

# Colorado Water Congress 2020 Annual Convention and Membership Meeting

Colorado Water Congress  
2020 Annual Convention

January 29-31  
Westin Westminster



COLORADO  
WATER CONGRESS  
INFORM | CONNECT | TRAIN | ACT

## Convention Program



**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

**Reaction Panelists**

Joey Bunch, Colorado Politics

Sheila MacDonald, Democratic consultant, campaign manager

Dick Wadhams, 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, Università 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.



**Friday, January 31**

**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?*

**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.*

**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

**Poll Everywhere Sponsor**

Westervelt Ecological Services

**Tweetwall Sponsor - Thursday**

Climax Molybdenum Company

**Tweetwall Sponsor – Friday**

TRC

**WiFi Sponsor**

Special District Association of Colorado

**Wednesday Lunch Sponsor**

Ute Water Conservancy District

**Thursday Breakfast Sponsor**

3M

**Thursday Lunch Sponsor**

Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority

**Friday Breakfast Sponsor**

Aurora Water

**Aspinall Painting Sponsor**

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

**POND Sponsors**

AECOM

Applegate Group, Inc.

Bishop-Brogden Associates, Inc.

Cache La Poudre Water Users Association

CDM Smith

Colorado Springs Utilities

ERO Resources

F&W Insurance, A Gallagher Company

GEI Consultants, Inc.

Hazen and Sawyer

Holland & Hart, LLP

Hydros Consulting Inc.

Jacobs Engineering Group

LRE Water

Lyons Gaddis

Martin and Wood Water Consultants, Inc.

Monson, Cummins & Shohet, LLC

SGM

Stantec

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Wilson Water Group

**THANK YOU TO OUR CONVENTION SPONSORS!**

**General Annual Convention Sponsors**

Cache La Poudre Water Users Association

Centennial Water and Sanitation District

City of Greeley

Colorado Retirement Association

F&W Insurance, A Gallagher Company

HDR Engineering, Inc.

INTERA

Martin and Wood Water Consultants, Inc.

Orchard Mesa Irrigation District

RJH Consultants, Inc.

TRC

Tri-County Water Conservancy District

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn., Inc.

W.W. Wheeler and Associates

West Sage Water Consultants

Wilson Water Group

**Sponsor Coffee Breaks Sponsors**

Brown and Caldwell

Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.

City of Greeley

Colorado Stormwater Council

Olsson

Rio Grande Water Conservation District

San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn., Inc.