

**Megan Vinett
Associate
CONCUR, Inc.**

HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2011 **University of Oregon, Eugene, OR.** M.S. Conflict and Dispute Resolution
- 2006 **University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.** Bachelor of Art – Studio Art

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

- National Policy Consensus Center Public Policy Facilitation training
- University of Oregon Appropriate Dispute Resolution Center mediation clinic
- Co-trainer, Oregon State University Water Governance and Conflict Resolution capstone, Corvallis, OR
- Co-trainer, University of Oregon Competition Not Conflict

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012 **Associate, CONCUR, Inc.**
- 2010 **Intern, CONCUR, Inc.**

Megan Vinett joined CONCUR as the Summer-Fall 2010 intern, and then again in Summer 2012 as an Associate. Megan is active in the full range of CONCUR projects, including water and marine resources, transportation infrastructure, renewable energy, climate change adaptation, and fisheries management, as well as our training courses.

Selected Projects:

Comparative Analysis of Two Models to Build Consensus on Complex Marine Resources Issues: NMFS Take Reduction Teams and the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative.

Megan is teaming with Scott McCreary to conduct a comparative analysis of two models to build consensus and develop regulatory policy on marine resources. The investigation will examine the clarity several features of the two respective processes. These include the legislative and impetus for the resource planning process, the nature of the charge given to stakeholders, the extent to which stakeholder participants see themselves as primary negotiators, perceived incentives to negotiate, the role of the threat or reality of litigation in motivating or thwarting agreements, and the relationship between the "solution space" identified by stakeholders and the final enacted regulatory policy.

Guadalupe River Flood Control Project Adaptive Management Team.

The Guadalupe River Flood Control Project has a prior history of collaboration, which culminated in its redesign from a trapezoidal channel bypass tunnel and successful construction of the project, along with a suite of early implementation items to mitigate remaining impacts on the river corridor. In Summer 2010, CONCUR convened a scientific panel and facilitated a series of meetings designed to resolve disputed issues surrounding the effectiveness of mitigation measures implemented to-date for the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project.

Experts in riparian vegetation, geomorphology and fisheries management served on the Science Panel. CONCUR designed the joint fact-finding process the Panel used to clarify and narrow the disputed issues. The Panel's deliberations resulted in full agreement on the findings and recommendations for each disputed issue, including improved metrics for anadromous fish rearing and spawning habitat and improved methods to monitoring vegetative cover and bank stability. With CONCUR's facilitation, the Science Panel's report was accepted by a Management Committee comprised of senior management, policy and legal staff for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the RCD and NHI. The Committee reached agreement on the desired framework for resolution of the disputed issues and directed the Science Panel to further refine its recommendations; the full AMT will consider these recommendations at their annual meeting in Spring 2011.

MLPA Study Prospectus for Sea Grant: *Deriving Lessons from a Complex Marine Protected Area Planning Effort: Case Study of Southern California's Implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).*

Megan contributed to the development of the prospectus for funding an article based on CONCUR's experience facilitating the MLPA South Coast Regional planning effort.

OTHER SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011-2012 Associate, Kearns & West, Inc., Portland, OR

Portland General Electric Cascade Crossing Transmission Project.

Megan contributed to the development of a strategic stakeholder involvement process for the Portland General Electric Cascade Crossing Transmission Project. Megan worked with the project team in coordination, facilitation, synthesis and follow-up from stakeholder meetings, as well as process assistance towards alignment of federal, state and tribal permitting processes.

Deschutes River Habitat Conservation Plan.

Ms. Vinett supported the consultation, logistics, and facilitation processes, including synthesizing key themes at meetings and providing neutral support as a member of the facilitation team, to a multi-party negotiation for development of a multi-species Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan.

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration.

Megan provided facilitation and process support with to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER) project. WATER works to provide a collaborative process for the development and implementation of approaches for Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance within the USACE Willamette Project.

Yuba Salmon Forum.

Ms. Vinett provided facilitation and stakeholder engagement support to the facilitation team for the Yuba Salmon Forum Steering Committee as they worked through the collaboration process for the reintroduction of salmon to the Upper Yuba River Watershed.

Deschutes River Basin-Scale Opportunities Assessment Workshop.

In July of 2011, Megan was a member of the facilitation team that provided facilitation and process support for the development of strategic stakeholder involvement, coordination, database management and facilitation of the July 2011 Deschutes River Basin-Scale Opportunities Assessment Workshop in Bend, OR. This workshop was held by the Department of Energy and its national laboratories, along with the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the hydropower industry, environmental organizations, the irrigation community, and other local organizations, as they pursued a Deschutes River Basin-Scale Opportunity Assessment.

May 17-18, 2011

Co-facilitator, Exempt Wells Conference: Problems and Approaches in the Northwest, Walla Walla, Washington

The Exempt Wells Conference focused on the rising concerns about the sustainability of groundwater supplies and the ensuing conflicts between traditional water rights holders and water users that rely on exempt domestic wells due to surface-groundwater interactions and well interferences. It provided a forum for professionals engaged in groundwater development, water management, land planning, water law, and water policy to discuss the impacts that exempt domestic wells have on water supplies at local and regional levels, and it helped identify the critical issues and stimulate new ideas to solve the actual and potential conflicts that have arisen. Megan worked as co-facilitator, which included extensive background research, note taking, and the development of a final presentation and white paper that synthesized the entire conference into a comprehensive package.

2007-2009 Legal Assistant and Receptionist, Neal & Harwell, PLC, Nashville, TN

- Assisted in the preparation of legal contracts and various documents, leases, correspondence and pleadings

2006-2007 Customer Service Representative, Document Technologies, Inc., in-house at Neal & Harwell

- Helped manage document production for litigation
- Assisted in general facilities management

PUBLICATIONS

- Vinett, M. and T. Jarvis. (2012) Conflicts Associated with Exempt Wells: A Spaghetti Western Water War. Universities Council on Water Resources *Journal for Contemporary Water Research and Education*. 148:1-7. (Pending August 2012 publication).

This paper describes the different types of conflicts associated with exempt wells and gives examples of how the collaborative decision making processes and water governance systems can lead to successful water management and conflict resolution. Exempt wells number in the millions, and acknowledging and managing the growing numbers is proving to test the mettle of the states and provinces responsible for the management, allocation, and protection of natural resources.