

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Water Seminar

Weathering the Weather:

**Resilience in Managing
Our Water Resources Today**



Friday, April 6, 2018

DoubleTree Hotel

Durango, CO

NOTES

- 8:00** **Registration & Breakfast**
- 8:30** **Welcoming Remarks**
Bob Wolff, Board President, SW Water Conservation District
Bruce Whitehead, Executive Director, SW Water Conservation District
- 8:40** **Forests, Wildfires, and Water Supplies**
Moderator: Ellen Roberts, Attorney, Former State Senator
Andy Colosimo, Colorado Springs Utilities
Steve Hartvigsen, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
- 9:40** **Networking Break**
- 10:05** **Water Wizard Quiz: Are You Ready for an Emergency?**
Dave Grey, Water Wizard, Retired Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey
- 10:25** **The State Response: Five Years Since Front Range Flooding**
Sean Cronin, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
Eric Wilkinson, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Kevin Rein, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources
- 11:20** **Floating the Tough Years: An Agile Recreation Economy**
Becky Mitchell, Executive Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Cathy Metz, City of Durango Parks & Recreation
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 1:30** **Protecting Our Supplies & Communities**
Matt Gavin, Colorado Dam Safety
- 1:40** **Recounting the Oroville Dam Spillway Failure**
Bill Croyle, Former Acting Director, California Department of Water Resources
- 2:30** **System Resilience Part I: Planning for Drought on the Colorado River**
Presentation: Colorado's Compact Obligations
Karen Kwon, Colorado Attorney General's Office, Federal and Interstate Water Unit
Brent Newman, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Federal & Interstate Section Chief
- 3:00** **Break: Cookies with Colleagues**
- 3:15** **System Resilience Part II: Planning for Drought on the Colorado River**
Panel Discussion: Intra-State Cooperation, Protecting the Western Slope
Brent Newman, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Federal & Interstate Section Chief
Andy Mueller, Colorado River Water Conservation District
Beth Van Vurst, General Counsel, SW Water Conservation District
- 4:15** **Closing Remarks**
Bob Wolff, Board President, SW Water Conservation District

8:30-8:40am

Welcoming Remarks

Robert Wolff, Board President

Bob Wolff represents La Plata County on the Southwestern Water Conservation District, and is the District's President. He has been a Director on the Board since 2010, replacing Jim Isgar. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Bob received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kentucky and then relocated to Durango as soon as he could in 1976. During his college career, he spent one year at the Swiss Technical Institute in Zurich Switzerland. Bob has served on the La Plata County Planning Commission, the City of Durango 1997 Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, the City of Durango's Water Commission, then later the City's Utility Commission and is a steering committee member of the La Plata Forum. He is currently President of the Animas – La Plata Water Conservancy District and Secretary/Treasurer of the Colorado Water Resources, & Power Development Authority. Bob is a licensed Architect in Colorado and California and is President of Durango Development, Inc. He is an avid pilot, sailor, mountain biker and spends a good deal of effort trying to understand the times we live in. He and his wife, Jenny, have two adult children.

Bruce Whitehead, Executive Director

Bruce Whitehead is a native of Colorado born in Fort Collins. He has an extensive background in Colorado water issues, having worked 25 years with the Colorado Division of Water Resources and 10 years with SWCD. The latter part of his career with the State of Colorado was in the capacity of Division Engineer for the San Juan and Dolores Rivers. Bruce is an Engineer Advisor for Colorado on Upper Colorado River Commission, and is a past Director on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Southwestern Basin Roundtable appointed him as one of their representatives on the Inter-Basin Compact Committee (IBCC). He also served in the Colorado State Senate, and was in a leadership position on the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee with duties that included the IBCC, and the Colorado Foundation for Water Education. He was named the 2010 Pinnacle Award recipient for the State Senate by the Colorado Farm Bureau. Bruce obtained a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, and is a licensed Professional Engineer. Bruce and his wife Becca enjoy the arts and the outdoors, and live south of Hesperus near Breen. They are raising two daughters, Isabel and Risa.

8:40-9:40

Forests, Wildfires, and Water Supplies

With dismal snowpack, southwestern Colorado is in extreme drought. Communities are concerned about the 2018 fire season. This panel discussion will cover the experiences of municipal water managers in Colorado Springs, after recent fires threatened water supplies, recent federal legislation addressing "fire borrowing," and local efforts to improve watershed health, create sustainable forests, and protect water supplies. What should communities' top priorities be in preparing for and responding to wildfires?

Moderator: Ellen Roberts, Attorney, Former State Senator

Ellen Roberts is a lawyer in Durango, focusing in the area of natural resources law. Ellen served in the Colorado legislature for 10 years, representing many counties in the southwestern corner

of the state. She served in both the House and the Senate, finishing her last two years as Senate President pro tempore. In the legislature, Ellen focused much of her attention on natural resources policy issues, including water and forest health, and sponsored many pieces of legislation in these areas. She served as chairwoman of the 2015 Water Resources Review committee and of the 2016 wildfire matters interim committee. A graduate of the University of Colorado's School of Law, Ellen received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Andy Colosimo, Colorado Springs Utilities

Andy is the Government Affairs Manager for Colorado Springs Utilities. He joined the organization in January 2002 and is responsible for all state and federal legislative activities affecting Colorado Springs Utilities including water, wastewater and gas and electricity issues. Andy serves on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the National Water Resources Association, the Colorado Water Congress and works closely with the Western Urban Water Coalition. Before his employment with Colorado Springs Utilities, he spent more than seven years working in Washington, D.C. and Colorado on energy, natural resources and agricultural issues for U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong and U.S. Senator Wayne Allard. In addition, he spent five years lobbying at the state and federal level for the Colorado Farm Bureau. Andy was born and raised in Grand Junction, Colorado and has a BA from the University of Utah.

Steve Hartvigsen, Retired San Juan National Forester

Steve Hartvigsen retired after a 36-year career with the USDA Forest Service, focusing on many aspects of forest vegetation planning and management. His experience ran a diverse course between forest planning, inventory, research, silviculture, permit/contract administration (forest products, and ski area), prescribed fire, and fire suppression. Outside of work, in addition to other volunteer activities, he has served on the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board for eight years (2004-2012). Upon retirement, he has continued his involvement in the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership while catching up on other, mostly outdoor, pursuits.

9:40-10:05

Networking Break

10:05-10:25

Water Wizard Quiz: Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

Our experienced Water Wizard will quiz the audience on their emergency preparedness.

Dave Grey, Water Wizard, Children's Water Festival

Once upon a time in a magical place known as Waterland the children that lived there had very little idea where their water came from, how it was made safe for them to drink and all the magic and interesting qualities it possessed. The leaders of Waterland (SWWCD board members) decreed that there should be a festival to celebrate and inform the children of the special substance, water. The leaders determined that there should be a wizard to bring joy and share the magical knowledge of water. There were several apprentice wizards that had vast amounts of water information, but did not have the magic of speaking the children's language.

At last a new apprentice stepped forward with the subject knowledge and the playful nature of the youngsters. Dave Grey is a retired USGS hydro tech that spent over 40 years with the Survey and loves the opportunity to share the wonderful world of water info with children of southwestern Colorado.

10:25-11:20

The State Response: Five Years Since Front Range Flooding

In September 2013, the Front Range experienced catastrophic flooding. The hardest hit areas received 15-20 inches of rain in just a few days, exacting devastating loss of life and property over a 200 mile area. State officials and local water managers were quick to respond to emergency needs. What did the emergency response look like? How did the flooding impact local water users, municipalities, and recreational assets? What lessons did local and state officials learn from the 2013 flooding?

Sean Cronin, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District

Sean is the Executive Director for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District. He has 20 plus years of experience in water resource planning and policy. Sean earned his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and spent two years as a Natural Resources Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service before moving to Colorado. Prior to joining the District, Sean spent 13 years with the City of Greeley, including the last six as their Water Resources Manager. Sean serves on the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), is the past chair of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, and serves on the Loveland Utilities Commission. Sean is a recipient of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education – Emerging Leader Award, and under Sean's direction his District received a Collaboration Award from the Special District Association. Sean lives in his adopted home of Colorado with his wife and two children. When Sean isn't spending time with family and other activities, you can find him on a river trying to master the art of making a trout rise.

Eric Wilkinson, Northern Water Conservancy District

Eric Wilkinson was appointed General Manager of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) and its Municipal Subdistrict in January 1994. Mr. Wilkinson has worked for Northern Water since 1987. From 1984 to 1987, Mr. Wilkinson worked for the City of Greeley Water Department as a Water Resources Engineer. From 1973 to 1984, he was employed by the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Office of the State Engineer in the Dam Safety Branch. In 1972, Mr. Wilkinson served as the Deputy Water Commissioner for the Cache la Poudre River. In March 2000, Mr. Wilkinson was appointed as the South Platte Basin representative on the Colorado Water Conservation Board and served in that capacity until February 2012. In 2003 and in 2011, he served as Chairman of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He served as one of two representatives of the South Platte Basin on the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) from the creation of the IBCC in 2005 until December, 2015. Mr. Wilkinson also serves on various advisory boards and committees and is on the Board of Directors of Colorado Water Congress. Mr. Wilkinson was born and raised in the Fort Collins, Colorado, area and currently resides in the Windsor area. He attended Colorado State University and graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering.

Kevin Rein, Division Engineer

Kevin Rein is the State Engineer and Director of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, also known as the State Engineer's Office. Kevin directs the performance of the division's responsibilities, which include administration of water rights in Colorado, issuing well permits, performing administrative approvals for water use, administering programs that ensure the safety of dams and the safe construction of water wells, managing compliance with interstate compacts, and providing information and education resources to the public. He has worked at the Division of Water Resources for 20 years.

11:20-12:00

Floating the Tough Years: An Agile Recreation Economy

This discussion will explore water's role in Colorado's thriving recreation economy, which is also impacted by the occurrence of drought, flood, and fire. Hear what state officials learned about recreational needs in development of Colorado's Water Plan. The audience will hear the local perspective on recent emergencies and how the City of Durango supports resiliency in its recreational assets, as well as a bit about the opening of Lake Nighthorse on April 1.

Becky Mitchell, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Rebecca Mitchell (Becky) serves as the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). She is an accomplished water leader with over 14 years' experience in the Colorado water sector and highly knowledgeable in the water laws of the State. Mitchell played a significant part in working with the State's Basin Roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, the public at large and CWCB staff in producing Colorado's Water Plan. Becky has worked in the public and private sector as a consulting engineer; she received both her B.S. and M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines.

Cathy Metz, City of Durango

Cathy Metz is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Durango. She has a Master's in Public Administration and is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional as well as a Certified Aquatic Facility Operator. Since 1996, she has managed Durango's parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities. The Durango Parks and Recreation Department is nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and is the recipient of the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the Field of Park and Recreation Management from the National Recreation and Park Association.

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-1:40

Protecting Our Supplies and Communities

As Colorado's water infrastructure ages, what is the role of Colorado Dam Safety? How are regional dams inspected and maintained? How has Colorado Dam Safety evolved to maximize the beneficial storage of water while minimizing the risk to downstream communities?

Matthew Gavin, Colorado Dam Safety

Matt Gavin began his tenure with Colorado Dam Safety in 2007, as the regional dam safety

field engineer stationed in Durango. Matt is a Professional Engineer registered in Colorado where he has worked his entire career. Prior to serving in his current capacity as a regulator, Matt worked as a consulting engineer beginning his career at Wright Water Engineers in 1999. During his consulting career, Matt worked as a design engineer focusing on water facilities including reservoirs, dams, and appurtenant structures. In his current capacity, Matt is responsible ensuring that dams in Southwest Colorado are constructed and maintained in safe condition to protect the public interest. His duties include dam inspection, design review, and ultimately the determination of the safe storage level for reservoirs in southwest Colorado. Matt's area of responsibility extends from the western side of the San Luis Valley to the Upper Dolores River. Matt enjoys working with the variety of water users he encounters and has deep appreciation for the land and people of Southwest Colorado.

1:40-2:30

Recounting the Oroville Spillway Failure

In the midst of the wettest year on record for California, a sudden gaping hole appeared in the Oroville Dam spillway February 7, 2017, leading to the evacuation of nearly 200,000 people for fear the emergency spillway would fail. Bill Croyle led the agency through the crisis, now in recovery as construction workers rebuild the bulk of the spillway structure and strengthen the emergency spillway. Mr. Croyle will recount his experience and share lessons learned.

Bill Croyle, Former Acting Director, California Division of Water Resources

Bill Croyle has served the public over 33 years in a number of water supply, water quality, emergency management and security positions. Mostly recently, he served as Acting Director of the California Department of Water Resources prior to his retirement in July of 2017. He joined the Department in August of 2007, and served more than six years as Chief of Flood Operations. He directed the Joint State-Federal Flood Operations Center and the Department's flood emergency response training and exercise program. In December of 2013 he was appointed the Department's Drought Manager to oversee the California recent historic drought and represented the Department on Governor Brown's Interagency Drought Task Force to coordinate statewide drought assessment, response and mitigation actions among a multitude of local, State and federal agencies. Starting in 2013, Bill served as the Department's Emergency and Security Manager and in 2014 served as Deputy Director for Emergency Preparedness and Security where he directed emergency preparedness and response training programs, communications, and personnel and infrastructure protection programs. From 2013 to 2017 Bill also represented the Department on the California Utilities Emergency Association Board of Directors. Before joining California Department of Water Resources, he worked for more than 23 years for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board where he developed and implemented many programs including abandon mine cleanup, point and non-point pollution, and irrigated lands. Mr. Croyle is a registered professional engineer with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento.

2:30-3:00

System Resilience Part I: Planning for Drought on the Colorado River

Presentation, Colorado's Compact Obligations

Representatives from the State of Colorado will provide an overview of the Law of the River,

current basin hydrology, and drought contingency planning efforts currently underway in both the Lower and Upper Basins.

Karen Kwon, Colorado Attorney General's Office, Federal & Interstate Water Unit

Karen Kwon is the First Assistant Attorney General for the Federal and Interstate Water Unit within the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Over the past twelve years, Ms. Kwon has specialized in providing legal counsel to the Upper Colorado River Commission, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and Division of Water Resources concerning Colorado River issues, including reservoir operations, compact compliance, NEPA and ESA projects, and interbasin and binational collaboration. She also manages a legal team specializing in interstate water compact matters and water issues that implicate the nexus between federal and state authorities. Karen is a fourth generation Coloradan with an undergraduate degree from the University of Denver and a law degree from the University of Colorado. Prior to law school, Karen got her first real taste for natural resource matters as a coordinator for environmental permitting and International Finance Corporation Funding evaluations of large mining operations in South America.

Brent Newman, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Federal & Interstate Section Chief

Brent is a native of East Tennessee, and attended the University of Mississippi for undergraduate and law school. He joined the CWCB's Interstate and Federal Section in 2010. Intrigued by the complexity of western water policy issues, he enrolled in night classes at the University of Denver to learn more, earning an LL.M. in Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy. He has served as liaison to the Colorado, Gunnison, Arkansas, Yampa, and South Platte basin roundtables, provided program support for the Interbasin Compact Committee, and was a lead author of Colorado's Water Plan. Brent oversees all programmatic areas of the Interstate, Federal, and Water Information section, and is responsible for directing and coordinating the work of section staff members with legal, water resource or administrative coordination expertise. He is responsible for activities relating to the Colorado River Compact, Upper Colorado River Compact and Arkansas River Compact. Brent manages projects and funding associated with section programming and provides section direction, input, and guidance on the implementation of Colorado's Water Plan.

3:00-3:15

Break: Cookies with Colleagues

3:15-4:15

System Resilience Part II: Intra-State Planning for Drought on the Colorado River

Panel Discussion: Protecting the Western Slope

Representatives from the State of Colorado, Southwestern Water Conservation District, and the Colorado River Water Conservation District will provide update on intra-state drought contingency planning efforts, including investigating the desirability and feasibility of implementing demand management, as well as their perspectives on the potential risks and impacts to water users on the West Slope.

Brent Newman, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Federal & Interstate Section Chief

(See bio provided above).

Andy Mueller, Colorado River Water Conservation District

Andy Mueller is the General Manager of the Colorado River District, taking over for longtime water leader Eric Kuhn in January 2018. Andy is an attorney and he practiced law for many years in Ouray County before moving to Glenwood Springs about four years ago. His legal work took him across the breadth of western Colorado water, land use and economic issues. For nine years from 2006-15, he was a Director, Vice President, and President on the Colorado River District Board. His combined experience prepared him to lead the River District, whose work is to watchdog the Colorado River, whether it be opposing transmountain diversions taking water to the east or “Big River” issues to the west concerning Lake Powell, the seven Colorado River basin states, the federal government, and the Republic of Mexico.

Beth Van Vurst, Fairfield and Woods, SWCD General Counsel

Beth is an attorney with the law firm of Fairfield and Woods, P.C. and currently serves as general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Beth obtained her undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Colorado in 2001 and a J.D. (also from CU) in 2005. Prior to being in private practice, Beth worked in both the Federal and Interstate Water Unit and the Intrastate Water Unit of the Colorado Attorney General’s Office. During her tenure with that office, Beth represented several agencies within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and, towards the end of her tenure, served as lead water rights counsel for the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

4:15-4:25pm

Closing Remarks

Robert Wolff, SWCD Board President

(See bio for previous presentation.)

About SWCD

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was created on April 16, 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill #795 (Statute 37-47).

The District is comprised of nine counties: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel, and parts of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Montrose. Each Board of County Commissioners appoints a representative to the District Board of Directors, which meets every other month.

SWCD's charter is to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin for the welfare of the District, and safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. Following this mandate, the District has assumed a broad strategic role on behalf of its diverse constituents. District representatives advocate for southwestern Colorado's water interests at the local, state and regional levels.

Funded by property taxes, SWCD currently funds a variety of essential work, including vital stream flow data collection by the US Geological Survey, water quality sampling through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, water supply augmentation through weather modification, and endangered fish species recovery efforts in the San Juan Basin.

SWCD's grant program supports local efforts across the District, among them water supply projects, recreational development, environmental improvements, collaborative community processes, and water quality studies.

For more than 20 years, the District has spearheaded regional water education by sponsoring an Annual Children's Water Festival for students across the basin and administering the Water Information Program with contributions from participating entities. This is the 36th year the District has invited prominent experts to share their expertise at the Annual Water Seminar.

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Members

Robert Wolff, President
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Jenny Russell, Secretary-Treasurer
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David Guilliams, Director
Rusty Hinger, Director
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Director Emeritus
Director Emeritus
Director Emeritus

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Bruce Whitehead
Laura Spann

Executive Director
Programs Coordinator



77 Years Developing and Conserving
the Waters of Southwestern Colorado

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www.swwcd.org

Annual Water Seminar

EVALUATION FORM

Friday, April 6, 2018



<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.</p> <p>Please return completed forms to the registration table or email lauras@swwcd.org with your comments.</p>	<p>Very Satisfied</p>	<p>Satisfied</p>	<p>Dissatisfied</p>	<p>Very dissatisfied</p>
<p>1. How satisfied were you with the registration process? Comments:</p>				
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<p>5. How satisfied were you with the length of panel sessions? Comments:</p>				
<p>6. Overall, how useful was the seminar? Comments:</p>				
<p>7. What are your suggestions for improving future seminars? (Use the other side of this form if needed.)</p>				
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