World Water Day Reflections

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WRRC Water Webinar
22 March 2024

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Reflections on World Water Day 2024

by Sharen R. Megdal
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https://wrcc.arizona.edu/reflections-world-water-day-2024
Reflecting on WWD 2024

Bullets from UN-Water website:

- Water can create peace or spark conflict.
- When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal, or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries.
- More than 3 billion people worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Yet, only 24 countries have cooperation agreements for all their shared water.
- As climate change impacts increase, and populations grow, there is an urgent need, within and between countries, to unite around protecting and conserving our most precious resource.
- Public health and prosperity, food and energy systems, economic productivity and environmental integrity all rely on a well-functioning and equitably managed water cycle.
- When we cooperate on water, we create a positive ripple effect – fostering harmony, generating prosperity and building resilience to shared challenges.
- We must act upon the realization that water is not only a resource to be used and competed over – it is a human right, intrinsic to every aspect of life.

- This World Water Day, we all need to unite around water and use water for peace, laying the foundations of a more stable and prosperous tomorrow. (emphasis added)
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greetings from New York City and Happy World Water Day! Today is the official start of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the first water conference cosponsored by the United Nations in almost 30 years. Themes of the event are projected to include strong actions to address water issues at all scales across the globe. It is required that advancing achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6—their water and sanitation for all—requires actions on the part of each one of us.

Regrettably, the conference was not open to individuals. Instead, NGOs, universities, and other bodies apply for accreditation to participate. Ukraine's accreditation failed for participation of eight registered delegates, who all arrived in New York City eager to participate. The United Nations headquarters include Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairwoman Anna Smith, New River Indus Community Governor Stephen R. Lewis, Maryland Professor and Director of the Mail Center for Studies in Public Policy Andrea K. Gish, Ukrainian student William Quinones, Colorado River Basin Water & Tiers Initiative Co-Directors Matt McCullough and Dave Young, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, and yours truly. I am in good company.

Prior to the formal open day conference, several of us participated in the all-day March 22 Water Diplomacy Symposium, where the discussion focused heavily on the need for inclusive and equitable conservation and management. We explored issues related to Indigenous communities, gender, climate, poverty, and many more social-economic factors with a very strong focus on shared water. Encouraging outcomes from this panel were in the areas of integration, overcoming barriers, developing new partnerships, and making new friendships.

World Water Day activities officially started for me at midnight, when I delivered a Zoom lecture on the keynote lecture, “Taking action to change the ways we use, conserve, and manage water,” for the Water Research Center at Susan Quake University.

My Water Day was concluded with an afternoon roundtable session at the UN, The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Securing Shared Waters, which was co-sponsored by the States & Tiers Initiative | Colorado River Basin and the WRC. We were honored to have U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland deliver an inspirational keynote to open the session. Closing the day, the WRC, the States & Tiers Initiative, and the WRC that was co-sponsored by the States & Tiers Initiative | Colorado River Basin and the WRC. We were honored to have U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland deliver an inspirational keynote to open the session. Closing the day, the WRC, the States & Tiers Initiative, and the WRC.

Reflections on World Water Day 2022

March 22-23, 2023 – UN Water Conference

Inclusivity at the Water Diplomacy Symposium and UN Water Conference fostered by the Women in Water Network

March 22, 2023

Sharon B. Magalí, Ph.D.

Susan Quake University
WRRC 2024 Annual Conference held March 12-13, 2024
Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships

Session recordings now available!

https://wrrc.arizona.edu/news-events/2024-conference/wrrc-2024-conference-agenda
On networking – from local to global
Networking leads to partnerships and cooperation

From my "Salty Reflections" talk to the Multi-state Salinity Coalition, 29 February 2024

• Establish and maintain connections.
  • When you meet a great expert – keep in touch and find out a way to continue connecting (don’t be one and done)
• Doing things that seem “out of your job description” or out of your comfort zone can not only be good but can be great.
• Ask questions to learn and listen to learn.
• Be proactive in communicating.
• Network and maintain networks.
  • This can be exhausting but can have big rewards, including enhancing your own ability to help others advance in their careers.
  • Networking is a two-way street.
  • Make introductions!
  • Organize panels
• Be responsive, including with the media.
Addressing wicked water problem requires broadly collaborative efforts

Process factors from a case study I’ve written about transboundary Colorado River Water and the International Boundary and Water Commission (in press)

1. A functioning mechanism for cooperation, including knowledge co-production
2. Mutual respect contributing to trust
3. Involvement of interested parties (stakeholders)
4. Good communication
5. Persistence and Patience
6. Eating with your partners
7. Leadership
Connecting this to our special guests

WRRC 2020 Conference
Held virtually due to pandemic

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:15 – 4:15 pm</td>
<td>Drawing the Water Map</td>
<td>Moderator: Laura Orignano, Manager, Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) Central Arizona Project</td>
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<td>Arizona Water Management</td>
<td>Clint Chandler, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources Division PPT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Groundwater/Surface Water</td>
<td>Greg Killian, Manager, Water Rights Department, Salt River Project PPT</td>
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<td>Tribal Water Projects</td>
<td>Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman, White Mountain Apache Tribe PPT</td>
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<td>Technology and Reuse</td>
<td>Brian Blasevsky, Executive Director, City of Scottsdale Water Resources PPT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Water Quality and Agriculture</td>
<td>Channah Rock, Extension Specialist and Professor, University of Arizona PPT</td>
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Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
Indigenous Women’s Leadership Network

https://www.iwln.org/

https://www.eli.org/events/women-water-diplomacy-network-2023-year-review-online-event
Kash Siddiqi
Former Footballer and Football for Peace Co-founder

Emily Brooks
Lead for Football for Peace’s Rehydrate the Earth Campaign

https://www.footballforpeace.org.uk/
Open mic discussion/Q&A moderated by Jamie McEvoy
Until 1:15 Arizona time