

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Water Seminar

Solving the Water Funding Puzzle



**Friday, April 7, 2017
DoubleTree Hotel
Durango, CO**

NOTES

Southwestern Water Conservation District Annual Seminar

Friday April 7, 2017 Doubletree Hotel Durango, CO

Solving the Water Funding Puzzle

8:00 Registration & Breakfast

8:30 Welcoming Remarks

Robert Wolff, SWCD Board President

Short Film: *75 Years of Lessons Learned*

Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director

8:50 State Funding for Water Programs

Bill Levine, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

9:50 Effective Financial Partnerships

Ted Kowalski, The Walton Foundation

Jim Maras, USDA Rural Development

10:25 Networking Break

10:40 Out-of-the-Box State Fiscal Solutions

Dick Brown, Lobbyist

Emily Brumit, Colorado Water Congress

Kirk Russell, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Pat Steadman, Former State Senator

12:00 Lunch

Dave Grey, Water (*Financial*) Wizard

1:30 Federal Dollars: Opportunities and Challenges

Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates

Ian Lyle, National Water Resources Association

2:20 Unique Problems and Partners for Rural Communities

Brad Blake, La Plata County

Mike Brod, Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority

3:00 Networking Break

3:30 Explaining the McPhee Spill: Storage, Boating & Fish

Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District

Celene Hawkins, The Nature Conservancy

Nathan Fey, American Whitewater

4:20 Closing Remarks

Robert Wolff, SWCD Board President

8:30-8:50am

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.

Short Film: 75 Years of Lessons Learned

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. 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.

8:50-9:50

State Funding for Water Programs

Bill Levine, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Bill Levine has been a budget analyst with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 2002 and was named Budget Director for the Department in 2004. Bill came to the Department after working for six years as a budget & policy analyst with the Colorado General Assembly's Joint Budget Committee. Bill has been involved in natural resource policy and severance tax allocation in Colorado since 1996.

Bill also studied improvisational acting for two years with the Denver Bovine Metropolis Theater and has been in several improvisational shows. Combining his interest in comedy with his governmental career, Bill has surprised politicians, DNR management, and other onlookers at legislative hearings with unexpected stories and commentary about politics, dating, and other inappropriate topics. Bill's off-topic comments have, on more than one occasion, brought the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to the brink of political disaster. However, before legislators can move to defund the entire department, Bill delivers a punch line that usually draws a laugh and averts a crisis. While it may only be a matter of time before Bill's sense of humor results in a complete public relations fiasco, as of 2016, Bill was still regarded as a "Meets Expectations" DNR employee.

9:50-10:25

Effective Financial Partnerships

Ted Kowalski, The Walton Foundation

Ted is a Senior Program Officer, leading the Foundation's Colorado River Initiative. Prior to joining the Foundation, Ted was the Chief of the Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section, for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. In this role, Ted represented the State of Colorado in State, Federal, inter-State, and international negotiations. Ted is recognized for his deep expertise in Colorado River water management issues. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and before the Colorado General Assembly, and he has spoken at dozens of conferences. Ted started his career in the Colorado Attorney General's office working on water law issues. Ted has a law degree from the University of Colorado and an undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

Jim Maras, USDA Rural Development

Jim began his USDA career in 1983 with the Farmers Home Administration in Minnesota. He served in several roles including the Community Program Director from 1996 until 2003. Jim moved to Washington D.C and was named the National WEP program Director in 2003. He later became the WEP Deputy Assistant Administrator. In February 2010, Jim was detailed to OMB for six months and was part of the ARRA team dealing with the reporting requirements of the funding. Jim left USDA/OMB in late 2010 to move to Colorado to work for a cooperative financial institution, making water and community facility financing available to rural America. He became the Community Program Director in Virginia in August 2015 and now here in Colorado since October, 2016. Jim has spent 29 years working with rural communities, helping them achieve their dreams.

Jim grew up on a grain and livestock farm in West Central Minnesota. His degree in Agricultural Economics was obtained from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. Jim is married to Robin Maras and they have four children, currently residing in rural Larkspur, CO. Jim spends as much time as he can outside keeping the garden up, big game hunting and snowmobiling. He also enjoys cooking.

10:25

Networking Break

10:40-12:00

Out-of-the Box State Fiscal Solutions

Dick Brown

Dick is a long-time lobbyist and consultant. He comes with a solid knowledge of Colorado water issues and provides legislative services to the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority and to the Colorado Water Well Contractors' Association. In addition to water issues, he works with several other entities in both the nonprofit and corporate world. Most recently he was a member of the Summit Economics team that developed a portfolio of long term financing alternatives for water commissioned by the Nature Conservancy. As part of his work with the PPRWA, he was involved with the preparation of the state water plan initiated by Governor Hickenlooper and assisted in the drafting of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. He recently has been asked to serve as a member of the just organized working group under the CWCB that will explore long-term financing strategies to fund needed water projects. Dick has a bachelor's degree in economics and master's in public administration with a double concentration in city management and public finance. He has taught several graduate level courses in economics at the University of Denver and in public administration at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Emily Brumit, Colorado Water Congress

Emily Brumit grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from Auburn University in 2012. Immediately following graduation, she made the cross-country move to Eagle, Colorado, and soon after transferred to Denver. In January of 2013, she began working at the Colorado Water Congress (CWC) as an intern, and shortly after became CWC's Water Policy Analyst. While continuing to work at CWC, Emily began a graduate program at University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2014 and a year later completed a Master's in Natural Resources and Environmental Law with a concentration in Energy Law and Policy. Emily now handles the legislative aspect of Government Affairs for the CWC.

Kirk G. Russell, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Kirk Russell, CWCB Interim Deputy Director is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and has been with CWCB since 2004. Kirk is heavily involved in the CWCB's Loan Program and the Finance Section of CWCB. He is responsible for managing the \$900 million portfolio of state funds used for loans and grants to carry out the mission of the CWCB to Conserve, Develop, Protect and Manage Colorado's water. Project loans are offered to agricultural, municipal, and commercial borrowers for raw water projects throughout Colorado. He has an Engineering degree from Arkansas State University. Prior to joining the CWCB, he worked 15 years in the private sector as a consulting engineer designing and managing: water/wastewater, flood control and transportation projects in Colorado.

Pat Steadman, Former State Senator, Joint Budget Committee

Pat Steadman is a former state senator from Colorado. He served in the Colorado Senate from 2009 to 2016, representing District 31 in central Denver. During his tenure in the legislature he served six years on the Joint Budget Committee, including two years as its chair. He also chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Legal Services.

Steadman is a licensed attorney and prior to his election was a partner in a lobbying and political consulting firm. He received his law degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Term-limited in 2016, Steadman recently began a new position as Chief Executive Officer of Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., a managed care company administering mental health and substance use disorder services for Medicaid members in a three-county suburban catchment area near Denver.

12:00-1:30

Lunch

Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? Dave Grey (Financial Wizard)

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.

1:30-2:20

Federal Dollars: Opportunities and Challenges

Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates

Christine Arbogast is a native Coloradan, born in Pueblo. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and political science from CSU Pueblo. After working as a journalist in Canon City and at the Durango Herald, Christine served as press secretary for Congressman Ray Kogovsek starting in 1979. In 1985, Christine returned to work for Ray Kogovsek, who had chosen not to run for re-election. For more than 30 years, their small lobbying firm has worked primarily on Western resource issues and for mostly Colorado clients, including the Southwestern Water Conservation District, the Animas-La Plata and Dolores Water Conservancy Districts and others throughout the state, local governments and Colorado's two Ute Indian Tribes. Christine is on the board of the Colorado Water Congress and serves as its federal liaison. She is chair of the National Water Resources Association's federal affairs committee and a board member, and has received NWRA's President's Award twice in recent years.

Ian Lyle, National Water Resources Association

Ian is the Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA). The NWRA is a Washington, DC based federation of state water organizations, including the Colorado Water Congress, and the other western states advocating on behalf of western water users. Members of NWRA provide water to millions of individuals, families, and agricultural producers in a manner that supports communities, the economy and the environment. Ian is a Colorado native and spent over a decade working in Congress. Before joining NWRA he worked for former U.S. Senator Wayne Allard, Congressman Mike Coffman, and Congressman Scott Tipton. Ian also spent three years working as legislative staff on the House Natural Resources Committee, where he focused on western water and power issues. Ian is a graduate of Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. He and his wife Natalie live in Washington, DC. But they often dream about Durango...

2:20-3:00

Unique Problems and Partners for Rural Communities

Brad Blake, La Plata County

Brad Blake was born and raised in Durango and attended school here. He attended Fort Lewis college studying finance and later Brigham Young University in business and finance. After working in the private sector, Brad and Janelle, his wife of 34 years moved back to Durango to raise their 3 sons. In 1990 he joined the family business as a partner in Blake and Tomberlin Mechanical Inc. In 2001 he and Janelle started Blake Mechanical Inc. and in 2014 started Konisto Companies Inc. a solar construction company. Spending time with family and friends in our beautiful area is one of his favorite pastimes. In 2015 Brad was successful in being elected county commissioner for La Plata County. Brad has found being in county government very interesting and challenging. He has enjoyed working to solve the wide array of issues the county faces in these challenging times.

Mike Brod, Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority

Michael Brod is the Executive Director of the Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority and has been with the Authority since January 1994. The Authority manages five water-related infrastructure programs and has executed over \$2 billion in water infrastructure loans to Colorado municipalities and special districts. Mr. Brod, as chief executive officer, is responsible for all operational aspects of the Authority's financing programs for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, the Small Water Resources Projects Program, the Water Revenue Bond Program and the Small Hydropower Projects Program. Mr. Brod received his B.B.A. in finance from the University of Texas (1983) and an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Colorado (1993).

3:00-3:30

Networking Break

3:30-4:15

Explaining the McPhee Spill: Storage, Boating and Fish

Nathan Fey, American Whitewater

Nathan Fey is the Colorado River Stewardship Director at American Whitewater where he oversees the organization's River Conservation, Access and Safety Programs in the southwestern United States. Nathan has been active in the Dolores River Dialogue since 2007 and represents Recreation interests in the Lower Dolores Native Fish Monitoring and Recovery Team, while also serving as the lead recreation representative in similar stakeholder efforts working on river management plans in the Colorado, Yampa/Green, Rio Grande, Gila, and Arkansas River basins. Nathan serves as advisor to the Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry and policy liaison to the D.C.-based Outdoor Alliance. Prior to 2007, Nathan worked as the Executive Director of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition and as a Core Committee member of the Dolores River Watershed Coalition. He co-founded the San Juan Field School and has served on the Advisory Board of the SW Colorado Program of The Nature Conservancy, and the Colorado Watershed Assembly.

Nathan has been recognized for several contributions to rivers and water management in the West. In 2003, Nathan was recognized by the USDA for his role to the development of Instream Flow Management Strategies for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in Colorado. In 2005, Nathan received the William C. Kenney Foundation's Leadership Grant award, which supported Nathan's efforts to establish a grassroots River Stewardship community group in the Uncompahgre River basin in southwest Colorado. In 2010, Nathan was recognized by the US Department of Agriculture and Interior - jointly, in helping manage the Lower Dolores River Corridor in Southwestern Colorado. In 2012, Nathan was awarded the Partner in Conservation Award by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, for his scientific advancements and contributions to the US Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.

Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District

Ken chose a college that was near the Colorado ski areas and assured him he wouldn't have to go to graduate school. Being home to Coors was a coincidental benefit. Finding himself an Oredigger and an engineer he started helping build civil projects all around New Mexico for an heavy/highway contractor for 13 years. Deciding to settle down, he tried his hand at SimCity, but on the ground as a city engineer for 8 years. Then a wonderful opportunity to play with water at the foot of the San Juan Mountains opened up and he currently resides in Arriola, Colorado and practices being a large scale plumbing manager for western Montezuma & Dolores Counties and making the country green, must be the Irish background.

Celene Hawkins, The Nature Conservancy

Celene Hawkins serves as the Western Colorado Water Project Manager for the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She coordinates and implements projects with agricultural partners, federal, state, and local governments, and local conservation organizations to help optimize the use of water in western and southwestern Colorado, and she fosters project work that supports water transactions that benefit environmental values while also supporting agriculture and other traditional water uses. Prior to taking this position,

Celene worked as in-house counsel for a local Tribe, where she worked on water issues in several Colorado River basin states, served on local and regional water boards and committees, and worked in water development and management, water quality regulation, endangered and sensitive species issues, and environmental and natural/cultural resources protection. Celene enjoys living in Durango with her husband and her two rescue dogs.

4:20-4:30pm

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, endangered fish species recovery efforts in the San Juan Basin, and compact water bank programs on the Western Slope.

SWCD's substantial 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 35th 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
Doug Stowe, Vice-President
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David Guilliams, Director
Rusty Hinger, Director
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Bruce Whitehead
Laura Spann

Executive Director
Programs Coordinator



76 Years Developing and Conserving
the Waters of Southwestern Colorado

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www.swwcd.org

Annual Water Seminar

EVALUATION FORM

Friday, April 7, 2017



<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>	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
<p>1. How satisfied were you with the registration process? Comments:</p>				
<p>2. How satisfied were you with the conference facilities? Comments:</p>				
<p>3. How satisfied were you with the food service? Comments:</p>				
<p>4. How satisfied were you with the networking opportunities? Comments:</p>				
<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>				
<p>8. What are your suggestions for future seminar presentation topics?</p>				