



**2025 COLORADO WATER CONGRESS ANNUAL CONVENTION
A GATHERING OF WATER MINDS**

**Hyatt Regency Aurora Denver Conference Center
January 29 – 31, 2025**

WORKSHOPS

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
8:30 to 11:45 a.m.**

Around Colorado with the State Engineer & Division Engineers

Aurora Ballroom

8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Moderator and Speaker: Jason Ullmann, State Engineer

Speakers:

Tracy Kosloff - Deputy Director

Sarah Brucker - Deputy State Engineer

John Hunyadi - Assistant State Engineer for Safety and Systems

Division 1 Engineer - Corey DeAngelis

Division 2 Engineer - Rachel Zancanella

Division 3 Engineer - Craig Cotten

Division 4 Engineer - Bob Hurford

Division 5 Engineer - James Heath

Division 6 Engineer - Erin Light

Division 7 Engineer - Rob Genualdi

Our popular session with our Colorado Division Engineers will be back again this year.

USGS and Bureau of Reclamation: Opportunities and Partnerships Boosted by Infrastructure Funding

Conference Room I

9:00 – 11:30

Moderator: TBD

Learn more about the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey and their work. Speakers will share their perspectives on how they would/should/could spend \$8.3 billion for their respective projects. What was the process of deciding how the money should be spent? What benefits do they see with the available funds?

Legal Workshop Sponsored by the Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association

Conference Room VIII

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Details coming soon



CWCB Instream Flow Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting

Conference Room V

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Kaylea White, Colorado Water Conservation Board Stream and Lake Protection Section; Jennifer Mele, First Assistant Attorney General

CWCB will be asking for input on its draft amendment to Instream Flow Rule 6k, in 2 CCR 408-2. This rulemaking is required to implement Section 2 of Senate Bill 24–197 regarding temporary loans of stored water for instream flow use, which is codified at 37–83–105(1)(c), C.R.S. The new law allows for a holder of water rights to loan stored water to CWCB for use in a stream reach where CWCB does not already hold a decreed instream flow water right.

The Evolution of Water Conservation – Integration of Water Resources and Conservation

Conference Room II

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Moderators: Jenna Battson, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Julia Gallucci, Colorado Springs Utilities
Speakers: TBD

The Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Program (CASM) - Program development, implementation, and capacity building

Conference Room VII

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Moderators: Jeff Deems, Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.

Speakers: TBD

Since the inception of the Airborne Snow Observatory program at NASA in 2013, Colorado has been an early adopter and participant in the application of this ground-breaking technology. In recent years, the stakeholder-led Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Program (CASM) workgroup has taken the initiative to support the program's implementation and growth, and to sustain operations into the future. Along the way, numerous success stories, novel applications, and user perspectives provide perspective and lessons learned.

This Workshop will provide a forum for discussing outcomes, growth objectives, and implementation lessons from program leaders and data users across the State.



2025 COLORADO WATER CONGRESS ANNUAL CONVENTION

All sessions in Aurora Ballroom, unless otherwise shown

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

12:00 Lunch

Aurora Ballroom and Conference Rooms III and IV

12:45 CWC Town Hall – Live Polling

1:00 Opening General Session

Aurora Ballroom

Welcome

Christine Arbogast, CWC Board President and Kogovsek and Associates

City of Aurora Welcome

Marshall Brown, General Manager, City of Aurora - Aurora Water

1:15 Convention Keynote

Camille Camlimlim Touton, Commissioner of Reclamation (*Tentative*)

1:45 Reflecting on Progress: 20 Years since the Passage of the Water for the 21st Century Act & 10 Years of the Colorado Water Plan

Moderator: Russ George

Speakers: *Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado River Commissioner, Eric Hecox, Shea Properties*

Join us for a special session celebrating two significant milestones in water management: the 20th anniversary of the Water for the 21st Century Act and the 10th anniversary of the Colorado Water Plan. This session will reflect on the achievements, challenges, and successes of these pivotal initiatives. Expert panelists will discuss the evolution of water policy in Colorado, how these frameworks have shaped sustainable water usage across Colorado.

2:15 2025 Aspinall Award Presentation

Conversation with Senator Hank Brown

This award, established in 1980, is presented to that person exemplifying the courage, dedication, knowledge, and leadership qualities shown by Wayne N. Aspinall in the development, protection, and preservation of the water of the State of Colorado. Please join us to honor the 2025 Aspinall Award winner.

3:00 Break



3:15 General Session 2

3:15 What's Next for the Basin Roundtables?

Moderator: Lauren Ris, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Speakers: Sean Chambers, City of Greeley and South Platte Basin Roundtable Chair; Amber Pacheco, Rio Grande Water Conservancy District and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair; April Long, Pitkin County Government and Colorado River Basin Roundtable Chair

Open discussion on where the basin roundtables are now and what the expectations are for the future. Chairs from across the state will compare the pros and cons of their respective basin roundtables, and what, if any, changes they see going forward.

4:15 Regional Forester - Challenges for Sustainable Watershed Health

Waiting for confirmation

**5:00 POND Reception
Casino Night**

Grab a beverage and light snack and join POND for their annual event. POND is bringing back the popular casino night! Many of the Water Congress Board members will serve as dealers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 Registration, Networking & Breakfast

Breakfast will be available from 6:30-8:30 a.m. near registration. Seating is available in Conference Rm III, Conference Rm IV, and the Café Lounge.

7:30 General Session 3

Morning Welcome

Chané Polo, Executive Director, Colorado Water Congress

Introduction of Career Accelerator Award Winners and CSU Water Fellows

Emily Hunt, CWC EDI Committee Chair and City of Thornton

2025 Legislative Priorities: Dialogue with Colorado Legislators

Moderator: John McClow, General Counsel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and CWC State Affairs Chair; Ben Moline, Molson Coors Beverage Company and CWC State Affairs Vice Chair
Legislators TBD

We will hear from Colorado's House and Senate water leadership on what the priorities are for 2025 and what topics the water community can expect this legislative session. Learn how the Colorado Water Congress advocates for water interests in the Colorado Legislature.

8:15 Exploring the Water / Energy Nexus

Moderators: Jackie Brown, Senior Water & Natural Resource Policy Advisor, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association and Breanna Gonzalez, Environmental Justice & Outreach Supervisor, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Speakers: TBD

9:15 Break

9:30 General Session 4

The 119th Congress and Another Trump Term

Speaker: *Dick Wadhams and others TBD*

Veteran congressman Wadhams shares his thoughts with a well-known and respected political mind on 2025 governance by Congress and the Administration.

Colorado Water Congress Federal Priorities for 2025

Speaker: *Andy Colosimo, Chair of the CWC Federal Affairs Committee*

10:15 The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Speakers: *Regional Fish and Wildlife Experts TBD*

10:45 Meet the New Executive Director of Water Education Colorado

Juan Pérez Sáez, Executive Director

11:00 Break for Concurrent Sessions – Block A

11:15 Concurrent Session A1

Conference Room I

Navigating Water Supply Challenges with Scenario Planning

Speakers:

Sarah Dominick, Director of Integrated Planning, Hazen and Sawyer

Greg Gates, Water Resources Practice Lead, Hazen and Sawyer

We will explore the critical role of scenario planning in addressing the complexities of water resource management. This talk will highlight how envisioning diverse future scenarios helps stakeholders anticipate challenges such as climate change, urban growth, and regulatory changes. By engaging in scenario planning, communities can develop flexible strategies that ensure sustainable water supplies. Attendees will gain insights into real-world applications and success stories, illustrating how proactive planning can safeguard water resources for future generations. Join us to discover how to turn uncertainty into opportunity for a resilient water future.



Concurrent Session A2

Conference Room II

Maximizing the Ecosystem Benefits of Landscape Transformation

Speakers: Jenna Battson, CWCB Outdoor Water Conservation Coordinator

Two years after the state's Turf Replacement Program launch, CWCB will provide updates on lessons learned and pathways to advance landscape transformation and support vibrant communities. The presentation will emphasize the need for realistic narratives to confront common misconceptions, thereby leveling set expectations surrounding the impact and water savings often associated with turf replacement efforts. Insights into the potential effects of widespread turf replacement, foundational and practical water conservation tools, and the opportunity cost of focusing on turf replacement will be discussed. CWCB will also stress the risks of accelerating landscape change without incorporating holistic, data-backed, and water-smart development plans in a rapidly warming Colorado that will continue to experience drought, floods, and fires.

Concurrent Session A3

Conference Room VIII

How to Talk with an Irrigator

Speakers:

Paul Kehmeier, Operator of Keh-Land Farm, Salinity Program Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Robert Sakata, Agricultural Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Elena Miller-ter Kuile, Colorado Agricultural Commission, Cactus Hill Farm

Riley May, Regional Assistant Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture

With the pressures of climate change, increased M&I demand, and environmental needs, communication with agricultural water rights holders about quantity and quality is more crucial than ever, but like most professions there can exist barriers to dialog that may be hard to overcome. This panel will explore regional differences in building trust in farming and ranching communities across the state and provide examples of the good, the bad and the ugly.

Concurrent Session A4

Conference Room VII

Water Education and Workforce Development in Colorado

Speakers: Karen Schlatter, Interim Director, Colorado Water Center

A wave of retirements is flooding the water sector. However, many young people are not aware of or knowledgeable about water-related jobs and careers – nor the education and training pathways needed to attain them. Yet, innovation in water management, policy and infrastructure are critical to adapt to changes in climate, population growth, water quality issues, and regional concerns going forward. This presentation will outline challenges and opportunities, best practices and model career pathway programs, and current gaps in education/training.

Concurrent Session A5 (Tentative)

Conference Room V

CBA – Topic TBD

Speaker(s): TBD



1:00 General Session 5

Colorado River State of Mind: What Now?

Speakers:

Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado River Commissioner

Anne Castle, U.S. Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission

Jason Ullmann, Colorado State Engineer

Speakers will provide state and federal perspectives on the Colorado River, share state updates, and discuss river accounting.

1:45 Upper Colorado Conserved Consumptive Use Project

Moderator: Hannah Holm, Associate Director for Policy, American Rivers

Speakers: TBD

Details coming soon

2:00 Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority Board Meeting

Conference Room VI

2:30 Break

3:00 General Session 6

Accelerating Projects and Capacity through Federal Funding

Moderator: Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Colorado River District

Speakers: TBD

This panel will provide examples of and discussion around the tremendous impact of state and local funding programs designed to increase capacity for organizations applying for federal funding, and how those programs could potentially serve as the inspiration for future federal funding programs.

3:45 Denver Water's Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Moderator: Meg Trubee, Public Affairs Manager, Denver Water

Speakers:

Angela Bricmont, Chief of Finance, Denver Water

Stacey Chesney, Public Affairs Director, Denver Water

Alexis Woodrow, Lead Reduction Program Manager, Denver Water

4:15 General Session 7

Wildfire and Forest Restoration after "the Emergency"

Moderator: Esther Vincent, Director of Environmental Services, Northern Water

Panelists: TBD

5:00 Adjourn for the day



FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

8:00 General Session 8

8:00 Acknowledging Existing Beneficial Farming Practices and Shaping the Future of Regenerative Agriculture

Moderator: Adam Kremers, Water Resources/Water Rights Project Manager, Brown and Caldwell

Panelists: TBD

This session will explore the vital intersection of agricultural practices and policy development. Featuring a representative from the regenerative agriculture certification process, a policy expert working on recent legislative efforts, and a farmer actively implementing these practices, the discussion will highlight how local farming methods can inform and inspire effective policy changes that reflect on-the-ground realities.

8:30 Should the Federal Government Play a Larger Role in Groundwater Management? What Government Scientists Say

Speaker: Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Barncastle Law Firm

Learn about the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and the work that they are doing – specifically whether there should be a federal role in groundwater management. Samantha will also discuss her experience in the *Texas v. New Mexico* case with the states fighting the U.S. over groundwater.

9:00 Shoshone Water Rights – Motivation and Benefits

Moderator: Dave Payne, Assistant General Manager, Ute Water Conservancy District

Speakers:

Andy Mueller, Colorado River District, General Manager

Siri Roman, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District, General Manager

Matt Rice, American Rivers, Southwest Regional Director

Bobbie Daniel, Mesa County, Commissioner

For well over a decade, a diverse group of stakeholders has been working toward the permanent protection of the historic Shoshone Water Rights – some of the largest and most senior non-consumptive water rights on the Colorado River. Water users across the state depend on the historical flows supported by these water rights for agriculture, recreation, environmental benefits, and clean drinking water. This panel will bring together diverse voices to share how their lives and livelihoods are directly impacted by the Shoshone Water Rights and to discuss what the next steps will look like as they work to secure this generational investment.

9:30 Colorado River Connectivity Channel

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: TBD

10:00 Break



10:30 General Session 9

Cybersecurity in the Water Sector: How Big is the Threat?

Moderator: Lauren Hix, Hix Risk Consultants, LLC.

Speakers: TBD

11:00 General Session 10

Governor and Senators *(invited not confirmed)*

Added Value Through a Federal-State Alliance

12:00 Closing Remarks

Christine Arbogast, CWC Board President and Kogovsek and Associates

Chané Polo, Executive Director, Colorado Water Congress

Thank you to our sponsors:

- City of Thornton
- Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority
- FCS, a Bowman Company
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- Ute Water Conservancy District
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Thank you to our exhibitors:

- Brown and Caldwell
- Colorado Retirement Association
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority
- ERO Resources Corporation
- FCS, a Bowman Company
- GEI Consultants
- Hix Risk
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