



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

Annual Water Seminar Wake-Up Call on the Colorado River

9 AM – 5 PM, Friday, October 1st, 2021
Meyer Ballroom at Colorado Mesa University
Grand Junction, CO

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Breakfast/Registration

9:00 a.m. Annual Water Seminar Greeting

Martha Whitmore, Colorado River District Board President

9:10 a.m. State of the Colorado River District

Andy Mueller, General Manager, Colorado River District

9:45 a.m. Happy (Water) New Year: A Trans-Mountain Hydrology Discussion

*Dr. Gigi Richard, Director, Four Corners Water Center; *Brad Udall, Senior Water & Climate Research Scientist/Scholar at Colorado State University (*simulcast from Getches-Wilkinson)*

Water Year 2021 was characterized as the year of superlatives in which adjectives such as “worst,” “driest,” and “first time ever” were regularly used to describe the situation. Dr. Gigi Richard and Brad Udall will provide an overview and analysis of Colorado River Basin hydrology last year and over the course of the multi-decadal drought.



WIFI: CMU VISITOR





AGENDA

10:45 a.m. Morning Keynote: Federal Perspectives on Big River Questions

Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

Speaking with Andy Mueller, Assistant Secretary Trujillo will address the recent Tier 1 Shortage announcement and the Interior Department's response to the intensifying drought throughout the Colorado River Basin states.

12:00 p.m. Lunchtime Keynote (Terrace): Environmental & Biological Considerations in a New Agreement

Dr. Jack C. Schmidt, Professor of Watershed Science and Janet Quinney Lawson Chair in Colorado River Studies, Utah State University

Leader of Utah State's 'Future of the Colorado River Project,' Dr. Schmidt will discuss how declining runoff and increased consumptive use are impacting water supplies in the Colorado River Basin, and what alternative management scenarios could look like in a hotter, drier future on the Big River.

1:15 p.m. Strange Bedfellows: A 7a Snapshot

Kathy Chandler-Henry, Colorado River District Board Vice President, Eagle County Commissioner; Zane Kessler, Colorado River District Director of Government Relations

Zane Kessler and Kathy Chandler-Henry will provide an overview of how West Slope voters from all walks of life came together to pass ballot question 7a in November of 2020.

1:40 p.m. Panel: Community Funding Partnership, Moving Ideas to Action

Sonja Chavez, General Manager, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District; Edward Moyer,

AGENDA



Grand County Manager; Jonathan Godes, Mayor of Glenwood Springs; Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Colorado River District (moderator)

Amy Moyer will lead a panel discussion with grantees of the River District's Community Funding Partnership to discuss their projects and how water issues across Western Colorado are being addressed with innovative, local solutions.

2:30 p.m. Afternoon Keynote: Infrastructure, Resilience, Equity, & Change

**Michael Connor - Former Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior (*simulcast)*

Michael Connor will be joining Annual Water Seminar attendees via simulcast and will speak to past and future changes to the legal definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS), the Clean Water Act, and federal water infrastructure updates.

3:00 p.m. Panel: The Economics of Drought

David Dragoo, Founder, Mayfly Outdoors; Terry Fankhauser, Rancher/Executive Vice President, Colorado Cattlemen's Association; Audrey Gehlhausen, President, Billy Goat Hop Farm, LLC; Becky Mitchell, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board; Andy Mueller, General Manager, Colorado River District (moderator)

Andy Mueller will lead a panel of representatives from varying economic interests across the West Slope to discuss how the ongoing drought and increasing aridity impacts each industry.

3:45 p.m. Happy Hour on the Terrace

Join the Colorado River District Board, Staff, and guest speakers for networking, hor d'oeuvres, and a complimentary beer or wine courtesy of Ouray Brewery and American Rivers.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Tanya Trujillo is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. She has served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior. A native New Mexican,

Tanya attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.



A professor at Utah State University in the College of Natural Resources' Department of Watershed Sciences, **Dr. Jack Schmidt** is a fluvial geomorphologist, studying the origin, characteristics, and evolution of rivers. Scientists, government officials, and journalists throughout the nation know him as the "go-to guy" on North American rivers — especially on the Colorado River. Schmidt was among a handful of advisors who conceived the 1996 controlled flood on the river - just below Glen Canyon Dam and upstream from the Grand Canyon.



Michael Connor served as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2014 until 2017, where he led in implementing water policies and strategies to address an unprecedented Western drought. He previously served as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, forged major Indian water rights settlements, and led the Department of the Interior's negotiations to complete two major binational agreements with Mexico on the Colorado River. A New Mexican and

an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo, he now resides with his family in Denver.

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



Kathy Chandler-Henry is a fourth-generation Coloradan representing Eagle County and was

appointed to the Colorado River District Board in January 2017. She currently serves as the Board's Vice President. In addition, she is the county's representative to the Water Quality Quantity Committee (QQ), Ruedi Reservoir Water and Power Authority, Northwest Colorado Council of Government Economic Development District Board of Directors, Lake Creek Affordable Housing Corporation and FirstNet Governing Board.



Sonja Chavez is the General Manager of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

She is a native Coloradan who has spent most of her career working with diverse groups of individuals and organizations to plan and implement multi-beneficial water resource infrastructure improvement projects.



David Drago, Founder of Mayfly Outdoors, is a Colorado born entrepreneur, and founder of several businesses

with a background specializing in manufacturing, real estate, and river conservation.



Mike Camblin is the President of the Maybell Irrigation District and owns and operates Camblin

Livestock with his family in the Yampa River Basin. A four-generation, family operation, the land they manage has been in the family for over 100 years.



Audrey Gehlhausen is the President of Billy Goat Hop Farm in Montrose, Colorado where she works alongside

her partner, Chris DellaBianca. Prior to opening their hop farm, Audrey studied



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

geology and became a professional guide, working on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Rogue River, and Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.



Paula Stepp is the Executive Director of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council and a Glenwood Springs city council member since 2019. Previous to working with MCWC, Paula was a business and marketing consultant in the Roaring Fork valley following years of work in the outdoor publishing industry.



Zane Kessler is the Director of Government Relations at the Colorado River District. In this role, Zane manages the District's state and federal advocacy efforts and coordinates the organization's work with partners, municipalities and counties on West Slope policy matters.



Edward "Ed" Moyer is County Manager of Grand County, Colorado. In addition to managing all

non-elected County departments and day to day operations, he is responsible for all county water matters, including implementation and administration of all Colorado River Cooperative Agreement and Windy Gap FIRMing Project agreements and permits involving Grand County.



Becky Mitchell is the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. She carries out the policies and

directives of the Board relating to the conservation, development and utilization of the state's water resources, and works closely with the State Engineer, General Assembly, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor on water resource issues for the State of Colorado.



Andy Mueller is the General Manager for the Colorado River District. An attorney, he practiced law for many years in Ouray

County before moving to Glenwood Springs. Andy earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado in 1995. His legal work took him across the breadth of western Colorado water, land use and economic issues. For nine years, he was also Ouray County's Director on the Colorado River District Board.



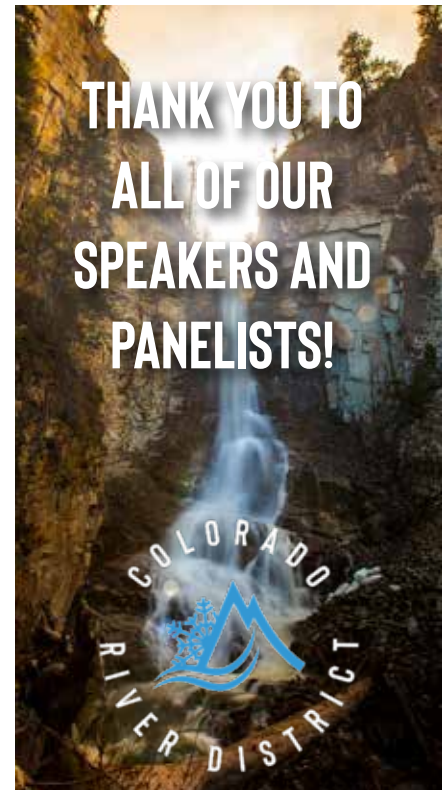
Dr. Gigi Richard is the Director of the Four Corners Water Center and Instructor of Geosciences at Fort Lewis

College, and has spent her career teaching about and studying surface water, particularly in the western US. Her research focuses on watershed hydrology in Colorado, from snowmelt driven systems to intermittent desert streams, and human impacts on river systems.



Martha "Marti" Whitmore represents Ouray County on the Colorado River District Board and currently

serves as Board President. She is a partner in the Ouray law firm of Hockersmith & Whitmore, LLC and has practiced law in Colorado since 1978, primarily in water, environmental permitting and compliance, public lands and natural resources.





Ask about their recently published paper:
“Lessons Learned from Colorado Experiences with Interstate Compact Administration”
<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/water-center/>



<https://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/>



**\$4.2 MILLION AVAILABLE ANNUALLY TO FUND
MULTI-BENEFIT WATER PROJECTS ACROSS THE
WESTERN SLOPE**

Visit our Community Funding Partnership table in the Side Lounge or email
Amy Moyer at amoyer@crwcd.org

[https://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/
community-funding-partnership/](https://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/community-funding-partnership/)



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