About the Partnership

The North American Research Partnership is an independent, non-profit think tank and network of analysts throughout North America that conduct strategic applied research and outreach on how the United States, Mexico and Canada can better position themselves for success in the 21st century.

Issue areas
Trade | Energy | Sustainability | Security | Education

Why a new organization?
• The U.S., Mexico and Canada are each at a crossroads in the process of globalization.
• Citizens, the news media and policymakers need—and often ask for—a comprehensive yet accessible understanding of complex international issues.
• Our approach: non-partisan public policy and international relations research.
• Quality partnerships = greater impact.
• We analyze, anticipate, and advise transborder sy
Key Partners

Board of Advisors 2013-2014

Ambassador Hattie Babbitt, Attorney at Law; Chair, U.S. Water Partnership; former Ambassador to the Organization of American States
Andy Carey, Executive Director, Border Philanthropy Partnership
Denise Ducheny, Former State Senator, California Assembly
Pedro LaFarga, Senior Vice President, Mobile Entertainment, Sony Electronics
Isidro Morales, Director, Tec de Monterrey School for Public Policy and Foreign Policy magazine, Mexico edition
Ambassador John Maisto, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Nicaragua and Venezuela
Adm. Eric Olson, retired Commander Special Operations Command
Silvia Núñez García, Director, Center for the Research on North America, National Autonomous University of Mexico
Colin Robertson, Vice President, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute
Andrew Selee, Vice President for Programs, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Diputado Federal Javier Treviño Cantú, Chamber of Deputies, Mexico
Lisa Urias, President and CEO, Urias Communications

Partner Organizations

- Bilateral Council
- Border Legislative Conference
- Border Philanthropy Partnership
- Center for Research on North America, UNAM
- Council of State Governments-WEST
- Crossborder Group
- Mexico Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- New Policy Institute
OBJECTIVE

Only to anticipate themes and to outline some principles

To motivate the end of “white map” or “thar be dragons” syndrome
Transborder governance is evolving...and as such can respond appropriately to some emerging challenges
Sustainability sciences inform such processes
Private-public-philanthropic partnerships fill a void in resource constrained reality
The role of subnationals cannot be ignored
WE LIVE IN CAVES

Complex
Ambiguous
Volatile
Extreme uncertainty
Stateless actors

TransBorder systems are most like CAVES
BASICS

International Boundary Commission and International Joint Commission

International Boundary Commission added Water after 1944 treaty

La Paz Environmental Cooperation Agreement

NAFTA created three “water” commissions
KUZNETS’ CURVE

Poverty pollutes
Alleviation pollutes less
Affluence pollutes differently
Absolute affluence pollutes absolutely
INTRODUCTION

• Water is worth what it’s worth. The process of consumption... is the final act in the economic drama. Ken Boulding

• The (extraordinary, binational) drought of political will aggravate the actual (extraordinary, binational) drought
Transborder water governance is based on concepts of “equitable utilization” and “shared benefits”
WATER BASICS

Virtual and valued
Role of transborder desal
Inter-dependence (surface and ground, land and sea, quality and quantity, US and Mexico)
Intermestic and fragmegration
Goal of perpetual reuse
Drivers: Population, land transformation, securitization
HERE & THERE AND NOW & THEN

US Prior Appropriation and senior & junior rights

US TMDLs for quality and recent new EPA rules

US Colorado River QSA EIR approved

Mexico’s water is nationalized by constitution and therefor governed by watershed councils
WATER AS INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Water, as an intermestic fragmegration issue has many masters, local to international
Notifications: Shortages and TEIAs done or undone
La Paz Agreement
Great Lakes and EU models
Subnationals know the local best
TEIAs
Mandated by La Paz and NAFTA
Cooper mines/smelters start up again?
All American Canal
Electricity maquiladoras
Salton Sea
M4 together
WATER AS A VALUE

The value of water is very much higher than the price and/or cost.

(Eco)systems

FoWaterGy Nutrition and GCC

Price signals
Some transfers of water make sense, most are intra-basin and international not vice versa
Mix and match grades
International watershed councils
Transborder water banking
International water markets
WATER AS A FUTURE ISSUE

Our responses to GCC must be holistic (ERC)
Transformative drought
Flooding
Sustainability science
“Sustainability is easy until you get to the border”
Sustainability can be the risk that links science and policy
Sustainability science has been defined on Wikipedia as “The cultivation, integration, and application of knowledge about Earth systems gained especially from the holistic and historical sciences (such as geology, ecology, climatology, oceanography) coordinated with knowledge about human interrelationships gained from the social sciences and humanities, in order to evaluate, mitigate, and minimize the consequences, regionally and worldwide, of human impacts on planetary systems and on societies across the globe and into the future – that is, in order that humans can be knowledgeable Earth stewards.”

To which I add “Trans-disciplinary attention and focus on addressing current and emerging threats, exposures, vulnerabilities across spatial and temporal scales and boundaries (political and geographic) to assess/address multiple objectives, multi-disciplinary, scalar, objective
WATER ETHOS

Environmental education can accompany sustainability sciences to develop and permeate society with a water ethic.
OJINAGA

Community dying
Plantations of trees to create jobs
Recycle water and clean ground water
Natural habitat
Keep pollutants out of Rio Bravo
WATER GOVERNANCE

ISC
BLM
P4s
JIPG

Environmental, ecological & economic equity
P3 and P4

Colorado River pulse flows

Renewable energy connections
Why a Rulemaking and Why Now?

• EPA Guidance:
  • EPA and Army Corps issued guidance in 2009 that defined Waters of the United States following the Rapanos decision
  • Many entities and business interests asked for a rulemaking

• Proposed Rule:
  • Congress could not pass expansive amendments to the Clean Water Act in 2010
  • EPA’s Proposed Rule takes and expansive view of decisions
LAST THOUGHTS
THANKS! LET’S KEEP TALKING

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