Thursday, January 30
All sessions in Westminster Ballroom

**Annual State and Federal Affairs Breakfast**
Sponsored by 3M
6:30 to 8:15 am
Buffet Breakfast from 6:30 to 7:30 am
Program begins at 7:15 am

**State Legislator Forum**
Co-Moderators: Chane Polo, CWC and Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf

**Senate Ag., Natural Resources & Energy Committee**
Sen. Kerry Donovan, Chair
Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, Ranking Member

**House Rural Affairs Committee**
Rep. Dylan Roberts – Chair
Rep. Marc Catlin - Ranking Member

Colorado’s House and Senate water leadership will review priorities for 2020 and what topics the water community could expect this legislative session.

**Federal Affairs Forum**
**Western Water Priorities**
Christine Arbogast, CWC Federal Affairs Liaison and NWRA President
Ian Lyle, NWRA Executive Vice President

The Western States meet in the second week of January to set priorities for federal activities in 2020. We will learn what they are, why you should care, and how the vision for advocacy will be implemented in the coming year.

**Presentation of NWRA Distinguished Service Award to Chris Treese**

**Opening General Session**
8:45 to 11:20 am

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Chris Piper, CWC President

**Governor Polis**
8:55 to 9:15 am

**2020 Political Landscape**
9:15 to 10:15 am
Floyd Ciruli, Ciruli Associates
Joey Bunch, Colorado Politics
Sheila MacDonald, Democratic consultant, campaign manager
Dick Wadham, former Colorado GOP State Chair

No doubt 2020 will be a battleground for both political parties. What key issues are on voters’ minds? How is Colorado’s first primary in March shaping up? What is the likely political agenda in Colorado and D.C this year? How might the elections affect the Colorado water community?

**Attorney General Phil Weiser**
10:15 to 10:45 am
AG Weiser will discuss with attendees innovation in water management including increasing water supply, managing demand, and meeting multiple beneficial uses.

**Climate 2019 and 2020**
10:45 to 11:20 am
Russ Schumacher, Colorado State Climatologist
Joel Gratz, OpenSnow (weather permitting)

CWC members have asked us to reduce costs for events and better engage with rural members. The technology to help us move toward those goals is now ready for a demonstration. A “hybrid event” is a conference or meeting that combines a live in-person experience at a physical location with a virtual online component for remote attendees. Colorado State Climatologist will review weather patterns from 2019 and the forecast for 2020.

**Break**
11:20 am to 12:00 pm

**Thursday Luncheon**
Sponsor: CO Water Resources and Power Development Authority
Program begins at 12:30 pm

**Water Funding**
**What We've Got and What We Need**
Featured Speaker: Mike Brod, CWRPDA
Kirk Russell, CWCB

According to the Rolling Stones: “You can’t always get what you want. But if you try sometime you find you get what you need.” As we celebrate the transition in leadership at the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, we look at how much money is currently being loaned from State sources for water activities. As the $3 Billion funding target is updated in the next generation of the Colorado Water Plan, what do we want to have considered?

**Break**
1:00 to 1:40 pm

**Storytelling that Resonates**
1:40 to 2:15 pm
Moderator: Tom Cech, One World One Water Center
Guest Speaker: Dr. Fernando Nardi, Water Resources Research and Documentation Center, Universita per Stranieri di Perugia

A story can effect change, influence opinion, and create awareness. Maps are an integral part of storytelling. ArcGIS StoryMaps is used to create inspiring, immersive stories by combining text, interactive maps, and other multimedia content, give narrative a stronger sense of place, illustrate spatial relationships, and add visual appeal and credibility to ideas. Tom has spent several months working in Italy on the concept and will lead this discussion that offers new opportunities for delivering the water community’s messages.
2020 Vision on Colorado Water Plan Goals

Water Conservation and Efficiency
2:15 to 3:00 pm
Moderator: Kevin Reidy, CWCB
John Bell, Greyter Water Systems
Linn Brooks, Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
Frank Kinder, Northern Water
Jeff Tejral, Denver Water

The Colorado Water Plan sets out goals to reduce Municipal and Industrial water demand ensuring our communities are more resilient in the face of water challenges. Water providers have a variety of tools to reduce water demand and become more water efficient, such as greywater technologies, One Water planning, conservation-oriented tap fees, regional partnerships and water loss control and management among others. What are some communities implementing to navigate these challenges and achieve the Colorado Water Plan goals?

Agriculture
3:00 to 4:00 pm
Moderator: Alex Funk, CWCB
Paul Bruchez, Reeder Creek Ranch
Cindy Lair, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Robert Sakata, CWC Board Agriculture Representative
Travis Smith, CWC Board Agriculture Representative
Reagan Waskom, CWC Board Education Representative

The Colorado Water Plan sets out multiple goals to maintain Colorado’s agricultural productivity and support industry efforts to become more efficient and resilient in the face of significant water resource challenges such as climate change, drought, and buy-and-dry. How are Colorado’s water and agricultural communities working together to achieve these goals? What emerging challenges and opportunities may shape these goals leading up to the update of the Colorado Water Plan?

A Water Professional’s Guide to Public Discourse on Climate Change
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Moderator: Megan Holcomb, Senior Climate Specialist at CWCB
Joshua Low, Partnerships Director at Yale Program on Climate Change Communication
Doug Parsons, Director and Host of America Adapts Podcast
Andy Schultheiss, Executive Director at Colorado Water Trust

The Colorado water community has been told to expect and manage for increased water stress along with more frequent extreme natural hazard events such as flood, fire, and drought. On the heels of global climate strikes in 2019, there exists an opportunity for (and expectation of) decision-makers at all levels to respond to the public upswell in climate change concerns. What climate communication resources exist, and perhaps are needed, to help the water community respond to concerns and engage public discourse?

Friday, January 31

Rural Affairs Breakfast
Sponsored by Aurora Water
6:30 to 8:15 am
Buffet Breakfast from 6:30 to 7:30 am
Program begins at 7:30 am
Moderator: Kathleen Curry, fmr. Chair House Ag Committee
Sara Blackhurst, Action 22
Doug Kemper, Colorado Water Congress

We received a very strong response (and a lot of great ideas) from our member survey related to expanding Water Congress engagement with rural members. The CWC Board has placed this as a key objective for 2020. Considerable thinking is ahead as to how rural engagement can be meaningfully done.

How do we bridge the Urban-Rural divide? What matters most to rural communities? Do we even know enough to ask the right questions? We welcome Sara Blackhurst, Executive Director of Action 22 who with Club 20 and Pro 15 will host an event just before ours entitled “Voices of Rural Colorado”. Sara will give her perspectives on engaging members and building connections.

A 180
8:45 to 11:45 am

Operating under the theory that not many are interested in long panel discussions on Friday and facing the reality that there is still so much to cover, we are trying this format – presentations on a range of topics in 180 minutes.

8:45 Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative
Jennifer Eberlein - Rocky Mountain Regional Forester;
Jason Lawhon - RMRI; Mike Lester - Colorado State Forester;
Tim Mauck - Colorado DNR; Travis Smith - CWC Board Ag Rep:
Tom Spezze - National Wild Turkey Federation

9:45 Compact Administration
Kevin Rein at Colorado State Engineer

10:15 Colorado Water Plan Update
Greg Johnson at CWCB

10:30 Lessons from the Proposition DD Campaign
Greg Brophy at Proposition DD campaign

10:45 Statewide Water Education Action Plan
Jayla Poppleton at Water Education Colorado

11:00 Colorado Water Stewardship Project
Steve Leonhardt at Burns, Figa & Will

11:20 Professionals Outreach, Networking, and Development
Tyler Benton at Colorado Springs Utilities; Jack Greene at Jacobs; Lauren Hix at Gallagher

11:30 South Platte Mitigation Bank
Lucy Harrington at Westervelt Ecological Services
Aspinall Luncheon
12:15 to 1:30 pm
Program begins at 12:45 pm

Closing Remarks
Chris Piper, CWC President

Congressman Joe Neguse
Introduction by Christine Arbogast

Special Tribute to Tillie Bishop
Dick Bratton, Hoskin, Farina & Kampf

Award Presentation
2020 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year
Moderator: John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Cons. Dist.
Aspinall Painting Sponsored by Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

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