



Drought Contingency

Planning and Preparedness

July 23, 2020

Speaker Biographies

Andy Dunn, LG, LGH, CWRE, RH2 Engineering, Inc.

Andy Dunn is a water rights expert and licensed hydrogeologist. He assists RH2's clients with water rights analyses, water right processing, reclaimed water permitting, water supply planning and development, aquifer testing and analysis, water system planning, technical document review and critique, hydrologic/hydrogeologic testing and field measurements. Prior to joining RH2 Engineering, Andy served as a Section Manager and a hydrogeologist/permit writer for the Washington Department of Ecology's Water Resources Program in the Northwest Regional Office.

Crystal Raymond, UW Climate Impacts Group

Crystal Raymond is a climate adaptation specialist with the Climate Impacts Group (CIG) at the University of Washington. She has worked on climate adaptation for over 10 years as both a researcher and practitioner. In her previous position she was a climate adaptation specialist for the US Forest Service and Seattle City Light. She works on climate adaptation and resilience as it relates to wildfires, forests, and water resources of the Pacific Northwest. Crystal has a PhD in forest ecology from the University of Washington.

Darion Mayhorn, Bureau of Reclamation Drought Coordinator

As the Drought Coordinator, Darion Mayhorn is responsible for managing the Drought Response Program. In this position, he responds to congressional inquiries, develops and maintains the multi-million-dollar annual budget, develops agency policy, and coordinates and communicates with stakeholders and internal staff to support the planning and implementation of actions that build long-term resiliency to drought across the West. Before this position, Mayhorn served as a civil engineer in Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office where he assisted in inspecting, maintaining, and providing engineering for Reclamation's infrastructure in southern Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Mayhorn joined the Bureau of Reclamation after working for the Army Corps of Engineers and Argonne National Laboratory. Mayhorn received his bachelor's in Civil Engineering and Applied Math from Saint Louis University and a master's in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Colorado.

Dave Olson, President, Water System Services, Inc.

Dave Olson has a Bachelor's Degree in Business, is licensed as a Washington Department of Health State Certified Water Distribution Manager Level III, Water Treatment Operator, and Cross Connection Control Specialist. Dave has served in Washington State as a Group A water system instructor for the Washington State Environmental Training Center and the Washington State Department of Health and received the Washington State Department of Health 2013 "Above and Beyond Award" for his efforts to address nitrate in drinking water. Dave has served on his local water association board and has engaged in local water issues including the Whatcom County Coordinated Water System Planning effort. Recognizing that local water systems were in turmoil and ill equipped to face ever increasing and often confusing drinking water rules and regulations, he founded Water System Services, Inc. Water System Services is dedicated to providing a full range of technical, managerial, and administrative services and currently works with over 50 water systems ranging in size from 1-1,000 approved connections serving over 5,000 people and more than 5,000 cows.



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Henry Bierlink, Administrator Ag Water Board

Henry Bierlink is a Lynden native. He operated a Lynden dairy farm for several years, earned a M.A. in political science from Western Washington University, and has over 30 years of engagement in agriculture and public policy. Henry currently serves as the Administrator of the Ag Water Board, a facilitating entity for six Watershed Improvement Districts (Irrigation Districts) located in Whatcom County, WA. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Washington Red Raspberry Commission and the Washington Seed Potato Commission.

Jeff Marti, Washington Department of Ecology Drought Coordinator

Jeff Marti is an environmental planner and the drought coordinator for the Department of Ecology. Over the course of his career, he has worked in the areas of hydroelectric project permitting, administrative rule-making and water right permitting. He led the recent update of the Washington State Drought Contingency Plan with the support of a federal WaterSmart grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. This year the Washington State Legislature incorporated key recommendations from the plan into new legislation which strengthens our state drought framework so that it's more supportive of long-term drought resiliency rather than being limited to emergency drought response. The legislation also authorized the department to issue formal drought advisories whereas previously the only option was to declare a drought emergency. Jeff chairs the state Water Supply Availability Committee, which monitors and supplies water supply and drought conditions, and advises the state Executive Water Emergency Committee, which is responsible for recommending declarations of drought emergencies to the Governor. He has a B.S. from Iowa State University and a Masters of Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College.

Jay Chennault, Associated Earth Sciences, Inc.

Jay Chennault is a hydrogeologist and surface water engineer with 20 years of experience in watershed hydrology, surface water-groundwater interactions, numerical groundwater modeling, production well installation and testing, seawater intrusion analyses, well head protection area delineation, and field data collection. Jay has been consulting in the Puget Sound area for the last 16 years where he has applied his skills to regional watershed projects, water right and water availability evaluations, water supply projects, residential well mitigation projects, and sand and gravel mining operations. Prior to his consulting career, Jay was with the Water Resources Division of the USGS working primarily on stream gaging sites in Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom Counties.



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Jim Bucknell, Retired RH2 Engineering, Inc.

Prior to joining RH2 in 2004, Jim worked for Washington Department of Ecology as a Water Resource Manager for 27 years. During the 1976 and 1977 drought, he worked directly with the Office of the Governor as part of Washington State's drought response team, and subsequently worked as Ecology's drought coordinator for several years. Jim is an expert on water rights and water law. While at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office, Jim was responsible for water rights administration in the seven northwest counties, including Whatcom County. At Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, he was the primary point of contact for the Water Resources Program for all water rights and water resource-related issues in Whatcom County. In addition, he was Ecology's watershed lead for the WRIA 1 watershed planning process. At RH2, Jim continued to work with Whatcom County agencies, governments, and Tribes, state agencies, and local stakeholder groups. Jim was the project manager for the update of the Whatcom County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) and the agricultural irrigation water quantification and streamflow analysis report. He was a key member of RH2's water rights cost reimbursement team, which actively processes water right applications for Ecology. Prior to his retirement from RH2 in March 2020, Jim was the lead author of the Whatcom County Drought Contingency Plan.

Megan Kernan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Megan Kernan is the Water Policy Section Manager and Drought Coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). She has worked on drought, streamflow restoration, and other water policy related issues at WDFW for the past two years. Prior to joining WDFW, Megan spent a decade working on water resource issues for various non-profit, federal, and academic institutions. Megan holds a M.S. in Water Resources and a J.D., both from the University of Idaho.

Sue Blake, Washington State University Faculty, Emeritus

Sue Blake retired in 2020 after over 30 years working for Washington State University, Washington Sea Grant, and local governments. She has a Bachelor of Science in Freshwater Ecosystems and a Master of Science in Water Resource Management. Her work in Whatcom County focused on a wide variety of water resource issues and programs including numerous watershed planning efforts, groundwater and stormwater management, education and outreach, shellfish protection and technical assessment.