



**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
FEDERAL WATER ISSUES CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON DC
APRIL 2011**

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CONGRESSMAN PAUL GOSAR, CHRIS UDALL (ABC), CHERYL ZITTLE (SRP), DENNIS RULE (CAP), BILL PLUMMER (ABC)



PANEL WITH WADE NOBLE (ATTORNEY, YUMA), JOHN SHADEGG (FORMER ARIZONA CONGRESSMAN) AND TOM DONNELLY (NWRA) AT THE ABC ANNUAL MEETING.

AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL OF ARIZONA
1819 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE, STE. E-10
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AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL OF ARIZONA, INC.

Arizona's Reclamation Representative to the National Water Resources Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**ABC
Newsletter
August
2011**

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Congratulations to all concerned for a very successful Annual Meeting of the Agri-Business Council that was held on May 20, 2011. We witnessed record registration and attendance this year and a great line-up of speakers from far and wide.....from California to Washington, D.C. and south into Sonora, Mexico. We thank all those who attended and participated in any manner. And a special thanks to our numerous sponsors. We thank you for traveling to Phoenix and expending resources to join us. We hope that it was an opportune time to meet new people and network and enjoy the day with colleagues.

The meeting started on a great note with a presentation on the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt Dam by James LaBar, Principal Historical Analyst from Salt River Project. Sandy Fabritz-Whitney, the newly appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Henry Darwin, the newly appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality provided an update of where their agencies are focusing currently in regards to the budget and other burning issues and what agriculture can anticipate down the road in regards to fees and regulation. David Brown, Water Law Attorney with Brown and Brown in St. Johns addressed eastern Arizona water issues and the various impacts to eastern Arizona agriculture. Paul Orme, a member of ABC and Attorney for a number of Irrigation and Electrical Districts in central Arizona provided a thorough overview of the likely negative impacts to agricultural operations in Pinal County if the EPA resorts to an expensive visibility fix at the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) in northern Arizona. The NGS provides the majority of power to pump Colorado River water from Lake Havasu through central Arizona to Tucson. Dr. George Seperich, ABC's Treasurer and ASU Professor, enlightened us on the recent effort by ASU to finalize a report of the past "Agricultural Listening Sessions" where ABC facilitated at five agricultural locations in Arizona. The purpose of the Sessions was to ask growers to provide their perspective on the future of agriculture in Arizona. Dr. Seperich also provided some background on the establishment of the Agribusiness Council of Sonora (Council) and why this is important to us. His remarks were a nice lead to his introduction of Dr. Enrique Donnadiu from the Technological Institute of Sonora (ITSON) in Cd. Obregon. Dr. Donnadiu briefed us on their progress in establishing a Council among their agribusiness and water interests in Sonora. The focus of their Council will be very similar to ABC but tailored to fit their needs in Sonora. The ultimate goal is to have our two associations working together to solve problems and mutually benefit one another relative to marketing commodities and addressing water and agribusiness issues as good neighbors.

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Bob Ereth, General Manager of Layne Christensen Company, ABC's newest member. Layne Christensen played a key role by providing the drilling, equipment, human resources and expertise that helped rescue the trapped miners in Chile which captivated the world during the rescue efforts. Bob provided the "Human Story" to what transpired.

We wrapped up the meeting with former Congressman John Shadegg (AZ-CD 3) and National Water Resources Executive Vice President, Tom Donnelly, speaking about agriculture, water, the issues we're confronting in the 112th Congress and their perspective on the 2012 Presidential Elections.

In addition, ABC decided to present awards to a number of very well deserving recipients, including some no longer with us. Several of the awardees were not able to attend the annual meeting but the awards were or will be presented at a later time. Dick Silverman, SRP General Manager, and Tom Clark, former General Manager of the CAWCD, received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Special Recognition Awards went to Earl Zarbin, Bob White, Webb Todd and the late Morley Fox. Former Congressman John Shadegg, former Governor Rose Mofford and the late former Congressman Jay Rhodes were awarded Statesman Awards. Our coveted Water Buffalo Award was presented to former Arizona Department of Water Resources Director, Herb Guenther. We also presented a Lifetime Achievement award to Larry Dozier for his contributions to water resources in the western United States at his retirement in March as Deputy General Manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District.

Earlier in the year we presented an award to Dr. Gene Sander in recognition of his years of dedicated service to agriculture in Arizona and continued support of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona.

We thank each of our Award recipients for their many years of dedicated service to water resources and agriculture in Arizona.

A special thanks to Salt River Project for the sponsorship of the great audio system that significantly improved the sound in the meeting room resulting in a much more receptive audience.

We have our work cut out for us for next year to surpass the great speakers we had this year. Mark your calendars for another great meeting next year on May 18, 2012.

Congratulations to Dr. Gene Sander on his appointment as President of the University of Arizona. We all wish him the best of luck. We welcome Dr. Shane Burgess as the newly appointed Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. ABC has invited him to be a member of the Executive Committee.

Best wishes to Larry Dozier and Doug Miller upon their recent retirement from the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. We also wish bon voyage to Dick Silverman on his retirement from SRP later this month. And congratulations to Randy Chandler on his recent selection to be Area Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office.

Bill Plummer
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that we're already half way through the year! We started with a busy 100 day state legislative session combined with various water related groups that are meeting to address long-term water sustainability in Arizona. The Blue Ribbon Panel and the Water Resources Development Commission (WRDC) were both created by state statute and have occupied many water users' time the past few months. ABC members have been actively involved in the discussions that will eventually lead to a final report and recommendations to the state legislature. I should mention that at least twice a month, the ABC Legislative Committee meets via conference call to discuss state and federal level legislation and proposed regulation and the impacts, good and bad they may have on our membership.

Other issues of importance to our members.....the Arizona-Mexico Commission (Commission) recently met at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield to craft the latest action items to complete. We have been active members in both the agribusiness and water committees. Dr. George Seperich provided an informative presentation to the agribusiness committee which led to an action item stating that we desire and plan to continue our relationship with our colleagues in Sonora or the Agribusiness Council of Sonora (it is a positive work in progress) and also plan a joint meeting of the agribusiness and water committees this fall or next year in the state of Sonora. This and other action items were presented to both Governors Brewer and Padres at the conclusion of the sessions. We enjoy our relationship with the Commission and especially our relationship with colleagues to the south and will continue to work collectively to be good neighbors.

Recently, a number of ABC members, staff from the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation and representatives from MR Steel, a local steel fabrication company in Phoenix, made a visit to the Roosevelt Irrigation District and the Harquahala Irrigation District to discuss options to prevent or deter metal theft to their operations and to individual farmer owned wells. The goal was to look at fabrication options on the well sites that will hopefully prevent or strongly curtail metal theft (primarily copper wiring). An opportunity to look at sites up close provided a better understanding of what is needed to address the problem. One site we assessed was vandalized not long after, so the efforts made to address the problem were timely. MR Steel is working on fabricating a solution for the site recently vandalized. Until drug use ends and/or copper prices drop, among other factors, this problem will likely be an ongoing problem to try and prevent. If you are experiencing metal theft, please feel free to contact us and let us know. It is our goal to make sure we know the extent of the problem among our members.

We want to welcome the new University of Arizona's (U of A) Dean of the College and Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dr. Shane Burgess, to Arizona. He was thoroughly vetted before the various agricultural associations and came highly recommended by our former Dean and ABC member, Dr. Gene Sander, who is now serving as President of the U of A. We look forward to working with Dr. Burgess and bringing him up to speed on water and agribusiness related issues in Arizona. We also wish Dr. Sander all the best in his position as President of the U of A and look forward to our continuing relationship with him in that position.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome Layne Christensen Company, Dr. David Van Fleet, Stantec Consulting Services and The Nature Conservancy as the newest members of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona. We are thrilled to have them join us and thank them for helping make ABC the exceptional organization that it is!

NEW DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 ARIZONA FARMING & RANCHING HALL OF FAME

Provided by: Caole De Cosmo, Heritage Center at Lakin Farm

In order for the 2012 inductees into the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame to be included in the centennial book, the deadline for nominations has been moved up to September 1, 2011.

Each year an impartial panel of judges selects seven honorees, five living and two posthumous, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The 2012 inductees will be introduced at the Fifth Annual Honoree Dinner, on March 3, 2012 at Corona Ranch. The 2011 and 2012 Honoree dinners have received "Official Centennial Events" designation from the Arizona Centennial 2012 Foundation Sanctioned Events Committee.

To be eligible nominees must be individuals who have been associated directly with farming and ranching, or who are part of the farming and ranching community in the fields of education, business or the sciences. Nominations are encouraged from all corners of the state.

Please address nominations and supporting material to the Arizona Farming Ranching Hall of Fame in care of the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, 289 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear, AZ. 85338.

Nomination forms are available at www.heritageatlakinfarm.org, or request a form by emailing codeco2@aol.com or calling 623.695.9614.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
AUGUST 18-19	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	PINETOP
SEPTEMBER 16	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	COOLIDGE
SEPTEMBER 21-23	COLORADO RIVER SYMPOSIUM	SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
OCTOBER 21	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	ASU POLYTECHNIC
OCTOBER 28	H2OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT	FRANCISCO GRANDE, CASA GRANDE
NOVEMBER 16-18	NWRA ANNUAL MEETING	TUCSON
NOVEMBER 18	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	TUCSON



LARRY DOZIER RECEIVING A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM ABC PRESIDENT BILL PLUMMER AT HIS RETIREMENT PARTY AT CAP