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NRULPC Newsletter Vol. 2, No 7 - March

2020

Co-Directors Update

Greetings NRULPC Supporters,

We were pleased to see so many of you at the January Advisory Board meeting in Phoenix. The excellent turnout and informative speakers followed by productive discussions contributed to an especially interesting and educational meeting. For those of you unable to attend, the summary report below will provide you with some of the key takeaway messages. The full report is available on the NRULPC website.

With the semester now in full gear, NRULPC and Clinic staff members are busy teaching classes and continuing to serve stakeholders throughout Arizona and the West on such issues as water use optimization, allocation of vacant grazing allotments, liability of feedlot owners related to animal pathogen contamination of leafy vegetables, and grazing regulations. The NRULPC has also submitted comments on the NEPA Rule change and BLM grazing regulations. In the following newsletter articles, you will learn more about the activities and members of the NRULPC. As ever, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

We hope none of you or your family members will be affected by the coronavirus outbreak. “Take precautions and carry on” seems to be the most positive message out there right now. In such situations we are particularly grateful for technology that helps us stay in touch.

Sending our best wishes,
George and John
Co-directors

NRULPC January Advisory Board Meeting Summary

The annual NRULPC Advisory Board Meeting was held in Phoenix on January 27, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight Center and Clinic activities, showcase student activities, and gain input from

the Advisory Board about future directions. An overview of the current projects was given as well as a funding review.

Student Update: There are three JD students and one MLS student currently enrolled in the Clinic. Students participate in weekly seminars, individual projects and weekly meetings with the Clinic Director, in addition to meetings with clients and University experts. The undergraduate course, “Introduction to Agricultural Law and Policy for the Modern Day Natural Resource User”, is filled to maximum capacity again this semester. The course promotes law as a career option to students working on degrees associated with natural resource use.

Guest Speakers: Dr. Channah Rock, Associate Professor, UA Environmental Science and Extension Specialist, gave an enlightening presentation on the *Lessons Learned from the 2018 E. coli Outbreak Investigation & Efforts to Enhance Food Safety*. Doyel Shamley,



Natural Resource Specialist/Intergovernmental Liaison for Apache County and NRULPC Board Member provided insight on effects in Arizona of the *Forest Products and Yields and Travel Management Rule (TMR)*. The Keynote Presentation, *Beavers vs. Water Lawyers; Investing in restoration of degraded range lands*, was given by Peter Culp and Jennifer Diffley

with CK Blueshift – Culp & Kelly LLP. [Full meeting report](#)

Discussion Summary and Action Items for Center, Clinic, and Advisory Board included: (1) **Fundraising** (goals include Board assistance in gaining an NRULPC endowment, additional contributions from County Board of Supervisors; contacting legislators; and reaching out

to corporations, i.e. Anheuser-Busch); (2) **Outreach and Communication** (reaching out through the Newsletter; giving more presentations throughout the state and region; improving messaging; drawing on Board members' expertise for projects and articles); (3) **Science Informing Policy – Symposium** (goal would be to demonstrate importance of policy issues and to engage multiple stakeholder groups); (4) **Advisory Board Meetings** (consider holding two in-person Board meetings per year as well as a smaller half-day event, i.e. symposium); and (5) **Advisory Board Membership** (consider recruiting on tribal lands, including veterans; working with tribes on water issues; and attending Council Sessions in the Spring).

**Welcome Colin McKenzie to the
Natural Resource Use and Management Clinic!**

Colin is the NRUM Clinic's new legal fellow. He supervises student clinicians, helps teach the Clinic's seminar class, and provides analysis addressing underrepresented law and policy needs of the natural resources community. A former hydrologist and New Mexico-licensed attorney, Colin is excited to be working on western natural resource issues and sharing this passion with students. Colin will also be writing white papers and collaborating with university faculty in natural resource matters. Additionally, he will be pursuing research in water policy and complex adaptive systems, including reservoir operations in New Mexico's Middle Rio Grande Basin and social license issues in mining operations in northern Chile.



In various roles, Colin has worked in the non-profit and private sectors as well as in local, state, and federal government. His professional experience comprises technical consulting, water law and policy, litigation, and project management. He received his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he was Co-Editor in

Chief of the *Natural Resources Journal*. After law school, Colin clerked at New Mexico Court of Appeals. From 2015-18, he was a researcher for and later consultant to the Utton Center for Transboundary Resources. Prior to law school, Colin worked as a groundwater hydrologist, splitting his time between Arizona and Chile where he managed field operations for Montgomery & Associates, a consultancy.

Colin returns to the Sonoran Desert by way of the high desert. He recently served as an assistant district attorney in Gallup, New Mexico, where he born and raised.

Clinic Student Happenings

Priya Sundareshan

We are now midway through the Spring 2020 semester, with the Clinic students currently enjoying Spring Break. Three of the spring Clinic students are pursuing a Juris Doctor at the Law college, with two of them continuing Clinic enrollment from the Fall semester, and one student is pursuing a Masters in Legal Studies from the Law college and has substantive research experience with her background as a Ph.D. in Natural Resources. In class, the students continue to learn various aspects of natural resource management and the practice of law. NRUM Clinic Fellow Colin McKenzie has presented to the students about his efforts working with federal agencies and other water users in allocating water rights within the Rio Chama basin of New Mexico, and we are scheduling additional guest speakers for the second half of the semester.

The students have been engaged on a variety of projects this semester, in small groups and as a full class. Their individual projects include written memoranda for their respective clients on state requirements to permit alternative beaver dams for watershed restoration and

research into the liability of feedlot operations stemming from agricultural contamination. As a class, they have recently reviewed the new federal proposal to revise the way agencies comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and conducted research into smaller pieces of it as an exercise into agency rulemaking and drafting public comments.

Some of their recent activities as a class have also emphasized their oral presentation skills and ability to present their legal research and knowledge to clients and the lay public, along with thinking on their feet to answer audience questions. One such activity was student presentations on their Clinic projects to the NRULPC Advisory Board in January 2020. The students also had the opportunity to present on water law topics at a joint workshop gathered by the Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) and the Arizona Land & Water Trust in Sonoita, AZ on Feb. 12, 2020. Clinic students also visited Yuma, AZ as part of a different class on the history of the Colorado River and learned about the local agricultural industry and river diversions that make it possible. As you can see from the pictures, they have enjoyed the opportunity to leave the classroom and engage with stakeholders! We also hope to schedule visits to forestry logging operations and stream restoration sites around Arizona, and have provided the students the opportunity to attend upcoming conferences to learn about the work of the Rangelands Partnership and the annual water conference by the U of A's Water Resources Research Center.

Top row: Students presenting at the Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District.

Bottom row: Students field trip to Yuma





Announcing a Webinar Series

Sponsored by Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)



USDA, through its RREA program, provides funding for natural resource Extension programming at Land Grant institutions. Many Extension professionals have developed highly innovative and effective programs to address natural resources issues. Now there is a webinar series that is highlighting innovative Extension practices from throughout the county. Topics to be covered include, ecosystem health, food security, wildfire management, invasive species, peer-to-peer learning, citizen science strategies, urbanization, climate change, and youth programs.

One webinar, ***Using Innovative Educational Approaches to Enhance Ecosystem Health***, has been completed with the second one, ***Developing Engaging Extension Curriculum to Enhance Food Security***, scheduled for March 26th. This series of webinar is open to all! If you are interested in attending any of the webinars, please contact Sheila Merrigan (merrigan@cals.arizona.edu) You can also view previous webinars as well as find more information on the [RREA webinar website](#).

Spotlight on Advisory Board Member

Celeste Steen

***We welcome Celeste Steen as a new member of the
NRULPC Advisory Board!***

Celeste was Senior Associate General Counsel for the University of Arizona, Office of the General Counsel for eight years. In that capacity she:

- Provided legal advice and support to all colleges, schools, department and divisions at the University.
- Served as primary business legal counsel for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Science, Center for Creative Photography, Museum of Art and Poetry Center.
- Supported business activities and legal aspects of strategic projects and relationships in various departments and fields of expertise.



Prior to her work at UArizona she was a partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP in the areas of real estate transactions, equity and debt financing, commercial leasing and mineral leasing. She was also a Federal Law Clerk for the Honorable William D. Browning in Federal District Court Tucson, Arizona. She received her B.A. Ecology and Environmental Biology and J.D. Summa Cum Laude from the University of Arizona.

Celeste retired in 2019 and interests include biking, hiking, swimming, reading, skiing, tennis, kayaking, and music.

New Resources on the NRULPC Website and Blog

- [Comment from NRULPC on DEIS for Resolution Copper Mine](#) (Nov 2019)
- [Comments from Law Students to DEIS on Resolution Copper Mine](#) (Nov 2019)
- [Comments on EQIP Interim Rule, Docket ID: NRCS-2019-0009](#) - Comments for the Farm Bill

Western Lands, Western Waters Blog - posts from last semester:

- Imperial County Declares Local Emergency Over the Decline of the Salton Sea
- Reclaimed Water A Potential Boon Under Drought Contingency Plan
- To the Moon and Back - Mining for the 21st Century
- U.S. Forest Service Proposes Changes to NEPA Regulations to Roll Back Environmental Review Requirements
- Desperate Action Needed to Save a Small Species of Porpoise from Extinction
- Federal Judge in Tucson Rules on Rosemont Mine with Broad Impacts

Communications Outlets

Natural Resource Users Law & Policy Center (NRULPC)

The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center (NRULPC) is a creative partnership of the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law and Cooperative Extension that grows out of grassroots discussions. The center's aims are to collaborate with stakeholders, mentor student clinicians and fellows, provide scholarly legal and policy analysis, and address the underrepresented law and policy needs of the natural resource community of Arizona and the West.



NRULPC Website

The NRULPC website provides information

Newsletter and Other Resources

Newsletters

- Vol. 1, Number 1 - November 2, 2017 - Welcome to the First NRULPC Newsletter!
- Vol. 1, Number 2 - December 22, 2017
- Vol. 1, Number 3 - February 9, 2018
- Vol. 1, Number 4 - March 19, 2018
- Vol. 1, Number 5 - April 30, 2018
- Vol. 1, Number 6 - May 31, 2018
- Vol. 1, Number 7 - July 24, 2018
- Vol. 2, Number 1 - October 19, 2018
- Vol. 2, Number 2 - December 20, 2018
- Vol. 2, Number 3 - February 25, 2019

Newsletter

The first issue of the NRULPC newsletter was released



HOME ABOUT VIEW BY TOPIC VIEW BY SEASON OTHER BLOGS CONTACT US

Western Lands, Western Waters

Hot topics in natural resource law and policy affecting the American West

Blog

The Blog is our newest resource with our first release in April 2019.

on the about the center, student programs, leadership and staff, out publications and the Advisory Board.

[go to >>](#)

November 2017. It is published at various times of the year, but generally about every two months.

[go to >>](#)

All posts carefully researched and written by NRULPC Clinic students

[go to >>](#)

Would you like to be on our NRULPC listserv? If so, please contact [Barbara Hutchinson](#).

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