

**Interim Water Resources Review Committee
2012 Topic Suggestions
Colorado Water Congress**

South Platte Ground Water Studies

Study the South Platte high water table issue with a scientifically designed study on the groundwater – surface water interaction on the South Platte and ground water availability and re-charge.

Possible mini-conference in Sterling (harvest time) - look at the situation first hand, deepen understanding of the South Platte, and possible visit to the Overland Trail Museum.

Environmental/Land Use

Species Conservation Trust Fund

There are a variety of activities related to the annual bill for species conservation.

Wildlife-Urban-Water Interface

Add to the urban /wild land interface studies a focus on the water corridors in those areas and how we can "harden" for lack of a better term, the health of those water corridors before the forest fires hit.

Colorado Division of Water Resources

Consolidation of Division of Water Resources Funds

Bill was supported by the Interim Committee last year.

Funding for the Division of Water Resources Related to Water Administration

Ensuring adequate funding for water administration remains a major concern for water providers.

Colorado River

Colorado River Cooperative Agreement Status Update

Historic agreement among governments.

Bureau of Reclamation Colorado River Basin Study

The Bureau of Reclamation will complete (July) its study of water use and availability for the Colorado River.

CWCB Risk Management Colorado River Study

The CWCB is beginning a process on water use and development in the Colorado River Basin and the risks associated with future development.

Water Development

Streamlining Water Project Development Process

How can the state streamline the process for water projects and try to reduce the upfront costs without sacrificing any environmental evaluation?

Status of Actual Water Development

With all of the discussion about the Gap, do we really have a good understanding of what water development is really proceeding?

Future Use Allocation

As the CWCB begins to designate ISFs downstream of developed areas, water providers do not know where, how much, or for what purpose a water right is needed.

Therefore, if a reasonable amount of water could be held, senior to the ISF, by a local public agency so that when the actual need became evident, a portion of the FUA could be transferred to the applicant. Thus a reasonable amount of water could be preserved for future use, but still be senior to the ISF.

This is how Durango's RICD is structured. We were successful in obtaining such a water right, only because there were no objectors. La Plata Co & Southwest WCD jointly hold the water right Whereas, in the case of the recent ISF filing on the San Miguel below Nucla, it was clear both San Miguel Co & Sheep Mountain Alliance would object & probably be successful in preventing such a water right being granted on "speculation" grounds.

Water Adjudication

Technical Correction of Decreed Headgate Locations

The State Engineer's office is very concerned with this, because they have been taking GPS measurements and making other efforts to locate headgates, and find many disparities between the location in the applicable decree and the actual location.

Evaluating Historic Consumptive Use after the FRICO Case

Application of legal principles resulted in substantial reductions of permissible irrigated acreage and reductions in adjudicated consumptive use in ditch systems that had been irrigating the acreage at issue for 100 or more years. From the standpoint of the water user holding a senior irrigation right in a mutual ditch company, the rulings created a huge amount of uncertainty regarding the nature of the rights held.

Non-tributary Replacement Well Permitting

Historic use of a well is a significant issue when applying for a permit to replace that well. Issue has arisen in Bennett regarding what happens when a well has to be replaced before actual pumping has reached the original permitted capacity

Water Rights Abandonment List

Postpone the abandonment list for this time around. The SEO has severe financial shortfalls and this adds to his burden; there is no requirement in our relationships with other states that we go through an abandonment process. This is a wholly in-state process of our own making; some of the rights on the abandonment list on the Colorado River are pre compact, or could be pre compact water rights.

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