



County Commissioners Water Workshop "201" Frameworks for Protecting Water Values

May 28, 2024
1:00-5:00pm
Grand Hyatt Vail, Colorado

1:00pm **Welcome and Overview**

Jayla Poppleton, Executive Director, Water Education Colorado

Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner and Arkansas Basin Representative to the Colorado Water Conservation Board

1:05pm **The State Engineer's Role and Basics of Water Administration in Colorado**

This presentation will cover prior appropriation, return flows, change of use, expansion, augmentation, exchanges, instream flows, recreational in-channel diversions, rainwater capture, and groundwater.

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Day in the Life of a Water Commissioner

This presentation will cover the role of water commissioners and how a "call" works.

Troy Wineland, Water Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Exceptions to Strict Prior Appropriation

This presentation will cover futile calls, fire suppression ponds, exempt wells, etc.

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

1:50pm **New Development: DWR and County Roles in Water Adequacy Determinations**

This presentation will cover the factors that have made the DWR review process work well in counties, the limits of DWR review and what DWR isn't looking at, information counties should ask for in land use applications to inform their review, plus emerging considerations like ADUs, cisterns, etc.

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

2:05pm Interstate Compacts and Interstate Issues

This presentation will provide an overview of the interstate water-sharing agreements Colorado is party to, and touch on current events related to several compacts.

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

2:30pm Break

2:45pm Agriculture and Rural Water

This presentation will include discussion of challenges agricultural producers and local ag economies face, ranging from sprinkler irrigation affecting return flows, alternative transfer methods to enable water sharing, revegetation policies related to ag dryups, and the urban/rural interface. It will also cover Envision Chaffee County as an example of how to shore up ag producers to help them persist.

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

Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner and Gunnison Basin Roundtable Representative

Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner and Arkansas Basin Representative to the Colorado Water Conservation Board

3:15pm Getting Good Data and Planning for the Future

This presentation will cover water studies, including groundwater, using water data and goals to inform county comprehensive plans, and development of the Larimer County water master plan.

Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner and Arkansas Basin Representative to the Colorado Water Conservation Board

Danielle Reimanis, Water Master Plan Coordinator, Larimer County

3:45pm Coordinating Land Use and Water Supply Planning

This presentation will include discussion of water supply and demand planning scenarios and how counties can best collaborate with water providers in the land use planning and decision making process.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County Commissioner

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

4:10pm

1041 Regulations and Mitigating Local Impacts of Water Projects

This session will focus on impacts of concern to jurisdictions when water projects are proposed, in particular if water is to be exported from the jurisdiction. The San Luis Valley Council of Governments will share recent concerns about a water export project from the Rio Grande watershed. The session will then focus on how 1041 regulations can address those concerns, along with basics such as what the 1041 statutes say and what we know about 1041 regulations from court cases. Finally, we'll hear from a proponent of a project, the City of Thornton, that recently received a 1041 permit for a portion of a water project.

Torie Jarvis, Attorney, Sullivan Green Seavy Jarvis, and Director and Staff Attorney, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality and Quantity Committee

Tom McCracken, Saguache County Commissioner and Chair, San Luis Valley Council of Governments

Emily Hunt, Deputy Utilities Director, Infrastructure Department, City of Thornton

4:55pm

Wrap Up and Opportunities for Further Learning

5:00pm

Adjourn