



*Draft Forum Program – 02/11/19
Subject to change*

25th Anniversary

A River of Dreams and Realities – Then and Now

April 24 – 25, 2019

Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo CO

Wednesday, April 24

7:00 - 8:00 **REGISTRATION, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS**

8:00 – 8:15 **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**
Location: Pueblo Convention Center, Fortino Ballroom
Nick Gradisar, Mayor of City of Pueblo

8:15 – 9:00 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Then and Now with Senator Cory Gardner – Invitation extended

9:00 – 10:15 **A STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE – Then and Now**
Location: Fortino Ballroom

[Big Issues on the Colorado River – a look from the east and the west](#)

An expert panel discussion about the Colorado River Drought Contingency and Mitigation Plan (DCP) which was developed in conjunction with both the upper and lower states. Our panelists will describe what the Colorado River DCP is, why it was developed, and how the plan impacts Colorado and the Arkansas River Basin. This is an opportunity to learn how the Colorado River Compact has needed to evolve with time.

Moderator: Jim Broderick, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

- Carly Jerla, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Brent Newman, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Beth Van Vurst, Fairwood and Woods, P.C.



10:15 – 10:30 **BREAK** (coffee & refreshments)

10:30 – 11:45 **A STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE – Then and Now**
Location: Fortino Ballroom

[Drought & Climate – Statewide Trends](#)

A retrospective look at how weather patterns have changed in the last 25 years. Or, have they? A discussion on how the updated Colorado Drought Plan benefits the state and local regions by addressing specific issues and opportunities for mitigation. What is “Hot Drought”? Will it will impact future water supplies and what can we do to mitigate it?

Moderator: Russ Schumacher, Colorado State Climatologist

- Nolan Doesken, Colorado Water Institute
- Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Brad Udall, University of Colorado

11:45 – 12:00 **Transition Break**

12:00 – 12:15 **2019 BOB APPEL “FRIEND OF THE ARKANSAS” AWARD**
Location: Fortino Ballroom

12:15 – 1:15 **LUNCHEON**

12:45 – 1:00 **LUNCHEON SPEAKERS**
25 Years with the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum by Jim Valliant, ARBWF Board Member. Other special presentations.



1:30 – 2:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 1: THEN AND NOW IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Location: Fortino Ballroom	Location: TBD
<p><i>Environmental and Recreational Changes - Then and Now</i></p>	<p><i>Demands on Municipal Water Managers - Perspectives from a Small System</i></p>
<p>The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area near Salida has experienced a substantial rise in popularity during this time due to cooperative efforts unique to this basin. As a result, the upper basin communities have experienced a direct economic impact which has been closely correlated to enhanced flows in the river.</p> <p>Lake Pueblo State Park has also experienced great change in this time with respect to increased use, changing trends (paddle sports, extreme sports) and efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.</p> <p>The Arkansas River tailwater below Pueblo Reservoir is a year-round success story in the development of a significant trout fishery. We will explore what has become one of Colorado’s most popular fishing destinations.</p> <p><u>Moderator: Bob Hamel, Arkansas River Outfitters Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monique Mullis, Lake Pueblo State Park • Josh Nehring, Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Rob White, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area 	<p>The majority of Colorado’s population is served by small water and wastewater systems. Of the 2095 public water and wastewater systems in Colorado, 98% of them are small communities serving less than 10,000 in population.</p> <p>Colorado Rural Water Association provides technical assistance and training to Colorado’s public and private water and wastewater systems with an outreach philosophy of reaching all corners of the state. In this session we will discuss how water and wastewater systems, particularly in the Arkansas Basin, have had to adapt to change over the last 25 years. This includes changes to rules and regulations at the state and federal level as well as changing demographics and landscapes.</p> <p>SECWCD will discuss how the Arkansas Valley Conduit may help small water systems overcome some of those challenges to more easily meet drinking water quality standards.</p> <p><u>Moderator: Kimberly Mihelich, Colorado Rural Water Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Shreve, Colorado Rural Water Association, Training Specialist • Chris Woodka, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District



2:45 – 3:00 BREAK {coffee & refreshments}

3:00 – 4:15 CONCURRENT SESSION 2: THEN AND NOW IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Location: Fortino Ballroom	Location: TBD
<p><i>Fire & Flood Perspectives: Partnerships and Projects - Federal, State, Regional, Local</i></p>	<p><i>Demands on Municipal Water Managers: Perspectives from a Large System</i></p>
<p>The panel will provide an overview of federal, state, basin, regional, and local perspectives and challenges addressing fire and flood and how we are facing these challenges through collaborative partnerships and projects.</p> <p>The Forest Service will offer a “then and now” at the state of the forest for the last 25 years. This will be followed by an overview of the Colorado Water Conservation Boards’ efforts at a statewide level. Next, we will look at lessons learned and challenges faced at the basin, regional, and local level through the development of three significant projects in the Arkansas Basin: Monarch Pass Forest and Watershed Health project, Spring Creek and Hayden Pass Fire and Flood Recovery projects. Lastly, we will discuss the connections between these fire and flood efforts and how we are working together to create change for the next 25 years and beyond.</p> <p><u>Moderator: Chelsey Nutter, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Ekarius, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative • Alex Rudney, US Forest Service • Kate Spinelli, Fire and Flood Recovery Coordinator • Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board 	<p>As the current water manager of Colorado Springs Utilities, Abby Ortega will provide a “then and now” discussion around the rapidly changing world of water supply development for municipalities. Abby will review the system history and recent water supply projects of Colorado Springs Utilities and show by way of example, how partner-based projects are the most critical way for us to consider new supply. Abby will review what we’ve learned from our predecessors, including Gary Bostrom, who gave a similar presentation 25 years ago, and what she hopes to teach those who follow.</p> <p>Additional information to follow.</p> <p><u>Moderator: Julia Galluci, Colorado Springs Utilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Logan, Pueblo Water • Abby Ortega, Colorado Springs Utilities



5:00 p.m. – until the lights go out!

PERCOLATON AND RUNOFF – SOCIAL EVENT

Dinner, not-so-silent auction, drinks and more!

Historic Union Depot

132 W B St, Pueblo, CO 81003

SPONSORED BY ARKANSAS RIVER OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

Enjoy a ten-minute walk or ride the shuttle to the beautiful Historic Union Depot, this year's location of our popular Percolation and Runoff social event. Enjoy a delicious dinner, a not-so-silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund, and drinks. All on us! Hands down, this is one of the most fun parts of our annual Water Forum. An event you don't want to miss!

Shuttle leaves every 5-10 minutes from the Convention Center between 4:45 – 6 p.m. Return shuttle runs from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

For those who drive, ample parking in the back of the Union Depot.





Thursday, April 25

7:30 – 8:00 **REGISTRATION, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS**

8:00 – 8:15 **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Location: Pueblo Convention Center, Fortino Ballroom

TBD

8:15 – 9:00 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

25-Year Perspective on State Agriculture and Water with Don Ament, Retired, Former Colorado Ag Commissioner

9:00 – 10:15 **ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS – Then and Now**

[A Back-and-Forward Look from *Kansas v. Colorado*](#)

The last 25 years have brought many changes, challenges and much-needed collaboration after *Kansas v. Colorado*. This presentation will allow Matt Montgomery to channel his father, Dennis Montgomery and provide the historical and legal highlights since 1995 that determined significant changes for the Arkansas River, particularly for well users in the Valley. Bill Tyner and Kevin Salter each will review the Arkansas River Compact's implications for their respective state and water rights holders, and look ahead to the significant challenges and issues that remain and what each state wants from the Compact. Matt will weigh in on the legal implications for those same developments then, now and for our future.

Moderator: Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Trust

- Bill Tyner, Division Engineer, Division 2, Colorado Division of Water Resources
- Matt Montgomery, Hill & Robbins, LLC
- Kevin Salter, Kansas Division of Water Resources

10:15 – 10:30 **BREAK** (coffee & refreshments)



10:30 – 11:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 3: ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS -Then and Now

Location: Fortino Ballroom	Location: TBD
<i>Augmentation: Upper and Lower Basins Respond</i>	<i>Alternative Transfer Methods in the Arkansas Basin: Lessons Learned and the Next 25 years</i>
<p>Join Terry Scanga, General Manager for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, and Mike Weber, Engineer for the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, for a look at augmentation in the Arkansas River Basin. Mr. Scanga will provide an overview of the Upper District’s umbrella augmentation plan and Mr. Weber will discuss the irrigation improvement rules and the way the LAVWCD’s Rule 10 plan works to augment the additional depletions caused from these rules. The presentation will be interactive and questions are encouraged!</p>	<p>From the beginnings of the Super Ditch to now, the Arkansas Basin has been the epicenter of ATM development, implementation and creativity. This panel will highlight some of the stories with ATMs in the Arkansas Basin and how these efforts continue to shape the future of agriculture in the region and across Colorado. Topics will include a history of ATMs in the region, discussing the success and issues of active projects, and a discussion on where ATMs are heading with the new administration.</p>
<p><u>Moderator: Kimberly Kerschke, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Scanga, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District • Mike Weber, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District 	<p><u>Moderator: Alex Funk, Colorado Water Conservation Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd Doherty, Western Water Partnerships • Mike Fink, City of Fountain • Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District • Scott Lorenz, Colorado Springs Utilities

11:45 – 12:00 Transition Break

12:00 – 12:15 Closing Remarks with John Stulp
Location: Fortino Ballroom

12:15 – 1:30 Luncheon
 Recognition of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Scholarship Recipients (2018/2019)