

Ag to Urban Transfers of Water: Can Ditch Companies Come Out Ahead?

Convention Day One - Thursday, February 19, 2009

Focus On: **Laying the Groundwork – Is it a Problem or an Opportunity?**

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast** – Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Phil Bertrand, Superintendent of the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and
President of DARCA

9:15 a.m. **Opening Keynote - Anticipated Ag to Urban Water Transfers and Urbanization of Ag Lands
in Colorado: How Can We Deal with the Challenge?**
Don Ament, Former Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

10:15 a.m. **Networking and Exhibits. - Enjoy Refreshments & Snacks.**

10:45 a.m. **The Crowley County Buy and Dry Experience**
Ken Weber, Anthropologist
Matt Heimerich, Crowley County Commissioner

11:15 a.m. **Facilitated Dialogue of Ditch Company Shareholders/Stakeholders:
What are the Pros and Cons of Ag to Urban Water Transfers?**

- ◆ MaryLou Smith, Facilitator, Aqua Engineering, Inc. & Shareholder in Loudon Ditch, Ft. Collins
- ◆ Carol Werner, Attorney; Shareholder in Tetsel Mutual Ditch Company, Merino
- ◆ Dan Henrichs, Superintendent of the High Line Canal Co., Rocky Ford
- ◆ Bruce Johnson, Real Estate Broker & Shareholder in the New Cache La Poudre, Greeley
- ◆ Lelyn Larson, Farmer, Rancher & Shareholder in the New Cache La Poudre, Gill

12:00 noon **Lunch & Speaker**
150 years of Ditches, Boulder's Constructed Landscape
Elizabeth Black, Artist and Show Organizer, "The Ditches of Boulder"

Focus On: **What's Happening in Colorado?**

1:00 p.m. **Transfer Mechanisms for Alternatives to Buy-and-Dry**
John Wiener, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado

1:45 p.m. **State of Colorado's Efforts to Facilitate Alternatives to Buy and Dry**
Todd Doherty, Intrastate Water Management and Development Section, CWCB

- 2:15 p.m. **Arkansas Basin Water Transfer Guidelines Committee**
Reeves Brown, Rancher and guidelines committee member
- 2:45 p.m. **Networking and Exhibits.—Enjoy Refreshments & Snacks.**
- 3:15 p.m. **City of Greeley - Leasebacks to Buy and Dry, Challenges for the Region**
Sean Cronin, Water Resources Manager, City of Greeley
- 3:45 p.m. **The Super Ditch in the Arkansas Valley**
Dale Mauch, Board member of the Super Ditch
- 4:15 p.m. **Practical Alternatives to Ag Water Transfers in the South Platte to Preserve Irrigated Agriculture**
Mark Sponsler, Executive Director, Colorado Corn Growers Association,
Member, Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance
- 4:45 p.m. **Input/Feedback - What do you think about what you have heard today?**
- 6:00 p.m. **Happy Hour**
- 7:00 p.m. **Dinner & Speaker**
Changing Hydrologic Conditions & Their Impact on River Flows
Robert Longenbaugh, Retired Water Engineer

Convention Day Two – Friday, February 20, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast with the Board**
- 8:30 a.m. **DARCA Annual Board Meeting**
Election of board members and other DARCA business. If you would like to become more involved with DARCA, please consider running for a position on the Board of Directors.

***Focus On:* Legal and Institutional Issues**

- 9:00 a.m. **How Drought Has Shaped Colorado Water Law**
Justice Greg Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court
- 10:00 a.m. **Networking and Exhibits.—Enjoy Refreshments & Snacks.**
- 10:30 a.m. **The Merits of Regional Water Transfer Frameworks**
Peter Nichols, Esq. Trout, Raley, Montañó, Witwer & Freeman, P.C.,
General Counsel of the Super Ditch
- 11:15 a.m. **Wrap Up: As a ditch company shareholder, what's your take on ag water transfers? Is it a problem or an opportunity? What are the impediments? How do you see your ditch company dealing with the challenge?**
Facilitated dialogue with participants
- 12:00 noon **Convention Ends**

7th Annual DARCA Convention, Pueblo Convention Center, Feb 18-20, 2009

Pre-convention workshop on Feb 18: *Owner's Guide to Dam Safety, Operation, and Maintenance*

For more information or to register: www.darca.org ♦ (970) 412-1960 ♦ john.mckenzie@darca.org Page 2