

UK Irrigation Association

An independent organisation promoting
the wise use of water for irrigation



UKIA Spring conference

WRE: working together to secure water for food

Wednesday 1 March 2017

09.20 - 16.00

Venue:

Orton Hall Hotel, Peterborough PE2 7DN



Guest speaker: Thomas Tebb Director, Office of Columbia River, Washington USA: Thomas brings first-hand experiences of 'working together', IWRM, and resolving water conflicts in river basin across Washington State

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WRE: working together to secure water



Brexit is over-shadowing many of our immediate concerns about agro-economic policy, water regulation, licencing, and the future of the WFD. So, this year our conference focus is the 'big picture.'

- Will we have enough water in the future?
- How will droughts impact irrigation?
- What does Defra's 25-year plan for the environment mean for irrigation?
- Do we need a similar plan for water for food?

There is no doubt, if we want answers, farmers, water and energy utilities, and environmental groups will need to work together both to secure and manage our future water resources.

We can no longer afford to think in 'silos'

When water is in short supply it makes no sense to think in fragmented silos about agriculture, domestic water supply, environment, and energy.

Who should attend

- Farmers
- Growers
- Land-owners
- Water abstractor groups
- Consultants
- Equipment suppliers
- Researchers
- Environmental groups
- IDBs
- Water utilities
- Hydrologists and engineers
- Government agencies
- Local authorities

How to register

Go to UKIA website for link to conference registration

www.ukia.org

Or contact Ruth T: 01427 717629 E: r.gage@ukia.org

We need to think in terms of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This is the main topic of discussion across the water world as the way of allocating limited water resources. Most countries accept this approach but few have put it into practice. The UK is 'ahead of the game' with Water Resources East (WRE): a multi-sector partnership bringing together, water supply, irrigation, industry, the environment, and amenity to look seriously at our future water needs. Another, similar project is at an embryonic stage in the south east.

Come and hear about progress and plans from leading practitioners engaged in WRE and from our special guest from the USA who has first-hand experience of putting IWRM into practice. We may even touch on BREXIT! This too is likely to have long-lasting impacts on irrigated farming.

For those working in other regions take this opportunity to see what might be done in your region. Already there is a similar initiative in the south-east: Water Resources South-East.



Programme

- 08.30 Registration open with coffee/tea
- 09.20 Welcome and introduction
- 09.30-10.00 **Steve Moncaster Supply Demand Strategy Manager Anglian Water:** Steve leads Water Resources East project. He will update on progress and his recent study experience of IWRM in the USA.
- 10.00-10.20 **David Matthews G&D Matthews Ltd:** David is a WRE stakeholder and irrigating farmer in Lincolnshire. He is involved with planning around Black Sluice IDB and brings a farming perspective to WRE.
- 10.20-10.50 **Jerry Knox Professor of Water Management Cranfield University:** Jerry assesses future irrigated agricultural water needs to WRE. Is there a case for a 25-year plan for water for food?
- 10.50-11.20 Coffee/tea
- 11.20-11.50 **Innes Thomson CEO Association of Drainage Authorities:** 'Water, water, everywhere but not a drop for irrigation?' Innes brings an IDB perspective to WRE
- 11.50-12.20 **Paul Leinster Professor of Environmental Assessment Cranfield University and ex CEO Environment Agency:** Paul is a member the Natural Environment Committee reporting on the state of natural capital for Defra's 25-year plan for the environment. How will this fit with agriculture and an integrated approach to water management?
- 12.20-13.05 **Guest speaker: Thomas Tebb Director, Office of Columbia River Washington USA:** Thomas brings first-hand experience of 'working together', IWRM, and resolving conflicts in river basins across Washington State
- 13.05-14.00 Lunch/networking/exhibition
- 14.00-14.30 **Jeremy Wiltshire Consultant Ricardo:** Jeremy led the 2016 AHDB Irrigation survey. He will present the findings and what we need to secure future water for food
- 14.30-15.00 **James Dodds: Managing Director Envireau Water:** Water planning and resolving water conflicts need to be evidence-based to succeed. James will discuss the importance of data gathering and analysis to support evidence-based planning and conflict resolution. He may also touch on what is happening about trickle irrigation!
- 15.00-15.30 **Joe Morris Agricultural economist and Cranfield Professor:** Joe has many, many years experience in agriculture and water management both in UK and internationally. He will round off our conference with some views on BREXIT: Irrigation under more uncertainty?
- 15.30-15.45 Speakers panel: open question time
- 15.45 Chairman's closing remarks