

2013

Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention

Setting the Water Community Table
What's On Our Plate for 2013

January 31 and February 1, 2013

Marriott Denver Tech Center



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All sessions will be in the Rocky Mountain Event Center unless otherwise noted

Thursday, January 31

State Legislative Breakfast

7:00 – 8:15

Food service continues until 7:30

Program will be from 7:30 to 8:15

The 2013 Colorado Legislature

Moderator: Dianna Orf, Orf and Orf

Senator Ellen Roberts

Senator Gail Schwartz

Representative Randy Fischer

Representative Jerry Sonnenberg

Our annual Legislative Breakfast will feature Senator Gail Schwartz and Representative Randy Fischer, respective Chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. They will share their perspectives on what to expect for the 2013 legislative session.

Opening General Session

Setting the Water Community Table

8:45 – 10:00

Moderator: Mike Gibson, Colorado Water Congress President

John Stulp, Special Policy Advisor to the Governor for Water and Chairman of the IBCC

Rick Cables, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Jennifer Gimbel, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Steve Gunderson, Colorado Water Quality Control Division

Dick Wolfe, Colorado State Engineer

Setting the tone for the convention, our State government water leaders will discuss priority activities and key issues that will propel our key State water agencies through 2013. Nearly the entire State is experiencing some level of drought classification. We will review the latest snowpack and reservoir storage conditions. What can the State do to help us prepare for a second year of drought? We will get an update on IBCC and Basin Round Table activities and the next steps for the State Water Plan and the SWSI. What is the status of the CWCB loan funds? What do we need to know about Minute 319? What is the State's perspective on the Colorado River Water Supply and Demand Study? Is runoff from fire burn areas creating issues for the Water Quality Control Division? And much more.

Break

10:00 - 10:30

**Open Mic
with Rick Cables, Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

10:05 - 10:25

Aspen Theater

Rick opens a new series for the Water Congress that will provide convention attendees a convenient format to interact with convention speakers or other presenters during the breaks between sessions. In this session, find out more about what Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be doing this year.

General Session II

What's On Our Plate for 2013?

10:30 – 11:45

Moderator: Chris Treese, Colorado River Water Conservation District

Colorado River Basin Study

Erin Wilson, Wilson Water Group

We will devote significant time during the Wednesday Workshops discussing the new Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. What are the next steps?

Drought

Stacy Chesney, Denver Water

Diane Johnson, Eagle River Water and Sanitation District

Russ Sands, City of Boulder

Should snowpack continue on the current trend (worse than last year), 2013 will be the second year of well-below normal precipitation. The center of the U.S. is now in severe drought. How did we respond last year and what preparations are underway should 2013 be another dry year? In communicating with the public, what lessons did we learn from the 2002 drought? Did voluntary restrictions work? How have water conservation programs been adjusted? Should drought be considered as an emergency response or part of normal operations?

Good Samaritan

Jimmy Hague, Legislative Assistant for Senator Mark Udall

Senator Udall recently announced that the U.S. EPA joined him in unveiling a new policy that unleashes the power of private groups and individuals, so-called Good Samaritans, to help clean mines and protect our precious water. Until recently, Good Samaritans couldn't help remediate many of the nearly 7,000 abandoned mine sites due to potential legal liability. How might this new policy affect Colorado?

Public Trust Special Project

Doug Kemper, Colorado Water Congress

Steve Leonhardt, Burns, Figa, and Will, P.C.

Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Services

For nearly two decades, the Water Congress has diligently worked against ballot proposals that would have impressed a Public Trust Doctrine on Colorado water rights and riparian landowners. The Water Congress Board has approved a special project to lead the water community's preparation for and response to any future ballot proposals that would impose new "doctrines" altering Colorado water law.

**Open Mic
with Drought Panel
11:50 - 12:10**

Join our drought panel (Stacy Chesney, Diane Johnson, and Russ Sands) for an informative follow-up discussion as to how they are preparing water conservation plans for this year.

**Thursday Luncheon
12:15 – 1:30**

*Food service continues until 12:45
Program will be from 12:45 to 1:30*

**Keynote Presentation
Millennials Are Remaking America
Are You Ready?**

*Mike Hais and Morley Winograd
Partners, Mike & Morley, LLC*

Millennials—the next generation—are remaking every aspect of American life: entertainment, lifestyles, leadership, work, technology, government, politics, education and community. Millennial experts Mike Hais and Morley Winograd will provide critical insights to help you understand, communicate to and work with the country's largest and most influential generation. You'll learn how to engage with this confident, connected and socially driven demographic. Millennials are going to change your life. Are you ready?

**General Session III
Generations at the Water Community Table
2:00 – 3:15**

Moderator: Doug Kemper, Colorado Water Congress

Commentators

Mike Hais and Morley Winograd

Panelists

Joe Hall, former Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Reclamation

Diane Hoppe, former legislator

Frank Kugel, Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District

Joe Frank, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District

Alyson Scott, Lawrence, Jones, Custer & Grasmick LLP

Erin Messner, Aurora Water

Building on the presentation from our lunch speakers, our panel will discuss how our actual experiences with flood, drought, and water use shape our thoughts and outlook toward water. A new generation of water professionals may re-interpret historic conflicts in a different light and with different expected outcomes. As we prepare for future water challenges, how will we work with vastly different generational experiences in the water community? What are the barriers to the intergenerational exchange of experience, knowledge and skills in the water profession?

General Session IV

Bringing *Headwaters* Stories to Life

3:45 – 5:00

Moderator: Reagan Waskom, Colorado Water Institute, CFWE Program Committee Chair and Colorado Water Congress Vice President

Opening Remarks by Jayla Poppleton, *Headwaters* Editor

Panel #1: Fall 2012 *Headwaters* Issue on Agriculture

Josh Zaffos, author of "The Ever-Evolving Farmer" story

Kent Pepler, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Tom Trout, USDA Agricultural Research Service

Panel #2: Winter 2013 *Headwaters* Issue on Utilities

Jerd Smith, author of "Water Infrastructure" story

Greg Fisher, Denver Water

Steve Ryken, Ute Water Conservancy District.

As the Colorado Foundation for Water Education's cornerstone publication, *Headwaters* reaches thousands of Coloradans each year through engaging and balanced storytelling. Numerous individuals and groups find it an effective educational tool to both increase awareness of water as a scarce resource and examine water-related values and uses. CFWE is now bringing the faces, voices and stories from the magazine's pages to life. These panels will reveal the production process from conception to delivery. Journalists, sources and reviewers from the Winter 2013 utilities-focused issue and the Fall 2012 agriculture-focused issue will give a behind-the-scenes look at their respective articles. Hear how farming practices are evolving in the face of shrinking water supplies and get an inside look at the nuts and bolts of transporting water to and from the tap.

Celebration Reception

5:15 – 7:00

Private Dining Room

Friday, February 1

Federal Legislative Breakfast

7:00 – 8:15

Food service continues until 7:30

Program will be from 7:30 to 8:15

CWC Business Meeting

We will conduct a brief overview of priorities for the Water Congress in 2013 and take action on business items including 2013 CWC Policies and selection of Board members.

Federal Affairs

with Jimmy Hague (Legislative Assistant for Sen. Udall) and Ian Lyle (Policy Advisor for Rep. Tipton)

We will hear reports from the front lines about accomplishments in U.S. Congress at the end of the last session and prospects for 2013. The CWC Federal Affairs leadership will discuss their activities for 2013 and report on the priorities for Colorado and the other Western States from the recent National Water Resources Association Leadership Forum.

General Session V

Snow?

8:45 – 10:00

Real Weather

Nolan Doesken, Colorado State Climatologist

As only our State Climatologist can do, Nolan will review the weather from 2012, one of the warmest years on record. How does our current weather pattern fit in with historic trends?

What's Up with the Weather?

Brian Bledsoe, Chief Meteorologist KKTV

Are we reliving the weather conditions of the 1950's? Brian will provide insights as to what factors are driving our current weather patterns. Aside from working in television, Brian does extensive work in long range forecasting. It is his goal to design forecasts to be helpful to producers the Ag industry and other industries that place a high priority on weather (that would be nearly all of us). Brian is also a strong advocate for good, common sense science reporting. If you are bewildered by all of the conversation about El Nino - Southern Oscillation, La Nina, North Atlantic Oscillation, etc.; this informative session might just help. What is Brian advising about the prospects for drought relief?

Dust in Western Snow Cover

What's In It and Where Did It Come From?

Rich Reynolds, U.S. Geological Survey

We have been following the topic of dust on snow for some time now. The National Snow and Ice Data Center reports that the reflectivity of snow (i.e. how dark it is) has a greater impact on the rates of snowmelt than temperature. Dust on snow may cause meltout to occur as much as a month earlier than normal. Detailed research has been underway in the Wasatch Range and is beginning in Colorado to analyze the mineral content of windblown dust in the snowpack. With the help of high altitude photography, we are beginning to fingerprint the dust sources. The results may surprise you.

Open Mic

with Brian Bledsoe

10:05 - 10:25

Aspen Theater

Brian will answer your questions from his presentation and perhaps offer his insights on global warming and climate change.

General Session VI

Rio Grande!

10:30 – 11:45

Moderator: Steve Vandiver, Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Craig Cotten, Colorado Division Engineer, Rio Grande Division

Bill Paddock, Carlson, Hammond, & Paddock

David Robbins, Hill and Robbins

J.C. Ulrich (or reasonable similarity), Civil and Hydraulic Engineer

In 1896, the United States embargoed construction of many reservoirs in the Upper Rio Grande while it sorted out competing water needs within the basin. The embargo was eventually lifted and Colorado could embark upon the

construction of Rio Grande Reservoir. In an entertaining and informative repeat performance from last summer's Rio Grande Reservoir 100th Celebration; J.C. Ulrich, Chief Engineer for the reservoir's construction between the years 1905 to 1912, will be presented by a well-known Colorado Supreme Court Justice.

We also now reach the 75th anniversary of the Rio Grande Compact. Signed in 1938 and approved by state legislatures and Congress the following year, the Rio Grande Compact apportions the river's flow above Ft. Quitman Texas among Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Given the variable climate, the compact provides for a unique system of debits and credits that can be carried over from year to year until extinguished under compact accounting. We will conclude with a discussion of present water management priorities in the basin and recently filed interstate compact litigation.

Open Mic

with Stan Dempsey, Colorado Petroleum Association

Oil and Gas in Colorado - Contributing to Colorado

11:50 - 12:10

Aspen Theater

Friday Aspinall Luncheon

12:15 – 1:45

Food service continues until 12:45

Program will be from 12:45 to 1:45

Keynote Presentation

Speaking for Future Generations

Investing in Our Water Future

David LaFrance, American Water Works Association

Established in 1881, the American Water Works Association is the oldest and largest nonprofit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to safe and sustainable water in the world. With more than 50,000 members worldwide and 43 Sections in North America, AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the entire water community. AWWA is preparing water professionals for the increasing and unique challenges of today so that they can continue to provide safe drinking water to the public in the future. These challenges include the Nation's need for significant reinvestment in aging infrastructure, at a time when declines in water sales are ubiquitous, the appetite for raising rates is limited and water service is taken for granted.

Recognition of Honorary Life Members and CWC President

2013 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award Presentation

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