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GMDA Federal Issues committee so you may know,

Below is the latest weekly report from National Water Resources Association. I'm a little slow in getting this out from Friday.

As The Groundwater Caucus for NWRA, this report is available to all GMDA members. Please let the GMDA Federal Issues committee know if you do not wish to receive this weekly So You May Know.

GMDA (NWRA Groundwater caucus) July Summer conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico was a big success and a major shout-out to Aron, Kelli, Jimmie Sue, and all the New Mexico folks for another outstanding meeting! Dick Ehrman, Water Resources Coordinator for Lower Platte South Natural Resources District in Nebraska does a super job as Secretary/treasurer for the Caucus.

President Danial Shannon from Mississippi will be attending the Caucus Breakfast at the NWRA Western Water Seminar in Medora, ND next week. The Federal Issues Committee will lead the GW Caucus from 8 to 9:30 on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda and the Caucus federal priorities is listed below.

**Caucus Breakfast Agenda:**

- Opening Remarks and Groundwater Caucus/GMDA July Summer Conference Report
- 2023 Farm Bill proposed groundwater programs discussion.
  - EQIP Conservation Act of 2023
  - Groundwater Conservation Easements
  - Water Conservation Reserve Program
  - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
  - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
  - Watershed and Flood Control Act (PL 83-566)
- Groundwater Federal Priorities
  - Current Priorities
  - Changes Looking Ahead
- Roundtable Discussion  
Adjournment

**Caucus federal Priorities:**

- 1) State primacy, including protection of State and private property rights related to federal claims to groundwater ownership and administration under EPA regulations, WOTUS, U.S. Forest service, BOR, ESA litigation, and other federal agency intrusion.
- 2) Groundwater conservation measures, including irrigation, industrial and municipal use. Examples: Add "The conservation of groundwater" to tax code section 170(h)(4)(A) list. Farm Bill – USDA conservation programs

- 3) Storage and groundwater recharge with attention to conjunctive management for the benefit of groundwater and surface water supply.  
Example: floodwater capture and transfer study and projects to benefit groundwater storage.
- 4) Planning water resources infrastructure and drought mitigation due to the increased demands on groundwater.
- 5) Water supply and the fallowing of farm ground, with special attention to the individual financial and public welfare costs.

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# NWRA WEEKLY

July 21, 2023

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**NWRA**  
**Events**



**Join your Western water colleagues in Medora!**

Despite the NWRA hotel blocks closing, you can still register for the 2023 Western Water Seminar and stay at one of Medora's nearby hotels.

Our general session will include the following confirmed speakers:

- Tammy Miller** – North Dakota Lieutenant Governor
- Dr. Andrea Travnicek** – North Dakota Dept. of Water Resources
- Wanda McFadyen** – Assiniboine River Basin Initiative
- Amy McCann** – Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library
- Lance Yohe** – International Joint Commission
- Ken Royse** – Educate, Advocate, Engage Program
- Jay Gilbertson** – East Dakota Water Development District

**Western Water Seminar**

Aug 2-4

Medora, ND

**Leadership Forum and Annual Conference**

Nov 8-10

San Antonio, TX

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**Member Events**

**Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona**

Annual Meeting & Water Conference

Sept 15

Phoenix, AZ

32nd Annual H2O Golf Tournament

**James Brower** – Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project

Oct 27

**Jeff Zueger** – Harvestone

Casa Grande,  
AZ

**Mark Urquhardt** – Cavendish Farms

To see the complete event agenda, registration, and lodging information click on the button below.

**Association  
of California  
Water  
Agencies**

We look forward to seeing you in Medora!

Fall  
Conference

Nov 28–30

[Click here to register!](#)

Indian Wells,  
CA

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## Thank you to our event sponsors!

**Colorado  
Water  
Congress**

Water Titan

Summer  
Conference

Trinity River Authority of Texas

August 22–24

Steamboat,  
CO

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Water Buffalo

**Groundwater  
Management  
Districts  
Association**

Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.

No Immediate  
Events

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Gold

**Idaho Water  
Users  
Association**

Central Utah Water Conservancy District

Legislative  
Water College

Aug 28–30

Burley, ID

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Silver

**Association of California Water Agencies**

**Kansas  
Water  
Congress**

Kansas Water  
Office, 2023  
Governor’s  
Conference on  
the Future of  
Water in  
Kansas

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Bronze

**CREDA (Colorado River Energy Distributors Association)**

**Water Management Solutions**

Nov 15–16

Manhattan, KS

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## THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

### **NWRA Supports Senate Water Bills**

On Wednesday, the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power held a legislative hearing to receive testimony on sixteen water related bills. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille C. Touton provided testimony on several bills. **NWRA** sent letters of support for two bills discussed during the hearing. The Urban Canal Modernization Act (S.2160), introduced by Senator Risch (R-ID) and the STREAM Act (S.2162), introduced by Senator Feinstein (D-CA). S.2160 would provide additional tools to assist water entities address maintenance needs of canals that have been surrounded by urban development. S.2162 would build upon the investments in the American Infrastructure and Jobs Act by investing additional resources in water infrastructure. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the hearing and testimony. Click [HERE](#) to view the NWRA letter on S.2160 and [HERE](#) to view the NWRA letter on S.2162.

**Montana  
Water  
Resources  
Association**  
No Immediate  
Events

**Nebraska  
Water  
Resources  
Association**

NeWRA &  
NSIA Joint  
Convention

Nov 21–23

Kearney, NE

## Make an NWRA 2023 Award Nomination Today

Do you know a water professional that goes above and beyond the call of duty in the service of our nation's water users and our association? If you have someone in mind, complete this [Nomination Form](#) and send it to NWRA's Awards and Recognition Committee at [nwra@nwra.org](mailto:nwra@nwra.org) by August 31, 2023. Nominations will be reviewed and approved by NWRA's Awards Committee in early September and will be presented at the NWRA Leadership Forum and Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX the week of November 6th.

### North Dakota Water Users Association

60th Annual Joint ND Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop

Dec 5–8

Bismarck, ND

## House Interior & EPA Funding Bill Considered

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY2024 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill by a vote of 33-27. The bill provides \$25.417 billion in non-defense discretionary spending, which is a \$13.433 billion or 35 percent below current FY2023 funding levels. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was provided \$1.536 billion; U.S. Geological Survey was provided \$1.347 billion; the Environmental Protection Agency was provided \$6.173 billion; and the U.S. Forest Service was provided \$8.023 billion. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a recap of the markup. Click the following links to view the respective documents: [Summary](#) / [Bill Text](#) / [Bill Report](#) / [Amendments Considered](#)

### Oregon Water Resources Congress

Water Law Seminar

Oct 4

Sisters, OR

Annual Conference

Nov 28–30

Hood River, OR

## Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill Considered

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY2024 Energy and Water Appropriations bill by a vote of 29-0. The bill provides \$58.095 billion in total funding for the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and independent agencies. The Corps of Engineers was provided \$8.934 billion and the Bureau of Reclamation was funded at \$1.921 billion. The bill also provides \$186 million for Western drought programs under the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a recap of the markup. Click the following links to view the

### Texas Water Conservation Association

Fall Conference

Nov 1–3

respective documents: [Summary](#) / [Bill Text](#) / [Bill Report](#) / [CDS Projects Included](#)

San Antonio,  
TX

### House Holds ESA Hearing

On Tuesday, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held an oversight hearing on the costs associated with the implementation and enforcement of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) during the 50th anniversary year of its existence. The panel heard from government agencies and stakeholders provided their perspective on the ESA. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete recap of the hearing.

**Upper Missouri Water Association**

No Immediate Events

**Utah Water Users**

**Association**

No Immediate Events

### Michael Brain Named to Interior Water Post

On Wednesday, the Department of Interior [announced](#) that Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Michael Brain has been named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Michael succeeds Tanya Trujillo who was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science on June 25, 2021, and announced her resignation, effective July 17, 2023. Michael Brain has served as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation since March 2022. In this role, he oversaw the agency's media relations, internal communications and congressional relations programs. Before joining Reclamation, Brain held a variety of positions in the U.S. House of Representatives, including as Counsel for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment and as a professional staffer for the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Appropriations.

**Washington State Water Resources Association**

No Immediate Events

**Stay Connected via:**



### Army Corps resumes some wetlands approvals post-Sackett

By E&E News

The Army Corps of Engineers has restarted approving some key wetlands determinations after a pause sparked by a dramatic Supreme Court decision that all but gutted the Biden administration's signature water policy. In a letter to top congressional Republicans sent July 12, officials confirmed that the Army Corps had briefly paused processing all approved jurisdictional determinations (AJDs) in the aftermath of *Sackett v. EPA*, which froze a crucial federal sign-off component for many industry projects. But the Army Corps is now processing certain determinations in areas where there are no or marginal water resources. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### **EPA outlines path to more state control of water permitting**

By E&E News

EPA is proposing new parameters for water permitting for states and tribes, even as advocates have expressed worry around heightened control beyond the federal level. The Biden administration on Wednesday proposed a rule streamlining and laying out the necessary requirements for administering programs that protect waterways from unpermitted discharges. Using the Clean Water Act, regulators intend the move to address current barriers in administering dredge-and-fill permitting, while also expanding tribal authority. In a statement, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox asserted that the rule will strengthen partnerships and ensure clean water protections. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### **Senate committee launches work on water projects bill**

By E&E News

Senate lawmakers are preparing a major biennial legislative effort to bolster water infrastructure projects, even as partisan divisions loom. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee took steps towards elevating talks around the next Water Resources Development Act bill during a Thursday hearing. The legislation addresses some of the nation's most pressing infrastructure concerns, giving the Army Corps of Engineers its marching orders on locks and dams, ports, environmental restoration and climate



resiliency. Outgoing Chair Tom Carper (D-Del.) lauded the WRDA process in opening remarks, emphasizing the usual collegial nature of talks around the bill, the latest version of which passed during the last session 93 to 1. Carper also said there was room for improvement. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

## **Congress unlikely to replenish disaster funds anytime soon**

By E&E News

Despite mounting concerns about extreme weather and natural disasters this summer, Congress is not likely to deliver funds for emergency disaster aid before it leaves for August recess. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle acknowledge that boosting disaster relief funding is urgent, with peak wildfire and hurricane season around the corner and the Federal Emergency Management Agency slated to run out of reserves in August. But Congress has just one week left before summer recess and leaders have expressed no plans of taking up any emergency spending legislation. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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## **NEXT WEEK IN CONGRESS**

**Week of Monday, July 24, 2023**

**House of Representatives - In Session**

**[House Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries](#)**

**Legislative Hearing on Introduced Legislation**

**Thursday, July 27 at 10:15am**

## Senate - In Session

### Senate Appropriations Committee

#### Markup – FY2024 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill

Thursday, July 27 at 10:30am

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### JOB LISTINGS

#### City of Phoenix

**Title:** Director of Public Works and Director of Street Transportation

**Salary:** \$228,758 annually

**Location:** Phoenix, AZ

**Deadline:** July 28, 2023

**Summary:** The Director oversees the procurement, management, and maintenance of the City's fleet of equipment, construction, maintenance, operation of City-owned facilities, electrical and mechanical systems, and custodial service contracts. Will also oversee the implementation of an asset management system for all city facilities and amenities. Is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating activities related to streets and freeways, stormwater design and construction, and maintenance, as well as traffic related engineering, and floodplain management.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

## Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

**Title:** General Manager

**Salary:** Starting

at \$130,000 annually – depending on experience/qualifications – salary is negotiable

**Location:** Norfolk, NE

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Under the direction of the LENRD Board of Directors, the GM will provide direct and indirect supervision to all employees of the district. Work involves developing operational policies, budgets, and procedures as well as long and short-range plans that are consistent with the district's 12 responsibilities of wisely governing the use, and conservation of, our soil, water, wildlife, trees, and other natural resources.

**Apply:** Questions – email [lenrd@lenrd.org](mailto:lenrd@lenrd.org) or visit [www.lenrd.org/latest-news](http://www.lenrd.org/latest-news) for a complete job description.

## Kennewick Irrigation District

**Title:** District Manager

**Salary:** \$168,774–\$222,530 annually

**Location:** Kennewick, WA

**Deadline:** August 18, 2023

**Summary:** The District Manager shall be responsible for managing the administrative and operational functions of the District. The District Manager shall also be responsible for the following: acquisition, supervision, and development of staff; development of a Board approved annual operating budget and annual capital improvement program; proper preparation and collection of an accurate irrigation assessment role (**per RCW 87.03.250**); review of all contracts and other agreements entered into by the District, prior to their award; overseeing the administration of the Bureau of Reclamation-Kennewick Irrigation District contract (circa 1956); developing excellent relations with the water users and all interfacing governmental agencies; coordination of

legal activities; and maintaining a quality assurance and safety program. See a full description [here](#).

**Apply:** Contact Water Strategies Executive Search Service c/o Mr. Kris Polly at (703) 517-3962 or email [Kris.Polly@waterstrategies.com](mailto:Kris.Polly@waterstrategies.com).

### **Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**

**Title:** Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program Supervisor

**Salary:** \$58,965 – \$88,197 annually

**Location:** Carson City, NV

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** This is an exciting opportunity to guide efforts to restore and protect waterbodies throughout our beautiful state for current and future generations to enjoy! The Bureau of Water Quality Planning's Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program (NPS Program) is the lead agency addressing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution within Nevada. Primary duties and responsibilities of the NPS Program Supervisor are: Implementation oversight of the NPS Program consistent with state and federal regulations including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Code of Federal Regulations, Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code; preparation and execution of annual CWA 319(h) grant application, including workplan and budget, quarterly progress reports, and annual report; building and maintaining constructive internal and external working relationships to achieve program goals and advance water quality improvement within the State; and develop contract workplans and budgets and manage contracts to ensure successful outcomes.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **SWCA Environmental Consultants**

**Title:** Assistant Project Water Resources Specialist - Water Quality

**Salary:** \$137,280–\$193,440 annually

**Location:** To be determined

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Will support various projects in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and surrounding states. Our Raleigh-Durham and Charlotte, NC offices offer a unique work environment and specialize in environmental permitting, natural and cultural resources services, ecological restoration, and renewable energy permitting.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Tarrant Regional Water District**

**Title:** Public Safety Telecommunications Specialist

**Salary:** \$43,014–\$64,417 annually

**Location:** Fort Worth, TX

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Under the general supervision of the Security Operations Supervisor, the Tele-Communicator performs duties including but not limited to receiving, prioritizing, and disseminating multiple 911 and administrative telephone lines and monitoring the District's radio communication system

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Tarrant Regional Water District**

**Title:** Facility Maintenance Technician

**Salary:** \$37,440–\$61,713 annually

**Location:** Waxahachie, TX

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** The Facility Maintenance Technician is responsible for maintaining and upkeep of water district grounds, buildings, and structures

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Wyoming State Engineer's Office**

**Title:** Deputy State Engineer

**Salary:** \$8,086–\$10,000 monthly

**Location:** Cheyenne, WY

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Reports directly to the State Engineer and acts as delegate in areas relating to Wyoming water law, water administration and agency representation.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Arvin-Edison Water Storage District**

**Title:** Numerous opportunities

**Salary:** Based on position and qualifications

**Location:** Arvin, CA

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** The district oversees major infrastructure consisting of 45 miles of concrete canals, 50 pumping plants with 150 pumps/motors, 1500 acres of spreading basins, 82 groundwater extraction wells, and manages approximately 50 employees.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Arizona Department of Water Resources**

**Title:** Numerous opportunities

**Salary:** Based on position and qualifications

**Location:** Phoenix, AZ

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Virtually everything Arizona Department of Water Resources employees do affects the quality of life for the state's residents and

guests. With multiple career opportunities available through the same employer job mobility and career advancement are highly likely.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Conservancy of Southwest Florida**

**Title:** Numerous opportunities

**Salary:** Based on position and qualifications

**Location:** Naples, FL

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is a leading environmental conservation organization dedicated to protecting the water, land and wildlife in the region. As the population of this area grows, so do the demands placed on its unique, natural resources. For more than 50 years the Conservancy has worked with community leaders, businesses, partner agencies and individuals to find a sensible balance between the demands of a growing population and the preservation of our natural treasure

**Apply:** [Here](#)

### **Texas Water Development Board**

**Title:** Numerous opportunities

**Salary:** Based on position and qualifications

**Location:** Austin, TX

**Deadline:** Until filled

**Summary:** Employees of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) enjoy excellent benefits along with an incredible opportunity to do important work and make a positive difference for the state of Texas.

**Apply:** [Here](#)

*Have a job posting you would like featured in the NWRA Daily? Send it to [nwra@nwra.org](mailto:nwra@nwra.org).*

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## We're Here For You!

NWRA staff are readily available throughout the day via email or phone:

- Dale Nellor: [dnellor@nwra.org](mailto:dnellor@nwra.org)
- Kris Polly: [kris.polly@waterstrategies.com](mailto:kris.polly@waterstrategies.com)
- Drake Wood: [drake.wood@waterstrategies.com](mailto:drake.wood@waterstrategies.com)
- Dillon Kuehn: [dillon.kuehn@waterstrategies.com](mailto:dillon.kuehn@waterstrategies.com)
- Tom Wacker: [tom.wacker@waterstrategies.com](mailto:tom.wacker@waterstrategies.com)

Call us at 202-698-0693!

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