



2019 CWC Annual Convention

January 31 to February 1
Westin Westminster

Thursday, January 31

Annual State Legislative Breakfast

Sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation

7:00 to 8:30 am

Program begins at 7:30 am

State Legislator Forum

Co-Moderators: Chane Polo, Colorado Water Congress and Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf

Sen. Kerry Donovan, Chair - Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee
Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, Ranking Member - Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Committee
Rep. Dylan Roberts - Chair - House Rural Affairs Committee
Rep. Marc Catlin - Ranking Member House Rural Affairs Committee

Join Dianna Orf and your Colorado House and Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee members for a breakfast discussion in an interactive and relaxed format focused on connecting legislators with Colorado Water Congress members. Colorado's House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders will review priorities for 2019, and what topics the water community could expect this legislative session.

Colorado's Political Landscape

Floyd Ciruli, Ciruli & Associates

Floyd will give us the layout of Colorado's new political landscape and what that means for the water community going forward. We will provide some perspective on the 2018 ballot initiatives. What lessons are to be learned from how state and local ballot tax increase fared? Is 2020 the time for a water ballot funding proposal?

Break

8:30 to 9:00 am

Opening General Session

9:00 to 10:30 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

John Currier, CWC President

Convention Keynote

Innovations and Public Policy

Will Sarni, The Water Foundry

Can Colorado's water community collectively work together to ensure abundant water for economic development, social well-being, and ecosystem health? To close the gap between water supply and demand scenarios, we will need innovative tools to inform public policy decisions, communicate with stakeholders about water risks and solutions, and perhaps develop new technologies. Will Sarni is a thought leader and has written extensively on water strategy and innovation. He will set the tone for the Convention as we discuss how we are addressing many of our important water challenges. We have a pretty good track record of innovating our way out of resource constraints, we now need to scale our solutions to addressing the 21st century water challenges...

Expectations For/Of the New Administration

Dan Gibbs, Executive Director at Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General

In 2019, new executive leadership will be in place in almost every facet of State administration – the Governor, the Legislature, and the Attorney General. So what are the expectations of Colorado Water Congress members? Results of the recent CWC member survey will be presented. What would we like to see the new administration accomplish in its first year? On what issues do we have reservations? On what matters do we feel optimistic?

Taking Stock of What We've Got

Colorado Conditions Report

10:30 to 11:30 am

Lauren Larson, Executive Director at Colorado Office of State Budgeting and Planning
Rebecca Mitchell, Director at Colorado Water Conservation Board
Kevin Rein, Colorado State Engineer
Brian Bledsoe, Chief Meteorologist at KKTV

Water year 2018 was the warmest and second driest in 124 years. Many local records for the driest year on record were broken in Colorado, especially in the southern and western portions of the state. The water community is left understandably concerned.

Could we be singing a different tune in June? Let's check and see if we have a healthy balance on the positive side. From a water rights yield and storage standpoint, how did the water year end?

What's next for the Colorado Water Plan, the Statewide Water Supply Investigation, and IBCC? Is it time to check in with the public on the CWP? Perhaps update the Plan? What will the new Implementation Working Group be doing? What is the thinking of IBCC members as to what they intend to work on over the next few years?

What is the status of Severance Tax revenue? What level of funding will be available for water activities?

Break

11:30 am to 12:00pm

Thursday Luncheon

Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority

12:00 to 1:15 pm

Program begins at 12:30 pm

The Historian, the Advocate, the Scientist, and the Inventor

Patty Limerick, Christine Arbogast, Selene Hernandez-Ruiz, and Gitanjali Rao

Four women, four unique perspectives, one common interest: water. Our four keynote lunch speakers may come from diverse sectors and varied experience levels, but they share the same passion for their fields and the world of water. Don't miss this lunchtime chat with Patty Limerick and her wealth of knowledge as the state historian; Christine Arbogast and her experience working as a Federal Affairs Liaison; Selene Hernandez-Ruiz and the many years she has worked as the water quality lab manager for Denver Water; and Gitanjali Rao, the 12 year old aspiring inventor who invented Tethys, the compact device that detects lead in drinking water which she believes can be faster and cheaper than other current methods.

Break

1:15 to 1:45 pm

Addressing BIG Water Problems

Moderator: David Robbins, President at Hill and Robbins

Rocky Mountain Headwaters Droughts - Past, Present and Future

1:45 to 2:15 pm

JJ Shinker, Associate Professor at University of Wyoming

JJ will discuss the connection between present weather and long-term climate variability and its relation to water planning in the Rocky Mountain West. How does the atmosphere move and operate during extreme events? Do similarities in modern and paleo climate help our understanding of ecological variability and unpredictability?

Rio Grande Basin

2:15 to 2:45 pm

Cleave Simpson, General Manager at Rio Grande Water Conservation District

The Rio Grande River Basin is considered a microcosm of the Colorado River Basin. Cleave Simpson, General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, will begin with a review some of the water quality and quantity challenges facing the basin. He will then discuss potential outlooks for the basin in the coming year: what would a dry or wet year mean for the basin? What could we expect?

Ogallala Aquifer and Republican Basin

2:45 to 3:15 pm

Rod Lenz, President at Republican River Water Conservation District

The Ogallala Aquifer and the Republican River Basin intertwine to create a unique river basin. The Ogallala furnishes groundwater to the Republican River Basin and provides water to many users who rely on the water for consumptive use. Join David Robbins and Rod Lenz as they explore the unique challenges facing water users in the basin who depend on these two water sources.

Break

3:15 to 3:40 pm

Rivers as Community

3:40 to 5:00 pm

Moderator: Amy Beatie, Deputy Attorney General for Natural Resources and Environment

Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director at The Greenway Foundation

Cindy Medina at Alamosa Riverkeeper

Marshall Brown, Director of Water at Aurora Utilities

Reaction Panelists

Ken Neubecker, Associate Director Colorado River Basin Program at American Rivers

Abby Ortega, Water Resources Manager at Colorado Springs Utilities

Heather Dutton, Manager at San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District

Whether reclaiming a river, developing a new source of water supply, or finding better ways to managing existing water portfolios; the right ideas often come at the right time. Implementing those concepts provide connectivity of environmental, recreation, and economic development interests with the work of the water community.

Reclamation of the South Platte River through Denver has significantly altered economic opportunities, provided new recreation experiences, and will change the face of development in Denver for the next 20 years. Jeff Shoemaker of the Greenway Foundation will provide insight into the development of Denver's urban river corridor.

Further upstream, seepage from the London Mine has contaminated South Mosquito Creek for many years. MineWater took over mine ownership and assumed water treatment obligations. A unique project was developed

to intercept (pump) clean groundwater prior to its contact with mine workings (solving the seepage problem and improving river health) while at the same time the decreed water rights will provide a new water supply for Aurora.

Some of the oldest communities in Colorado are located in the Alamosa River watershed. The economy in the watershed supports agricultural and recreation-oriented tourism. The Summitville Superfund site is also located in the watershed. Remediations cost have exceeded \$200 million. Alamosa Riverkeeper, in partnership with the CWCB, was instrumental in devising an innovative way to restore flows to the Alamosa River

Colorado Water Congress Celebration Reception

Sponsored by Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.; Hamre, Rodriguez, Ostrander, & Dingess, P.C.; and MolsonCoors

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Friday, February 1

Annual Federal Affairs Breakfast

Western Perspectives

Sponsored by Aurora Water

7:00 to 8:30 am

Program begins at 7:30 am

James Ogsbury, Executive Director at Western Governors Association

Jim will discuss some of the issues the WGA is currently working on, such as aquatic nuisance species. He will also give an overview of the post-election dynamics, and the potential effects from the 11-governor turnover in the West by touching on the major themes presented in each of the State of the State addresses for the Western governors.

Panel View of the Federal Water Policy Picture

20/20 Vision for a 2020 World

Our panel will discuss current Western issues of interest to Colorado's water community. CWC has decided to help create a Colorado Forest and Water Advocacy Alliance and we will hear about their 2019 Work Plan. If it was not for vigorous lobbying, funding would have been lost this year for the Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs that provide ESA compliance for over 2,000 water projects. But major concerns for future funding remain. A new chapter in the Waters of the U.S. has now opened with the Administration's new rule. What is our response?

Break

8:30 to 9:00 am

Keeping Agriculture Profitable

9:00 to 10:00 am

Moderator: Reagan Waskom, Director at Colorado Water Institute

Keynote Presentation:

**Dan Keppen, Executive Director at Family Farm Alliance
and Pat O'Toole at Family Farm Alliance**

The Family Farm Alliance advocates for family farmers, ranchers, districts, and allied industries in seventeen Western states to ensure reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies. Dan will discuss successes in working policy matters in Washington, especially water infrastructure and the Farm Bill. What are the difficulties of tracking the

practical impacts on agriculture of the multiple state Drought Contingency Plans? How is the Family Farm Alliance responding to the new proposed Clean Water Rule and whether ditches are covered?

Introducing Kate Greenberg, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

In her previous role with the National Young Farmers Coalition, Commissioner Greenberg has been a strong advocate for family agriculture. She believes the challenges family agriculture faces in Colorado are deeply complex and looks forward to her new leadership role. Please join us in welcoming the new Commissioner of Agriculture.

Break

10:00 to 10:30 am

The BIG Picture

Outcomes of Colorado River Basin Negotiations

Moderator: John McClow, General Counsel at Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

10:30 to 11:45 am

The seven Colorado River Basin States and the federal government have been working hard to avoid Lakes Powell and Mead falling below critical elevations and the resultant controversy, conflict, and uncertainty. Drought Contingency Planning is an ongoing coordinated effort to reduce the risk of reaching critical reservoir levels with a goal of maintaining the current scheme for the reservoirs through 2026. We will explore the outcomes of the negotiations thus far.

A Federal Perspective

Brent Rhees, Upper Colorado Regional Director at U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Terry Fulp, Lower Colorado Regional Director at U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

A Colorado Perspective

Andy Mueller, General Manager at Colorado River Water Conservation District

Jim Lochhead, CEO/Manager at Denver Water

Break

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Aspinall Luncheon

Sponsored by City of Greeley

12:15 to 1:15 pm

Program begins at 12:45 pm

Closing Remarks

John Currier, CWC President

Special Tribute to Ralph Curtis

Award Presentation

2019 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year

Painting Sponsored by Olsson Associates, Inc. and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

Each year, the Colorado Water Congress presents the prestigious Wayne N. Aspinall "Water Leader of the Year" Award annually to an individual Coloradan who has long demonstrated courage, dedication, knowledge and strong leadership in the development, protection and preservation of Colorado water.
