

**Winter  
Already?**  
November 2019



## Contact Us

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## 2019 Conference Sponsors:

Serving Bent, Crowley, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo counties  
**Lower Arkansas Valley WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**



# Ditch & Reservoir Company Alliance

## Newsletter Volume II, Edition I

*New Look, New Logo*

DARCA is getting a facelift! The Board of Directors has decided that it is time to spruce up the aesthetics of DARCA, and we want your help! Whether you are a student, ditch rider, designer, etc., we want your designs for the future of DARCA. I'd like to introduce to you our Logo Contest:

- Submit your design(s) to Amber at [darca.email@gmail.com](mailto:darca.email@gmail.com) by January 10, 2020 in either a PDF or JPEG (or similar format).
- Logo must encompass all aspects of water, not just agricultural, as DARCA serves and supports municipalities, engineers, etc. statewide.
- The selected winner will receive a full registration to the annual conference and DARCA "swag" with the new logo on it and recognition at the 2020 Conference in Palisade in March 2020!

## *DARCA Board Openings*

DARCA has board openings for voting board members in the Rio Grande basin and the Yampa/North Platte region. If you are interested, please write a letter of intent describing your vision of DARCA and how you plan to be involved. Submit the letter and your questions to Amber Weber by January 10, 2020. The letter will be brought to the board for discussion and voting at the annual conference.

## 811 and PFAs

Two things that DARCA is actively researching are 811 and how that influences our water delivery entities and PFAs and the water and soil quality implications stemming from the impairment. DARCA is currently investigating both ramifications and how to inform all our members on these two topics.

811 is typically looked at as a voluntary service that one calls before (s)he digs, however legislation passed last round that includes water delivery



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"Every drop counts ~ Count every drop"



**COLORADO WATER TRUST**

systems in a mandatory registration with 811, mapping of the system, locating sites, etc. This is a cumbersome task for many of our ditch systems. Should you want more information, need training, mapping assistance, etc., please call or email Amber and she will walk you through the next steps and assist you in the process.

PFAs are relatively new for DARCA, but it's something that impacts our water users, crop and livestock producers, etc. and will need to be addressed at some point because these PFAs hinder water and soil quality leading to additional issues. If you want to chat more about this, let Amber know.

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### *Upcoming Events*

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We are so excited to announce our annual conference! Block off March 5-6<sup>th</sup> for the conference at the Wine Country Inn in Palisade, Colorado. Speakers are still being confirmed and times may change, but here is our draft agenda! Note, there are changes to the structure of the conference to maximize our time together. Please call the Wine Country Inn to reserve your rooms at the DARCA rate at (970) 464- 5777. If you want to attend or sponsor the conference, please visit [www.darca.org](http://www.darca.org).

#### **DARCA Conference, Palisade 2020 What is Our Water Worth?**

##### Thursday, March 5, 2020

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 7:30 – 8:30  | Exhibit set up and Registration   |
| 8:30 – 11:30 | Tour of Roller Dam, canal systems, etc.- Mark Harris, Grand Valley Water Users Association                            |
| 12:00 – 2:00 | DARCA annual board meeting and elections with lunch (not included in registration cost.)- Open to public              |
| 2:00 – 2:30  | Keynote Speaker: Will be announced soon!  |
| 2:35 – 2:45  | Introduction to Board and Executive Director and Welcome from Wine Country Inn- Amber Weber, DARCA Executive Director |
| 2:50 – 3:20  | Alternative Valuation Methods for conservation easements- Guest   |
| 3:20 – 3:35  | Break   |
| 3:35 – 4:05  | Pilot Project for Conservation Easements- Lee Hancock, LAVWCD; Alex Funk, CWCB  |
| 4:10 – 4:40  | Valuing Our Water for ATMs- Bill McKee  |
| 4:50 – 5:00  | Sponsor Spotlight- Platinum   |
| 5:05 – 5:35  | Farm Bill Update- Guest   |
| 5:40- 5:10   | Source Water Protection Methods- Guest  |
| 5:15 – 5:30  | Closing Remarks and commercial for the evening  |



Orchard Mesa Irrigation  
District

6:30 – 9:00 **Water to Wine Event: Dinner and wine program (irrigation types, wine process), annual auction at a local winery**

**Friday, March 6, 2020**

7:30 – 8:00 Exhibit and Registration

8:00 – 8:45 National/State production output and past and future weather update- Tom Lipetsky, Colorado Department of Agriculture and Russ Schumacher, Colorado Climatologist

8:50 – 9:20 Hemp and the value of our water; Phillip Chavez, Folium BioSciences

9:25 – 9:35 Sponsor Spotlight- Gold

9:35 – 9:45 Break

9:45 – 10:45 Water Use Across the State; Jack Goble, and others

10:50 – 11:00 Speaker Spotlight- Silver

11:05 – 11:35 How to Fund Your Future- Amber and guests

11:40 – 12:00 Agriculture Survey- Aaron Hrozencik, USDA-Economic Research Service

12:00 – 12:10 Break

12:10 – 12:40 Lunch and *Program*

12:45 – 12:55 Speaker Spotlight- Bronze

1:00 – 1:45 The Value of our Ag, Municipal, Environmental/Recreational, and HOA Water-, Rick Kientenz, Phil Bertrand, and others

1:50 – 2:20 Technology and Water- Can They Work Together? - DSS and other systems; - Brian McPherson, CWCB and Chuck Adams, 1Up Aerial Drone Services

2:25 – 2:55 Colorado 811 and Tiered Membership- Carla Sanchez, 811 Services

2:55 – 3:05 Break

3:05 – 3:35 Legislative Update- Chane Polo, Colorado Water Congress

3:40 – 4:10 Is Stream Management Planning Important for Agriculture?- Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance; Emma Reesor, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project; Nicole Seltzer, River Network; Tom Alvey, Rogers Mesa Fruit Co.

4:15 – 4:30 Sponsor Spotlight- Supporting level

4:35 – 4:45 Guest to wrap up

4:50 – 5:05 Friend of DARCA award and Mannie closing remarks

6:00 – 8:00 **Event: Dinner and Distillery tour- by RSVP**

**Workshops**

A DARCA workshop is being held on November 7-8<sup>th</sup> in Lamar, Colorado. After that, two workshops will be held both in Canon City and Alamosa, Colorado. If you live in those areas and would like to assist or host, please let Amber know. While these are the only workshops that are currently in the works, please call or email Amber with requests for other workshops.



