

# WRRC 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Tribal Water Resilience — in a — Changing Environment

Aug. 30 - Sept. 1

Photo: David DeJong, MAR-5 site, Gila River Indian Community

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

## AGENDA

### Day 1 - Honoring Rod Lewis and Exploring the Meaning of Tribal Water Resilience

Monday, August 30, 2021, 1:00-4:00 pm AZ time

1:00 – 1:05	<b>Welcome to Day 1</b> Sharon B. Megdal, <i>Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona</i>
1:05 – 1:15	<b>Opening Blessing</b> Jerry Carlyle, <i>Vice Chairman, San Xavier District, Tohono O’odham Nation</i>
1:15 – 1:45	<b>Honoring Rodney Blaine Lewis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John R. Lewis, <i>Former Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona</i></li> <li>• John Blaine Lewis, <i>Executive Director, Avant Energy</i></li> <li>• Stephen Roe Lewis, <i>Governor, Gila River Indian Community</i></li> <li>• Katherine Elizabeth Lewis, <i>Board of Directors, Gila River Health Care Corporation</i></li> <li>• Sarah Camille Chiago, <i>Student and Granddaughter of Rod and Willardene Lewis (pre-recorded reading)</i></li> </ul>
1:45 – 2:15	<b>The Legacy of Rod Lewis and Tribal Water Resilience</b> John Echohawk, <i>Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund</i>
2:15 – 2:25	BREAK
2:25 – 2:40	<b>What Does Indigenous Resilience Mean?</b> Karletta Chief, <i>Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Arizona</i>
2:40 – 3:20	<b>Traditional Knowledge and Resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Rebecca Tsosie, <i>Regents Professor of Law, University of Arizona</i></li> <li>• Michael Kotutwa Johnson, <i>Research Associate, Native American Agriculture Fund, Enrolled Member of the Hopi Tribe</i></li> <li>• Vernon Masayesva, <i>Executive Director, Black Mesa Trust</i></li> </ul>
3:20 – 4:00	<b>Reflections on Tribal Water Resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Darrah Blackwater, <i>Indigenous Law and Policy Fellow, University of Arizona</i></li> <li>• Nikki Tulley, <i>PhD Candidate, University of Arizona</i></li> <li>• Tommy Drennan, <i>Council Member, Colorado River Indian Tribes</i></li> <li>• Lisa Garcia, <i>Council Member, Ak-Chin Indian Community</i></li> <li>• Percy Deal, <i>Board Member, To’ Nizhoni’ A’ni (translated ‘Sacred Water Speaks’)</i></li> </ul>
4:00	ADJOURN

## Day 2 – Hearing from Tribal Leaders about Water Resilience

Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 8:00-11:00 am AZ time

8:00 – 8:10	<b>Welcome to Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sharon B. Megdal, <i>Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona</i></li><li>Levi Esquerra, <i>Senior Vice President for Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement, University of Arizona</i></li></ul>
8:10 – 9:30	<b>Progress Toward Building Water Resilient Communities – Part I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moderator: Maria Dadgar, <i>Enrolled Member, Piscataway Tribe; Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona</i></li><li>Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, <i>Chairwoman, White Mountain Apache Tribe</i></li><li>Timothy Williams, <i>Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe</i></li><li>Selso Villegas, <i>Executive Director, Tohono O’odham Nation Water Resources</i></li></ul>
9:30 – 9:40	BREAK
9:40 – 11:00	<b>Progress Toward Building Water Resilient Communities – Part II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moderator: Katosha Nakai, <i>Founder and Owner of Tribal Policy People, LLC</i></li><li>Stephen Roe Lewis, <i>Governor, Gila River Indian Community</i></li><li>Amelia Flores, <i>Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes</i></li><li>Jonathan Nez, <i>President, Navajo Nation</i></li></ul>
11:00	ADJOURN
4:00 - 5:30	<b>Film Screening and Panel - Paya: The Water Story of the Paiute</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moderator: Kyndall Noah, <i>Project Coordinator/Communication Specialist, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission</i></li><li>Teri Red Owl, <i>Executive Director, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission</i></li><li>Noah Williams, <i>Water Quality Program Coordinator, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley</i></li><li>Paul Huette, <i>Vice Chairman, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission</i></li></ul>

## Day 3 – Appreciating Partnerships and Preparing for the Future

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 8:00-11:00 am AZ time

8:00 – 8:10	<b>Welcome to Day 3</b> <p>Sharon B. Megdal, <i>Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona</i></p>
8:10 – 8:40	<b>Opening Keynote</b> <p>Camille Calimlim Touton, <i>Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</i></p>
8:40 – 9:30	<b>Advancing Water Resilience through Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moderator and Panelist: Crystal Tulley-Cordova, <i>Principal Hydrologist, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources</i></li><li>Joshua Moore, <i>Farm Manager, Colorado River Indian Tribes</i></li><li>Brian Golding Sr., <i>Director, Quechan Economic Development Authority</i></li></ul>
9:30 – 9:40	BREAK
9:40 – 10:45	<b>Preparing for a Water Resilient Future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moderator and Panelist: Bidtah Becker, <i>Associate Attorney, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority</i></li><li>Jake Golden, <i>Water Resource Specialist, City of Phoenix</i></li><li>Carrie Nuva Joseph, <i>Postdoctoral Researcher, Arizona State University</i></li><li>Jesse Navarro, <i>Governmental Affairs Assistant, Tohono O’odham Nation</i></li></ul>
10:45 – 10:55	<b>Poetry Reading</b> <p>Ofelia Zepeda, <i>Poet and Regents Professor, University of Arizona</i></p>
10:55 – 11:00	<b>Closing</b>



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