



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

Concurrent Session A2

Arkansas Division Engineer

Concurrent Session A3

Rio Grande Division Engineer

Concurrent Session A4

Colorado State University Water Conservation Video

Colorado State University Water Conservation Video CSU received a generous grant to produce videos focusing on bridging the gap in difficult conversations, including urban/rural interface. The video addresses 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

Speakers TBA

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

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 2022

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

*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

Water 2022

Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado

Learn how you can participate in Water 2022.

Concurrent Session C3

Colorado River Division Engineer

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 VIRTUAL GATHERING AT THE POND

Our POND event will be virtual this year. Attendees will connect using their own computer.

5:30 VIRTUAL POND ACTIVITY

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

Representative Marc Catlin, Vice Chair House Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee

Other Legislators TBA

8:30 Protecting Water Supplies Arising on Forest Lands

Frank Beum, USFS Regional Forester

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

Forest Service Updates

Concurrent Session D3
Yampa Division Engineer

Concurrent Session D4
CSU Water Conversation Video
See description for Concurrent Session A4.

12:00 LUNCH
Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority

1:00 GENERAL SESSION 6
Moderator: Russ Sands, CWCB
Basin Implementation Plans Update
Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell

The Colorado Water Plan - A Grassroots Legacy
Elizabeth Schoder and Kat Weismiller, CWCB

Statewide Public Awareness Survey
Doug Jeavons, BBC

2:00 BREAK FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK E
Concurrent Session E1
Mediating Water Conflicts (Part 2)
See description for Concurrent Session C1.

Concurrent Session E2
CWC Communications Listening Session

Concurrent Session E3
San Juan Division Engineer

Concurrent Session E4
Watering the West Video Overview

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

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

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

Jeff Lukas, Western Water Assessment

Facilitated Drought Exercise

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

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