



Washington DC Roundtable April 22, 2026

[Reservoir Center for Water Solutions](#)

301 Water St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

Wednesday, April 22nd – Joint Water Planners Conference

8:30 - 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast and Registration** (Reservoir Center Cafe)

9:00 - 9:30 am **Welcome and Introductions** (Multipurpose Room)

Julie Cunningham, Chair and J.D. Strong, Executive Director,
Western States Water Council (WSWC)

Bob Bacon, Chair and Beth Callaway, Executive Director,
Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP)

Welcome from Josh Mahan, Director of Internal Affairs, Reservoir
Center

9:30 - 11:30 am **Panel 1 – Water Policy Committee**

MODERATOR: Jennifer Verleger, General Counsel, North Dakota
Department of Water Resources

PANELISTS:

Jessica Kramer, Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental
Protection Agency

Andrea Travnicek, Assistant Secretary for Water & Science,
Department of the Interior

Aubrey Bettencourt, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation
Service (NRCS), USDA

Matt Grosso, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy
Technology, Department of Energy

Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, & Deputy Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Karen St. Germain, Director, Earth Sciences, National Aeronautics & Space Administration

11:30 - 12:00 pm **OPEN DISCUSSION/NETWORKING**

12:00 - 1:30 pm **LUNCH** (Reservoir Center Cafe)

1:30 - 2:30 pm **Panel 2 – Congressional Topics and Panel**

MODERATOR: Geoff Bowman, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates

PANELISTS:

Representative Melanie Stansbury (New Mexico)

Representative Susie Lee (Nevada) (tentative)

Representative Celest Maloy (Utah) (tentative)

Congressional Committee Staff

Alex Noffsinger, Professional Staff, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

Melanie Thornton, Professional Staff, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

Maddie Blalock, CWA/SDWA staff, Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works

2:30 - 3:00 pm **OPEN DISCUSSION/NETWORKING**

3:00 - 4:30 pm **Panel 3 – Communicating Water Information:
Data/Modeling/Forecasting**

MODERATOR: (TBD)

PANELISTS:

Brian Cosgrove, Acting Chief, Analysis & Prediction Division, Office of Water Prediction, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Dianna Crilley, Director, Office of Planning & Programming;
Chad Wagner, Program Coordinator, Groundwater & Streamflow
Information Program, U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources
Mission Area

Heather Hofman, Director, National Water & Climate Center,
Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

Sharon Vasquez-Ray, Program Manager, NASA Western Water
Action Office

Dan McEvoy, Associate Research Professor/Regional
Climatologist, Desert Research Institute & Western Regional
Climate Center

State Perspectives:

Clint Carney, Colorado River Policy Specialist, Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Bob Bacon, State Hydrologist, Missouri Department of Natural
Resources/Missouri Geological Survey (ICWP Chair)

Discussion questions:

1. **Accessibility:** Discoverability of studies/data on agency websites and the ability for states to download raw data for their own modeling. Lessons learned?
2. **Connecting Products to States' Use:** Challenges and "speed bumps" states face in utilizing federal data and products.
3. **Data Trust:** Challenges over end-users' (farmers, ranchers, city residents) and sophisticated state users' trust and perception of data sources (e.g., via AI/Google search).
4. **Data overload:** How to sift through the noise to find the signal decision makers are looking for?

4:30 - 5:00 pm **Observations and Next Steps** - ICWP and WSWC Chairs

5:00 pm **ADJOURN**

5:30 - 7:30 pm **Joint Roundtable Reception** (District Winery located at 385 Water St
SE, Washington, DC 20003)

Many thanks to Xylem for sponsoring this year's Reservoir Center event space!