

Dividing the Waters Conveners' Meeting

January 16, 2026

Minutes

Participants: Kate Appleby, John Thorson, Ron Robie, Debra Stephens, Maria Berkenkotter, Sherri Zendri, Stephen Brown, John Schlegelmilch, Shannon Bacon

Staff: Alf Brandt

Executive Chair's Welcome

Kate Appleby

- **DTW Archive.** Some Conveners are trying to create an archive of *Dividing the Waters* materials from NJC and Convener files. Alf Brandt has talked to UC Riverside, which now holds some *DTW* materials, about enlarging the *DTW* collection. The group is working on an inventory to create one set of materials without duplicates.

NJC Staff Report

Alf Brandt

- **New NJC President.** The new NJC President, Aviva Abramovsky, starts on Tuesday. Investiture, available online, is February 3.
- **State Webinars.** States contributing \$50K get one state-specific webinar. Nevada asked for one on State Engineer's procedural due process. New Mexico was also interested in due process and the relationship with State Engineer.
- **Washington Webinars.** WA AOC has asked for a proposal for webinars on three topics: water science, water settlements, and advanced Indian water law.
 - Conveners discussed availability of the webinars to everyone and Alf advised that some webinars may be internal judges-only webinars.
 - Kate Appleby advised that, given Walton Family Foundation's interest in avoiding water litigation, the settlement webinar would be a good way to get more support.
 - John Thorson advised that *DTW* has a wealth of resources on Indian water law, particularly Rebecca Tosey at U of AZ. He also suggested the topic of independent science panels.
 - Conveners volunteering for further discussion include Thorson, Stephens, Brown, and Robie.
 - Debra Stephens suggested the possibility that Washington may want to do another Tribal-Judicial Summit of some sort. She will talk to Alf.
- **Outreach from Oregon.** Judge Matt Rowan introduced Alf to Oregon AOC counsel who wants to learn more from *Dividing the Waters*. Conveners are interested in a Convener from Oregon and asked about Rowan.