

Director: **Dave Christensen**  
[davc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:davc461@ecy.wa.gov)

Director: **Tom FitzHugh**  
[thomas.fitzhugh@stantec.com](mailto:thomas.fitzhugh@stantec.com)

Director: **Felix Kristanovich**  
[fkristanovich@ramboll.com](mailto:fkristanovich@ramboll.com)

Director: **Stan Miller**  
[samillerh2o@comcast.net](mailto:samillerh2o@comcast.net)

Director: **Tom Ring**  
[ringt@yakama.com](mailto:ringt@yakama.com)

Director: **Terry Smith**  
[Terrysmith54@gmail.com](mailto:Terrysmith54@gmail.com)

Director: **Stephen Thomas**  
[SDT@shanwil.com](mailto:SDT@shanwil.com)

Director: **Patrick Vanderberg**  
[waawra.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:waawra.webmaster@gmail.com)

UW Student Rep: **Seamus McLaughlin**

CWU Student Rep: **Brandon Kautzman**

UW Faculty Advisor:  
**Bob Edmonds**  
[bobe@u.washington.edu](mailto:bobe@u.washington.edu)

CWU Faculty Advisor  
**Carey Gazis**  
[cgazis@geology.cwu.edu](mailto:cgazis@geology.cwu.edu)

## AWRA – WA NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2018

**Jason McCormick, President** – Jason is the founder of McCormick Water Strategies (MWS) with ten years of water resources experience. Jason is recognized regionally as a water rights and water transactional expert.

**Rabia Ahmed, Vice President** – Rabia is an economist currently working with Maul Foster & Alongi in Seattle. She has over 14 years of experience in water and natural resource economics, policy and regulatory economics, litigation support, and international development.

**Jennifer Saltonstall, Treasurer** - Jenny is a licensed Hydrogeologist in Washington State, a Senior Associate at Associated Earth Sciences, Inc., and has consulted on Puget Sound area hydrogeology, geology, and geologic hazards assessments for both private and public sector clients since 1998.

**John Chandler, Secretary** - John is a licensed professional engineer who currently serves as the water resources technical lead at Puget Sound Energy. He is the water manager of the Baker Project, a two-reservoir system with three powerhouses, and combined capacity of 200 MW.

**Steve Nelson, 2017 President** - Steve is a licensed hydrogeologist and engineering geologist with 25 years of experience involving water resource assessment, development, management, remediation, and protection.

**Tyson Carlson** - Tyson is an Associate Hydrogeologist with Aspect Consulting, with over 17 years of experience specializing in water resource development & water rights. Tyson's water rights experience includes the State's Trust Water Right Program and water banking.

**Dave Christensen** - Dave has over 20 years of experience working in water resource management, environmental health and environmental protection, and is the Program Development Section Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology Water Resources Program.

**Amanda Cronin** – Amanda is a Manager at AMP Insights. Amanda is a Washington State native with over 13 years of professional experience in water rights, water transactions, stream restoration and conservation program design and implementation.

**Tom FitzHugh** - Tom is a Water Resources Scientist with Stantec Consulting, in Bellevue, Washington. He specializes in hydrologic modeling of surface water systems, including reservoir and water supply system operations, riverine and reservoir temperatures, and rainfall-runoff processes.

**Felix Kristanovich** - Felix is a senior water resources manager with Ramboll in Seattle, Washington. He has 25 years of professional experience in the United States and abroad where he has worked on numerous watershed analysis and streamflow restoration projects.

**Greg McLaughlin** - Greg is a project manager with Washington Water Trust, where he has worked since 2006, opening the Ellensburg Field Office in 2008. His work includes water right reviews, connecting project benefits to salmon recovery plans, and shepherding those projects through the Ecology review process.

**Stan Miller** - Stan is semi-retired, and currently doing water resources consulting as Inland Northwest Water Resources. Stan held the position of Program Manager for Spokane County's Water Resources Section Department for over 20 years.

**Tom Ring** - Tom is a hydrogeologist with the Water Resources Program of the Yakama Nation. He has held this position since 1990 and, in that role, has worked on a variety of projects involving groundwater and surface water quantity and quality, water rights, irrigation and fisheries issues and planning for future water needs.

**Terry Smith** – Terry is a licensed and retired attorney with a background in environmental law. She has worked for King County's Wastewater Treatment Division for twelve years, where she was responsible for permit applications and negotiations with federal and state regulatory agencies.

**Stephen Thomas** - Stephen is a hydrogeologist in the Seattle office of Shannon & Wilson, Inc. He has 22 years of experience as a consultant in the areas of geologic and water resources.

**Patrick Vandenberg** - Patrick was formerly the University of Washington Student Chapter Representative to the AWRA-WA Board. Patrick currently works for King County as a hydraulic modeling engineer in the Wastewater Treatment Division.

## AWRA-WA MARCH 27 DINNER MEETING:

### THE SNOQUALMIE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WATER BANK: PROVIDING WATER FOR FARMS:

By Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District and Amanda Cronin, AMP Insights

The March 27, 2018 dinner meeting included an inspiring presentation on a unique approach to water banking in Washington State. Water banking may be one way to provide flexible water use as climate change continues to influence water availability. Cynthia Krass, Executive Director of the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID), and AMP Insights Manager Amanda Cronin co-presented at the meeting.

As in most basins in Washington State, water is a critical issue in the Snoqualmie Watershed. During winter, farms have too much water due to flooding, while during summer many farms lack access to legal water rights for irrigation. The Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) launched the Snoqualmie Water Bank in 2017 to ensure water availability for present and future irrigated agriculture within the Snoqualmie Valley.

The Bank, the first of its kind in Washington State, offers water rights for lease to farms across their 14,000-acre service area. Securing new water rights is a notoriously difficult task and the Bank has taken some creative approaches for securing and marketing water rights. In 2017 the Snoqualmie Water Bank conducted Washington's State's first two-way water right auction between buyers and sellers which resulted in water use agreements with six farm sites, serving a dozen farm operations. The Bank continues to grow its programs and supply water for Snoqualmie Valley farmers in a way that respects instream flows and resources. The SVWID formed only as recently as 2015. Cynthia Krass, SVWID's Executive Director, headed the project to address water rights and agricultural drainage.

The SVWID and Snoqualmie Water Bank formed in response to the changing nature of use of the land that includes three fast-growing cities. The major rural use of that area had been dairy farming, but the uses have changed as more local produce production has increased in the area and dairy farming has decreased. With water uses changing in the Valley, the SVWID sought a way to provide access to irrigation water rights to new farmers. The SVWID represents

approximately three hundred landowners, six hundred parcels, and serves 14,000 acres. It has a five-member board and three part-time staff.

The SVWID purchased a Tokul Creek water right in 2016. The water bank project had the advantage of all potential water users being located downstream of the Tokul Creek water right. The project received funding and approval by the Washington Department of Ecology.

The team examined multiple ways to operate the Water Bank to ensure equity and fairness, encourage participation, and determine the price to serve the buyer and seller. They settled on a two-way auction between the buyers and sellers. In this process, the buyers and sellers submit sealed bids during the marketing window. For the first year, the Water Bank offered water leases for one year only. Bids and offers were matched and prioritized according to the largest differential between the bid price and the ask price. The midpoint between the last bid and offer resulted in a market price of \$125 per acre-foot.

The team was encouraged by the level of participation in the two-way auction, with two sellers and six buyers participating. One of the critical components of the auction was that the team requested input from local tribes on the Water Bank framework. A detailed analysis of the effect of the banking transactions on instream flows went a long way towards assuring the tribes that the plan would not adversely impact instream flows. The hydrogeology study conducted on behalf of the SVWID by Associated Earth Sciences included high levels of technical detail, and was funded by Washington Department of Ecology. The benefits of this strategy are the goodwill of the tribes and other stakeholders in the area.

By providing consistent water supply to local food farmers, the water-banking project will support the farming economy and community of the Snoqualmie Valley, reduce urban encroachment on farmland, and support new farmers growing diverse crop types to meet increased demand for local food supplies.

## JANUARY 2018 UW – AWRA STUDENT MIXER

**DR. JULIE VANO: “BUILDING BETTER BRIDGES BETWEEN CLIMATE RESEARCH AND WATER MANAGEMENT”**

**By Seamus McLaughlin, University of Washington Graduate and Washington Department of Ecology Intern**

On Monday January 29th, 2018, the University of Washington student chapter of the WA State AWRA hosted its annual winter mixer. It was held in the Great Room of the Waterfront Activities Center on the UW campus. The mixer provided an excellent chance for students to network across departments and with water resource professionals over a pizza dinner. About 60 people attended the event.

This year's mixer led off with an introduction to a new water resources group on campus called the Freshwater Initiative (FWI). FWI is currently lead by professors and graduate students from multiple UW departments. FWI's goal is to improve water resource awareness on campus by creating more opportunities for student-faculty discussions and encouraging interaction between other UW water resources groups such as the AWRA and American Water Works Association (AWWA) student chapters. Some of FWI's planned student activities include hosting TED-style talks to improve science communication and public speaking skills, and themed panel sessions to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions on complex freshwater challenges. FWI also plans on developing a quarterly newsletter to highlight events, research projects, and job opportunities. More information can be found on their website: <http://freshwater.uw.edu>.

Following FWI's introduction came the main event, a presentation by Dr. Julie Vano titled, *“Building Better Bridges between Climate Research and Water Management.”* Dr. Vano is a project scientist in the Hydro-meteorological Applications Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. She holds a Master's of Science degree in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UW. Her research aims to better connect climate science and water management communities, and use these connections to develop innovative ways to address climate impacts on local water resources. Dr. Vano's work to promote better engagement at the science-application interface has been largely influenced by being a Science and Policy Fellow at the National Academy of Science in Washington, DC, and from participating in AWRA activities as a student.

Dr. Vano kicked off her presentation by examining the relationship between climate and water resources, and the challenges changing climates present. Today one of the most prominent uses of climate modelling is to predict streamflow, which is important for many individuals,

especially water managers and farmers that rely on stream irrigation. Currently climate data is used to produce hydrology models that predict streamflow. Accurately predicting streamflow from climate data is a very difficult task due to the sheer volume of available data, the numerous ways to interpret this data, and the uncertainty of climate and hydrology models. While interpreting climate data in order to predict streamflow is already hard enough, our currently changing climates complicate the issue even further. For example, the once snow-dominated Yakima River Basin, is shifting to rain-dominated hydrography because of the changing climate. This means that future streamflow will be impacted much more by rainfall and associated runoff than by traditional snowpack melt. As climate change continues it will no longer be possible to develop predictions with as much certainty as in the past. To compensate for this, future hydrology models will need to produce a wider range of results, which may make water resource planning more difficult, but will also prevent models from being misleading.

Dr. Vano maintains that the most difficult part in dealing with our changing climate may not be interpreting how water resources will be affected, but instead, effectively communicating results to individuals. Dr. Vano emphasized that one of the biggest challenges to this communication is ensuring a two-way discussion where researchers can provide water resource information, but also receive feedback from stakeholders they seek to inform. This will help to identify the most appropriate research topics and ensure climate predictions provide the most necessary relevant information for a variety of stakeholders. To achieve this two-way communication, we must become better bridge builders, stated Dr. Vano. This means we should avoid focusing on research that is only applicable to a narrow group of individuals, but instead capture a broader audience. Researchers need to connect earlier with stakeholders, to learn who their audience is and what information they desire. This knowledge will help researchers better define goals and assemble findings with greater importance for their audience. In the end, improvements can be made to both research content, and the ways findings are presented.

Dr. Vano's well-delivered and thought provoking talk, presented excellent messages for students and faculty conducting water resource research. Special thanks to FWI, Dr. Vano, the UW AWRA student chapter, and all participants for making the 2018 student winter mixer another successful event.

## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL IN SEATTLE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 | 5:30 PM | SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN | 805 E PINE STREET, SEATTLE

By Hannah Kennedy, Investments and Public Partnerships Officer at Washington Water Trust

**Reclaim your sense of wonder and adventure. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to Seattle on April 18<sup>th</sup>!**

Join Washington Water Trust (WWT) for happy hour, lively conversation and an evening of eye-opening films. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival entertains, motivates and inspires people to explore our natural world and actively contribute to the protection of water, air, and wild places. Festival-goers can expect to see award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, and Native American and indigenous cultures. This year's theme, *Groundswell*, celebrates the power of collaboration and unites our community around the shared goal of healthy and productive waterways.

With support from festival goers like you and local sponsors—Anchor QEA, Beneficial State Bank, Chinook Book, Filson, Lake Union Family Dental, Rooftop Brew Co., Soda Jerk Soda, and Transaction Partners—the Wild & Scenic Film Festival directly supports WWT's efforts to restore Washington's rivers and streams. Last year, the Dungeness Water Exchange grew to include 224 mitigated water users, WWT negotiated a deal to restored all the historic surface flows to First Creek, in the Swauk Creek Basin and WWT protected more 18,260 acre feet of water in fish-critical streams and rivers across the state. From the Dungeness to the Walla Walla, WWT is committed to developing innovative, collaborative, and lasting water management solutions that balance the needs of fish farms and people. Be a part of this success story and [get your Wild & Scenic Film Festival tickets today!](#)

### EVENT DETAILS:

**When:** Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 5:30-9:30 PM  
5:30 PM – Happy Hour  
6:30 PM – Films

**Where:** SIFF Cinema Egyptian  
805 E Pine St  
Seattle, WA 98122

**Tickets:** \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door.

**[It's not too late to partner as a sponsor!](#)**

**Contact:** Hannah Kennedy  
[hannah@washingtonwatertrust.org](mailto:hannah@washingtonwatertrust.org)  
206.675.1585 x104



**Tickets are \$35\* and include:**

- Festival admission
- A Klean Kanteen steel pint cup with WWT logo
- A Chinook Book
- One happy hour beer/wine/soda
- Happy hour hor d'oeuvres
- Acknowledged as a valued WWT supporter

\*Discounted group rate tickets (\$30) are available when you purchase 6 or more tickets at once.

**Purchase your tickets online at:**

[www.washingtonwatertrust.org/wild-scenic-film-festival](http://www.washingtonwatertrust.org/wild-scenic-film-festival)



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## 2018 MEMBERSHIP / CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

( ⌂ please circle, as appropriate ↗ )

Annual membership in the state chapter costs \$35.

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