

**ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2019  
10:31 AM**

A regular meeting of the Executive Committee was held Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at Pueblo Community College, 900 W. Orman Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Shea–Chair	Terry Scanga - IBCC	Amber Weber – PEPO
Mike Weber–Vice-Chair	Chelsey Nutter – ARWC	Abby Ortega – NAC
Bob Hamel-Env/Rec	Jean Van Pelt – PEPO	
Jeris Danielson - IBCC	Jack Goble - CWCB	

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Al Tucker - Recorder  
Tim Canterbury - IBCC  
Sandy White – Past Chair  
Amber Shanklin- Env/R  
Ben Wade – CWCB  
Nick Koch

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Lisa Walters – Colorado Springs Utilities  
Keith Goodwin – Otero County

**OPENING REMARKS- Chairman Mark Shea & Vice-Chair Mike Weber**

Began with introductions of those present for the guest in the audience.

There was a call for additions to the agenda.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 14, 2018**

The Committee approved the minutes by consensus.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**IBCC- Terry Scanga & Jeris Danielson**

There is a meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> in Leadville with CWCB. Mark asked the IBCC representatives to bring up the sports betting/gambling presentation to see if they can present at our roundtable meeting. They have presented at the Rio Grande Roundtable, so Terry will reach out to the Trust for Public Lands spokesperson.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDING

### **SWSI Implementation – Abby Ortega**

There is nothing new to report after speaking of the C-9 summit agenda last meeting. They will meet again next week.

### **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Jack gave updates during the general session. Jean asked about the CWCB meetings hosted in Ark Basin, because PEPO normally helps with tours in the basin. The meeting will be in Leadville the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Jack mentioned that there are CWCB projects in the area that they are looking at, but suggested to ask Ben if he needed PEPO to assist.

### **PEPO- Jean Van Pelt & Amber Weber**

Gave update during regular session.

### **Needs Assessment- Abby Ortega**

We have six grants with three asking for roundtable funds, and three statewide funds with letters of support. There is meeting scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Fremont County Administration Building. Jack Goble mentioned there is \$177,000 now, with another distribution in July from the state. With these grants, there is just about \$50,000 sought after. Discussion was made on whether to encourage more grants being written or whether to conserve money, and it was determined that it's okay that we aren't using every dollar, there is a good amount of money, but let's use it wisely. Terry mentioned that there could be a really good program/project, so we can use the reserves later.

### **Environment & Recreation- Bob Hamel & Amber Shanklin**

Environment/Recreation had a meeting, but it was mostly ARWC type items. A couple of things: we keep talking about BIP master list and trying to go over it, but it seems like we need to put it out there that they need to put it forward, we won't carry it for the proponents. We don't know who wants the projects, so they need to come forward and we won't champion their cause. Bob, Rena, and Chelsey have been talking about the roles, the BIP, and how we handle it. Whoever it is that put the projects on the list, they should go through it, prioritize it, add new projects, take some off, bring to enviro/rec committee and plead your case. This plays into consumptive users and municipalities too. The second thing is contract exchanges- that's something that enviro/rec needs to start to discuss and understand the potential impacts and what that means to recreation flows, environment, etc. and have that discussion at the enviro/rec. not just consumptive, it's non-consumptive too. Mike mentioned that we had contract exchanges on the agenda for the July meeting, but Bill Tyner had to move it to August. The next meeting for him is July 2<sup>nd</sup>, so they can give a good update for the roundtable. A meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State Engineer's office will give more information on contract exchanges and may be attended by someone like Bob.

Setting up a structure with people from the roundtable and executive committee to be familiar with scoring criteria for scoring projects is important. It is very clear that it is the responsibility for the entity to look at their projects and make priorities. We have a structure so that they can do

## RECORD OF PROCEEDING

their portion of work and we can utilize the roundtable committees like the enviro/rec., but not just Bob and Rena can manage this, everyone needs to help. Make a clear outline and short write up on how we think we might approach this and what everyone's responsibilities are and who will be involved. A discussion regarding the state contractor and the sub-contractor for the basin was carried out and Terry suggested that we develop a format, or template that the contractor knows they need to work within, and stakeholders can own their project. We can define wants vs. needs, a timeline, etc. Stakeholders need to approve what category it needs to go into. That proponent proposes a project, ensures that it is in the implementation plan, and then they can use it as justification. The timeline of when to create this format was discussed and Jack mentioned that the RFP will be sent out in August for the general contractor. It's important to remember that this will be used by CWCB for going to Congress to ask for money or give them a timeline for projects. They can take to legislation and can understand where we are at and give proof. Jack commented that it's not our job to do it for the contractor or project proponents. If the proponents aren't on board, we shouldn't do it for them. They may not know money is available or what a BIP is, that there is money available, etc. Mark said that we need to be prepared to provide support to other people. Chelsey suggested that we use the committees and PEPO, ARWC, etc. to tell members to call these RT experts so that we can help them. Mike we have a resource available through CWCB, who gets paid, let's use them. Mark asked that PEPO help put documents together and feed it to CWCB. Mike added on by saying that we need to be educating everyone, maybe by a flow chart, one pager, etc. Al put that letter together for open county seats and then send it with that letter with stakeholders/projects in that area that they have and to ask them to reach out.

### **Watershed Health- Chelsey Nutter**

Chelsey was on the agenda for a presentation during the regular meeting, so waited to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS /ANOUNCEMENTS- Mark Shea & Mike Weber**

Roundtable responsibilities is an agenda item that we need to solve. Mike wants to be sure that we are defining who sends out emails, what does it mean to be a representative, who are constituents, etc. Al wrote a policy and bylaws to identify some different roles of individual people/ Chair/ Vice-Chair. Amber mentioned that we have a need to define everyone's role, especially in the small duties; where is the line between Elise and myself in correspondence? Jeris mentioned that maybe Al should help draw these lines? We have a lot of it in the bylaws, but we need the smaller stuff. Mark explained that we are unique because we have a paid secretary at \$5,000 per year. The question is what we get for that amount of money. How the executive committee goes about this was discussed and then Jeris moved that Mark sit down with her and define her roles and what she gets compensated for. Terry seconded the motion and then started discussion that we have a conversation with Elise and develop a scope of work. If she agrees, we go from there. Motion passed by consensus. Mark will take care of it.

Presentation schedule is as follows: next month- Needs Assessment Committee and grants; August, contract exchanges; September, rainwater harvest; September/October we have the C-9 Summit recap. We will have a funding workshop late this year, early next year. Jeris suggested that the DCP is going to "mushroom", so maybe a presentation at the roundtable meeting would be good.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDING

At the all Chairs conference call, there was a slide about hiring the general contractor for BIP updates and they will try to have the person hired by the C-9 Summit. There will be funding available to off-set costs for RT members/non-voting members for coverage of attendance. Jack mentioned that there is funding for two student scholarships for each roundtable basin. Mike mentioned again that the details were sent by Elgin for funding for travel expenses.

### **NOTICES & MEETINGS**

- ARWC BOD Business Call Meeting – July 1, 2019 10 am (Conference Call)
- Contract Exchanges Meeting – July 2, 2019 (State Engineer’s Office)
- Next Roundtable Meeting – July 10, 2019 10:30 am, Exec. Comm. & General RT, 12:30 pm (Pueblo Community College)
- Env/Rec Committee Meeting – June 24, 2019 10 am (Canon City BLM Office)
- Basin Roundtable Summit – September 25-26, 2019 (Headwaters Center, Winter Park, CO)

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Shea adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Submitted by:  
Chelsey Nutter  
Amber Weber



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

June 12, 2019 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### **Roundtable Business**

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-two (22) members were present.

### **Approval of minutes of prior meeting**

*The meeting notes of the May meeting were approved by consensus.*

### **Public Comment – none**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

- There will be a follow-up discussion on the administration of contract exchanges on July 2nd, Pueblo location tbd. A full presentation on that at our July meeting.
- BIP Update – how we are going to do that here in the Arkansas Basin. CWCB will hire a general contractor state-wide, plus local experts. Exec Comm is in consensus regarding the importance of project proponents being involved with their own projects. More info will come out from the PEPO committee regarding what is being looked for from project proponents. As RT members, we all have constituents. RT members need to represent their constituents and identify projects needed in our areas. If/when the Sports Gambling measure is passed, there will be new dollars flowing to projects. We need to be ready for that.
- BIP information need: Only 4% of our projects have cost data associated with them. There is room for improvement within our roundtable.

#### **CWCB Report – Jack Goble**

- The next CWCB meeting will be held next week in Gunnison. We'll be considering 42 Colorado Water Plan grant requests totaling \$7.6 million. More information is available on the Colorado Water Plan website.
- An RFP will be available in August for the General Contractor for statewide BIP work. They plan to make this hire before the C9 Summit at the end of September. The GC will work with each roundtable to hire subcontractors by the end of 2019 at the latest.
- C9 Summit will be held September 25 and 26, in Winter Park. The Summit is free to roundtable voting and non-voting members, and \$75 for others to attend. There will be scholarships given to two students from each basin, and some scholarships available for those who don't have an entity to send them. Contact is Elgin Turner: [elgin.turner@state.co.us](mailto:elgin.turner@state.co.us).
- The Drought Contingency Plan was finalized on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and implementation has begun. Colorado is working on demand management feasibility investigations.
- Work groups of subject-matter experts have formed think tanks. List of work groups is on the front page of CWCB website.
- The CWCB will be hosting an orientation webinar for these workgroups in August.
- Meetings will be private, with report-outs to the public. The CWCB board will be kept apprised as well. Jack and Ben will keep the roundtable informed.
- [Demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:Demandmanagement@state.co.us)



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- 2019 Projects Bill was signed by the governor last week. It appropriated funds for CWCB programs. CWCB's two main funding sources right now are income from the loan program and severance taxes. Funding has increased over recent year, and \$17.5 million has been allocated to water plan implementation.
- Gov Polis has appointed Dan Prenzlou as the new Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director. His job just prior was Southeast Regional Manager based in Colorado Springs.
- The next CWCB meeting will be held on July 17 and 18 at CMC in Leadville. A joint meeting with the IBCC will be held on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- [Coloradofloodthreat.com](http://Coloradofloodthreat.com): The website has current flood threat information.

Roundtable members expressed concerns regarding the privacy of the demand management feasibility meetings. Work groups are being asked to sign non-disclosure agreements, not to divulge what's been talked about at the private meetings. CWCB made the decision in order to encourage out-of-the-box thinking without the threat of being mis-quoted or taken out of context in the media. CWCB staff worked with the AG's office to set this up.

## **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson**

- No meeting since the last report out. After the joint meeting with CWCB in July, the next IBCC meeting will be in September.

## **SWSI Implementation Working Group – Abby Ortega, Amber Shanklin**

- June 25<sup>th</sup> next meeting by conference call.
- New scoring sheet for projects to be included in the BIP will be emailed and posted on the website.

## **Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) – Abby Ortega**

- Nothing additional. (See CWCB report)

## **PEPO – Jean Van Pelt**

- Each year CWCB provides \$6,500 for PEPO's basic work. The final report for this fiscal year will be submitted by the end of June, and PEPO is working on scope for new year. PEPO has met with Chelsey Nutter and Kristie Nackord, discussing how the three groups can work together. Intend to schedule stakeholder workshops focusing on local areas within the basin. Meeting again on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Will be drawing on RT member experience regarding local constituency and needs.
- WSRF grant – Has been used for the new website: [arkansasbasin.com](http://arkansasbasin.com). This will be our vehicle to communicate with roundtable members and others. We'll be reminding you to look on the website for meeting notes, updates and other information.
- 2018 Colorado Water Plan grant. Requested to transfer remaining \$2,300 dollars to the 2019 Water Plan grant. CWCB approved moving those dollars, which will be spent on 5 – 10 minutes webisodes on subjects not covered by the documentary.
- The Education to Action program has three projects coming up.
- As of July 1, your main PEPO contact is Amber Weber, as Jean Van Pelt is leaving for travels in Canada and Alaska.



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## Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

- Grant apps were due by June 1.
- A Needs Assessment meeting will be held on June 27 in Canon City, 10:00 am, at the Fremont County Admin building. There are three grant requests, plus three requests for letters of support. Will try to set up a phone-in option.
- Will send a link to grant apps, which will be on the website.
- The requests will then be brought to the roundtable for review and approval at our July meeting.

## Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Brand

- Didn't meet in May, but kept working on a few things. Chelsey will report to that.
- Each month the committee is tying together tighter with ARWC.
- At Exec Comm, reiterate re: BIP updates. For projects that pertain to env/rec, the project proponents will have to show up to support. Projects are going to come off the list if they do not have a proponent. Env/Rec Committee is here to help you down the path towards funding of these projects.
- The next Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held April 23 and 24, 2020. The Forum will be held at the Steam Plant in Salida again. Rena Brand is joining the Water Forum board.
- Next meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, at the BLM office in Canon City.

## Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – (see presentation after BREAK)

### BREAK

**PROGRAM** - Please check out full presentations at [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com).

## ARWC - Projects & Strategic Plan Update - Chelsey Nutter, ED

ARWC Major Milestones

- 2015: Established as a sub-committee of the roundtable
- 2016: First strategic plan developed
- 2017: ARWC received 501c3 nonprofit status & adopted bylaws
- 2018: Built partnerships, developed projects, and secured funding
- 2019: Hired Executive Director, continue to develop & implement projects, update strategic plan, develop sustainable funding
- 2020: Sustainable funding and capacity to meet the goals & objectives of ARWC

Forest Health Fuels Mitigation, Post-Fire & Flood Projects:

- CWPPS & WFDSS
- Lake County Mitigation Project – fuels mitigation
- Monarch Pass Forest/Watershed Health
- Hayden Pass Fire & Flood Recovery Project
- Spring Creek Fire Recovery Project

Restoration Projects:

- DeWeese Reservoir Feasibility Study



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- Lower Grape Creek SMP
- Purgatoire SMP
- Oil Creek Diversion Project- Canon City River Restoration Project – not ready yet.

## Water Quality Projects:

- Science Plan – Data collection and mapping in-house.
- LAVWQWG – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Quality Working Group

Support RT Needs – working with committees and other groups

## Update Strategic Plan

- The original plan is still valid, but will benefit from updating and specificity
- Funding plan – aiming towards sustainable funding by 2020.

More specifics regarding supplemental funding for 2019. Bring to the roundtable and begin the ask here at the roundtable.

## **Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance – Amber Weber, Executive Director**

Mannie is president of DARCA. Amber became ED a few months ago.

The entire State of Colorado is represented by DARCA, and there are members from Arizona, Wyoming, and Kansas as well. Most members are agricultural, but there are also members that are municipalities, conservancy districts, policy makers, engineers, etc.

## What is DARCA

- It has primarily been an educational and outreach organization.
- Mediation and advocate
- Partnerships and networking
- Action-oriented/Advocacy
  - Legislation
  - Grant Guide
  - Grant writing and management services

## DARCA and the Ark Basin

- Workshops
- Host new events

**New Admin Email: [ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM)**

## **MEETINGS/LINKS:**

- Next Meeting – July 10, Pueblo Community College
- Env/Rec Committee – June 24, 10 am, Canon City
- ARWC – BOD business call, July 1, 10 am
- Needs Assessment Committee – June 27, 10 am, Canon City, Fremont
- C9 Statewide RT Summit – September 25, 26



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPO: [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwc.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>



Chelsey Nutter- Executive Director

Projects & Strategic Plan Update

# ARWC MAJOR MILESTONES



# PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, & MISSION

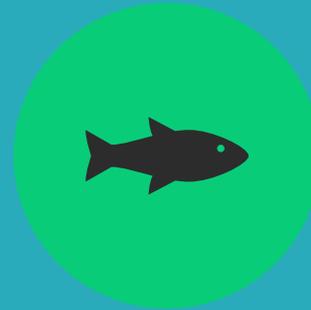
*The mission of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is to provide assistance to Arkansas Basin communities to address locally identified watershed issues for economic, ecological, and social benefit.*



# ARWC PROJECT CATEGORIES



Forest Health (Mitigation,  
Post Fire & Flood Recovery)



Restoration (SMP, River  
Restoration)



Water Quality (LAWQWG)



Stakeholder Engagement/  
Roundtable Support



CWPPS & WFDSS



Lake County Mitigation Project



Monarch Pass Forest/ Watershed Health



Hayden Pass Fire & Flood Recovery Project



Spring Creek Fire Recovery Project

## Forest Health Fuels Mitigation, Post-Fire & Flood

# MONARCH PASS PROJECT

- Demo Project for the State to Showcase New Cut to Length Technology
- Leverage Fed/ State/ Local and Private Funding
- \$400,000 CWCB Grant
- \$600,000 USFS Stewardship Agreement
- \$175,000 Water Providers/ Local Governments/ Private Match
- Final USFS Agreement Signed
- RFP for Contractors
- Begin Work this Fall!





DINKLE DITCH

# HAYDEN PASS

- \$250,000
- Hired Local Recovery Coordinator
- Created a Community Recovery Website
- Developing Partnerships and Potential Funding Sources through CDPHE, Forest Service, BLM, and TU
- Hired Hydrologist – Hydraulic and hydrologic modeling for risk assessment mapping
- Hand work with Volunteer Crews



# SPRING FIRE

- \$150,000 per phase – 3 phases
- Total = \$450,000
- Phase 1 – Working with AmeriCorps Volunteers 6 Weeks.
- Phase 2- Working with SWIFT Crew
- Phase 3- Sediment Basins
- Expect to Receive Funding from CDPHE (\$300,000)







# RESTORATION PROJECT

- DeWeese Reservoir Feasibility Study
- Lower Grape Creek SMP
- Purgatory SMP
- Oil Creek Diversion Project – Canon City River Restoration Project
  - Storm Water?
  - Recreation?
  - River Restoration?
  - Boater Safety?
  - Boater Take out?
  - Flooding?





# WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

- Science Plan
- LAVWQWG



SUPPORTING ROUNDTABLE NEEDS – ENV/REC, NEEDS ASSESSMENT, PEPO, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WATER FORUM, DARCA, ETC.

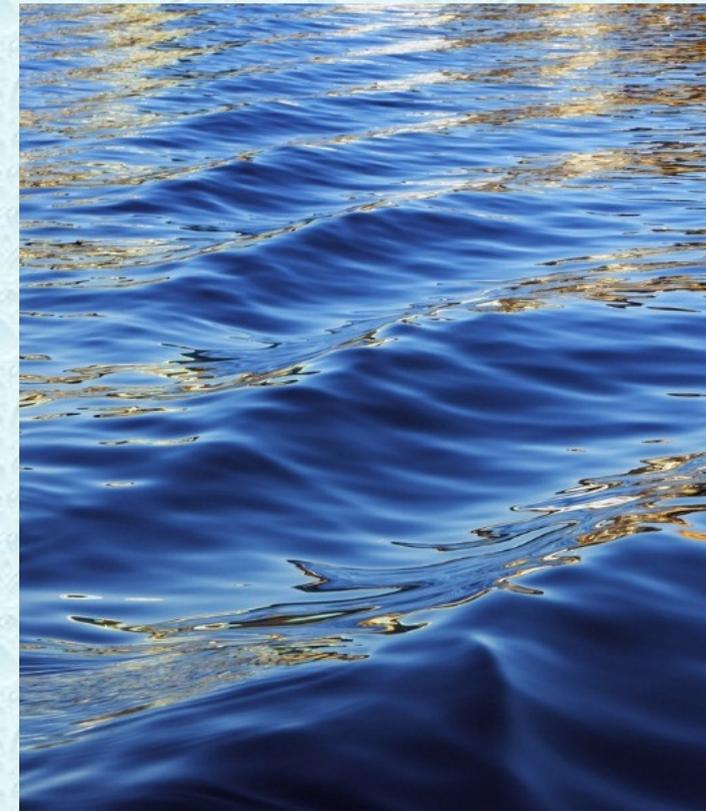
## NEXT STEPS & NEEDS.....

- UPDATE STRATEGIC PLAN
  - Stakeholder Input on Update (One on One Meetings)
- FUNDING PLAN
  - Ask Ark Basin Entities and Stakeholders for Support.
  - Unrestricted Funding is needed for Project Development and Stakeholder Engagement.
  - A Little Funding Will Go A Long Way.... Services Might Include:
    - Project Development
    - Stakeholder Engagement
    - Identification of Funding Sources
    - Grant Development
    - Project Management
    - Continued Support of Roundtable Needs (Executive Committee, Needs Assessment, Enviro/ Rec, PEPO)
- GOAL = SUSTAINABLE FUNDING BY 2020
- Funding will be leveraged with grants to stretch funding as far as possible to meet the needs of the Arkansas River Basin.



# The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA)

Amber Weber, Executive Director



# Who is DARCA?

- Ditch and Reservoir Companies, irrigation districts, laterals, private ditches, HOAs, etc.
- Conservancy Districts, Policy makers, Engineers, lawyers, etc.
- Water users and administrators
- Ag water interested parties



# What is DARCA?



- An education and outreach avenue
  - Annual conference and workshops
  - Our average water user does not attend CWC or other larger conferences, we bring information to them
- Mediation for ditch companies and municipalities or projects
- Partnerships and Networking
- Action-Oriented/ Advocacy
  - Legislation participation/discussion and education
  - Grant Guide- partnership with CAWA and other organizations
  - Grant writing and management services

# DARCA and the Ark Basin

- Workshops
  - Funded by the WSRF grant that was approved at the last CWCB meeting
- Looking to host more events in the Arkansas Basin to reach more potential members in the lower Ark basin and Kansas
  - This means more membership benefit and sponsorship benefits for the Arkansas Basin

Location	Date	Topic
Lamar	November	Ark DSS; how soil health affects our ag water
Canon City	TBD	Ark DSS; Ag Water uses and users
Alamosa	March	Needs are TBD

# New Benefits

**Membership Benefits-** all shareholders are DARCA members

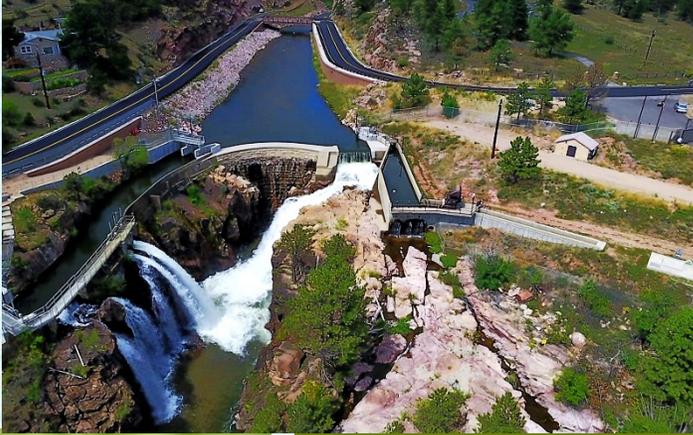
- Attendance at DARCA events at member rate for any board member, staff member or stockholder.
- Full access to the “members only” section of the DARCA website for all board members, staff or stockholders.
- DARCA e-newsletter subscriptions for DARCA members
- **All DARCA members are also CWC members and receive many CWC membership benefits**
- Access to the DARCA Ditch Company Handbook.
- Ability to find and share information among DARCA members.
- Ability to make local concerns known to the general membership.
- **Keyed into legislative discussions**
- **Information tailored to you, the member.**

**Sponsor Benefits (Platinum):**

- Five (5) registration tickets to the conference
- Prominent display of sponsor recognition at the conference
- Exhibitor space and prominent placement at event.
- Option to add brochures and premiums to registration packet
- Logo and link on the homepage of our website [www.DARCAColorado.org](http://www.DARCAColorado.org)
- Special “thank you” at event, on promotional posters, in news/media releases, and more.
- **Listed on our Resource/Contact List for use by our members**
- **Given a brief ten-minute speaking timeframe at the conference to speak to all members at once**

# More to DARCA than just education...

- Workshops
  - Tailored to our members
  - More of them
  - Bringing information to you and your shareholders
- Grant Guide
  - Not only will this be a comprehensive list, but a list of potential partners or matching organizations, the process, contact information, etc.
- Mediation between ditch companies and organizations
  - Municipalities vs. ditch companies
  - Projects
- What additional benefits could DARCA offer?
- My goals:
  - To add more benefits to our members and sponsors.
  - To be the “definitive resource for networking, information exchange, and advocacy among ditch and reservoir companies, irrigation districts, laterals, and private ditches”
  - Be more than just a conference
  - To travel across the state of Colorado to meet all members, potential members, and sponsors to determine needs



# Questions?

Email: [darca.email@gmail.com](mailto:darca.email@gmail.com) or  
[darcaconference@gmail.com](mailto:darcaconference@gmail.com)

Call: 719-688-9941

Visit: [www.darca.org](http://www.darca.org)

