

**SYMPOSIUM
ON THE
SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN RESERVED WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS**

AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011

6:30 - 8:30 pm Early Registration

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011

7:00 am Registration

8:15 am **WELCOME**

Introductory Remarks

John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund

Tony Willardson, Executive Director, Western States Water Council

Invocation – by invitation

8:45 am **Opening Keynote Address:** Senator Jon Tester of Montana (invited)

THE ADMINISTRATION'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

9:15 am **Presentation:**

Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Donald "Del" Laverdure, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Dept. of Interior

10:45 am Break

11:00 am **Response Panel**

Moderator: David Gover, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Scott McElroy, Partner, McElroy, Meyer, Walker & Condon, P.C.

John Stroud, Partner, Stroud Law Office

Noon **Luncheon Presentation: Challenges & Opportunities: The Seminole Tribe of Florida Experience**

Speaker: Steve Walker, Shareholder, Lewis Longman & Walker, P.A.

NEGOTIATION OF INDIAN WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS: THE BASICS

1:30 pm **Gathering Background Information and the Role of Technicians in Negotiations**

Moderator: Biddah Becker, Attorney, Navajo Nation

John Peterson, Policy Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation

Jay Weiner, Assistant Attorney General, Montana Attorney General's Office

Gilbert Suazo, Sr., Water Rights Coordinator, Pueblo of Taos

Rich Schilf, Senior Water Resource Planner, Dowl HKM Engineering

3:00 pm Break

3:30 pm **Identifying Parties and Issues and How Negotiations Bind Larger Groups**

Moderator: Amy Bowers, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Duane Mecham, Senior Attorney, Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor

Bill Staudenmaier, Partner, Snell & Wilmer

Bob Brauchli, Law Office of Robert C. Brauchli, P. C.

5:00 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm Reception

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011

8:00 am **KEYNOTE ADDRESS SPEAKERS**

Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Cedric Black Eagle, Chairman, Crow Tribe

9:00 am **DESCRIPTION OF THE CROW SETTLEMENT**

Moderator: Susan Cottingham, Former Program Manager, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

Doug Davis, Native American Affairs Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation - Great Plains Region
Faye Bergen, Former Legal Counsel, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
Heather Whiteman Runs Him, Joint Lead Counsel, Crow Nation Executive Branch

10:00 am Break

SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

10:10 am **Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Steve Moore, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Pamela Williams, Director, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office, Dept. of Interior
Rick Ehat, Project Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation – Four Corners Construction Office
Candace West, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Rebecca Miles, Executive Director, Nez Perce Tribe

11:40 am Lunch Break

1:00 pm **Tour of the Crow Reservation**

6:00 pm **Dinner and Cultural Presentation at Crow Reservation**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011

SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION: GETTING BILLS THROUGH CONGRESS

8:30 am **Congressional Outlook for Funding for Indian Water Rights Settlements**

Moderator: Nathan Bracken, Legal Counsel, Western States Water Council

Panel:

Tanya Trujillo, Former Majority Senior Counsel, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Ryan Smith, Of Counsel, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
David Mullon, Jr., Minority Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Cisco Minthorn, Majority Counsel, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Camille Calimlim Touton, Minority Staff Director, House Subcommittee on Water and Power

10:15 am Break

10:30 am **Response Panel**

Moderator: Nathan Bracken, Legal Counsel, Western States Water Council

Chastity Bedonie, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Dept. of Interior
Stanley Pollack, Water Rights Counsel, Navajo Nation
Donald Pongrace, Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
DL Sanders, Chief Counsel/LAP Director, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

11:45 am **WRAP-UP/SUMMARY:** Chris Tweeten, Chairman, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

12:15 pm Adjourn