



2022 SUMMER CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

- 9:00-Noon** **Fire, Forests, and Funding Workshop**
Shared Stewardship in Action
Burgess Creek
Co-Moderators: *Travis Smith, National Wild Turkey Federation*
Kelly Romero-Heaney, CO Dept of Natural Resources
This workshop provides attendees with an opportunity to hear directly from various entities about the power of shared stewardship. Leaders throughout the community will showcase how to access these programs and dialog with attendees about lessons learned in a collaborative setting. We will share opportunities for wildfire risk mitigation and post-fire watershed recovery with the water community, seek feedback on state, federal, and non-profit programs, and share lessons learned on cross-boundary forest and watershed management under the umbrella of shared stewardship.
- 9:00-9:20** **Welcome and Shared Stewardship Update and Wildly Important Goals**
Dan Gibbs, CO Dept of Natural Resources Executive Director
Frank Beum, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Director
- 9:20-10:00** **Fuels Mitigation Program Updates and Q&A**
Facilitator: Angela Boag, CO Dept. of Natural Resources
Speakers
Alison Lerch, CO Dept. of Natural Resources
Weston Toll, CO State Forest Service
Speaker TBA, USFS
- 10:00-10:45** **Examples of Shared Stewardship: RMRI & Forest Health Collaboratives**
Facilitators: *Kate McIntire, National Wild Turkey Federation and Tara Umphries, USFS*
Speakers
Jason Lawhon, USFS SW Colorado
Pat Dorsey, Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative
Kate McIntire, National Wild Turkey Federation
Greg Felt, Envision Chaffee County
Molly Pitts, CO Timber Association, RMRI Workforce and Biomass Subcommittee
Speaker TBA, Upper South Platte
- 10:45-10:55** **Break**
- 10:55-11:20** **Watershed Mitigation and Recovery Programs**
Wildfire Ready Watersheds
Chris Sturm, CO Water Conservation Board
- 11:15-12:00** **Federal and State Funding for Post-fire Restoration & Lessons Learned**
Facilitator: *Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek and Associates*
Speakers
Chris Sturm, CO Water Conservation Board
Sean Chambers, Greeley Water
Esther Vincent, Northern Water
Speaker TBA, USFS

9:00-10:30 Yampa Valley Water Update

(Open to the Public)

Tent

Alden Vanden Brink, Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable Chair

Ken Brenner, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

The Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable offers local communities the opportunity to have a strong voice in how water will be managed now and in the future. The Roundtable is leading development of an Integrated Water Management Plan that will combine community input with science and engineering assessments to identify actions to protect existing and future water uses and support healthy river ecosystems in the face of growing populations, changing land uses, and climate uncertainty. The Roundtable created the Big River Committee to focus solely on the issues associated with the relationships among the major rivers in the basin and the Colorado River system as a whole and will inform policy decisions. We will review the top projects and studies underway by Basin Round Table and learn about the status of the proposed Division 6 water measurement rules.

SUMMER CONFERENCE

All sessions in the Korbel Grand Ballroom unless otherwise indicated.

12:30-1:15 BBQ Lunch

Sponsored by Ute Water Conservancy District

Tent

Reconnect with your colleagues at our annual BBQ lunch.

1:30-1:40 Conference Welcome from Yampa Basin

Gary Suiter, Steamboat Springs City Manager

1:40-2:00 The Headwaters of the Colorado Project

Pat O'Toole, Family Farm Alliance and Ladder Ranch

2:00-2:30 Republican Senate Candidate Joe O'Dea

2:30-3:00 Governor Jared Polis

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-4:00 Senator Michael Bennet

4:00-4:30 Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Heidi Ganahl

4:30-5:00 Water Professionals' Guide to the 2022 Election Season

with Floyd Ciruli, Ciruli and Associates

Tying themes from the day's speakers together with current trends, our speakers will highlight key points of relevance to the water community.

5:30-8:00 POND Reception

Co-Sponsored by MolsonCoors Beverage Company

Tent

Drinks and light snacks provided.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

- 9:00-9:40 Forest Session**
Frank Beum, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Director
Dan Gibbs, CO Dept. of Natural Resources Executive Director
- 9:40-10:05 Colorado Attorney General Candidate John Kellner**
- 10:05-10:30 Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser**
- 10:30-10:45 Break**
- 10:45-12:00 Rapid Topics**
Weather, Water Supply, and Drought
Speaker TBA
- Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Species Program**
Speaker TBA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Water Stewardship Project**
Steve Leonhardt, Burns Figa Will
- Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Group**
Taylor Winchell, Denver Water
- Water '22**
Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado
- Eliminating Lead in School Drinking Water Facilities**
Mike Beck, CO Water Quality Control Division
- 12:00-1:00 Box Lunch**
Sponsored by the Colorado Water Resources and Development Authority
Tent
- 12:00-1:00 POND Gathering**
Spring Creek
- 1:00-5:00+ POND Activities**
Off Site

- 1:15-1:45** **The Municipal Water Conservation Puzzle
What Are the Next Pieces?**
Facilitator/Moderator: Laura Belanger, Western Resource Advocates
Speakers
Representative Marc Catlin
Frank Kinder, Northern Water
Catherine Moravec, Colorado Springs Utilities
Over the past two decades, water conservation has proven a reliable way to manage water demands in Colorado. Reduced per capita water use has enabled some communities to serve growing populations with even less water. Much progress has been made on indoor and outdoor water savings through local retrofits, rebate programs and legislation that prohibits the sale of high water use plumbing and irrigation fixtures. But more can be done?
- When it comes to efficient use and reducing municipal water waste, what will move the needle the most for our growing cities and towns? What are the broader policies and programs that will continue to drive water efficiency? These are big questions for water conservation across Colorado. In this session, our expert speakers will share how the State and local communities are taking important steps to implement landscape transformation approaches and focus on broad policies and programs that will ensure a resilient water future for Colorado communities.
- 2:00-5:00** **Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee**
- 2:00-5:00** **Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority Board Meeting**
Burgess Creek
- 5:30-7:00+** **Water Buffalo Reception**
Sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section
Co-Sponsored by MolsonCoors Beverage Company
Mountain View Foyer and Terrace
Reception continues after the Induction Ceremony.
- 6:00** **Water Buffalo Presentation**
Burgess Creek
For decades, the Colorado Bar Associations Water Law Section has recognized retired individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of water law through induction into the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Water Buffalo. Nominees to this distinguished group are selected by the Executive Committee of the Water Law Section and honored at this ceremony celebrating their careers. The inductees this year are:
- Linda Bassi (introduced by Becky Mitchell)
Casey Funk (introduced by Dan Arnold)
Mark Hermundstad (introduced by Larry Clever, Ute Water)
- 7:00-9:30** **Mountain Jam IV**
Tent
Bring your voice and musical instruments and let's jam! Open to all experience levels (including noexperience). Please note this is an informal musical gathering and not a performance.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

- 7:00-8:45** **Water for Breakfast**
(Food service continues until 8:30)
Sponsored by Brown and Caldwell
Tent
- Colorado Water Plan Forum**
Russ Sands, CO Water Conservation Board
Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell
The draft Colorado Water Plan is out and open for comment. Throughout this session (and the conference itself), attendees will have opportunities to share their thoughts on the updated CWP.
- 8:45-9:00** **Break**
- 9:00-9:45** **Aspinall Roundtable**
Speakers TBA
New this year, we proceed with mentoring work with historic leaders of the Colorado water community (Aspinall Award winners) who will discuss topics identified by conference attendees.
- 9:45-10:00** **2022 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award**
(Postponed from the 2022 CWC Annual Convention)
Each year, the Colorado Water Congress presents the prestigious Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award to a Coloradan who has long demonstrated courage, dedication, knowledge and strong leadership in development, protection and preservation of Colorado water.
- 10:00-10:15** **Break**
- 10:15-10:45** **Colorado River Modeling Technical Presentation**
Jim Prairie, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental System
Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions use a suite of models for annual, mid-, and long-term planning. The models contain "rule sets" that simulate operation of major reservoirs in the Colorado River basin including how water is delivered under various hydrologic conditions. Projections show the future state of the Colorado River system on a monthly basis. The models help policy makers understand hydrology, sources of uncertainty, impacts of key modeling assumptions, and likely outcomes of policy decisions. Following the Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement that was triggered in January 2021, the Probable Minimum and Probable Maximum inflow scenarios are run every month. Jim will provide an overview of what the current modeling is telling us.
- 10:45-12:00** **The Colorado River Panel**
Moderator: John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Speakers
Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Gene Shawcroft, Colorado River Commissioner of Utah
Speakers TBA
Our speakers will review the latest thinking regarding policy decisions on the Colorado River.
- 12:00 (or so)** **Conference Conclusion**