



Southwestern Water Conservation District's 38th Southwest Water Seminar



Navigating Shortage
April 1, 2022

Double Tree Hotel ~ Durango, CO



SEMINAR PROGRAM

COVID-19: SWCD is working to ensure participant safety in order to hold this hybrid event. We are limiting attendance to improve opportunities for social distancing and providing a virtual option.

Based on the most recent local and state public health guidelines, SWCD recommends attendees of its in-person events to participate only if fully vaccinated against COVID-19. While masks are optional, please observe physical distancing of six feet from others.

Please stay home if you are not feeling well or exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. SWCD can provide rapid COVID-19 tests for event attendees prior to the event upon request.

We will continue to monitor local public health advisories and will modify any recommendations/requirements as necessary.

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SWCD's 38th Southwest Water Seminar: **Navigating Shortage**

April 1, 2022

Agenda & Program

SWCD's 38th Southwest Water Seminar: Navigating Shortage Program

For 38 years, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) has hosted the Southwest Water Seminar, a well-established venue for water education and community engagement. We hope today's discussions spark conversation and contemplation and hold lessons to share with your community. Please join us in thanking our speakers and moderators who have committed time and energy to share their knowledge and experience with us.

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BUFFET BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: YOUR DISTRICT AT WORK

Steve Wolff, General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Manuel Heart, Chairman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Jenny Russell, Board President, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Southwest Colorado's future is only as bright as its water supply is secure and clean. SWCD's team—its board, staff, and consultants—take their advocacy role seriously. On behalf of the SWCD Board of Directors, we thank you for joining us today to explore water shortage challenges, identify strategies to navigate them, and seek innovative solutions for our communities.

8:50 VIDEO: SOUTHWEST BASIN: OUR FORESTS AND RIVERS

Elaine Chick, Water Information Program

This educational video is presented by The Water Information Program and the Public Education, Participation and Outreach program (PEPO), on behalf of the SW Basins Roundtable. Focusing on river health, forest health and agriculture and the interdependence they share, forest and river health go hand in hand, and taking care of them is vital for the future of Colorado's Southwest Basin. The video was created and produced by Elaine Chick – Water Information Program and Moxicran Media. The Water Information Program (WIP) provides informational resources on current events, issues, law, history, as well as educational workshops and festivals.

9:10 CONVERSATION: SOUTHWEST COLORADO IN THE ARIDIFICATION BULLSEYE

Moderator: Jenny Russell, President, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Becky Bolinger, Assistant State Climatologist, Colorado State University

Rob Genualdi, Division 7 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Dr. Heidi Steltzer, Professor of Environment and Sustainability, Fort Lewis College

As the snow melts and spring runoff begins, the first panel will set the stage for the day's discussion with the latest climate and hydrologic data for southwest Colorado and our state. As you'll hear, temperature rises are further exacerbating the long-term drought in our region, which impacts snowpack, streamflow amounts and timing and how water is administered by the Colorado Division of Water Resources. But there is hope that we can effectively respond to these changes.

9:50 NETWORKING BREAK

10:15 NAVIGATING SHORTAGES FOR SOUTHWEST COLORADO WATER USERS

Moderator: Steve Wolff, General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Susan Behery, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District

Ben Wolcott, Agricultural Consultant, Mancos Watershed Stream Management Plan

Southwest Colorado has seen a declining water supply for over 20 years; water managers and producers have been navigating the resulting challenges. How do water managers plan for an uncertain runoff? How do producers cope with less water for their crops? What insights have emerged from recent drought years? How has drought provided the potential to improve upon our water management?

11:00 AUDIENCE QUIZ

11:15 TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT: A NEW DYNAMIC ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Moderator: Gigi Richard, Four Corners Water Center at Fort Lewis College

Lorelei Cloud, Councilwoman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Manuel Heart, Chairman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Our corner of Colorado is home to two sovereign tribal nations--the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. We are honored that Councilwoman Cloud and Chairman Heart have accepted our invitation to present to us today and describe the changing role of the tribes in Colorado river management and policy discussions. Our speakers may also elaborate on tribal strategies for coping with recent water shortages and local planning for an uncertain hydrologic future.

12:00 BUFFET LUNCH

1:00 100 YEARS OF THE COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

Moderator: Amy Huff, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Eric Kuhn, Author and Former Colorado River District General Manager

Kelsea Macilroy, Macilroy Research and PhD Candidate, Colorado State University

Beth Van Vurst, SWCD General Counsel, Van Vurst Law

Becky Mitchell, Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission and CWCB Director

2022 is the centennial of the Colorado River Compact. What lessons can we draw from 100 years of water management across seven states and two countries that is structured around the two compacts, one international treaty and the accompanying laws and agreements that comprise the "Law of the River"? What can the experiences of other river basins in Colorado tell us about compact administration? How is the State of Colorado approaching the declining water supplies and the upcoming renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines?

2:10 WATER '22 - IT ALL STARTS HERE

Elaine Chick, Water Information Program

Colorado's Governor has proclaimed 2022 as the Year of Water, launching a 12-month effort to raise public awareness about water's critical role in our state's future. "Water 22," as the campaign is named, capitalizes on key milestones this year, including the 100-year anniversary of the Colorado River Compact. The goal is to generate media coverage, social media buzz, and events statewide to draw attention to the value of water and our role as stewards. There will be several southwest-Colorado based activities, including a mini-basin tour and coordination with local breweries. Learn more at water22.org.

2:20 BALANCING PROTECTION AND USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Moderator: Rusty Hinger, Director, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Hattie Johnson, American Whitewater

Jim White, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Don Schwindt, Family Farm Alliance

The aspiration for our rural communities is striking the delicate balance among multiple demands on the river while we are experiencing a declining supply. We seek to manage the intricate interplay between agricultural production, clean water for our faucets, local recreational economies, and healthy ecosystems, to name a few. Drought, however, adds an increasing challenge. Our three speakers will provide their perspectives on these challenges and some strategies and tactics for southwest Colorado to support multiple uses and healthy watersheds during drought.

3:00 SNACK BREAK

3:15 WATER QUALITY IMPACTS AS FLOWS DROP

Moderator: Charlie Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Peter Butler, Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group

John Cyran, Western Resource Advocates

Can we reasonably hope to improve—or even just maintain—water quality as climate change decreases flows and increases temperatures? Our experts will dive into the impacts of climate change on water quality, how water quality regulations may need to be reconsidered, and strategies to address these challenges. They will describe current efforts to maintain healthy watersheds in southwest Colorado by protecting our best water and recovering our impacted waters.

4:00 CLOSING REMARKS

JR Ford, Director, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Thank you for joining us! What did you like? What could we do better? What topics do you want to hear about next? Please complete the feedback form included here and return it to the registration desk.

Presenter Bios

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Your District at Work

Steve Wolff - Steve Wolff became General Manager of the Southwestern Water Conservation District in June 2021. Prior to this position, Steve served as the Interstate Streams Division Administrator in the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. The Interstate Streams Division provides primary oversight for Wyoming's rights and responsibilities relative to the seven interstate water compacts and three interstate water decrees to which the state is a signatory. Steve has a B.S. in Fisheries Biology and an M.S. in Water Resources/Hydrology, both from the University of Wyoming. He also did additional graduate study at Virginia Tech University in Public Administration and Policy of Natural Resources.

Manuel Heart - Chairman Manuel Heart is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Manuel Heart was raised on the Ute Mountain Reservation in Towaoc, Colorado. He is happily married with six children and 16 grandchildren. With 23 years commitment to his tribe, of this 10 years committed to council and 12 years commitment to Chairman. Mr. Heart was first elected into council in 1995, since then he has served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary Custodian. Manuel Heart is a strong advocate for Education, housing, Water, and Economic Development. Mr. Heart is also recognized by many Native American Organizations for his leadership and service on a National and State level as Chairman of the 10 Tribes Partnership, former Area Vice President NCAI for Southwest region, Health Board, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, Utah Tribal Leaders, New Mexico Indian Affairs, and Colorado Energy Resource Tribes, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, and Native American Finance Officers Association.

Jenny Russell - Jenny Russell currently serves as the Southwestern Water Conservation board President. She was appointed by San Miguel County and has been a director since 2014, and has long played an active role in regional water discussions. Ms. Russell was member of the Southwest Basins Roundtable and sat on its sub-committee for non-consumptive uses. Previously, she represented the Southwest Basin on the Interbasin Compact Committee. Ms. Russell also serves on the board of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition. An avid river runner, she also has represented River Runners for Wilderness on wilderness and private-boater access issues for the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Currently, Ms. Russell practices law at Russell & Pieterse, LLC. Her past and present representation of water clients around the state includes water districts, developers, realtors, golf course owners, large and small landowners, ranchers and farmers, and large and small municipalities. Previously, she has worked for the Town of Telluride and Trout & Raley, P.C. (formerly Hobbs, Trout & Raley, P.C.) in Denver. Ms. Russell earned her B.A. from Kenyon College in Ohio and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

Video: Southwest Basin: Our Forests and Rivers – Water Information Program

Elaine Chick - With over 20 years as a project manager/producer, overseeing world-class meetings and events in both for-profit and non-profit organizations, Elaine has had an amazing career working with international clients in helping them achieve their goals and business strategies with a strong belief of focusing on core values. She is the Water Information Program Manager, and also offers her time as the producer for fundraisers for non-profit organizations. Elaine moved to the Durango area from the Pacific Northwest nine years ago. As an avid horsewoman, the Southwest gives Elaine the opportunity to live her dream lifestyle. "My passion for the Southwest and its natural resources have led me to put my efforts towards work that helps create sustainability, education, and making a difference in my community and environment. As the Water Information Program Manager, I get to do just that!"

Conversation: Southwest Colorado in the Aridification Bullseye

Moderator – Jenny Russell - see bio above

Becky Bolinger - Becky Bolinger received her B.S. in meteorology from Metro State University of Denver, M.S. in meteorology from Florida State University, and her Ph.D. in atmospheric science from Colorado State University. She is now the Assistant State Climatologist at the Colorado Climate Center (within CSU's department of Atmospheric Science). Her research interests are focused on Colorado's climate variability, climate extremes, and drought. She spends her spare time with her husband and daughter, hiking, cycling, running, and enjoying Colorado's beautiful outdoors.

Rob Genualdi - Robert B. Genualdi, P.E., has over 30 years of experience in engineering and water resource management, specializing in water resource administration, hydrology and hydraulic design. Mr. Genualdi is currently the Division Engineer for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division 7, located in Durango, Colorado. His responsibilities include overseeing water administration and Colorado's water rights priority system throughout the San Juan and Dolores River Basins, consulting with the Division 7 Water Court on water rights applications, issuing well permits, and ensuring compliance with dam safety requirements. His previous experience includes Project Engineer for the Central Arizona Project and District Manager for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. Mr. Genualdi holds degrees in Civil Engineering and Geology.

Dr. Heidi Steltzer - Dr. Heidi Steltzer has over 25 years of experience in environmental research, education and communication. She has conducted field studies in the High Mountains and Arctic in Colorado, Alaska and Greenland to understand how healthy ecosystems provide for human well-being. She pioneered research on the impacts of earlier snowmelt to determine its impact on water supply and mountain biodiversity. In 2019, she served as a lead author on High Mountains for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Since 2009, she has been a faculty at Fort Lewis College and is a professor in the Department of Environment and Sustainability. Find her on social media @heidimountains.

Navigating Shortages for Southwest Colorado Water Users

Moderator – Steve Wolff - see bio above

Susan Behery - Susan Behery is a hydraulic engineer with seventeen years of experience with water in the west. She has been with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation since 2012, operating Navajo Dam, a Colorado River Storage Project unit, as well as providing modeling and operational support for five other Reclamation projects in the San Juan River Basin. She works closely with the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program with the shared goal of recovering endangered species in the basin while managing continued water development. Prior to Reclamation, Susan was an engineer in the private industry, primarily specializing in dam removal and river restoration projects in the Pacific Northwest, and as a fish passage engineer working for the National Marine Fisheries Service. She earned her Masters Degree at Colorado State University in 2005 and is a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Washington.

Kenneth W. Curtis III - After graduation from the Colorado School of Mines, Ken worked 13 years moving around New Mexico constructing heavy-highway civil projects. He next settled down to become the City Engineer for the booming suburb Rio Rancho, New Mexico for eight years. In December of 2007, Ken joined the Dolores Water Conservancy District as Chief of Engineering and Construction. He led the District's hydrology operations and major replacement projects on Reclamation's Dolores Project (McPhee Reservoir) for twelve years before becoming the General Manager in September 2019.

Ben Wolcott - Local rancher, Ben Wolcott, is active in the Mancos water community both from a business perspective and as an agricultural consultant working for the Mancos Conservation District on the Mancos Watershed Stream Management Plan. As a former MCD board member for many years, along with the many ditches Ben works with, he has gained many years of experience working with water managers and producers. Ben feels that agriculture in Mancos is worth preserving and believes that farmers and ranchers can adapt and thrive in the current climate. Sharing what he has learned is one way that Ben hopes to inspire innovation in others.

Tribal Engagement: A New Dynamic on the Colorado River

Gigi Richard - Gigi Richard is an educator, water scientist and civil engineer who is currently the Director of the Four Corners Water Center and Instructor of Geosciences at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. She has spent 20 years in academia teaching and inspiring students about water, rivers and GIS. Her research interests include watershed hydrology in Colorado, from snowmelt-driven systems to intermittent desert streams, and human impacts on river systems, including the study of downstream impacts of dams, levees, and other human activities on rivers in Colorado, New Mexico, and New Zealand. She holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from Colorado State University and a B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, all in Civil Engineering with a water focus. In addition to a lifelong fascination with water, Gigi's passions include growing, cooking and eating delicious food and exploring the mountains, rivers, and deserts of the southwest.

Lorelei Cloud - Council Member Lorelei Cloud is a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and proudly serves the Tribal Membership on the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council. Born and raised on the Southern Ute Reservation, Cloud was first elected to Tribal Council in December 2015. During her first term on Tribal Council, she welcomed the opportunity to serve as Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. After being re-elected in December 2018, Cloud continued her service to the Tribal Membership as a member of Council and Treasurer. On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, Ms. Cloud was once again sworn into office, serving her third term on Tribal Council. She also serves on the Water and Tribes Initiative and is Co-Chairman of the Indigenous Women's Leadership Network. Council Member Cloud is a true advocate for the Ute language, traditions, and culture; actively participating in cultural events and traditional gatherings. She is very passionate about helping the Southern Ute youth, women, and elders.

Manuel Heart - see bio above

100 Years of the Colorado River Compact

Amy Novak Huff - Amy Novak Huff was appointed to the Southwestern Water Conservation District Board of Directors by La Plata County in 2021. Amy is a water lawyer, a mom, a ballerina, a sailor and pianist, and runs a solo practice in Durango, Colorado. Amy studied anthropology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and obtained a juris doctorate degree from the University of Denver. Prior to practicing law, Amy taught social studies in both the Durango and Mancos high schools. She worked in the legal division of Denver Water while attending law school and was awarded a judicial clerkship with Honorable Judge Klein in Water Division No. 1 upon graduation. Amy had the privilege of practicing law at Carlson, Hammond and Paddock, LLC, before she returned to Durango in 2007. She is inspired by the wonders of our natural environment and its diversity.

Eric Kuhn - Eric Kuhn is the retired General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District and co-author with John Fleck of *Science Be Dammed: How Ignoring Inconvenient Science Drained the Colorado River*, University of Arizona Press, 2019. Eric started employment with the Colorado River District in 1981 as Assistant Secretary-Engineer. In 1996 he was appointed General Manager, a position he held until his retirement in 2018. Eric and John's book, *Science Be Dammed*, is about Colorado River hydrology, what we knew, when we knew it, and how we used it to shape the over-allocation of the river under the 1922 compact, the other major provisions of the law-of-the-river, and the projects we have in place today.

Kelsea Macilroy - Kelsea Macilroy is a sociologist who conducts independent research and a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Colorado State University. As a sociologist, Kelsea examines how people's values, beliefs, and experiences shape their response to problems. Since founding MRC, she has published two reports related to water in Colorado. Most recently, *Lessons Learned from Colorado Experiences with Compact Administration*, in partnership with Hannah Holm. Her report, *Exploring Perceptions of a Voluntary Agricultural Water Conservation Program on the Western Slope of Colorado*, is based on interviews with farmers, ranchers, and water managers on the Western Slope in 2019. From 2014-2018 Kelsea was a Research Assistant with the Colorado Water Institute. She traveled throughout the Colorado River Basin conducting interviews to understand the barriers and opportunities that exist in agricultural water conservation. The result was the team publication *Every Ditch is Different: Barriers and Opportunities for Collaboration for Agricultural Water Conservation in the Colorado River Basin*. Prior to that she completed her Masters' Thesis in her former home of the San Luis Valley during the implementation of the first groundwater subdistrict looking at how people framed their willingness and objections to support and participate in the voluntary fallowing program.

Beth Van Vurst - Beth Van Vurst is an attorney with the law firm of Van Vurst Law, LLC and serves as outside general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Beth also currently represents water users in water court and transactional matters in Water Divisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and serves as a member of Colorado's legal advisory committee for the Upper Colorado River Commission. Beth obtained her undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Colorado in 2001 and a J.D. (also from CU) in 2005. Beth began her legal career in the Federal and Interstate Water Unit and the Intrastate Water Unit (aka, "Water Rights Unit") of the Colorado Attorney General's Office, where she represented several agencies within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources from 2005-2014. Since then, Beth has worked in private practice on the western slope and in Denver.

Rebecca Mitchell - Rebecca Mitchell (Becky) serves as the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as well as the Colorado Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. She is an accomplished water leader with over 20 years of experience in the water sector and highly knowledgeable in Colorado water law. Mitchell played a significant role in developing the Colorado Water Plan, working with the state's nine basin roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the public. She has worked in both the public and private sector as a consulting engineer; she received both her B.S. and M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines.

Balancing Protection and Use of our Natural Resources

Rusty Hinger - Rusty Hinger was appointed by Mineral County and has been a Director on the Southwestern Water Conservation Board since 2014. Mr. Hinger grew up spending his summers at Bruce Spruce Ranch north of Pagosa Springs, and his winters near Amarillo, Texas. When he wasn't working on the guest ranch, he spent time fishing on the streams. After graduating from Randall High School in Amarillo, he completed his associate degree in Business Management from Amarillo College. In 1999, Mr. Hinger took over the Bruce Spruce Ranch and operates the business year-round. When Mr. Hinger is not busy running the ranch, he enjoys fly tying, fishing, and hunting.

Hattie Johnson - Hattie Johnson is the Director of American Whitewater's Southern Rockies Stewardship Program and is based in Carbondale, CO. With a background in Landscape Architecture, Hattie has spent her career connecting recreationists in the intermountain West to their waterways. Working in river restoration and recreation enhancement design for six years provided insight into the physical and social connections people have to their local riverscapes. Shifting to the river advocacy space has provided an opportunity for a new approach and perspective to protecting and enhancing human relationships with rivers. In her spare time, Hattie and her family explore headwaters creeks and raft on the incredible desert river canyons of the Colorado Plateau.

Jim White - Jim White grew up in Pagosa Springs and earned a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Ft. Lewis College. As a biological technician he worked in environments ranging from Dutch Harbor, AK to the Grand Canyon, AZ and in 1995 earned a M.S. in Fisheries Ecology from Northern Arizona University. Jim worked for the Jicarilla Apache Nation in New Mexico for 10 years as a Fisheries Biologist before moving on to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in 2006. He has been either the project lead or assisted in 23 native fish reintroduction projects across the Southwest. Jim serves on the CO/WY Chapter of the American Fisheries Society executive board, chairs the Dolores River Biology Committee, and is the lead for the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Conservation effort in the San Juan Basin.

Don Schwindt - Don Schwindt was appointed by Montezuma County and has been a Director on the Southwestern Water Conservation District Board since 2017. Mr. Schwindt and his wife Jody started farming in their home community in Southwest Colorado in 1975 producing irrigated hay. As they explored initiating their desire to make their living farming, Don was told it was an impossible dream. He is now proud to tell people that he is a first generation agricultural producer. He graduated from Stanford University in 1971 with a degree in anthropology. Mr. Schwindt has been active in the water business since 1980, serving locally on the boards of both Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company and the Dolores Water Conservancy District. He is still on the DWCD board. He has been a Colorado board member of the Family Farm Alliance since 1993. He served on the Colorado Water Conservation Board representing the San Juan, San Miguel and Dolores Basins from 1999 through 2008. He is currently representing southwestern Colorado on the Colorado Water Congress.

Water Quality Impacts as Flows Drop

Charlie Smith - Charlie Smith represents San Juan County and has been a Director on the Southwestern Water Conservation Board since 2017. Charlie came to Southwest Colorado for a climbing trip in 1992 and has been living here ever since. He has been working in water related businesses for over 35 years. After graduating from Washington University in Saint Louis with a degree in Applied Science and Engineering he worked as a researcher and managed a chemical plant in the Midwest. After moving to Colorado, Charlie worked in the oil and gas industry, was Vice President of Trimble Hot Springs, Finance and Operations Director for the Mountain Studies Institute, and General Manager for the Lake Durango Water Authority. He spends his free time hiking, climbing, backcountry skiing, and renovating properties with his wife Amy and their two dogs.

Peter Butler - Peter Butler, Ph.D. has been involved in Colorado water issues for almost forty years, particularly in leading diverse groups of stakeholders. He has twenty-eight years of experience in mine remediation and water quality in the Animas River watershed. He was one of the original participants in Animas River Stakeholders Group and acted as the group's coordinator for many years. He currently serves as chair of the Bonita Peak Community Advisory Commission which serves as a liaison between the local community interests and U.S. EPA with regards to work at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site. Peter has served on several commissions – nine years, three years as chair, on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission; six years on the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission; and nine years on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Joint Environmental Commission. Peter holds an undergraduate degree in physics, a master's degree in economics, and Ph.D. in natural resource policy which is combination of water law, economics, hydrology, and water quality management. He is a Colorado native and has lived in La Plata County for over thirty years.

John J. Cyran, Esq. - John J. Cyran is Senior Staff Attorney for the Healthy Rivers Program at Western Resource Advocates. John has been practicing water law in Colorado for over twenty-five years. Prior to his work at Western Resource Advocates, John served as the First Assistant Attorney General for the Water Rights Unit with the Colorado Attorney General's office, serving as the chief advisor to the Colorado State Engineer on all intrastate water matters, and as the State's lead attorney on interstate matters involving the Colorado River, where John represented the State of Colorado in federal Colorado River litigation and participated in the negotiations leading to the 2006 Seven States Agreement and 2007 Interim Guidelines for the Colorado River. On intrastate matters, John represented the Colorado State Engineer in hundreds of matters in all seven Colorado water divisions and in multiple matters before the Colorado Supreme Court, including statewide litigation over the legal status of produced water, a five-year process which ultimately led to the adoption of the Produced Nontributary Groundwater Rules. John also served as water referee for the Division 1 Water Court, and in private practice with Hoskins Farina & Kampf PC and Confluence Water Law LLC. John graduated from Cornell University in 1986 and Order of the Coif from University of Colorado School of Law in 1993.

Closing Remarks

JR Ford - J R Ford was appointed by Archuleta County and has served on the Southwestern Water Conservation District board since 2008. He is currently involved in real estate investments, ranch management, and forest restoration. Mr. Ford moved to Pagosa Springs in 1983 and has raised his family there as well. His company specializes in ranch management as well as forest restoration and forest fire mitigation. He participates in raising cattle and goats. In 1998, his firm developed Hidden Valley Lake which gave him experience in perfecting water rights and obtaining water storage rights in excess of 900 acre-feet. He oversaw the design, construction, and the permitting process for the dam through the Army Corp of Engineers and the State of Colorado.

More about SWCD's mission and 2022 strategic plan

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was created on April 16, 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill #795 (Statute 37-47). SWCD 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 SWCD 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 SWCD, and safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. Following this mandate, SWCD has assumed a broad strategic role on behalf of its diverse constituents. SWCD representatives advocate for southwestern Colorado's water interests at the local, state and regional levels.

In February 2022, the SWCD Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan with the following six strategic priorities:

1. In coordination with the appropriate partners, ensure the SWCD remains engaged in obtaining, updating and analyzing water supply, demand and quality data necessary to address the water management challenges facing southwest Colorado;
2. Lead advocacy for southwest Colorado in Colorado River, interstate, and transmountain issues;
3. Balance meeting multiple water needs amongst a diverse set of priorities, especially when there is potential for conflict or mutual benefit;
4. Support investment in improvements to existing infrastructure as well as the development of new infrastructure for multiple uses in southwest Colorado;
5. Strengthen the continued professional and efficient operation of SWCD while building a culture of mutual trust and respect; and
6. Cultivate SWCD's credibility with decisionmakers and the public through targeted outreach efforts.

We welcome collaboration with the public and our local, state and regional partners in advancing these efforts over the coming years.



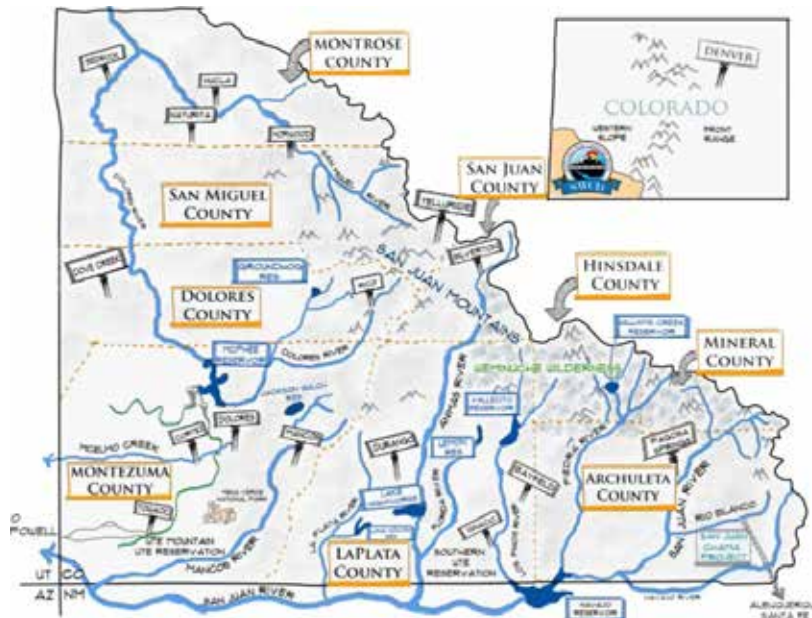
SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEMBERS

- Jenny Russell, President, San Miguel County
- Don Schwindt, Vice-President, Montezuma County
- Charlie Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, San Juan County
- Dagan Chadd, Director, Dolores County,
- J. R. Ford, Director, Archuleta County
- David Guilliams, Director, Hinsdale County
- Rusty Hinger, Director, Mineral County
- Kenny Heldman, Director, Montrose County
- Amy Huff, Director, La Plata County

STAFF

- Steve Wolff, General Manager
- Laura Spann, Programs Coordinator



More than 80 Years Developing and Conserving the Waters of Southwestern Colorado

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Want to Stay Connected to Water? Sign up for the Newsletter!

Visit www.swwcd.org or email lauras@swwcd.org to sign up



This is your new water newsletter.

The Nine Basins Bulletin is the new newsletter from the Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Water Information Program, a summary of the latest updates from southwest Colorado. In this email forum, we want to raise awareness, engagement, and coordination among our nine distinct watersheds—and share our successes with the state. It's for you.

Send your updates, jobs, and events to lauras@swwcd.org.

What would you like your newsletter to be called? Submit the best newsletter name and win free admission to the seminar and kudos in the next edition.

Submit your newsletter name here!

Across the basins



Durango-La Plata County Airport has been selected as the permanent radar site, which when installed, would bring southwest Colorado out of the weather data "black hole."

Newly formed Wrights Mesa Water User Coalition is part of effort to rehabilitate Gurley Reservoir (pictured above), repair Lone Cone Reservoir, and propose the Straw Dam. Watch this recent update.

Following up: After almost running out of water in 2021, the Town of Dove Creek was approved for a CWCB loan to construct a new municipal reservoir! Read more about their struggles here.

The San Miguel Watershed Coalition was recently featured in the Telluride Daily Planet for their Process Based Restoration approach to recovering the wetlands in the San Miguel basin.

Good Samaritan legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate to address the chronic problem of pollution leaking from abandoned hard rock mines.

The La Plata River Basin recently lost two strong water advocates, Pat Greer and Brice Lee.



WATER22

It All Starts Here

WATER22.ORG

Water '22 is a year-long celebration of Colorado's water, dedicated to the idea that "It all starts here."

It's about Coloradans from all corners of the state, and all walks of life, recognizing the value of water, and growing in understanding of how water connects all people, upstream and downstream, past, present and future. It's about coming together as a statewide community to collectively act, in the face of drought and climate change, in order to make sure our water can meet all of the needs of today and for future generations.

2022 is a milestone year for water in Colorado.

It is the 100th anniversary of the Colorado River Compact; the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act; the 20th anniversary of Water Education Colorado; and the year when the 2015 Colorado Water Plan will be updated to continue our long history of ensuring high quality water to support our state's wide range of water uses and values.

Water '22 invites you to learn more about your water, where it comes from, and ways to protect it for future generations. It's everybody's job to take care of this shared resource and Colorado needs YOU in 2022!

Take the Water '22 pledge to engage in "22 Ways to Care for Colorado Water in 2022" at Water22.org then share a story or post of yourself taking one of the actions with the hashtag #Water22. Each month, five Coloradans who share their commitment will be randomly selected to win incredible prizes!

Engage in events and activities throughout 2022 including a statewide book club and author talks, volunteer days, film screenings, a student water awareness week in schools, a watershed beer competition, on-the-ground tours, and much more!

#Water22



Water22.org

Water '22 is a campaign spearheaded by



For more information about the campaign, visit Water22.org



Annual Water Seminar

Friday, April 1, 2022

EVALUATION FORM



<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.</p> <p>Please return completed forms to the registration table or email elaine@waterinfo.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 or virtual option? 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>				

