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College of Agriculture,
Life & Environmental
Sciences

SECURING ARIZONA'S FUTURE

AGRIBUSINESS - POWER - INDUSTRY - WATER



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Annual Meeting
& Water
Conference



AGRIBUSINESS
WATER
COUNCIL

SRP PERA TRAINING & CONFERENCE CENTER



AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

From Ditchbank to Dinner Plate

Our Purpose

To maintain the integrity of Arizona's water supplies and the industries that rely on these essentials for the benefit of Arizona's economy.

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona (ABWC) is a not for profit trade association, whose membership represents the agricultural community from Ditchbank to Dinner Plate in Arizona. ABWC was established in 1978 to respond to proposed water legislation and to later serve as the State Affiliate to the National Water Resources Association. Its members are comprised of growers, ranchers, suppliers of equipment, cities, attorney groups, agricultural processors, financiers of agribusiness enterprises, trade associations, electrical, irrigation and drainage districts, and major state universities.

Our Mission

To represent irrigated agriculture and agribusiness by working to promote and protect water resources in the state of Arizona and to actively educate, support and promote all aspects of water, agriculture and agribusiness.

Officers of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

President - Tom Davis
Yuma County Water Users' Association

Vice President - Donovan Neese
Roosevelt Irrigation District

Treasurer - Glen Vortherms
Vortherms Consulting, LLC

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Executive Officers

Executive Director - Stephanie Dubien

Executive Assistant - Mallory Smith



Our Goals

Alert, educate and link its members on current issues important to water, agriculture and agribusiness including, but not limited to federal and state legislation that impacts Arizona's water, agriculture and agribusiness; federal and state water, power and land policies and regulations; groundwater management; changes in taxation proposals and policies; rural, state and regional economic development. Achieve a working consensus among its members on the best and most prudent course for agriculture to pursue in conjunction with its position in Arizona's economy. Speak with one voice to generate further support within the industry and to effectively communicate that support to state and federal entities, major state universities as well as to the general public and to gain their understanding and favorable action on an issue under consideration.

4455 East Broadway Road, Suite 102 Mesa, AZ 85206



@abwc az



@agribusinessarizona

www.agribusinessarizona.org

Please Contact by Phone or Email at: (480) 558-5301 or admin@agribusinessarizona.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

PRESIDENT, TOM DAVIS

Good morning and welcome to the 2026 Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Annual Meeting & Water Conference. Your in-person and virtual attendance demonstrates your interest in learning about Arizona's



**AGRIBUSINESS
& WATER
COUNCIL
OF ARIZONA**



water and power supply and importance to the U.S. National Security. Water and electrical power are intertwined in agribusiness food production, processing, transportation, marketing, mining, industrial uses, health and safety. Today's agenda explores the importance of managing these critical industries and often competing needs. I hope you find this conference enlightening and useful. I trust you will leave here with new understandings, new contacts, and strengthened relationships. This event would not be possible without the involvement and contributions of many of our supporters. There are so many to recognize for their involvement but in particular our presenting sponsors, Leslie Meyers, General Manager of Water Resources at Salt River Project (SRP) for this venue, Dave Bogner, University of Arizona Communications & Cyber Technology Program Director, and thank you to all of our speakers for taking time from their busy schedules to present today. I want to thank the ABWC Board members and especially recognize our Executive Director, Stephanie Dubien, Executive Assistant, Mallory Smith, and Board member Mathew Beyer, Senior Vice President Portfolio Manager with AgWest Farm Credit, for doing most of the heavy lifting to make this conference possible. Finally, thank you to Lance Knudson and Jesse Allen with the American Ag Network and AOA. They will be broadcasting this important information on their national platform and we encourage you to visit with them throughout the day. Notice we have two 25-minute breaks scheduled throughout our agenda. Please take this time to visit with our sponsors and each other. I invite you to visit the ABWC website for links about our mission, our outreach programs and these fantastic sponsor organizations. Stay up to date with our activities and visit our Ag & Water Industry Calendar. We have several interesting speakers and topics and hope to end with an early start on your weekend.

WELCOME TO THE 2026 AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA'S ANNUAL MEETING & WATER CONFERENCE

A MESSAGE FROM THE THE AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA ANNUAL MEETING & WATER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MATHEW BEYER



Thank you for being here and spending your Friday morning at the ABWC 2026 Annual Meeting. We have a tremendous lineup of speakers for you. These speakers will highlight the amazing state we live in. Highlights include the strength of the agribusiness sector, the electrical infrastructure in place to power our great industries, the attraction of new investments, the abundant resources our state has, and the vital water supplies in place to support Arizona's growth.

All of these areas being intertwined, connected, and working together as we pave forward in our effort of Securing Arizona's Future.

SAVE the DATE

Annual Meeting
& Water
Conference



September 17, 2027



Thank you for coming and enjoy the meeting!



www.agribusinessarizona.org



Pera Conference & Training Center

Annual Meeting & Water Conference



College of Agriculture,
Life & Environmental
Sciences

Friday, September 18, 2026

SECURING ARIZONA'S FUTURE

Located at the SRP PERA Training & Conference

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN WILL BEGIN AT 7:45AM

8:10AM

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Tom Davis, President, Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

AGRIBUSINESS

8:15AM

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Corey Geiger, Lead Economist for Dairy Production, CoBank

8:45AM

PRODUCE INDUSTRY

Mike Clements, Ranch Manager & Grower, Top Flavor Farms

9:05AM

AGRIBUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Lance Knudson, Farmer and CEO American Ag Network

Discussing the Farm Bill, Trade, Cotton, Wheat, Alfalfa, Beef Processing, and more!

9:45AM

NETWORKING BREAK

POWER

10:10AM

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH POWER EXECUTIVES

Discussion of Hydropower Issues, Alternatives, and New Demands for Electricity in Arizona and West Wide

Moderator: Jordy Fuentes, Executive Director, Arizona Power Authority (APA)

Panelists: Brandon Sudduth, Vice President, Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis,

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)

Katie Hardman, Manager of Energy Services, Arizona Electrical Power Cooperative, Inc.(AEPCO)

Ed Gerak, Executive Director, Irrigation & Electrical Districts of Arizona (IEDA)

INDUSTRY

11:15AM

DATA CENTERS AND THE EFFECTS OF INDUSTRY COMING TO ARIZONA

Brian Heitoff, CEO & General Manager at TRICO Electric Cooperative

11:35AM

IMPACTS TO THE MINING INDUSTRY

Vicky Peacey, President and General Manager of Resolution Copper

12:00PM

NETWORKING BREAK

WATER

12:25PM

GROUND WATER

Kathryn Sorensen, Director of Research, Kyl Center for Water Policy, Arizona State University

Discussing groundwater basins and municipal portfolios around Arizona.

12:45PM

COLORADO RIVER UPDATE

Clint Chandler, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources

KEYNOTE & CONCLUSION

1:05PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rhett Larson, Richard Morrison Professor of Water Law, Arizona State University

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

1:30PM

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Tom Davis, General Manager, Yuma County Water Users' Association

LUNCH IS SERVED

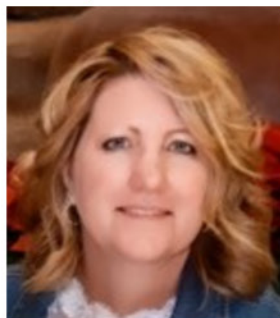
AWARD PRESENTATIONS BY THE AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA



STEPHANIE DUBIEN

Executive Director
Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona



As the Executive Director, ABWC serves in partnerships with organizations such as Irrigation & Electrical Districts of Arizona (IEDA), Arizona Municipal Power Users Authority (AMPUA), and most recently elected as Chair of the Western States Executive Council. In an effort to promote the ABWC mission of representing irrigated agriculture and agribusiness by working to promote and protect water resources in Arizona and actively educate, support and promote all aspects of water, agriculture, and agribusiness. Stephanie has worked to develop and host successful outreach programs that further the ABWC mission such as the Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture, ABWC Annual Meeting & Water Conference, Tommy Caywood Memorial H2Open Golf Tournament, the Water Management Certificate Program, and the new Arizona Master Irrigators Program.



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AGRIBUSINESS

GLEN VORTHERMS

Owner
Vorthers Consulting

District, advancing through a series of leadership and engineering positions. He served as General Manager for the final 13 years of his tenure, providing executive leadership and overseeing the district's water, power, land development and recreation facilities. Glen is a native of Minnesota where he grew up on a farm. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University where he received a Bachelor and Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering. He is a registered civil engineer in the state of Arizona.

Glen Vorthers is a water resources and power professional with more than four decades of experience in water management, irrigation, and power. He currently serves as Principal of Vorthers Consulting, where he draws on his extensive experience working with irrigation and power districts and water resource organizations. Prior to establishing Vorthers Consulting, Glen spent 38 years with the Maricopa Water

DAIRY INDUSTRY

COREY GEIGER

Lead Economist for Dairy Production
CoBank

Corey Geiger is an internationally recognized expert in dairy economics and agricultural markets. His analysis and commentary are sought by major media outlets including The Wall Street Journal, NBC News, Politico, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, and leading agricultural publications across the country. Corey currently serves as Lead Dairy Economist at CoBank, where he contributes influential research through the Knowledge Exchange Division. His work helps industry leaders, policymakers, and producers navigate evolving market dynamics across the dairy and animal protein sectors. Before joining the Farm Credit System, Corey spent nearly 30 years with Hoard's Dairyman, ultimately serving as the lead editor. He led the launch of the publication's fourth language edition, Hoard's Dairyman China and has served as President of Holstein Association USA, the Wisconsin Holstein Association, and National Dairy Shrine. This year, Corey will be honored as the 2026 World Dairy Expo Industry Person of the Year and with the Holstein Association USA Distinguished Leadership Award.



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PRODUCE INDUSTRY



MEGHAN SCOTT

Attorney
Scott & Rogers PLLC



Meghan C. Scott is licensed in both Arizona and California, and focuses on water and agriculture law. Meghan also has experience in business and corporate law, contracts and contract negotiation, estate planning and administration, real estate law, human resources and employment matters, civil litigation and homeowners' associations.



MIKE CLEMENTS

Ranch Manager & Grower
Top Flavor Farms



Mike Clements was born and raised in Yuma, AZ where he began to work in agriculture during his high school years. During his early high school years he worked summers on a family friend's citrus farm performing maintenance on wind machines as well as topping young lemon trees and removing suckers from older trees. During his senior year of high school he began operating tractors for local vegetable farming companies where he quickly developed a love for the fast paced, detail oriented fresh vegetable industry. After graduating from Yuma High School, Mike attended classes at Arizona Western College as well as enrolled in the University of Arizona where he received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Systems Management. Mike continued working in the fresh vegetable industry throughout his college career and made the transition to vegetable seed sales after graduation. In 2011 Mike began working for Top Flavor Farms where he oversaw the planting department and food safety for the Yuma area farm. Over the past 15 years he has grown his role to oversee all day to day farming operations, managing acreages in Arizona, California and Quechan tribal lands with a ground base of ~4,000 acres growing over 20 different types of vegetables both organically and conventionally. Within the industry, Mike serves as the Chairman of the Arizona Iceberg Lettuce Research Council, has been appointed and serves on the Syngenta Executive Business council and is a proud graduate of Arizona Project Centrl Class 32. Mike and his wife Holly have been married for 16 years and have 4 children ranging from 9 to 15 years old. Evenings are spent shuttling kids between practices, games and working with the children on the 4-H and FFA projects.



THE IRRIGATION BUSINESS: IT'S WHAT WE KNOW



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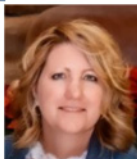
AGRIBUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACTS



**AGRIBUSINESS
& WATER COUNCIL
OF ARIZONA**

STEPHANIE DUBIEN

Executive Director
Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona



LANCE KNUDSON

Farmer & CEO
American Ag Network



**AMERICAN
AG NETWORK**

A lifelong farmer of soybeans, wheat and sugar beets, Lance also has been working in the radio business for over 19 years. In 2005, he began his career in radio as a salesperson for the American Ag Network, and was eventually promoted to the role of General Manager. In 2017, Lance purchased the American Ag network, and partnered with broadcaster Mikes Adams to create "Adams on Agriculture" which is now Agriculture of America (AOA) number 1 hour long ag program in the country. The American Ag Network, Agriculture of America, Inside Dairy, American Ag Today, Cattle Chatter and Market Talk provide ag programming content which is carried by great radio stations across the country and can also be heard by podcast, YouTube, and on our websites. In 2017, Lance took on the role of COO for James River Broadcasting which is made up of 11 radio stations proudly serving Pierre, Mobridge, Chamberlain, and the surrounding communities in South Dakota. Lance works with management and staff to ensure that James River Broadcasting's commitment to excellence, to the communities served, is a priority. He is passionate about issues like: EAS, loss of segment space to the cellular segment, keeping fairness doctrines out of radio, keeping AM relevant and fighting to keep radio's in vehicles. Lance has been an active member in the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) since 2005. From 2012-2017, he served as the Marketing and Promotions Chair. In this role he was responsible for advocating for farm broadcasters. He met multiple times with former FCC Chairman Pai and fellow Commissioners to promote policy on behalf of fellow broadcasters. Under Lance's leadership, the NAFB has invested in audience listenership research and strengthened the association's presence within the agri-marketing community. In 2017, Lance was awarded the Dix Harper Meritorious Service Award and The President's Award, presented by President Max Armstrong. Lance served as President in 2021 for the National Association of State Radio Networks (NASRN). Lance is a proud graduate of the North Dakota State University, where he earned his B.S. in Agricultural Economics. Lance serves as the President of the Sacred Heart Athletic Club. He has coached his daughters' basketball teams for 9 years and was Assistant Coach for Girls Junior Varsity/Varsity Basketball. Lance resides with his wife, two daughters, three dogs, and three cats in Grand Forks, ND.



Agriculture of America

Agriculture of America (AOA) is a weekday, content driven, hour long agriculture talk show discussing the issues impacting farmers, ranchers and Rural America. **It was rated the #1 Ag Program in the latest AMR Ratings.**

The show is hosted by award-winning, veteran Farm Broadcaster Jesse Allen. He keeps the daily conversation going surrounding ag policy, politics, trade issues, market news, ag weather, agronomy, livestock and much more.



NETWORKING BREAK



JESSE ALLEN

Host of Agriculture of America (AOA)
VP of National Ag Content for FARM



Born and raised in a small North Central Iowa farming community, Jesse Allen grew up around agriculture in rural America. Having received numerous state and national awards for his coverage, Allen continues to have a passion and love of telling agriculture's story on a daily basis to the radio, podcasts and more. Allen hosts the nationally syndicated talk show Agriculture of America, along with the syndicated radio show and podcast Market Talk. He also is the VP of National Ag Content for Farm and Ranch Media, which owns AOA, Market Talk and the American Ag Network. He currently lives with his wife Katie, son Liam and their two dogs in Nashville, TN. Allen is also a successful country music recording artist, songwriter and producer on top of being a longtime farm broadcaster.

POWER



ELSTON GRUBAUGH

General Manager
Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & DD

Elston Grubaugh joined the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District in July, 2008 and assumed the duties of General Manager on January 1, 2009. A native of New Mexico, Elston has worked in the water and power industries for over 45 years, holding positions in Texas, New Mexico, California and Arizona. Elston holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from New Mexico State University with a Master's Degree from Texas A&M University.

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH POWER EXECUTIVES

JORDY FUENTES

Executive Director
Arizona Power Authority



Arizona Power Authority

Jordy Fuentes is the Executive Director of the Arizona Power Authority, where he directs the state's allocation of Hoover Dam electricity. A seasoned legal and policy professional, he is a dedicated advocate for public power, natural resources, and consumer protection across Arizona. He sits on the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association Board, the American Public Power Association Executive Committee, and the Arizona Reconciliation Committee. Before starting with the Arizona Power Authority, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Attorney for the Arizona House of Representatives working on natural resource issues and was appointed Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office by Governor Doug Ducey. He also served as Council Member and Vice-Mayor for the Town of Taylor.



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Discussion of Hydropower Issues, Alternatives, and New Demands for Electricity in Arizona and West Wide



KATIE HARDMAN

Manager of Energy Services
Arizona Electric Power
Cooperative, Inc. (AEP CO)

Katie Hardman is the Manager of Energy Services at Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (AEP CO), where she oversees operations designed to advance energy reliability and affordability across rural Arizona. In her leadership role within the Energy Services Department, Katie directs a comprehensive suite of operations that includes west-wide trading and scheduling strategy, resource and transmission planning, operations analytics, fuel management, and bulk power billing. She is also focused on new market evaluation, analyzing energy imbalance market participation to optimize power supply, and advancing new resources at scale for the benefit of AEP CO's rural cooperative members. Beyond internal operations, Katie serves as a key strategic voice for the cooperative in regulatory and regional utility matters. She speaks before the Arizona Corporation Commission regarding resource planning and energy markets.



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Get Started



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ED GERAK

Executive Director
Irrigation & Electrical Districts of Arizona (IEDA)



Ed Gerak has nearly 20 years of experience in water and power issues. Ed spent 10 years as the General Manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District (BWCD), an IEDA member. In 2009, Ed began representing IEDA on the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association board, becoming president in 2015. In 2017, Ed joined the Arizona Power Authority as Executive Director, managing the Hoover Dam power allocation for the state. Ed also represented Arizona on the American Public Power Board (Region 6). Ed received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University. Ed is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.



BRANDON SUDDUTH

Vice President, Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis,
Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)



Brandon Sudduth, Vice President of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis at WECC, leads the organization's technical and analytical functions, overseeing Reliability Modeling and Assessments, Standards Development, Performance Analysis, Event Analysis, and Situation Awareness. In his previous role as Director of Reliability Risk Management, Brandon led the strategic direction for WECC's Performance Analysis and Event Analysis/Situation Awareness departments. He actively supported industry stakeholders through the Operating and Market Interface Committees, ensuring alignment and collaboration. Additionally, with a strong foundation in engineering and management roles within WECC's Reliability Planning department, Brandon brings deep expertise in bulk power system modeling and analysis, driving impactful results for the organization. Brandon holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Brigham Young University, a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho, and an MBA from Weber State University.

INDUSTRY



RUSSELL SMOLDON

Chief Executive Officer
B3 strategies

Russell D. Smoldon, has over 35 years of public policy experience focused on energy, water, taxation, environmental, health care and economic development issues. The relationships he has with government officials, legislators and the business community in Arizona, across the country and at the federal level in Washington, D.C. are extensive. Russell received a B.A. in Political Science and History from Gonzaga University. While attending Gonzaga University School of Law, he was recruited for a position with Avista. While at Avista, he became the youngest utility lobbyist in the country at the time. Russell also completed a number of post-graduate courses in Business and Political Science at Eastern Washington University before being recruited by SRP and moving to Arizona.

COPPER AT OUR CORE

Freeport-McMoRan is proud to support the Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture and their mission to inspire and advance women's careers in water and agriculture.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

6:45AM - BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION
7:30AM - SHOTGUN START
12:30PM - LUNCH BUFFET SERVED
1:00PM - RAFFLE & AWARDS CEREMONY

FUN ON COURSE GAMES:

*Spin the Wheel *Speed hole
*Dixon Challenge *Golf Ball Canon
*Aurelius Driver Challenge
* MORE!

PRIZES AWARDED:

*Top 3 Teams -Gross Score
*Closest to Pin
*Longest Drive - (Men & Women)

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Long game off?
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Golf Ball Canon to
help!



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GOLD EVENT - \$2,750

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BRONZE EVENT - \$1,300

GOLD HOLE - \$1,200

SILVER HOLE - \$750

PLAYER SPONSOR - \$350

SINGLE GOLFER - \$250

LUNCH SPONSOR - \$3,000
(TWO AVAILABLE)

BREAKFAST SPONSOR - \$2,000
(TWO AVAILABLE)

GRAND PRIZE SPONSOR - \$750

LOGO BALL SPONSOR - \$1,750

SWAG BAG SPONSOR - \$1,200



Designed to support, promote, celebrate and inspire women with careers and interest in water and agriculture through education, networking and fellowship.

Wednesday December 2, 2026
9:00am - 3:00pm

Arizona Western College
 2020 S Ave 8 E
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Registration & Sponsorship Oppotunites Now Available!



Enjoy an evening of spirits and networking
 with colleagues and new friends!

Tuesday December 1, 2026
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Pint House Bar & Grill
 265 S Main St, Yuma, AZ

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Join us as member!



For More Info Contact Stephanie:
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ABWC Annual Meeting & Water Conference

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MONDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2026:
 11:00am LOAD TOUR BUS IN PHOENIX
 12:30pm ARIZONA DAIRY COMPANY TOUR

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2026:
 7:00am AREA WIDE YUMA AG TOUR
 5:30pm WINE, WOMEN, & WATER WELCOME RECEPTION
 Pint House Bar & Grill, 265 S Main st, Yuma, Az

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2026:
 9:00am-3:00pm AAWWA ANNUAL MEETING
 Arizona Western College, 2020 S Ave 8 E, Yuma, AZ
 4:00pm RETURN TO PHOENIX ON TOUR BUS

TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.AGRIBUSINESSARIZONA.ORG
 FOR QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ADMIN@AGRIBUSINESSARIZONA.ORG - (480)558-5301

BRIAN HEITHOFF

CEO & General Manager
TRICO Electric Cooperative



Brian Heithoff has been Trico Electric Cooperative's CEO/General Manager since April 2021. Trico is a non-profit electric distribution cooperative serving 50,000 Members in communities surrounding the City of Tucson, including portions of Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties. The majority of Trico's market area is to the west of Tucson and spans approximately 66 miles east to west and 80 miles north to south, extending to the border with Mexico. Trico's headquarters are in Marana with a service center in Sahuarita. As Trico's chief executive, Brian oversees \$300M in utility infrastructure and \$110M in revenues. Mr. Heithoff has worked for electric cooperatives for more than three decades, including 23 years as a CEO. Prior to Trico, he has served for 10 years as the CEO and General Manager of High West Energy, Inc., which serves members in southeast Wyoming, western Nebraska, and northern Colorado, including the Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Prior to his service at High West Energy, Heithoff served in numerous positions in the electric co-op industry, including:

- CEO/General Manager at Consumers Energy in Marshalltown, Iowa.
- CFO at United Power in Brighton, Colorado.
- CFO at Morgan County REA in Ft. Morgan, Colorado.
- CFO at Clay-Union Electric in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Brian has four children ages 26 and 22 – he has two sets of twins. He has also been actively involved in the communities where he has lived serving on the governing boards of local chambers, hospitals, economic development organizations, Rotary clubs, a local bank and several non-profit organizations. Brian is a proven CEO and General Manager adept at leading innovative and team-oriented cooperative organizations. He has demonstrated leadership collaborating with employees, members, communities, and public officials.

IMPACTS TO THE MINING INDUSTRY



NOEL CARTER

General Manager
Buckeye Water Conservation & DD



Noel Carter has extensive experience in Arizona water resources and irrigation district management. During his career with the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District, he served in leadership roles, including General Manager, where he is responsible for the overall management and operation of the District's water delivery, drainage, wells, canals, infrastructure, and day-to-day operations. Throughout his tenure, Noel worked extensively with farmers, landowners, developers, municipalities, Maricopa County, ADOT, and other governmental agencies on water delivery, infrastructure, development requirements, and complex water resource issues. His experience includes a deep understanding of irrigation district operations, water rights, and the challenges associated with maintaining and developing water infrastructure in a rapidly growing region. Noel's career has provided him with a practical, firsthand understanding of Arizona's water resources and the important role irrigation districts play in protecting and delivering water to agricultural and developing communities.



Water Xience LLC is a leader in the genesis of a **Circular Bio-Economy** with our vision to develop creative and integrated green-state of the art solutions to the climate challenged water and energy nexus. We focus on **Mission Critical** water and energy nexus solutions, canal solar projects, water conservation, nextgen agriculture.

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President & General Manager
Resolution Copper

RESOLUTION COPPER

Victoria Peacey is President and General Manager of Resolution Copper, where she is responsible for leading one of the United States' most significant proposed copper projects. In this role, she oversees all aspects of project strategy, community and tribal engagement, permitting, environment, cultural heritage, and the long-term vision to supply the nation with responsibly produced copper essential for American energy. Vicky has worked in the mining industry for more than two decades across a wide range of technical, operational, and leadership roles. She began her career in 2001 as a project engineer at the Bingham Canyon Mine and later worked across Kennecott Copper's operations, including the mine, concentrator, smelter, and refinery, supporting engineering, technical studies, environmental management, and reclamation. In 2008, she moved to Marquette, Michigan, as Manager of Environmental, Permitting, Health, Safety, and Land for Rio Tinto's Eagle Mine. There, she developed and implemented the strategy to successfully obtain all federal, state, and county permits and approvals for a new greenfield underground copper and nickel operation, including its concentrator and tailings facility. From 2010 to 2020, Vicky held multiple leadership roles at Resolution Copper, overseeing external affairs, communications, communities, environment, permitting, and cultural heritage. Her work during this period focused on nature, water, the environment, and cultural heritage, ensuring the project is designed to protect and preserve the surrounding landscape. Between 2021 and 2022, she led Communities and Social Performance for Rio Tinto Americas and served as Chief of Staff to the Chief Operating Officer of Rio Tinto Copper, supporting regional strategy and operational alignment. Vicky holds a bachelor's degree in applied geoscience and a master's degree in civil engineering. She lives in Gilbert, Arizona, with her husband and three children.

WATER

DR. JEFFREY SILVERTOOTH

Professor & Extension Specialist
Agronomy / Soil Science,
University of Arizona



Environmental
Science

Dr. Silvertooth is Professor and Extension Specialist in Agronomy & Soil Science in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona. He has served on the UA faculty and worked statewide and throughout the desert Southwest in Extension and research since 1987. Dr. Silvertooth has been recognized as a Fellow for both the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America.



GROUNDWATER



ED CURRY

Owner,
Curry Seed & Chile Co.



Ed Curry, a fourth-generation farmer and renowned chile breeder, has dedicated his life to advancing agricultural practices, preserving family farming traditions, and revolutionizing the chile industry. From his humble beginnings on a family farm in Arizona to becoming a globally recognized leader in chile genetics, Ed embodies passion, innovation, and resilience. His unwavering commitment to quality and sustainability has left an indelible mark on agriculture, making him one of the most influential figures in his field.

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ASU **Kyl Center for Water Policy**
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Arizona State University

KATHRYN SORENSEN

Director of Research
Kyl Center for Water Policy,
Arizona State University



Kathryn is the Director of Research at the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University. Before joining the Kyl Center, she served for many years as Director of Phoenix Water Services as well as Director of the city of Mesa's Water Resources Department. In these roles she was responsible for the delivery of safe, reliable tap water, as well as the safe removal, treatment and reuse of wastewater, for millions of Arizonans, and significantly advanced the sound management of water resources in Arizona and the Colorado River basin. Kathryn earned a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan. She currently serves as a member of the Water & Health Advisory Council, as a Senior Global Futures Scientist at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, and as a member of the Colorado River Research Group.

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COLORADO RIVER



BRENDA BURMAN

General Manager
Central Arizona Project



Brenda Burman joined Central Arizona Project in 2021 and has been the general manager since January 2023, the first female to lead the organization. Burman has more than 25 years of experience working on Western water and natural resource issues, where she has been committed to finding collaborative solutions to secure reliable water supplies for communities, farms, tribes and the environment. Before joining CAP, Burman was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and the first woman to hold that position. Burman has served in many other areas of the water community: in private legal practice; as the water and energy counsel for U.S. Senator Jon Kyl; as senior water advisor to an environmental organization; and in senior positions for water districts. Burman holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and is licensed to practice law in Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming.

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CLINT CHANDLER

Deputy Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources

Clint Chandler is the Deputy Director for the Water Planning & Permitting Division of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The Division is comprised of seven sections; Colorado River Management: Groundwater Permitting and Wells; Surface Water Per-

mitting; Active Management Areas; Active Management Area Planning and Data Management; Assured and Adequate Water Supply and Recharge Permitting; and Statewide Planning. These are the Department's primary planning and policy functions for the management of the State's water supplies. Clint was U.S. Senator Jeff Flake's Metro Phoenix and Greater Arizona Regional Director. The role includes outreach and issue-specific responsibilities for an area that encompasses the entirety of Arizona, except for Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. Among other things, he performs the supervisory function for a team of regional representatives and arranges the senator's itinerary for trips within the region. The issue-related tasks include resource and energy policy, transportation topics, border matters, Tribal issues, and, occasionally, banking, labor, and other economic subjects. He was employed as the field director in the Office of U.S. Senator Hon. Kyl, the Republican Whip, for the final four years of the Senator's third, and last, term. Prior to his tenure in Senator Kyl's office, Clint's senate experience consisted of three stints with the Office of U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico. He initially served on Senator Domenici's Capitol Hill staff, attending to budget and tax matters. He subsequently was twice employed on the senator's State staff. Clint has also acted as the Vice-President of Business Advocacy and Government Relations for the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and was employed as the principal budget analyst for the New Mexico House Republican Caucus. Clint is an honors graduate of the University of New Mexico with a triple major in economics, history, and political science. He was an academic scholarship recipient. Clint was an inside linebacker for the UNM football team. While a university student, he lived and studied in Mexico.



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Chief Water Executive and Associate General Manager of Water Resources
Salt River Project

Associate General Manager & Chief Water Resources Executive. Leslie joined SRP in 2022, with more than 30 years of water resources management experience in Arizona and the southwest. Throughout her career, Leslie has worked on strategic initiative planning and implementation with Federal, States, Tribes, irrigation districts, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others. Leslie received a BS degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a registered Professional Engineer.

RHETT LARSON

Richard Morrison Professor of Water Law
Arizona State University
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law



Rhett Larson is the Richard Morrison Professor of Water Law at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. He is also a senior research fellow with the Kyl Center for Water Policy at ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy. Professor Larson's research focuses on domestic and international water law and policy. Professor Larson serves on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Mexico Commission, on the Water Conservation Grant Committee of Arizona's Water Infrastructure Finance Authority, and is legal counsel to the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. He is the Principal Investigator on an applied research project improving water supplies for refugee host communities in Lebanon and Jordan. Professor Larson was a visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, a PLuS Alliance visiting fellow with the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, and a Lady Davis Fellow and visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of *Just Add Water: Solving the World's Problems Using its Most Precious Resource* (Oxford University Press, 2020). His forthcoming book is entitled *Day Zero: How Cities Run Out of Water* (Cambridge University Press). Professor Larson received his MS in Water Science, Policy, and Management from the University of Oxford and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago.



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WADE NOBLE

Attorney
Noble Law Offices

Wade and his wife Kathy are the parents of five children. He is a fifth-generation native Arizonan, born in Safford and growing up in Wilcox. After a family move to Tempe, he graduated from Tempe High School. His Bachelor's Degree is from the University of Arizona (1973) and his Juris Doctor Degree from St. Mary's University of San Antonio (1977). Wade has been in private practice in Yuma since 1978. He was a member of the Westover Law Firm until its dissolution in 1996. In that year he formed the Noble Law Office. Clients include: Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, Yuma Irrigation District, North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage District and Unit B Irrigation and Drainage District.



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DONOVAN NEESE

Superintendent
Roosevelt Irrigation District

Donovan Neese is currently the superintendent of the Roosevelt Irrigation District. He was appointed to this position in 2011. He is a registered professional engineer and worked as a design and construction engineer in agriculture for ten years prior to coming to the District. Donovan also has a Master's of Business Administration.

CONCLUSION



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