

# Four States Irrigation Council 62nd Annual Meeting

January 14-16, 2015

Fort Collins Hilton



## Presenting Sponsors



# Schedule

## Wednesday, Jan. 14 *Sponsored by: Huesker Geocomposites, Alligare & Rubicon Water*

7:30 **Tour - Northern Colorado Flood Area**

**Lunch** *On your own - The Hilton restaurant will provide a \$13 BBQ buffet for Four States attendees.*

12:00 **Registration** *(you can register anytime through 1:30 p.m.)*

1:30 **Workshop Session 1** *(Choose A, B, or C to attend)*

2:45 **Break**

3:00 **Workshop Session 2** *(Choose A, B, or D to attend)*

**Workshop A: On-Farm GPS Technology** *(available at 1:30 and 3:00, Salon 2)*

- Precision Farming and Tractor Technology – Rebecca Hopkins, Trimble Navigation
- Excavator Grade Control Systems – Tom Murphy, Murphy Tractor and Equipment
- Center Pivot Variable Rate Irrigation – Chris Johnson, Trimble Navigation; Chance Ouellette, Wagner Equipment

**Workshop B: Irrigation System Technology** *(available at 1:30 and 3:00, Salon 1)*

- Benefits of GPS/GIS Mapping – Brad Anderson, Anderson Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Actual Use of GPS/GIS Mapping
  - Andrea Janes, Goshen Irrigation District
  - Dennis Strauch, Pathfinder Irrigation District
- Flow Measurement Technology – Robert Kimbrough, USGS

**Workshop C: Board Issues: Health Insurance** *(only available at 1:30, Rams Room)*

- Tom Knutson, HDR Engineering
- Carl Bibb, Dunbar-Peterson Insurance
- David McFerrin, Regional Care, Inc.
- Howard Danzig, Employers Committed To Control Health Insurance Costs

**Workshop D: Estate Planning** *(only available at 3:00, Rams Room)*

- Thomas Stover, Stover & Spitz
- J. Michael Kirkland, Kirkland & Company CPA's, P.C.
- Jane Cox, Guaranty Bank and Trust Company

4:15 **Welcome Reception with Exhibitors** - *Be sure to attend, visit the exhibitors, and thank them for their support of this organization and meeting.*

6:00 **Dinner on your own**

## Thursday, Jan. 15 *Sponsored by: Huesker Geocomposites, Alligare & Rubicon Water*

7:00 Continental Breakfast

7:30 Registration

8:00 **Welcome - Kevin Adams, President, Four States Irrigation Council**

8:10 **State of the States (State Water Plans)**

- Wyoming – Harry LaBonde, Wyoming Water Development
- Nebraska – Jesse Bradley, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Kansas – Tracy Streeter, Kansas Water Office
- Colorado – James Eklund, Colorado Water Conservation Board

10:00 **Break** *Sponsored by: B.A. Fischer Sales Co.; Dynotek; SePRO Corporation; Valley Irrigation; Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority; and Lindsay Corporation*

10:30 **How High Was the Water? 2013 Flood Recovery Efforts**

- The 2013 Colorado Flood Recovery: One Year Later – Kevin Houck, CWCB
  - St. Vrain Basin Flooding – Sean Cronin, St. Vrain and Left Hand WCD
  - Last Chance Ditch Company – Doug Rademacher, Last Chance Ditch Company
  - Stream Gage Recovery – David Nettles, Colorado Division of Water Resources
-

# Schedule

- 11:55 **Keynote Luncheon** *Sponsored by: Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Agfinity, and UPI*  
Pollinators, Spray Drift Reduction and Collaboration: What's Going on in Agriculture at the EPA  
• Rebecca Perrin, Agriculture Advisor, US EPA Region 8
- 1:10 **One Year Later, the Republican River Body Count: Compact Compliance**  
• The Compact Compliance Pipeline – Deb Daniel, Republican River WCD  
• Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Groundwater Allocations – Nate Jenkins, Upper Republican Natural Resources District  
• Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Surface Water Allocations – Brad Edgerton, Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District  
• Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Irrigation Districts  
  - Mike Delka, Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska  
  - Don Felker, Frenchman Valley and H&RW Irrigation Districts  
  - Kenny Nelson, Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District
- 2:30 **State Caucus**
- 2:40 Break
- 3:00 **Been There, Done That: Arkansas River Compact Issues**  
• Steve Witte, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
• Kevin Salter, Kansas Division of Water Resources  
• Dale Mauch, Farmer, Colorado Arkansas Valley
- 4:00 **LEMA (Local Enhancement Management Areas) Formation**  
• Katherine Durham, Northwest Kansas GMD #4
- 4:20 **Family Farm Alliance Update**  
Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance
- 5:00 **Social Hour** *Sponsored by: AMCi Wireless, PDC Energy & Poudre Valley Co-op*
- 6:00 **Awards Banquet & Entertainment** *Sponsored by: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation*
- Friday, Jan. 16** *Sponsored by: Huesker Geocomposites, Alligare & Rubicon Water*
- 7:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 **Four States Business Meeting**
- 8:20 **A Word from Our Presenting Sponsors**
- 8:30 **What's Going on With Climate?**  
• Nolan Doesken, Colorado Climate Center
- 8:55 **Agriculture's Grand Challenge - Feeding the World**  
• James Pritchett, Colorado State University
- 9:30 **US Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Updates**  
• Michael J. Ryan, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
• Carlie Ronca, Area Manager, Wyoming Area Office  
• Aaron Thompson, Area Manager, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office  
• Jaci Gould, Area Manager, Eastern Colorado Area Office
- 10:45 **Four States Irrigation Council Summer Tour**  
• Long Hollow Reservoir (2013 tour update) – Mike Brod, CWR&PDA  
• 2015 Wyoming Summer Tour
- 11:15 **Door Prizes** *(must be present to win)*
- 11:30 **Conference Wrap-Up**

Speaker PowerPoint Presentations are available for viewing at  
[www.4-states-irrigation.org](http://www.4-states-irrigation.org)

## Four States Irrigation Council 2015 Board of Directors

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402-960-3670  
jennifer@4-states-irrigation.org

**Interested in becoming a director?** We would love to talk to you!  
Find a current board member or ask at the registration table.

## About Four States Irrigation Council

Established in 1952, the Four States Irrigation Council serves as a forum for irrigators to exchange ideas and information, to discuss specific irrigation-related problems, and to learn if solutions to those problems have been found by other members. The member states are Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. The annual meeting is held each year in January at a site selected by the Board of Directors with input from the membership. Commercial exhibitors bring the latest technical equipment and advances, providing attendees with up-to-date information on new products and services.

*The expressed opinions and information at the annual meeting and in this program are not necessarily endorsed by the Four States Irrigation Council or any of its sponsoring organizations.*

## Past Presidents of Four States Irrigation Council

2015 - Present	Kevin Adams	1980	Neal Payne
2011-2014	Len Chamberlain	1979	William Howland
2009-2010	David Ford	1978	Rod Cox
2008	Neal Payne	1977	Millard Moore
2005-2007	Julie Swanda	1976	J. Kenneth Kennedy
2004-2005	Mike Delka	1975	Earl Phipps
2001-2003	Marc Catlin	1974	Jim Wannamaker
1999-2000	Dennis Strauch	1973	L. E. "Buck" Whitman
1998	Tom Simpson	1972	Richard Dirmeyer
1997	Don Schepler	1971	Glen Graf
1996	Ken Nelson	1970	Jim Pringle
1995	Tom Knutson	1969	Charles Preuit
1994	Chuck Lynch	1968	Harlan Seaworth
1993	Wes Sell	1967	Orvin Marquardt
1992	Ron Callahan	1966	Ted Johnson
1991	Bob Petersen	1965	Phil Grant, Jr.
1990	Ben Dumler	1964	Harold Fintus
1989	Frank Dragoun	1963	Kyle F. Bryning
1988	Jim Hokit	1962	Art C. Splattstoesser
1987	Ronald Wolf	1961	Harry W. Kelly
1986	Carl Freeman	1960	Arno Windscheffel
1985	Kenneth Whitmore	1959	J. R. Barkley
1984	Calvin Ewing	1957-1958	Jack W. Boyd
1983	John Bigham	1956	S. L. "Tom" Bowman
1982	LeGrande Page	1953-1955	James L. Doyle
1981	Delmer Meyer	1952	E. O. Daggett

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### Scholarship Fund

Northern Water

Wednesday, Jan.14, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m.

## **Workshop A: On-Farm GPS Technology**

### **Precision Farming and Tractor Technology**

#### **Rebecca Hopkins**

*Regional Sales Manager, Mountain and Northwest, Trimble Navigation, 10368 Westmoor Dr., Westminster, CO 80021, 303-880-6878, rebecca\_hopkins@trimble.com, www.trimble.com/agriculture*

This session will focus on trends in agriculture and the technology offered today: best practices, new uses, new markets. We will cover some product specifics within Trimble as well as overall technology in the market today. Topics will include UAS, telemetry, displays in cabs, correction services, field and scouting, and sampling and data layers.

*Rebecca Hopkins is the regional sales manager for the mountain and northwest territory of Trimble Navigation. She has been with Trimble for four years and has been in agriculture sales for about 18 months. Her background is in sales and event marketing for technology and start-up companies, both local and worldwide, based out of Chicago, Seattle, and the Silicon Valley. Rebecca lived in Chicago until about four years ago when she moved back home to the Denver/Boulder area to start working for Trimble in the agriculture division.*

### **Excavator Grade Control Systems**

#### **Tom Murphy**

*Branch Manager, Murphy Tractor and Equipment, 220810 Hwy. 92, Gering, NE 69341, 308-436-2177, tmurphy@murphytractor.com, www.murphytractor.com*

This presentation will describe GPS technology as used in trenching and pipeline work on excavators. Tom will provide a brief explanation of the GPS system in general, then go into the benefits of using GPS for accuracy and safety.

*Tom Murphy has been with Murphy Tractor and Equipment for 17 years, beginning in the service and parts departments, five years in territory sales, and as branch manager the last two years. He enjoys the technical challenges the job offers and the customer interaction involved in the sales and product support functions of his branch.*

### **The Next Step in Center Pivot Variable Rate Irrigation**

#### **Chris Johnson**

*Trimble Navigation, 10368 Westmoor Dr., Westminster, CO 80021, 303-880-6878, www.trimble.com/agriculture*

This session will focus on variable rate irrigation. Trimble has recently entered into the irrigation market with our IIQ solution. We will review some of the needs and reasons growers and agronomists are looking into VRI solutions.

Wednesday, Jan.14, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m.

## **Workshop B: Irrigation System Technology**

### **Benefits of GPS/GIS Mapping**

#### **Brad Anderson**

*President, Anderson Consulting Engineers, Inc., 375 E. Horsetooth Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-226-0120, brad.anderson@acewater.com, www.acewater.com*

This presentation will present and discuss the benefits of integrating GPS/GIS inventory and mapping of an irrigation system. The data developed and utilized by the irrigation entities can provide benefits associated with the following:

- Location and description of structure location including parcel ownership, structure condition, and photographic documentation of existing structures.
- Provides a tool to compile and monitor historic or deferred maintenance of structures. Identifies a prioritized list of structures in need of maintenance.
- Provides water users with information that can be utilized to facilitate planning of water distribution within each parcel.
- Creates a database that will support the compilation of water diversions, water deliveries, conveyance losses, and irrigation delivery efficiency.
- Useful tool for presentation of specific data related to irrigation infrastructure to district managers and board members.

There are typically three phases of GPS/GIS mapping effort as indicated below.

- Creation of the GIS project including collection of existing spatial data, development of software architecture, and selection of the GIS coordinate system.
- Completion of the irrigation system mapping effort where system inventory results and digitized data were incorporated into the GIS.
- Development of customized GIS tools tailored to meet the specific needs of the irrigation district/entity.

Customization of the GIS tools involves development of an Irrigation Geodatabase Tool (IGT), which takes the user “by the hand” and guides them through key functions of the GIS. The IGT consists of a suite of GIS tools developed specifically for the irrigation district manager, board members or individual water users. Its ease of use and functionality can mean the difference between the GPS/GIS mapping effort becoming a simple and static “snapshot in time” of a district and a dynamic management tool serving the district manager and the water users into the future.

*Brad Anderson has more than 32 years of consulting experience in the field of water resources engineering. He is an experienced civil engineer, proficient in and responsible for all aspects of water resources engineering projects including the design and rehabilitation of water supply and irrigation distribution systems, complex hydrologic analysis, channel hydraulics, hydraulic structure evaluation and design, and sediment transport analysis of watersheds and river systems. In addition, Mr. Anderson has been responsible for the successful completion of numerous irrigation and canal rehabilitation projects. In the past 10 years, he has completed several projects involving the inventory and mapping of irrigation infrastructure to promote future planning efforts for irrigation entities.*

### **Actual Use of GPS/GIS Mapping: Goshen Irrigation District**

#### **Andrea Janes**

*Cost Accountant, Goshen Irrigation District, P.O. Box 717, Torrington, WY 82240, 307-532-7031, goshenirr@embarqmail.com, www.goshenirrigation.com*

This presentation will illustrate how Goshen Irrigation District uses their GPS/GIS mapping as well as the addition they have made to it. It will also include a discussion of some ways they would like to use it in the future.

*Andrea Janes is the cost accountant for Goshen Irrigation District. Andrea has worked for GID since 2005 and was fortunate to be working there when Brad Anderson introduce the GIS mapping program.*

## **Actual Use of GPS/GIS Mapping: Pathfinder Irrigation District**

### **Dennis Strauch**

*General Manager, Pathfinder Irrigation District, P.O. Box 338, Mitchell, NE 69357, 308-623-1022, dennis@pathfinderirrigation.com, www.pathfinderirrigation.com*

This presentation will provide a brief overview of how Pathfinder Irrigation District is utilizing GPS, GIS, and other mapping technologies in its operation. The District is using GPS technology for the design and installation of its water conservation practices. The District is using GIS and AutoCad Map software to address water right transfers, the mapping of subdivisions for the splitting of water rights and the production of maps for use by district staff and multiple other uses.

*Dennis Strauch has been the general manager for the Pathfinder Irrigation District since 1990, with more than 30 years of experience in irrigation system management. He oversees the operation of the largest irrigation district in Nebraska, serving more than 865 irrigators with water for 115,000 acres in Nebraska and Wyoming. Dennis has been involved with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) since negotiations began in 1994. Currently he represents the water users above Lake McConaughy on the governance committee for the PRRIP. He was recently appointed by Governor Heineman to represent irrigation districts on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission.*

## **Flow Measurement Technology**

### **Robert Kimbrough**

*Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado Water Science Center, Denver Federal Center, MS 415, Bldg. 53, Lakewood, CO 80225, 303-236-6902, rakimbro@usgs.gov, <http://co.water.usgs.gov/>*

Continuous records of water flow in streams and canals are collected using a variety of methods including stilling wells, pressure transducers, non-contact sensors, and acoustic instruments. Streamgages are calibrated with direct measurements of flow obtained at different flow rates. Techniques for making discharge measurements range from mechanical current meters to Acoustic Doppler current profilers. Information from streamgages is typically available in near real-time on the Web. Streamgage networks are commonly operated by Federal, State and local agencies. The U.S. Geological Survey collects and disseminates streamflow data at over 8,400 streamgages nationwide.

*Bob Kimbrough is a hydrologist and an associate director for the USGS Colorado Water Science Center. He currently manages the USGS hydrologic monitoring program in Colorado. Bob has experience in collecting streamflow data in Plains and Mountain environments and in coastal streams in the Pacific Northwest. He has a degree in watershed science from Colorado State University.*

Wednesday, Jan.14, 1:30 p.m.

## **Workshop C: Board Issues - Health Insurance**

### **Tom Knutson**

*Senior Consultant, HDR Engineering, 102 Custer St., St. Paul, NE, 68873, 308-754-8699, tom.knutson819@gmail.com*

*Tom Knutson has more than 40 years in the water business with 35 of them in water resource management. That experience includes 29 years as general manager for the Loup Basin Reclamation District, Farwell Irrigation District and Sargent Irrigation District in Farwell, Neb. Tom also spent two years as general manager for the Oahe Conservancy Sub-District in South Dakota and served as executive director for the South Dakota Water Development Task Force under Governor Bill Janklow. Currently, Tom has his own business, Water Management Solutions, and has two contracts with firms interested in providing solutions. He is a senior advisor for HDR Engineering and Rubicon Water. In addition, he has been a commission member on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission for the past six years, a board member on the National Water Resources Association for 18 years with 15 years as chairman of the Irrigation Caucus, past president of the Four States Irrigation Council, past president of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association, past chairman of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy and past director-at-large for the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. His hobbies include work, telling Norwegian stories, playing guitar, and spending time with his family.*

**Carl M. Bibb**

President/CEO, Dunbar-Peterson Insurance, 1902 Howard St., Omaha, NE 68102, 402-690-5935, cbibb@dunbar-peterson.com

*Carl Bibb has more than 40 years in the insurance business. He started in Baltimore, Maryland in the claim business. He transferred to Hartford, Connecticut, then Chicago, and finally transferred to Nebraska in 1975, all with Aetna Life and Casualty. In 1978 Carl started working for a national broker. He went into sales and service in 1985 in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1992 he moved to Omaha and purchased Dunbar-Peterson in 1997, a long-time agency (founded in 1917) in Omaha. Carl has developed numerous association programs through the years in the property and casualty business. He has provided group health insurance products, individual health products, Medicare supplements, and prescription drug coverage since 1998.*

**David McFerrin**

Vice President, Regional Sales, Regional Care, Inc., 7569 S Eaton Park Way, Aurora CO, 80016, 866-673-6750, mcferrin@regionalcare.com, www.regionalcare.com

*David McFerrin is a Colorado native who has worked exclusively with partially self-funded plans for more than 25 years through various third party administrators. He has transitioned and overseen hundreds of medical, dental, FSA, HRA, and HSA accounts in Colorado as well as nationally. He has been recognized as a certified self-funded specialist by the Health Care Administrators Association (HCAA). Dave is currently managing the Denver operation and is vice president of sales for Regional Care, Inc., a TPA headquartered in Scottsbluff, Neb. He is a long standing member of the National Association of Health Underwriters, Colorado Group Insurance Association, Society of Professional Benefit Administrators, Self-Insurance Institute of America, and HCAA. Dave lives in Aurora and enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters.*

**Howard Danzig**

President, Employers Committed to Control Health Insurance Costs, 2157 Welsch Industrial Ct., St. Louis, MO 63146, 314-997-8865, theecchicgroup@ecchich.com, www.ecchic.com

Wednesday, Jan.14, 3:00 p.m.

**Workshop D: Estate Planning**

**Thomas L. Stover**

Stover & Spitz LLC, 636 Coffman St., Ste. 301, Longmont, CO 80501, 303-682-0433, tstover@stoverlawcolorado.com

*Tom Stover practices law in Longmont, Colo. with Stover & Spitz LLC, a Tier 1 Trust and Estates law firm, as recognized by U.S. News Best Law Firms. His practice emphasizes trust and estate planning, probate, taxation, real estate, and business law. He is the author of numerous publications on estate planning and administration. He also speaks frequently on those topics, including at Colorado Bar Association and CLE of Colorado presentations. Tom is active in the Trust and Estate Section of the Colorado Bar Association, previously serving as Chair for the Section and of its Statutory Revisions Committee. He is also a Fellow and current Colorado State Chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Tom has been selected for inclusion in the Colorado Super Lawyers® publication in the field of Estate Planning and Probate for 2006-2013 and again in 2015. He has been named to "Best Lawyers in America" for more than ten years and was selected as the Best Lawyers Lawyer of the Year 2014 Trusts and Estates Denver.*

Join us for the **WELCOME RECEPTION** today at 4:15.

Meet our **EXHIBITORS** and **SPONSORS**.

**J. Michael Kirkland**

President, Kirkland & Company CPA's, P.C. 606 Mountain View Ave., Ste. 102, Longmont, CO 80501, 303-772-4434, mike@kirklandcocpa.com, www.kirklandcocpa.com

*Mike Kirkland is the founder and president of Kirkland & Company, CPA's, P.C. In practice as a CPA for more than 25 years, Mike and his team specialize in serving the tax, accounting and consulting needs of businesses and individuals, both in Colorado and around the globe. As a former senior tax manager for the international accounting firm, BDO Seidman, Mike is qualified to provide the services and sophistication of a large firm with the personal attention that only a locally-owned practice can deliver.*

*Mike is passionate about service and currently is a member of the board of Longmont United Hospital. He has also served on the boards for the Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce, The Tiny Tim Center, and Boulder County Partners.*

*In his spare time, Mike loves to spend time in the mountains or white water rafting. Mike has been married to his work and life partner, Lorraine, for 21 years. They have two teenage children.*

**Jane Cox**

Vice President and Trust Officer, Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, 401 Main St., Longmont, CO 80501, 303-678-6540, jane.cox@guarantybankco.com

Thursday, Jan. 15, 8:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

**Kevin Adams**

President, Four States Irrigation Council

Thursday, Jan. 15, 8:10 a.m.

**State of the States (State Water Plans)**

**Wyoming**

**Harry C. LaBonde Jr.**

Director, Wyoming Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82002, 307-777-7626, harry.labonde@wyo.gov, wwdc.state.wy.us

There are a number of water related topics in the state of Wyoming that will be discussed. They include Scientific Weather Modification study results, Governor's Water Strategy, water storage projects, water planning, and forest health as it relates to water.

*Harry LaBonde serves as the director of the Wyoming Water Development Office. His responsibilities include overall management of the agency which is charged with developing Wyoming's water resources. Specific agency tasks include state water planning, water conservation and rehabilitation projects, weather modification efforts, and the development of new water resource projects such as reservoirs, transmission pipelines, and storage tanks.*

*Mr. LaBonde is a 1976 graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in civil engineering. Upon graduation, he was employed by a national consulting engineering firm in which he specialized in water and wastewater treatment projects. In 1991, he was given an opportunity to work in the public sector when he became the public works direction for the City of Riverton, Wyo. He continued his work in the municipal government sector when he was hired as the public works director for the City of Laramie, Wyo. in 1997 and as its city manager in 2000. From 2003 to 2012, he served as Wyoming's deputy state engineer and was then appointed to his current position in July of 2012.*

## Nebraska

### Jesse Bradley

Natural Resources Programs Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE, 68509, 402-471-0586, jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov, www.dnr.ne.gov

Jesse Bradley holds a Bachelor of Science in environmental geology from the University of Nebraska Omaha and a Master of Science in hydrogeology from Clemson University. Jesse is the Department of Natural Resources programs director and head of the Integrated Management Division. He has worked extensively on integrated management planning efforts throughout the state since taking a position with the Department in 2006.



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## **Kansas**

### **Tracy Streeter**

*Director, Kansas Water Office , 901 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612, 785-296-3185, Tracy.Streeter@kwo.ks.gov, www.kwo.org*

At the request of Governor Sam Brownback, the Water Office and Department of Agriculture has just completed a 50 Year Water Vision for Kansas with a focus on water supplies contained in the Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer and the system of federal reservoirs within the state. The Vision includes more than 100 strategies under the major categories of conservation, management, crops and technology and additional sources of supply. Since last year's Four State Irrigation Council Meeting, Kansas, along with the states of Colorado and Nebraska, has also invested significant time and energy into a collaborative and very positive effort regarding the future management of the Republican River. Tracy Streeter will provide an overview of the 50 Year Water Vision, including interstate water progress on the Republican River.

*Tracy Streeter has served as the director of the Kansas Water Office, the state's water planning, policy and coordination agency since 2004. Tracy was re-appointed by Governor Sam Brownback on December 31, 2010. Before joining KWO, he served as executive director of the State Conservation Commission. Tracy has 29 years of experience in Kansas water resources management.*

*Tracy serves as chair of the Governor's Drought Response Team and the Kansas GIS policy board. In addition, Tracy represents the State of Kansas on the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST) and Western States Water Council. Recently he was appointed by the Governor to lead the Water Vision Team with the Kansas Department of Agriculture in developing a 50 Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas.*

*Tracy is dedicated to the management, conservation, and development of water resources of the state. He believes it is essential to protect, extend, and conserve the vital resource for future generations while also supporting the Kansas economy.*

*A native Kansan, Tracy grew up on a diversified family farm in Brown County. He holds a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and agriculture economics from Missouri Western State University and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Kansas.*

*Tracy served eight years on the Valley Falls Board of Education and is a private pilot.*

## **Colorado**

### **James Eklund**

*Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1313 Sherman St., Rm 721, Denver, CO 80203, 303-866-3441, James.Eklund@state.co.us, cwcb.state.co.us, coloradowaterplan.com*

Water is essential to Colorado's quality of life and economy, but our ability to maintain those values will be challenged by a growing population, increasing demands for water, and limited supplies of this precious resource. Unless we take action, we face the loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of productive farmland, water shortages for our cities and towns, difficulties responding to drought, wildfires and climate change, and watersheds that are environmentally threatened. But we have a choice. By taking action now, we can ensure a secure water future for our state. Colorado's Water Plan will provide a path forward for providing Coloradans with the water we need while supporting healthy watersheds and the environment, robust recreation and tourism economies, vibrant and sustainable cities, and viable and productive agriculture.

*James Eklund is the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. As a lawyer and a government official, Eklund is already a disappointment to much of his family on the Western Slope. He is redeemed in their eyes, however, because he drinks whiskey and fights over water (but never at the same time). The CWCB protects the state's water with responsibilities ranging from the Colorado Water Plan to flood preparedness and response. Eklund is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Denver College of Law (neither of which, his father is quick to note, made him any better at cleaning ditches or irrigating pasture). The Upper Colorado River endangered fish he most identifies with is the Razorback Sucker because he thinks of himself as sharp but also somewhat gullible.*

**Be sure to fill out your evaluation and suggest future speakers and topics.**



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**Fred Raish**, Regional Manager 970.630.8525  
*fraish@alligare.com* **www.alligare.com** 888.255.4427

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Thursday, Jan. 15, 10:25 a.m.

## **How High Was the Water? 2013 Flood Recovery Efforts**

### **The 2013 Colorado Flood Recovery: One Year Later**

#### **Kevin Houck, PE, CFM**

*Chief, Watershed and Flood Protection Section, Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1313 Sherman St., Rm 721, Denver, CO 80203, 303-866-3441, kevin.houck@state.co.us, cwcb.state.co.us*

In September 2013, the State of Colorado experienced its most damaging flood on record, with more than three billion dollars of damages recorded in 19 counties that received a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The flood recovery, which impacted many sectors of infrastructure, including homes, highways, and irrigation structures, began immediately following the recession of floodwaters and continues to this day. A number of recovery programs are in place to assist with infrastructure repair including grants and loans by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, public assistance through FEMA, Emergency Watershed Protection through NRCS, community development block grants through HUD and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and others. An update will be provided on the status of recovery with a focus on ongoing challenges.

*Kevin Houck has worked as an engineer for the Colorado Water Conservation Board for eleven years, where he is the chief of the Watershed and Flood Protection Section. His program works with floodplain regulation and mapping, watershed restoration, and flood engineering throughout Colorado. Prior to this role, he worked as a consulting engineer for seven years in the Denver area. He is a past chair of the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers and a past treasurer of the Association of State Floodplain Managers. He received a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and a master's degree from the University of Colorado at Denver, both in civil engineering. He is a licensed engineer in Colorado, California, and Louisiana, and he is a certified floodplain manager. He has never been busier in his 20 year career than in the past twelve months.*

### **St. Vrain Basin**

#### **Sean T. Cronin**

*Executive Director, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, 9595 Nelson Rd., Ste. 203, Longmont, CO 80501, 303-772-4060, sean.cronin@svlhwcd.org, www.svlhwcd.org*

In September 2013, St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks experienced a catastrophic flood event which uprooted roadways, severely eroded private property, ruined homes, dramatically changed the creek corridor, and significantly damaged or destroyed public and private raw water infrastructure. Because there were limited federal, state, and local jurisdictions to modify the post-flood stream condition, it became clear to many that private/public partnerships and multi-agency cooperation was critical for a successful recovery. To minimize recovery challenges and maximize limited resources, many agencies, including Boulder County, City of Longmont, Town of Lyons, and the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, promoted and implemented a strategy of collaboration. The collaboration along St. Vrain Creek started in the weeks following the flood and was quickly viewed by impacted citizens as safe, un-bureaucratic, nimble, and effective. In the months to follow, the Colorado Water Conservation Board provided significant financial assistance to ditch companies, in addition to numerous agencies for the furtherance of collaboration. Today these collaborative efforts are now known as "Coalitions", and one is occurring in each of the flood impacted tributaries of the South Platte River.

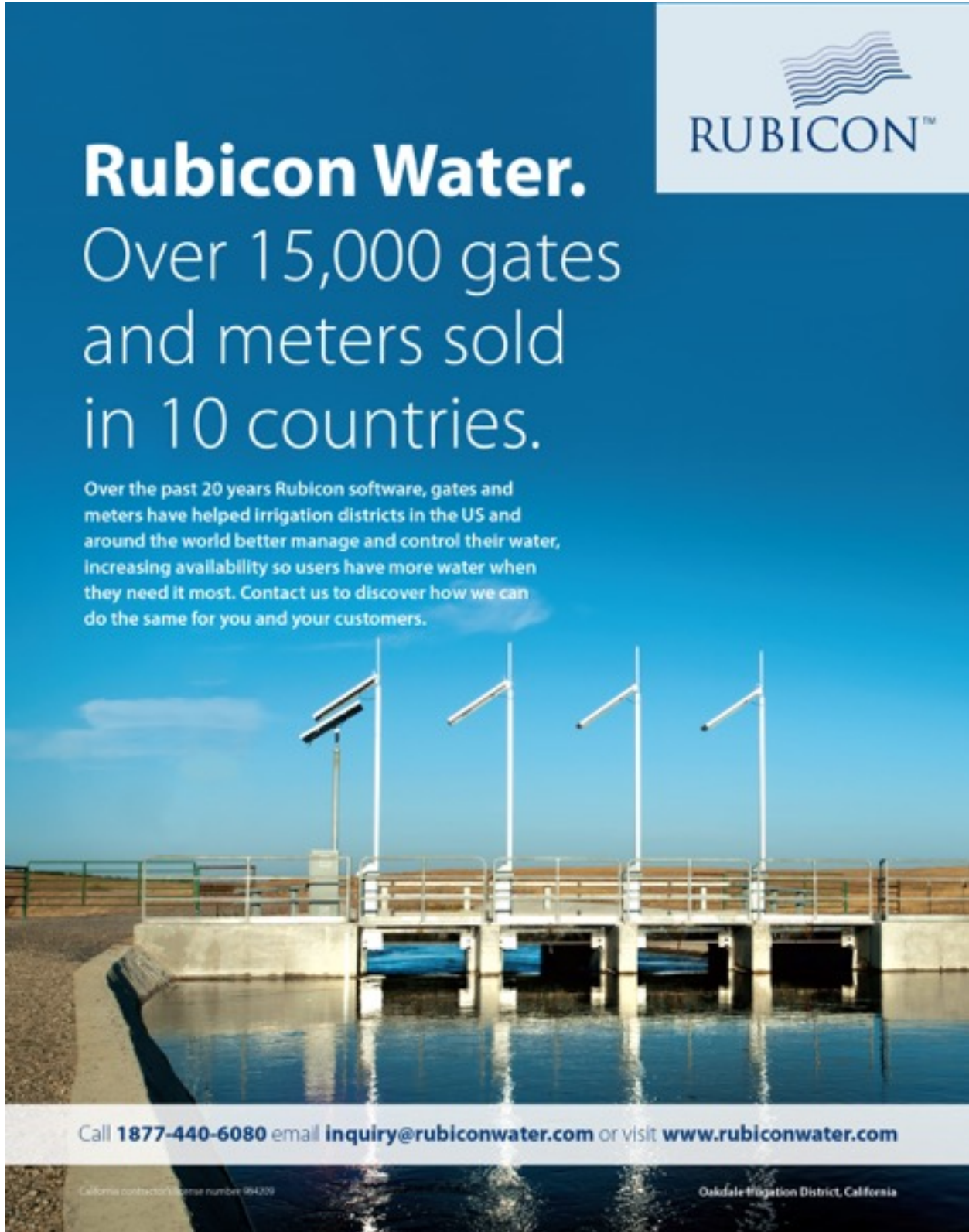
This presentation will show the flood impacts to irrigation infrastructure and explore the challenges and opportunities for ditch companies working with the Coalitions.

*Sean Cronin is the executive director for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District. He has more than 19 years experience in water resource planning and policy. Sean earned his bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and spent two years as a natural resources agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service before moving to Colorado. Prior to joining the District, Sean spent 13 years with the City of Greeley, including the last six as their water resources manager.*

*continued...*

Sean is chairman of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, a recipient of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education - Emerging Leader Award, and under Sean's guidance his District received the Special District Association - Collaboration Award.

Sean lives in his adopted home of Colorado with his wife and two children. When Sean isn't spending time with family and other activities, he is on a river trying to master the art of making a trout rise.



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## Last Chance Ditch Company

### Doug Rademacher

Last Chance Ditch Company

*Doug Rademacher is a fourth-generation farmer/rancher from Southwest Weld County. As a farmer/rancher, water has always been a passion for his and his family. He has been involved with water issues for many years. He has been married 37 years with three children and two granddaughters.*

*Doug has spent eight years as Weld County commissioner. He currently sits on the following boards and commissions: Saint Vrain, Left Hand Conservancy District, South Platte Round Table, North Front Range Water Quality Association, and Four States Irrigation Council. Doug is also the ditch rider for the Last Chance Water Company. Doug's past involvement includes: Weld County Council, Weld County Noxious Weed Board, Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, I-25 EIS, Boulder County Fair Board, American Pride CO-OP Board, Last Chance Water Company, North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Saint Vrain Valley Sugar Beet Growers.*

## Stream Gage Recovery, A Lot of Work in a Short Time

### David Nettles

Division 1 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources, 810 9th St., Ste. 200, Greeley, CO 80631, 970-352-8712, david.nettles@state.co.us, water.state.co.us

During the week of September 8, 2013, portions of the northern Colorado Front Range experienced abnormally large rainfall with the peak intensity generally happening during September 11 and 12. In some areas rainfall reached or exceeded the 1,000 year return interval. The resulting flooding significantly damaged or destroyed 25 stream flow gages operated and maintained by the Colorado Division of Water Resources.

In the year following the September 2013 flood, 23 of the 25 damaged or destroyed stream flow gages have been repaired or replaced by the Colorado Division of Water Resources. One of the destroyed gages will be replaced when area road reconstruction is completed. The current usefulness of the other gage for water rights regulation purposes is being evaluated to determine if replacement is necessary.

One of the reasons the Colorado Division of Water Resources was able to achieve repair or replacement of 92% of the damaged gages within one year was the use of new technology available for stream flow measurement. The use of this new technology, "down looking" radar units, will be briefly discussed and compared to "traditional" stream gage technology.

*David Nettles was born and raised in a very small town in central Louisiana. He received his B.S. in agricultural engineering from Louisiana Tech University in 1982 and his M.S. in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University in 1984. After a short stint with the State of Montana working on Federal-reserved water rights issues, Dave joined the Colorado Division of Water resources in 1986. After five years in the Denver office, Dave became an assistant division engineer in the Division 1 Greeley office in 1991. He became the lead assistant division engineer in 2003 and the division engineer in 2010. Dave is a registered professional engineer in Colorado.*

*Water Division 1 covers basically the northeastern quarter of Colorado including the South Platte, Republican, and Laramie River basins. The current staff includes approximately 50 full- and part-time employees responsible for surface water and ground water right administration, water diversion and stream flow measurements, as well as the dam safety program within Division 1.*

## Presenting Sponsors



Thursday, Jan. 15, 11:55 a.m.

## Keynote Luncheon

### **Pollinators, Spray Drift Reduction and Collaboration: What's Going on in Agriculture at the EPA**

**Rebecca Perrin**

*Agriculture Advisor, US EPA Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop St., Denver, CO 80202, 303-312-6311, perrin.rebecca@epa.gov*

This presentation will provide an overview of EPA's new Drift Reduction Technology program, pollinator protection efforts, and opportunities for collaboration with EPA.

*Rebecca Perrin is the agriculture advisor for Region 8 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, located in Denver, Colorado. In this capacity, she serves as a liaison between the agricultural community and the Region, and provides advice on agricultural environmental programs and policies. Prior to becoming the Agriculture Advisor for the Region in 2012, Rebecca worked with the EPA Region 8's Tribal Assistance Program for five years. Prior to joining EPA Region 8, Rebecca worked for an affiliate of Enterprise Rent-a-Car for more than six years, doing predominately liability and risk management related work. Rebecca obtained a Bachelor of Science in Soil and Crop Science from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins and a Master of Applied Science in environmental policy and management from the University of Denver.*

## Luncheon Sponsors



Thursday, Jan. 15, 1:10 p.m.

## One Year Later, the Republican River Body Count: Compact Compliance

### **The Compact Compliance Pipeline**

**Deb Daniel**

*General Manager, Republican River WCD, 410 Main St, #8, Wray, CO 80758, 970-332-3552, deb.daniel@rrwcd.com*

The Compact Compliance Pipeline (CCP) was built by the Republican River Water Conservation District (RRWCD) in 2011 and 2012. The pipeline is gravity-fed and composed of ductile iron which stretches 12 miles long from the North Fork of the Republican River along the Nebraska and Colorado state lines.

The Colorado State Engineer's office required the augmentation for the pipeline be held to historic consumptive use. To fill the requirement of the State, the RRWCD purchased 62 water rights from 53 large capacity irrigation wells. There are a total of 15 irrigation wells that eventually will be included in this system. Currently eight irrigation wells are connected to the pipeline. Each well is capable of pumping 1,500 to 2,000 gpm.

On December 19, 2013, the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) approved allowing Colorado 100% credit for water delivered to the stream during 2014. The RRWCD delivered 4,000 acre-feet of water through the pipeline from January- March in 2014. On November 11, the pipeline began operating again. The RRWCD projects to deliver an additional 3,000 acre-feet of water prior to December 31, 2014.

On October 22, 2014 the RRCA agreed to approve the same conditions for operating the CCP during 2015. The RRWCD plans to continue operating the CCP through the end of 2014 and deliver 4,000 acre-feet of water from January to March 2015. During the upcoming year water engineers will calculate how many additional acre-feet will have to be delivered by the pipeline to ensure Colorado will be in compact compliance in 2015.

*Deb Daniel was named general manager of the Republican River Water Conservation District on June 1, 2011. Prior to this appointment, Deb was the district manager for the Plains and East Cheyenne Ground Water Management Districts from 2006 to 2011. Previously Deb was executive administrator of the Irrigation Research Foundation, an independent research facility located north of Yuma, Colo. Deb is a certified well tester and has an extensive background in irrigated agriculture. She and her husband, Steve, live near Burlington, Colo. She has two sons: Nick and his wife Dawn live in Wray and have 2 children, Nathan and his wife Ashley and their son live in Phoenix, Ariz. Deb is an EMT with the Kit Carson ambulance service and is active in the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Burlington.*

## Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Groundwater Allocations

### Nate Jenkins

Assistant Manager, Upper Republican Natural Resources District, PO Box 1140, Imperial, NE, 69033, 308-882-5173, natejenkins@urnrd.org, www.urnrd.org

## Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Surface Water Allocations

### Brad Edgerton

Manager, Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, PO Box 116, Cambridge, NE 69022, 308-697-4535, brad.edgerton@fcdwater.com, www.fcdwater.com

Nebraska has elected to comply with the Republican River Compact by curtailing diversions into Reclamation Projects. The most productive land in the Basin is now fallow or farmed dryland. Is the disparity between groundwater and surface water allocations fair?

*Brad Edgerton is the manager of the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, a position he has held since 2009. He started with the State of Nebraska, Department of Natural Resources, in 1983. In 2000 he became the field office supervisor for the Republican River Basin, a position he held until 2008.*



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## Nebraska State Plan: Effects on Irrigation Districts

### Mike Delka

Manager, Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, PO Box 446, Red Cloud, NE 68970, 402-746-3424, bostwick@gpcom.net

This is supposed to be an update of District activities since last year. A short summary would be that we didn't get water in 2014 and we are ready to file a lawsuit. A more detailed summary is that we were not allowed to store or divert water for a second year. A third year is currently projected. This has driven us to seek a legal solution. As far as District operations go, we have been fortunate to receive several grants and have used the time to catch up on those. I will try to give more details in the time allowed.

*Mike Delka has been the manager of the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska for going on 23 years and has never seen two years the same.*

### Don Felker

Manager, Frenchman Valley and H&RW Irrigation Districts, Box 297, Culbertson, NE 69024, 308-278-2125, dfelker@gpcom.net

### Kenny Nelson

Four States Irrigation Council, Kansas Director 2013-2014; Superintendent, Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District #2, PO Box 165, 528 Main, Courtland KS 66939, 785-374-4514, kbid@courtland.net

*Kenny Nelson was born and raised on an irrigated farm at Courtland Kansas. He graduated Courtland High School in 1968 and Fort Hays State College in 1972 with a degree in business administration. After college, he returned to Courtland with the intent of becoming a full time farmer. In 1973 he became employed by Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District to supplement his farm income until additional acres could be rented. While on the work crew he operated a dragline during the maintenance season and was a ditchrider during irrigation season. In March of 1977, he was promoted to superintendent, the position he holds today.*

*Thirty-eight years ago when he became superintendent the district's biggest problem was high water table caused by the introduction of irrigation and dealing with a drainage program the cost more than twice what the original canal and lateral system did. In the 1990's short water supplies began to be an ongoing problem. Renewal of contracts with the Bureau was a challenge accepted and accomplished by a group of districts working as one called the Irrigation Projects Reauthorization Council. By the turn of the century, the Republican River Compact Supreme Court dispute took center stage and continues as the major challenge today.*

*In the past 20 years Kansas Bostwick has worked aggressively and steadily on converting the open lateral system to underground pipe and about 66% of the irrigators have converted from gravity irrigation to pivot irrigation. On an annual basis, the district uses about 50% less water than in the past and yet shortages continue to be a problem.*

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2:30 p.m.

### State Caucus

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Thursday, Jan. 15, 3:00 p.m.

## **Been There, Done That: Arkansas River Compact**

### **Recipe for success: #1 - Start with a Wet Decade...**

#### **Steven Witte**

*Division 2 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources, 310 E. Abriendo Ave., Ste. B, Pueblo, CO 81004, 719-544-0800, steve.witte@state.co.us, www.water.state.co.us*

Originally the title for my talk was offered as jesting reference to the fact that much of our success in bringing Colorado into compliance with the Arkansas River Compact was due to relatively abundant supplies of transmountain water that were used to replace in-state depletions and native water temporarily changed allowing it to be used to replace depletions to usable stateline flow. Finding water anywhere to use for anything is much tougher in a drought and the Arkansas Valley was blessed in the '90s. We consider having preserved the ground water irrigation based economy of the Arkansas Valley in Colorado to be a significant accomplishment.

But there were other keys to success. Involving the public in the development of the solution was huge. Adequate allocations of manpower and resources which enabled Colorado to get a handle on the well population was essential. The decision to have the States reach agreements in settlement of numerous secondary issues rather than litigating them, though painful for those involved, resulted in a more acceptable, less expensive, more expeditious and, I believe, a more durable resolution of those issues.

Finally, I think that perhaps it would have been better to caption this panel discussion differently. Rather than "Been There, Done That", "Been There, *Doing* That" might be more appropriate. Compact compliance is an ongoing effort. In addition to the regulation of wells, we have also undertaken the generally unpopular and unprecedented effort of regulating surface water irrigation efficiencies as a proactive measure to honor our Compact commitments and prevent future Compact violations.

*Steve Witte is the division engineer for Division 2, which includes the Arkansas River Basin and its tributaries in Colorado. His responsibilities include distribution and regulation of the waters within natural streams of the basin according to the priority allocation system and the terms of the Arkansas River Compact.*

*The Colorado Division of Water Resources has employed Steve since graduation from the Colorado School of Mines in 1978. He has served as a staff engineer in the water supply branch of the State Engineer's Office, as assistant division engineer in Division 3 (Rio Grande), as division engineer in Division 6 (Yampa, White, and North Platte), and since 1988 as division engineer in Division 2.*

*Steve was the recipient of the Bob Appel Friend of the Arkansas River Award in 2013.*

### **Been There, Done That - Arkansas River Issues**

#### **Kevin Salter**

*Interstate Water Engineer, Kansas Division of Water Resources, 2508 John St., Garden City, KS 67846-2804, 620-521-5375, kevin.salter@kda.ks.gov, <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr>*

Kansas and Colorado (States) have engaged in three separate U.S. Supreme Court cases since 1902 with the disputes over the waters of the Arkansas River starting in the years before that. Each case has set precedents with the last case being filed in 1985 with a decree entered in March 2009. The entered decree was the culmination of those 24 years of litigation, many days of court proceedings, five Special Master's reports, and intense negotiations between the States. The end result is a document that is used to determine if Colorado is in compliance with the Arkansas River Compact. The measure of Compact compliance is a hydrologic-intuitional model of a portion of the Arkansas River basin (H-I Model). Many of the activities between the States are related to annual data inputs to the H-I Model. The decree also includes a dispute resolution process that has been successfully implemented to resolve issues that arise between the States. Kansas still closely monitors activities in Colorado that have the potential to impact the Arkansas River surface water supplies flowing into Kansas.

Kevin Salter is a licensed professional engineer and has been working for the Kansas Division of Water Resources since 1993. He serves as an interstate water engineer with primary responsibilities related to the Arkansas River Compact between Kansas and Colorado. Kevin is an integral part of a team that is responsible for securing and distributing the available Arkansas River surface water supply to Kansas irrigation ditches located in Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, and Gray Counties.

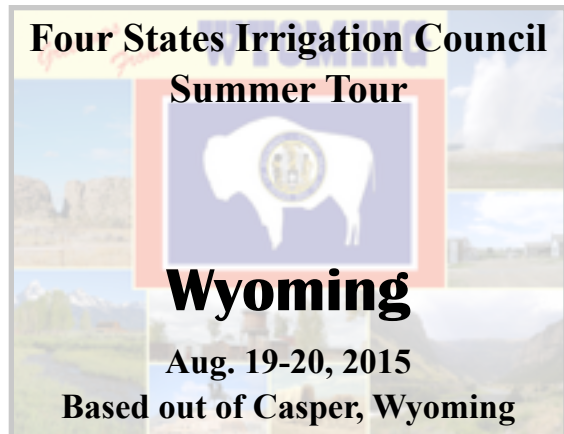
Kevin provided technical support in the U.S. Supreme Court *Kansas v. Colorado* case and continues to monitor Colorado's compliance with the *Kansas v. Colorado* decree and the Compact. He serves as the assistant operations secretary for the Arkansas River Compact Administration, which is an interstate body, composed of Colorado and Kansas Representatives.

He has a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Kansas State University and a master's degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Nebraska. He has previous employment experience with a large agricultural processing company and with a small consulting engineering firm. He has lived in four different States, including Kansas for the last 25 years. Prior to his current position, Kevin served as the assistant water commissioner in the Garden City Field Office.

### Dale Mauch

Mauch Farms, 36292 CR 7, Lamar, CO, 81052,  
719-336-3176, mauchfarms@hotmail.com

Dale Mauch has been farming north of Lamar, CO for 35 years. He farms 3500 acres of irrigated land and has a 2000 head stocker feed yard. It is a family business with his wife, son, and son-in-law all helping. Dale serves on four different water boards and has been involved with the Prowers County Farm Bureau since 1984.



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Thursday, Jan. 15, 4:00 p.m.

## Local Enhancement Management Areas (LEMA) Formation

### Katherine Durham

General Manager, Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #4, 1290 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Colby, KS 67701, 970-529-6558, kwells@gmd4.org, www.gmd4.org

This presentation will focus on discussing the history and implementation of the Sheridan 6 LEMA (Locally Enhanced Management Area) that is currently set up within an area of Sheridan County in Kansas. Katherine will be covering how the concept developed, all the steps taken along the way in its initial creation, and how the project is going. She will also discuss what the next several years will look like in this effort to preserve and extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer in this specific area.

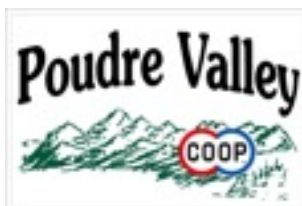
*Katherine Durham is a third generation native of Fort Collins, Colo. She graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in environmental affairs. Before coming to Kansas, Katherine worked at the Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company in Cortez, Colo. She also performed technical support and tractor cabling for Trimble Navigation and Precision Planting. Prior to that, Katherine acted as an assistant in a collaborative project combining the efforts of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Water Institute facilitating a dialogue on the future of water in Colorado for municipal and agricultural communities across the state. She is an avid horse woman and hunter.*

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Thursday, Jan. 15, 4:30 p.m.

## Family Farm Alliance Update

### **Dan Keppen**

*Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance*

The Family Farm Alliance is a non-profit, grassroots organization that represents farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in the 17 Western “Reclamation” States. This presentation is intended to provide insight into the unique challenges and opportunities facing agricultural water users and landowners in the Platte River Basin and other parts of the Western United States. Flexible, streamlined policies that provide the balance and certainty needed to support collaborative efforts and manage challenges including water scarcity and competition, insufficient water infrastructure, growing populations, endangered species, increasing weather variability and climate change, and energy development are key to maintaining agricultural production and improving conservation and community outcomes in the West. This presentation will summarize recent Alliance initiatives and projected near-term activities relative to these challenges, including recent efforts in Congress to streamline permitting of new water storage projects and modernize the Endangered Species Act, and federal agencies’ efforts to develop new policies that will impact groundwater management and Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

*Dan Keppen is executive director for the Family Farm Alliance, a non-profit association that advocates for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in 17 Western States. He has 25 years experience in water resources engineering and policy matters. Since the mid-1990’s, he has worked primarily in advocacy positions representing Western irrigators, including more than 3 years as executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, where he was intimately involved with one of the most contentious water crises in the West. He served a one-year assignment as special assistant to the Bureau of Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific regional director. Prior to that time, Keppen was a water resources engineer for Tehama County, California and a water resources engineering consultant in the Portland, Oregon area.*

*Dan is a registered professional civil engineer in California and a past civil engineer and certified water rights examiner in Oregon. He has testified before Congressional environmental and water committees 16 times on water resources, environmental and climate change matters. In his nine years at the Alliance, the organization has been asked to testify before Congress 45 times.*

*Keppen currently serves on the board of directors for the Clean Water America Alliance and is president-elect on the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He serves on the agricultural water conservation work group as part of the Bureau of Reclamation’s “Next Steps” phase of the Colorado River Basin Study process. He served three years on the national Irrigation Association board of directors. He is a senior fellow for the American Leadership Forum of Oregon and is a Paul Harris Fellow member of the Klamath County Rotary Club.*

*Keppen received his Master of Science in civil engineering (water resources) from Oregon State University and his Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering from the University of Wyoming.*

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Friday, Jan. 16, 8:15 a.m.

## Four States Business Meeting

Don't miss our big announcements for 2016!

Friday, Jan. 16, 8:30 a.m.

## A Word from our Presenting Sponsors

Friday, Jan. 16, 8:30 a.m.

## What's Going on with Climate?

### **Nolan Doesken**

*Colorado State Climatologist, Senior Research Associate, Colorado Climate Center, Dept. of Atmospheric Science, 1371 Campus Delivery, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1371, 970-491-3690, nolan@atmos.colostate.edu*

As we all know, no two years are ever the same. After recent drought years and the 2013 flood, 2014 "settled down" with many portions of our Four-State region receiving average or above average precipitation. A cold winter last year (especially February) was followed by near normal spring and summer temperatures with fairly regular rainfall. With cooler summer temperatures than in recent years, evapotranspiration rates were lower than average. This helped stretch available surface water supplies and allowed reservoir levels to improve or remain higher than expected at the end of the 2014 growing season.

Overall, 2014 was a much more docile year than we've dealt with recently. But that doesn't mean 2015 will also be favorable. We will look at a variety of indicators from carbon dioxide and methane concentrations to El Nino and the Atlantic multidecadal oscillation to see if there are any good clues for what the 2015 growing season will look like. And, with any amount of luck, there might even be a climate trivia quiz and rain gauge prizes.

*Nolan Doesken was fascinated with weather from a young age. He grew up in rural central Illinois and pursued an education in atmospheric science with degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Illinois. He moved west to Colorado in 1977 to work as the assistant state climatologist at Colorado State University. In 2006, Nolan was appointed state climatologist. His responsibilities include closely monitoring the climate of the state which entails maintaining several weather stations including the 70-station Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (CoAgMet). Nolan also established and directs the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS) to help track local precipitation patterns locally and nationally.*

## Two Things...

1. Be sure to fill out your evaluation to help us choose speakers for 2016.
2. Mark your calendar for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Jan. 13-15, 2016.



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Friday, Jan. 16, 8:55 a.m.

## **Agriculture's Grand Challenge: Feeding The World**

### **James Pritchett, PhD**

*Assistant Vice President for Engagement, 136 Student Services, Campus Mail 1050, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1050, 970-491-5496, James.Pritchett@ColoState.edu*

The food and agricultural industry faces a global challenge – feeding the world’s global population as it approaches 9 billion individuals in 2050. But the challenge goes beyond mere subsistence, it also means that agriculture will need to adapt to meet evolving consumer preferences and a more demanding food industry. This presentation will explore the implications of these changes and lay out the grand challenge facing agriculture.

*James Pritchett serves as the assistant vice president for engagement at Colorado State University. A professor of agricultural economics, Pritchett’s activities include supporting those working at the intersection between consumer interests and food production in the areas of health and wellness, food safety, food security, the availability of locally raised foods and value-added agricultural systems. Pritchett is originally from McClave, Colo., and received a doctorate in applied economics at the University of Minnesota. He served as an assistant professor at Purdue University before joining the faculty of CSU in 2001.*

Friday, Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m.

## **US Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Updates**

### **Regional Manager**

#### **Michael J. Ryan**

*Great Plains Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, 2021 4th Ave. N., Billings, MT 59101, 406-247-7600, mrayn@usbr.gov*

The Great Plains Region will provide an overview of on-going projects and issues of interest to stakeholders in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

*Michael J. Ryan is the regional director of the Great Plains Region, the largest and most ecologically diverse region in Reclamation. He provides leadership for the management, development and protection of water and related resources. This includes 80 Reclamation reservoirs, 21 power plants and 81 recreation areas that average 14 million visitors a year. Reclamation facilities deliver drinking water to a rural and urban population of about 2.2 million people. Ryan carries out these responsibilities across all or parts of nine western states, with an annual budget of approximately \$180 million and a 645-employee workforce.*

*Ryan joined Reclamation in 1982, in Billings, Montana. During his 30-year career, Ryan has worked in facility operation and maintenance, dam safety and river restoration programs across the West. Ryan became the Great Plains regional director and entered the senior executive service in 2005.*

*Prior to serving as the Great Plains regional director, Ryan was the Northern California area manager at Redding, Calif. In this capacity, Ryan managed nine dams that stored and delivered water for irrigation and municipal use and six associated power plants. He also served as chairman of the Trinity Management Council, tasked with developing and implementing the Trinity River Restoration Program and advising the Secretary of the Interior on Trinity River anadromous fishery restoration issues.*

*Ryan on numerous occasions has been recognized for significant achievements in the fields of water and power operations and resource management.*

*A native of Deer Lodge, Mont., he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1984 from Montana State University Bozeman. Ryan is a registered professional engineer.*

## **Wyoming Area Office**

### **Carlie Ronca**

Area Manager, Wyoming Area Office, 705 Powell Blvd., PO Box 1630, Mills, WY 82644, 370-261-5648, cronca@usbr.gov

*Carlie Ronca is the new area manager for Reclamation's Wyoming area office based in Mills, Wyo. She is responsible for the management of the area's portion of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, the Shoshone Project in the Bighorn River Basin, and the North Platte and Kendrick Projects in the North Platte River Basin. The area office provides approximately 2.8 million acre-feet of water deliveries annually, 250 megawatts of hydroelectric power generation annually, and more than one-half million acres of lands managed for beneficial uses.*

## **Nebraska-Kansas Area Office**

### **Aaron Thompson**

Area Manager, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office, US Bureau of Reclamation, 1706 W 3rd St, McCook, NE 69001-2159, 308-345-1027, athompson@usbr.gov, www.usbr.gov

*Aaron Thompson serves as the Nebraska Kansas area manager based in McCook, Neb. In his position he represents the Great Plains regional director with various private, public and government stakeholders, pertaining to the management, development and protection of water and related issues. He carries out these responsibilities with a 45-person employee workforce managing 15 Reclamation projects in Nebraska, Kansas, and a portion of eastern Colorado. The reservoirs provide 56,000 acres of water surface and 75,000 acres of adjacent land for public use. Thompson entered federal service in 2001 as a mechanical engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation at Hoover Dam. He later held positions as facility manager at Davis Dam, southeast of Las Vegas, Nev. and as deputy area manager for the Wyoming Area Office. Thompson accepted the position as Nebraska Kansas Area Manager in August 2007.*

*A native of Nebraska, Thompson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1998 from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and a Master's in Business Administration in 2005 from the University of Phoenix.*

## **Eastern Colorado Area Office**

### **Jaci Gould**

Area Manager, Eastern Colorado Area Office, 11056 W. Cnty.. Rd. 18E, Loveland, CO 80020, 970-960-4338, jgould@usbr.gov, www.usbr.gov

*Jacklynn L. Gould is the area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Eastern Colorado area office based in Loveland, Colo. She provides executive leadership in the areas of the management, development, and protection of water, hydropower, and water-related land and environmental resources for the Colorado-Big Thompson and Fryingpan-Arkansas Projects. Her responsibility encompasses operating and maintaining, in a safe, secure, and reliable manner, 15 dams and reservoirs and seven hydropower plants. Benefits from the two projects include providing water for 1.4 million people, producing enough hydropower to serve 100,000 homes, supporting an agricultural industry that produces \$4.1 billion annually, and providing recreational opportunities for 3.3 million visitors annually which generates \$4 million in revenues for local economies. Area Office annual budgets include approximately \$30 million appropriated and up to \$25 million in additional power customer funding.*

*Gould's career with Reclamation began in 1992 as a water resource planner in Reclamation's Denver office. Over the length of her career she worked as a scientist, engineer, and manager. She held several positions of increasing responsibility, first in the Albuquerque Area Office, and most recently in the Eastern Colorado Area Office. In 2009, she was awarded the Superior Service Honor Award, one of the Department of the Interior's highest honors for career employees.*

*Jaci is a Colorado native, and is a second generation Department of the Interior employee. She received bachelor's degrees in biology and civil engineering and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado. She completed the Harvard Senior Executive Fellowship program in 2011 and is a registered professional engineer in Colorado.*

Friday, Jan. 16, 10:45 a.m.

## Four States Irrigation Council Summer Tours

### **2013 Summer Tour Update: Long Hollow Reservoir**

#### **Michael Brod**

*Executive Director, Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority, 1580 Logan St., Ste. 620, Denver, CO 80203, 303-830-1550, ext. 1015, mbrod@cwrpda.com, www.cwrpda.com*

*Michael Brod is the executive director of the Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority and has been with the Authority since January 1994. The Authority manages five water-related infrastructure programs and has executed more than \$2 billion in water infrastructure loans to Colorado municipalities and special districts. Mr. Brod, as chief executive officer, is responsible for all operational aspects of the Authority's financing programs for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, the Small Water Resources Projects Program, the Water Revenue Bond Program and the Small Hydropower Projects Program. Mr. Brod received his B.B.A. in finance from the University of Texas (1983) and an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Colorado (1993).*

### **2015 Summer Tour Preview: Wyoming**

**Aug. 19-20, 2015**

**Based out of Casper, Wyoming**



**Goshen Irrigation District** *photo by Goshen ID*



**Miracle Mile** *photos by The Reef Fly Shop*



**Glendo Dam**  
*photo by USBR*



*photo by UNL*

**Seminoe Reservoir**



**Pathfinder Reservoir**  
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# Thank you for coming!

A few final things

..... Please fill out your evaluation.....

..... Mark your calendar.....

**Summer Tour - Wyoming, Aug. 19-20, 2015**

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An exciting joint venture between Four States Irrigation Council and  
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