

Professional Advantage for Water Managers

The Water Management Certificate Program provides professional education and training to persons who are, or will be, managers of organizations that have governance authority and institutional responsibility to develop, store, and deliver water resources to the people they serve. The program's objective is to help individuals become more effective managers, whether they are in public or private institutions. This unique collaboration between the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona and Arizona State University (ASU) has been designed by distinguished practitioners of water resources and power management who have decades of experience and are among the most knowledgeable and recognized leaders in the field.

This is Not Just a Policy or Theory Oriented Program!

All the instructors are experienced managers or technical experts whose insights are not necessarily found in text books or academic theories. The goal is to prepare the next generation of leaders who will require knowledge and skills beyond just moving water from point to point.

Class Protocol

Classes will be conducted in a class-room/television studio at the Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus. This set-up provides a sense of immediacy with the instructors and a chance to network with colleagues in the class as well as the faculty. In addition, the telecast opportunity provides an option to participate in the class via live video conferencing for individuals outside of the Phoenix area. Occasionally, it will provide individual class members who are not able to make a particular class an opportunity to attend the class remotely. All instructional materials or other incidentals required by the instructors are provided by the program. Additionally, food and beverages are provided for, snacks, continental breakfast and lunch for class sessions, as well as for the program initiation and graduation dinners. The format of the class will involve one partial weekend commitment each month - Friday from 1PM – 5PM and Saturday from 9AM – 5PM. Field trips may be included. The course of instruction will be eight months.

The cost is \$3950.00 for the complete program.

2026—2027 Schedule

September 25 & 26, 2026
October 30 & 31, 2026
November 20 & 21, 2026
January 22 & 23, 2027
February 26 & 27, 2027
March 26 & 27, 2027
April 23 & 24, 2027
May 21 & 22, 2027 - Graduation



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS! COHORT XIV 2026-2027



A Collaborative Effort by the Agribusiness & Water Council of
Arizona, Arizona State University Morrison School of Agribusiness
and Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Water Management Certificate Program Curriculum—Subject Matter/Content

Management

- ♦ Strategic Planning
- ♦ Managing Limited Resources
- ♦ Organizational Planning
- ♦ Managing People and Diverse Interests
- ♦ Financial Management
- ♦ Water Supply & Pricing
- ♦ Shareholder/Stakeholder/Employee Communication
- ♦ Media Communication
- ♦ Power Purchases
- ♦ Transmission Services/Power Scheduling
- ♦ Supplemental Energy and Capacity
- ♦ Board of Relationships
- ♦ Allocating Resources (Capital: Human/Financial)
- ♦ Budget Process
- ♦ Bond Issuance
- ♦ Equipment Purchase/Maintenance
- ♦ Canal/Well Maintenance

- ♦ Water Scheduling
- ♦ Safety Procedures
- ♦ International Communication
- ♦ Media Communication
- ♦ Founder, ClearComm Consulting

Legal Regulatory/Compliance

- ♦ Introduction to Water Law
- ♦ Groundwater Management Act
- ♦ Environmental Regulatory Compliance
- ♦ Rights of Way: Fed, St, Trib, Cnty and Local
- ♦ Contractual Agreements
- ♦ Land Laws: Federal and State
- ♦ Service Contracts
- ♦ Government Policies
- ♦ Regulatory and Legal Environments
- ♦ Governments: City, County and Tribal

Technology/History

- ♦ Water Resources Development
- ♦ Water Terminology
- ♦ Land Survey
- ♦ Federal Hydropower
- ♦ Low-Head Hydropower
- ♦ Technology
- ♦ Use & Management of Reclaimed Water
- ♦ Underground Storage and Water Banking
- ♦ CAGRD
- ♦ Water and Energy Nexus
- ♦ Arizona Power Authority, SRP, APS and Hoover
- ♦ Case Studies, role playing and scenarios
- ♦ SCADA systems

Classes begin September 25 & 26, 2026 and meet once a month on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday for eight months. This cohort will conclude in May 22, 2026.

For those of you who are unable to complete the regular curriculum in eight months, you may discuss with faculty the design of a module, choosing some of the classes, to fit your needs. You may also opt to extend the program over a two year period in order to complete all requirements for the issuance of a certificate.

Intent to Participate

- ♦ Your affiliation & all contact information
- ♦ A letter of interest from the individual applicant
- ♦ A letter of support from the sponsoring agency, if appropriate
- ♦ A current résumé

Faculty

Jordy Fuentes

Executive Director, Arizona Power Authority

George Cairo

Civil/Agricultural Engineering, Water Resources & Conveyance Design, George Cairo Engineering, LLC

Tom Davis

President, Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
General Manager, Yuma Co. Water User's Association
Former Manager, U.S. Forest Service

Bill Plummer

ABWC Past President & Past Coordinator of WMCP

Rhett Larson

Professor of Law, ASU Kylr Center for Water Policy

Ken Seasholes

Resource Planning & Analysis Manager, CAP

Donovan Neese

Superintendent, Roosevelt Irrigation District

Charles Cowan

Power Manager & Head of Technical Services ,
Yuma County Water Users' Association

Rebecca Davidson

Southwestern Regional & Youth Programs
Director, National Forest Foundation

Cary Pfeffer

Founder, ClearComm Consulting

Elston Grubaugh

General Manager, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District

Scott Lund

Senior Vice President and Desert Southwest Regional Manager,
Western Area Power Administration

Richard Morrison, Esquire

Attorney-Salmon, Lewis and Weldon-Retired & RNM Ranches, LLC

Wade Noble, Esquire

Noble Law Office

Kiril Hristovski Ph.D.

Environmental & Resource Management Program Chair, ASU

Dan Jones, Esquire

Attorney- Salmon, Lewis & Weldon, PLC

Glen Vortherms

Water Manager Certificate Program Coordinator
Treasurer, Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
Owner, Vortherms Consulting

Brian Buzard

Operations, Power & Engineering Director, Central Arizona Project

Adam McAnally

Senior Resource Acquisition Analyst, Salt River Project

Max Wilson

Water Resources Management Advisor, City of Phoenix City
Managers Office

Sarah Porter

Executive Director, ASU Kyl Center for Water Policy

Dave Roberts

Associate General Manager, Water Resources, SRP (retired)

George Seperich PhD

Emeritus Professor, Arizona State University

Warren Tenney

Executive Director-AZ Municipal Water Users Association

Judah Waxelbaum

Chief of Government Affairs, Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

Doug Dunham

Water Resources Manager, EPCOR

Leslie James

Executive Director, CREDA

Brad Strader

Business Development Manager, Rubicon Water

Danee Garone

Arizona Ombudsman– Citizen's Aide

Sharon Megdal

Executive Director, UArizona Water Resources Research Center

Patrick Sigl, Esquire

Principal Managing Attorney-Water, Land & Environment, SRP

Dominic Graziani

Resource Planning & Analysis Manager, Bureau of Reclamation

Please return all requested information to :

The Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

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For more information about the WMCP, visit:

www.agribusinessarizona.org