

2020 Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum Nov 4-5

Draft Program v 9-25-20

November 4

9:30 – 11:00 Upper Basin state and tribal leaders: status of demand management feasibility investigations, considerations for renegotiating the interim guidelines, sticky issues and local innovations

Moderator: Eric Kuhn

- *Rebecca Mitchell, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board (confirmed)*
- *Steve Wolff, Administrator, Wyoming Interstate Streams Division (confirmed)*
- *Scott McGettigan, Interstate Streams Manager, Utah Division of Water Resources (confirmed)*
- *Rolf Schmidt-Peterson, Director, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (confirmed)*
- *Daryl Vigil, Spokesperson, Ten Tribes Partnership (confirmed)*
- *Amy Haas, Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission (confirmed)*

11:30 – 12:30pm Lower Basin state and tribal leaders: experiences so far with the Drought Contingency Plan and considerations for renegotiating the interim guidelines

Moderator: John Fleck, University of New Mexico

- *Tom Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources (confirmed)*
- *John Entsminger, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority (confirmed)*
- *Christopher Harris, Executive Director, Colorado River Water Board of California (confirmed)*

1:30 – 3:00pm Potential Economic Impacts of Demand Management

Moderator: Nathan Perry, Colorado Mesa University

- *Potential socio-economic impacts of demand management, Brett Bovee, WestWater Research (confirmed)*
- *Potential Secondary Impacts of Agricultural Demand Management in Western Colorado*
 - *Doug Jeavons for the CO Water Bank Work Group (confirmed)*
 - *Andy Mueller, Colorado River District and CO Water Bank Work Group (confirmed)*
- *Potential Regional Economic Impacts of Demand Management in Wyoming*
 - *Kristiana Hansen, Associate Professor, Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wyoming (confirmed)*
 - *Steve Wolff, Administrator, Wyoming Interstate Streams Division (confirmed)*

3:30 – 5:00pm Taking a close look at Upper Basin consumptive use trends and options

Moderator: Tim Casey, Colorado Mesa University

- *Land use planning strategies for improving water efficiency: How growing Colorado communities continue to increase water security and reliability despite limited supplies, John Berggren, Western Resource Advocates (confirmed)*
- *The great decoupling of water and growth, Brian Richter, Sustainable Waters (confirmed)*
- *The Impact of the Retirement of Coal-Fired Power Plants on Future Consumptive Uses of Water in the Upper Colorado River Basin, Eric Kuhn (confirmed)*

6:00 – 7:00pm Keynote Speaker: Navajo Nation Water Access Challenges and Opportunities – President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation (confirmed)

November 5

9:00am – 10:00 Responses of Natural Systems to Changing Conditions: Sediment

Moderator: Gigi Richard, Fort Lewis College

- Historic Sedimentation and Projected Future Recovery of Lake Powell's Tributary Canyons, *Alan Kasprak, Fort Lewis College (confirmed)*
- Channel Change on the Green River, *Christina Leonard, University of Utah (confirmed)*
- Towards Practical Resilience in Urban River Corridors: Planning for Change, *Joel Sholtes, Colorado Mesa University*

10:30am – 12:00 River Modeling Tools for Assessing Risk and Making Decisions

Moderator: Laurna Kaatz, Denver Water

- Bureau of Reclamation modeling approaches, *Alan Butler, US Bureau of Reclamation (confirmed)*
- Colorado River Risk Study, *John Carron, Hydros Consulting (confirmed)*
- Strategies for Managing the Colorado River in an Uncertain Future, *Jian Wang, USU (confirmed)*
- Lower Basin Approaches, *Colby Pellegrino, Southern Nevada Water Authority (confirmed)*

1:00 – 2:30pm Three Stories of Agriculture Leadership on Colorado's Most Pressing Water Challenges

Colorado's agriculture sector faces immense water resource challenges but is taking a leading role in developing innovative solutions. From Kremmling, Colorado, a story of a multi-generation ranching family working with the Colorado River Basin Roundtable and environmental organizations to explore innovative approaches to interstate water management; From the Rio Grande Basin, a story of local agricultural organizations working with the City of Denver to identify opportunities to conserve water and meet growing demands for local food; From the Eastern Plains, a story of concerned local leaders to develop a first of its kind peer education program to help farmers assess opportunities for sustaining the Ogallala Aquifer while maintaining agricultural viability.

Moderator: Alex Funk, Colorado Water Conservation Board (panel confirmed)

- *Brandi Baquera, Colorado Master Irrigator*
- *Dr. Becca Jablonski, Colorado State University*
- *Kirsten Kurath, Colorado River Basin Roundtable*
- *Mely Whiting, Trout Unlimited*

3:00 – 4:00pm Agricultural Optimization in Utah

Moderator: Jim Pokrandt, Colorado River District

- Agricultural Optimization Initiative overview and Depletion Accounting for Irrigation Water Rights, *Neil Allen, Utah State University (confirmed)*
- Facing Water Problems Head-on with Real-Time Technologies, *Amy Green, Rural Water Technology Alliance (confirmed)*

4:30 – 5:30pm Upper Colorado Agricultural Producers' Roundtable

Moderator: Luke Gingerich, J-U-B Engineers

- *Pat O'Toole, Little Snake River, Wyoming and Colorado and the Family Farm Alliance (confirmed)*
- *Kevin Cotner, Price River, Utah and the Carbon Canal Company (confirmed)*
- *Martin Duncan, San Juan River Dine Water Users Association (confirmed)*
- *Other TBA*