



Colorado Water Congress 2022 Annual Convention and Membership Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

7:00 REGISTRATION OPENS

COFFEE AND NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS

8:45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK A

Note: The overall window of time for concurrent sessions is 60 minutes – allowing 15 minutes for attendees to get from the ballroom to the concurrent session rooms and the same to return. Concurrent sessions will be a maximum of 30 minutes.

Seating in concurrent session rooms will be limited to provide a reasonable measure of social distancing. To allow for additional opportunities to see the concurrent sessions, speakers will repeat their sessions shortly after the Convention. The repeat sessions will be live streamed and posted on the Convention virtual platform for viewing at your convenience.

Note on Division Engineer Concurrent Sessions: Throughout the Convention, attendees have an opportunity to meet with each of the Division Engineers to discuss locally relevant matters.

Concurrent Session A1

South Platte Division Engineer

Corey DeAngelis

Concurrent Session A2

Arkansas Division Engineer

Bill Tyner

Concurrent Session A3

Rio Grande Division Engineer

Craig Cotten

Concurrent Session A4

Colorado State University Water Conservation Video

Jennifer Gimbel, Colorado State University

To inspire action and find opportunities to learn from one another, Colorado State University's Office of Engagement and Extension is leading creation of a series highlighting individual stories of Coloradans getting involved, working together, overcoming differences and inspiring change. Our goal is to focus on the tough current issues and needs facing Colorado and ways individuals are finding ways to bridge differences across diverse topics and communities. Join in a preview of a video focused on the water conversation in Colorado with the creation of the Interbasin Compact Committee and the roundtables. The video is a reminder of how Colorado overcame several divisive issues through the use of roundtables. This session will be repeated on Thursday at 11:15. An in-depth virtual session will follow soon after the Convention.

9:15 BREAK

9:45 OPENING GENERAL SESSION

Convention Welcome

Marshall Brown, Aurora Water

Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman

Mayor Coffman served 10 years in the Colorado House and Senate, 10 years in State Office as Treasurer and Secretary of State, and 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

2022 Political Landscape

Co- Moderators: Floyd Ciruli, Ciruli and Associates (virtual) and Doug Kemper, CWC

Panelists: Mike Dino, Squire Patton Boggs and Dick Wadhams, Political Consultant

Our deeply knowledgeable Democratic and Republican panelists will be our guide as we look ahead to the political scene in 2022 at the state and national levels.

11:00 BREAK FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK B

Concurrent Session B1

Building Partnerships and Rapport

How to Manage Differing Perspectives and Interests Within a Ditch

DARCA Board and Staff

Ditch company shareholders have diverse perspectives and ownership across the ditch and with the growing demand of water across the state among agricultural and municipal users, the relationship between shareholders of all kinds is increasingly vital. In this session, the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance board and staff will explore how to navigate the varying interests in a ditch company and how to build partnerships and rapport to ensure that when difficult decisions come, decisions can be made with the best of intentions for the ditch.

This session will be repeated – see Session D1.

Concurrent Session B2

Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories (CASO) Update & 2022 Plans

Taylor Winchell, Denver Water

Jeff Deems, Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories

The CASO team will provide an update on developing a statewide program to consistently conduct Airborne Snow Observatories (ASO) flights throughout Colorado. The team will cover what ASO is, case studies of how ASO data is used in water management, the development of the CASO program and how to engage moving forward. Additionally, the team will discuss upcoming ASO flights and opportunities for Spring 2022.

Concurrent Session B3

PFAS Information Session

Jacob Strombeck, AE2S

PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, have received increased attention in recent years, resulting in discussions within the EPA of regulations on the pollutants in water and wastewater. There are upwards of 5,000 PFAS compounds, all with different toxicities, behaviors, and detection methods. This makes the detection and removal of PFAS from water and wastewater extremely difficult. With a lack of federal action, the current regulatory landscape is a patchwork

of rules and guidelines across the country. Within this presentation, the basic chemistries of PFAS will be explained, as well as how these qualities make PFAS a difficult contaminant in water. A summary of current regulations and possible future rules, both federal and at the state level, will be presented. Current removal and detection methods will be discussed, as well as positives and negatives of each. Finally, an overview of what PFAS means for Colorado water systems will be given, and an insight into the possible future struggles will be discussed.

Concurrent Session B4

Gunnison Division Engineer

Bob Hurford

12:00 LUNCH

Sponsored by Ute Water Conservancy District

12:45 GENERAL SESSION 2

Moderator: Linn Brooks, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and CWC President

Governor Jared Polis

Governor Polis will address the water challenges facing Colorado and how his administration is working to secure a climate-resilient future for our cities, farms, and streams. He will close by officially launching the Water '22 campaign.

Water '22

Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado

Jayla will highlight the who, why, what and how of the Water '22 campaign and preview activities planned during the year ahead. Attend the Water '22 concurrent session that follows to learn how you can participate.

The Story of Greeley Water

Harold Evans, Greeley Water and Sewer Board

Michael Welsh, Author, Professor University of Northern Colorado

As a fitting tribute to former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs, Harold and Michael will discuss how Confluence: The Story of Greeley Water, benefitted from Greg's vast knowledge of western water law and policy.

Recognition of William H. Miller

Jim Lochhead, Denver Water

Bill Miller was the recipient of the 1991 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award and passed away in October 2021. Bill was a journalist with the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post, earned a law degree from University of Denver, and served as the manager of the Denver Water Board from 1970 until 1990.

Presentation of the 2022 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award

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.

2:00 BREAK FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK C

Concurrent Session C1

Mediating Water Conflicts (Part 1)

Theory and Best Practices for Attorneys and Parties

Kevin Kinnear, Kinnear, LLC

Colorado Bar Association Water Section

In this program, Kevin Kinnear will present an overview of the theories and best practices associated with mediating water conflicts. The focus of this program is for parties and their attorneys. Part 1 will cover the basic theories of mediation, including what mediation is and what it is not, how it differs from other dispute resolution approaches, evaluating the best alternatives to a negotiated settlement, case evaluation, and how best to prepare for the mediation. Part 2 will cover the mediation itself. Topics include moving from positions to protecting real interests, the use of caucuses with the mediator, proper use of confidentiality in a mediation setting, and elements of a mediation agreement.

This is the first of a two-part session – Part 2 is at 2:15 on Thursday (Concurrent Session E1).

Concurrent Session C2

Colorado River Division Engineer

James Heath

Concurrent Session C3

Watering the West Video Overview

Mona Maser

Concurrent Session C4

Water '22

Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado

Steve Sander, Sander Marketing

Water '22 is envisioned as a grassroots public awareness campaign reliant on support from many partners to ensure visibility across all of Colorado's watersheds. Learn how you can participate in this session focused on introducing the Water '22 Campaign Marketing Toolkit. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss how the campaign can be used to amplify the important work being done across the state, and what other materials would be helpful to add to the toolkit.

3:00 GENERAL SESSION 3

Colorado River Compact 100th Anniversary

Colorado River Negotiations

Moderator: David Robbins, Hill and Robbins and Alternate Colorado Commissioner UCRC

Rebecca Mitchell, CWCB and Colorado Commissioner Upper Colorado River Commission

Lain Leoniak, Colorado Office of Attorney General

John McClow, Upper Gunnison River WCD and Alternate Colorado Commissioner UCRC

Our Annual Convention will begin a series of presentations on the 100th Anniversary of the Colorado River Compact. Our expert and entertaining panel will guide us through their unique perspectives on the Compact and why it continues to be one of the greatest achievements in the history of Western water policy. We will then flow to the crucial decisions ahead regarding the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines that will expire in 2026.

5:00 POND RECEPTION

5:30 HYBRID POND ACTIVITY

Grab a beverage and light snack and join POND for their annual event. POND events are designed to provide an opportunity for attendees to interact in a fun and engaging way. This virtual POND event will last about an hour. As always, the event is top secret up until it begins, but you can expect another unique and interactive event.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00 COFFEE AND NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS

7:30 GENERAL SESSION 4

Moderator: Chane Polo, Colorado Water Congress

State Affairs

Dianna Orf, Orf and Orf

Peggy Montano, Trout Raley Montano Witwer & Freeman and Chair of CWC State Affairs

Rep. Marc Catlin, Vice Chair House Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee

Rep. Dylan Roberts, Chair Business Affairs and Labor Committee

Sen. Kerry Donovan, Chair Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

8:30 Protecting Water Supplies Arising on Forest Lands

Frank Beum, USFS Regional Forester (virtual)

Dan Gibbs, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

9:00 BREAK

9:30 GENERAL SESSION 5

Western Water Priorities

Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates and CWC Board

Andy Colosimo, Colorado Springs Utilities and CWC Board

10:00 Navigating the Federal Infrastructure Investment Opportunities

Co-Moderators: Christine Arbogast and Andy Colosimo

KC Becker, EPA Region 8 Administrator

Lane Dickson, The Ferguson Group

Keith McLaughlin, Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority

Nate Pearson, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Our federal affairs leadership team will launch an overview and detailed discussion of the opportunities for federal funding partnerships that will benefit Colorado water providers and users. The bipartisan infrastructure package enacted late last year promises significant federal support to meet the needs of Colorado Water Congress members. Hear leaders from the EPA and Bureau of Reclamation describe the capacity to meet those needs and listen to well-versed experts explain the mechanics of the funding opportunities.

11:00 BREAK FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK D

Concurrent Session D1

Building Partnerships and Rapport

How to Manage Differing Perspectives and Interests Within a Ditch

DARCA Board and Staff

See description Concurrent Session B1.

Concurrent Session D2

Emerging Technologies for Water Management Survey

Katherine Demaree and Melanie Holland, University of Colorado Boulder

Act HB21-1268 (Study Emerging Technologies For Water Management) has prompted the University of Colorado Boulder and Colorado State University to investigate water monitoring needs and the potential uses of emerging technologies to more effectively manage Colorado's water supply.

To get a broad range of inputs on monitoring and technology gaps, we are asking stakeholders (which means YOU) to take a 15-20 minute survey on their experiences within Colorado water. The feedback of survey respondents is critical for making ongoing improvements to technological gaps and to better support water management in Colorado. Survey responses are entirely anonymous, and the survey questions investigate the greatest challenges in Colorado water, possible improvements to data sources and online platforms, and the status of technological implementation in Colorado.

Concurrent Session D3

San Juan Division Engineer

Rob Genualdi

Concurrent Session D4

CSU Water Conversation Video

Jennifer Gimbel, Colorado State University

See description for Concurrent Session A4.

12:00 LUNCH

Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority

1:00 GENERAL SESSION 6

The Colorado Water Plan: A Grassroots Legacy

Moderator: Russ Sands, CWCB

Basin Implementation Plans Update

Matt Lindburg, Brown & Caldwell

Colorado Water Plan Update

Russ Sands, Kat Weismiller & Elizabeth Schoder, CWCB

Statewide Public Awareness Survey

Doug Jeavons, BBC Research & Consulting

2:00 BREAK FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2:15 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK E**

Concurrent Session E1

Mediating Water Conflicts (Part 2)

Kevin Kinnear, Kinnear, LLC

Colorado Bar Association Water Section

See description for Concurrent Session C1.

Concurrent Session E2

CWC Communications Listening Session

Paul Fanning

Concurrent Session E3

Yampa Division Engineer

Erin Light

3:00 **GENERAL SESSION 7**

Local Permitting and Decision Making

Moderator: Kelly Romero-Heaney, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

1041 Permitting

Nick DiMascio, Denver Water

Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner

David Nickum, Trout Unlimited

Among infrastructure projects, water projects are among the most complex and contentious to permit. Ordinarily, much of the attention is focused on the federal permitting process and how the suite of federal environmental laws intersects with state-level permitting requirements. But in Colorado, since 1974, H.B. 1041 has created an additional layer of local permitting for water projects. Despite almost fifty years of history, the integration of the 1041 process with other steps in the permitting process has received scant attention. With experts drawn from state and local government, an environmental group, and a project sponsor, this panel will explore what is and is not working in the 1041 process, with an eye toward identifying procedures that can reduce conflict, increase predictability, better integrate the 1041 process with other permitting steps, and ultimately facilitate achieving the objectives identified in Colorado's Water Plan.

Rights of Nature

Steve Leonhardt, Burns Figa Will

Doug Kemper, Colorado Water Congress

Three local governments in Colorado have adopted "Rights of Nature" resolutions. CWC legal counsel on Public Trust, Steve Leonhardt and CWC Executive Director, Doug Kemper will review these resolutions, what we know about the intent of the sponsors, and discuss what the Rights of Nature movement might mean for the water community across Colorado.

4:30 **BREAK**

4:45 **SPECIAL SESSION**

Honorable Greg Hobbs Tribute

An opportunity for the water community to remember, recognize and reflect on what Greg has meant to us.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

7:00 COFFEE AND NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS

8:30 GENERAL SESSION 8

Fireside Chat

with Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Wyoming Attorney General Bridget Hill

The [Attorney General Alliance](#) is sponsoring the Ginsburg/Scalia Initiative with the goal of reflecting on the state of our democratic republic and how to encourage dialogue, listening, and collaborative problem solving. Many Americans are becoming increasingly polarized as they receive information from social media and other sources that cater to particular points of view. People [with different viewpoints](#) may regard “the other” as alien, immoral, a threat. There are pressures for members of one party to not even be seen with members of another political party.

The Ginsburg/Scalia Initiative recognizes that the project of rebuilding institutions also requires cultivating our interpersonal relationships. Fostering such relationships, particularly between public officials from different political parties and backgrounds, promises to de-escalate the heated rhetoric that is eroding trust, undermining collaborative problem-solving, and even increasing levels of hateful speech and violence in modern society.

In this Fireside Chat, two neighboring State Attorneys General will discuss this Initiative and inter-state collaboration.

9:30 BREAK

10:00 General Session 9

Water, Climate, and Drought:

Impacts and Innovation

Moderator: [Russ Sands, CWCB](#)

State of Water in Colorado

[Kevin Rein, Colorado State Engineer](#)

State of Climate in Colorado

[Becky Bolinger, Assistant State Climatologist](#)

Climate Vulnerability Report Update

[Katie Clifford & Ben Livneh, Western Water Assessment](#)

Drought Vignettes, Impacts & Innovation Activity

[Manuel Heart, Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe](#)

[Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies](#)

[Greg Fisher, Denver Water](#)

[Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance](#)

12:00 CONVENTION CONCLUDING ACTIVITY

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION EXHIBITORS

Allpaid
Colorado Retirement Association*
Colorado Water Conservation Board*
Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority*
Colorado Water Trust
FCS Group*
Intera, Inc.*
LRE Water
Northern Water
Obermeyer Hydro, Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.*
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program/Headwaters Corporation
SGM
Special District Association of Colorado
Stantec
Tetra Tech
United Water and Sanitation District
W. W. Wheeler and Associates*
* Premium Exhibitors

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION SPONSORS

Brown and Caldwell – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
Burns Figa Will – [General Sponsor](#)
City of Aurora – [General Sponsor](#)
City of Thornton – [General Sponsor](#)
Climax Molybdenum – [Wednesday and Thursday Tweetwall](#)
Colorado Stormwater Council – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority – [Thursday Lunch](#)
Forsgren Associates, Inc. – [Convention Lanyards](#)
GEI Consultants – [Wednesday Poll Everywhere](#)
HDR Engineering, Inc. – [General Sponsor](#)
High Country Hydrology – [General Sponsor](#)
Kogovsek and Associates – [Thursday Poll Everywhere](#)
LRE Water – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
Northern Water – [General Sponsor](#)
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
Somach Simmons & Dunn, P.C. – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
South Metro Water Supply Authority – [Friday Poll Everywhere](#)
Southwestern Water Conservation District – [General Sponsor](#)
Special District Association of Colorado – [Wifi Sponsor](#)
Stifel - [General Sponsor](#)
Tetra Tech – [Coffee Break Sponsor](#)
Ute Water Conservancy District – [Wednesday Lunch](#)
W.W. Wheeler and Associates – [General Sponsor](#)