



Innovations in Managing Western Water: New Approaches for Balancing Environmental, Social, and Economic Outcomes

Many aspects of western water allocation and management are the product of independent and uncoordinated actions, several occurring a century or more ago. However, in this modern era of water scarcity, it is increasingly acknowledged that more coordinated and deliberate decision-making is necessary for effectively balancing environmental, social, and economic objectives. In recent years, a variety of forums, processes, and tools have emerged to better manage the connections between regions, sectors, and publics linked by shared water systems. In this event, we explore the cutting edge efforts, the latest points of contention, and the opportunities for further progress.

June 11th and 12th
Wolf Law Building, Wittemyer Courtroom



COLORADO LAW
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Event Agenda

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

7:30 to 8:30 Welcome and Registration

8:30 to 8:45 Welcoming Remarks

***Session 1: The Rise of State Water Planning.** Water planning at scales larger than individual water systems is obviously not a new idea; in fact, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Water Resources Planning Act. But in the West, the word “plan” remains a 4-letter word to many supporters of the laissez-faire traditions in water management, so while some states have a long history of planning, others—notably Colorado—are taking their first steps.*

8:45 to 10:00 *Experiences and Lessons from Some of the Most Extensive Efforts*

- California **Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California**
- Texas **Ron Kaiser, Texas A&M University**
- Arizona **Kathy Jacobs, University of Arizona**

10:00 to 10:30 Morning Networking Break (snacks and refreshments provided)

10:30 to 12:00 *The Colorado Water Plan*

10:30 to 10:50 Overview and Status Report
Lauren Ris, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

10:50 to 11:40 Some Reactions and Responses

- **Chris Treese, Colorado River Water Conservation District**
- **Bart Miller, Western Resource Advocates**
- **Mark Pifher, Colorado Springs Utilities**
- **Carlyle Currier, Rancher**

11:40 to 12:00 GWC Task Force Report
Larry MacDonnell, University of Colorado Law School

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch (provided on site)

Session 2: New Supplies, Reduced Demands, and Reallocation: Reconciling Competing Visions for the Future. Historically, water planning was little more than the identification of new supply projects, sometimes individually, and sometimes as part of larger, basin schemes. This is still an important element of the water planning dialogue. However, just as frequently today, the planning emphasis is focused on demand management or water reallocation (transfers). Each approach raises its own challenges in balancing objectives, managing participation, and implementing decisions.

1:00 to 2:45 New Supplies, Reduced Demands

- Pursuing Reliability, Not New Yield: A New Breed of Water Infrastructure?
 - California's Bay-Delta Conveyance Problem: A Light at the End of the Tunnel(s)?
Jerry Meral, Natural Heritage Institute
 - Urban Water Reliability and the Salton Sea: Can We Have Both?
Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute
 - Gross Reservoir Expansion
Travis Bray, Denver Water
- Stretching Supplies Further
 - The (Largely) Untold Success Story of Urban Water Conservation
Peter Mayer, Water Demand Management

2:45 to 3:15 Afternoon Networking Break (snacks and refreshments provided)

3:15 to 5:00 Agricultural Conservation and Transfers

- Technical Challenges in Agricultural Water Conservation
Perry Cabot, Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University
- Legal Challenges and Considerations
Peter Nichols, Partner at Berg, Hill, Greenleaf and Ruscitti
- The Cutting Edge in Western Alternative Water Transfers
Bonnie Colby, University of Arizona
- Findings and Lessons from the Colorado River Basin Agricultural Work Group
Carly Jerla, Bureau of Reclamation

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Session 3: Bringing it All Together: Familiar Challenges, New Approaches. Across the West, people are developing new ways of tackling old problems. In this session, we review some of the more intriguing efforts and emerging opportunities for further innovation.

8:30 to 10:30 *New Partnerships*

- Innovations on the Colorado River
Anne Castle, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment
- Tribes, Fish and Farmers: Lessons from the Klamath
Amy Cordalis, Staff Attorney Yurok Tribe
- Instream Flows on Federal Lands: The BLM-State of Colorado MOU
Roy Smith, BLM

10:30 to 11:00 Morning Networking Break (snacks and refreshments provided)

11:00 to 12:00 *Making the Water-Energy Nexus Work for the West*

- Water and Oil & Gas Development: Solving Conflict Through Technology?
Jill Cooper, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Saving Water and Energy by Making Money: Benefits of Performance Contracting in the West
Rachel Brombaugh, McKinstry

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch (provided on site)

1:00 to 1:15 *Introducing the GWC Digital Archive*

Susan Nevelow Mart, CU Law Library

1:15 to 3:15 *Advances in Law*

- Regulating Groundwater Use in California ... Finally
Lester Snow, California Water Foundation
- Wrapping Up the Big Horn Adjudication: Lessons after 38 Years and 20,000 Claims
Ramsey Kropf, Deputy Solicitor for Water Resources, DOI
- Challenges and Opportunities of the Expiring Columbia River Treaty
Barb Cosens, University of Idaho
- Empowering the Acequias: Fixing What Wasn't Broken
Will Davidson, Acequia Project

3:15 to 3:45 Afternoon Networking Break (snacks and refreshments provided)

Session 4: Reasons for Optimism. *In this event, we have reviewed dozens of innovations in law, policy and management. In our final wrap-up panel, we ask our panelists to answer one over-arching question about these innovations, and then open the floor to audience questions and observations.*

3:45 to 4:45 Question: *“What processes, partnerships, events, tools, or other ‘innovations’ provide you with optimism that the West can handle the growing stresses on its limited water supplies?”*

- **Brad Udall, Water Policy Analyst, Colorado State University**
- **Greg Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court**
- **John Fleck, Writer in Residence, Univ. of New Mexico Water Resources Program**