

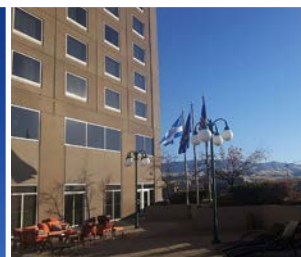


# The AQUIFER

[www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org)

A PUBLICATION OF THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION

Connecting people, businesses, and communities through local groundwater education and action, making us all part of the solution for clean, sustainable groundwater.



## Leading the Way

### 2017 Groundwater Foundation National Conference Visits Boise, Idaho

by Jennifer Wemhoff, The Groundwater Foundation

**T**he Groundwater Foundation's relationship with Boise goes back to the pilot year of the Groundwater Guardian program in 1994. The Foundation brought its 2017 National Conference to the vibrant city October 24-26. Boise greeted us with gorgeous blue skies, bright, warm sunshine, and brilliant fall foliage.


A pre-conference tour on the 24<sup>th</sup> highlighted groundwater remediation as part of park construction. That evening, the conference officially kicked off with a reception at the Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center. The Center is housed at the West Boise Water Renewal Facility, where attendees played around with the hands-on exhibits and interactive artwork, and strolled around the park-like setting.

To start the day on the 25<sup>th</sup>, former Director of the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas Pat Mulroy's keynote launched discussions about groundwater management in a climate-changed world. The day continued with excellent speakers in breakout sessions focusing on groundwater research, understanding and mitigating risks, tools for groundwater management, education as a protection tool, and policy. A luncheon recognized the efforts of Groundwater Guardian teams, as representatives made the rounds and told their community's groundwater story. The day concluded with a networking cocktail hour.

The final day of the conference started with a focus on groundwater sustainability, with Bill and Rosemarie

Alley talking about groundwater as the "neglected child of the water world." The conference concluded with case studies and real-world examples of collaboration to protect and manage groundwater, and giving participants a call to action.

Special thanks to conference Supporting Sponsors Boise City Public Works, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Republic Services, Senninger Irrigation, and Southern Nevada Water Authority, as well as Idaho Water Education Foundation, Marshfield Utilities, National Ground Water Association, and Valmont Foundation for additional support.

Find a summary of conference presentations and speaker information and a photo gallery at [www.groundwater.org/conference](http://www.groundwater.org/conference). 

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**1.** Bill Alley, National Ground Water Association, and Rosemarie Alley give a keynote address about groundwater management. **2.** Ed Hagan, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, speaks in a breakout session. **3.** Adam Hutchinson, Orange County Water District, discusses wastewater recycling efforts in California. **4.** The conference opened with a reception at the Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center. **5.** A tour explored groundwater remediation during the construction of a Boise Greenbelt park. **6.** Pat Mulroy, former director of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, discussed the challenges and opportunities of groundwater and climate change in a keynote presentation. **7.** James Burks of Senninger Irrigation enjoys the interactive artwork during the opening reception at the Boise WaterShed Center. **8.** Participants enjoyed networking opportunities to connect with their groundwater peers. **9.** Participants enjoyed a variety of topics during breakout sessions, including research, education, and groundwater management. **10.** Chaunsey Chau-Duong of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, gives a breakout presentation. **11.** Catherine Chertudi of the City of Boise and Boise Groundwater Guardian team served as the conference host. **12.** Kirk Welch of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District speaks at the Groundwater Guardian recognition luncheon. **13.** Bob Swanson, U.S. Geological Survey Nebraska Water Science Center, speaks in a breakout session. **14.** Groundwater Guardian teams served as rotating panelists and told their community's groundwater story during a luncheon.



