



# 2021 Lower Arkansas River Basin Virtual Tour

June 2, 12-1pm (Pre-tour networking event)

June 3, 2021 8:45am-12pm (Tour day)

*Draft Itinerary – 5/13/2021*

**Contact:** Scott Williamson, Education Programs Manager, [scott@wateredco.org](mailto:scott@wateredco.org)

## Goals:

- Illustrate strategies from the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and their broader application to statewide issues in Colorado's Water Plan;
- Showcase the nexus between water and local priorities (e.g. for agricultural viability, energy development, recreation, water quality, and environmental restoration);
- Convey the importance of partnerships and collaborations in water resource management, water supply planning, and habitat restoration;
- Help elected officials, community leaders and interested citizens gain a well-rounded, objective look at regional water management considerations so they leave feeling more equipped to engage in local and statewide water conversations and to approach leadership and decision-making roles with confidence.

**Registration:** limited to 60 participants to ensure all participants opportunities to engage in the Q&A session. Register now: <https://www.wateredco.org/2021-arkansas-river-basin-tour/>

**Cost:** \$125 WEco Member/\$150 Non-member. Scholarships available.

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## Pre-Tour Networking Event - June 2, 12pm-1pm

Join Water Education Colorado, our Title Sponsor for the tour, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and our Presenting Sponsor, Pueblo Water, for an introductory networking event on June 2. Get to meet fellow tour attendees, hear from our sponsors, and test your local water knowledge of the Lower Arkansas River Basin all in preparation for a dynamic tour experience on June 3!

### Networking Event Agenda

**12:00 p.m.** - Informal welcome & guest arrival

**12:05 p.m.** - Welcome & introduction of sponsors

Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

Leann Noga & Chris Woodka, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Joe Cervi, Pueblo Water

**12:15 p.m.** - Lower Arkansas River Basin Local Mini Trivia

Chris Woodka

**12:35 p.m.** - Speed Networking

**12:55 p.m.** - Closing & tour info for June 3

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## Virtual Tour Agenda – June 3, 8:45am-12pm

### Tour Part 1 – Welcome and Introduction to the Arkansas River Basin

#### Welcome to the Virtual Tour “Bus”

Speaker(s):

Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado  
Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

#### History of the Arkansas Basin

#### Big Picture/Overview Watershed Tour

Speaker(s):

Chris Woodka, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

#### Participant Introductions and Brief Networking

#### Welcome to the Virtual Tour “Bus”

Discussion Topic(s):

Colorado Water Plan and the importance of collaboration and multi-benefit solutions.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) and Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Priorities

Speaker(s):

Greg Felt, CWCB Representative from the Arkansas River Basin  
Mark Shea, Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chair

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## Tour Part 2 – Virtual Tour through the Lower Arkansas River Basin

### #1 Southern Delivery System (SDS) Juniper Pump Station

Discussion Topic(s):

Sourcing municipal water supplies. Southern Delivery System project history, location choice, and current service.

Speaker(s):

Abigail Ortega, Colorado Springs Utilities

### #2 Pueblo Riverwalk

Discussion Topic(s):

Municipal water supplies and collaborations among entities around Pueblo.

Speaker(s):

Alan Ward, Pueblo Water

### #3 Bessemer Farmland Conservation Project

Discussion Topic(s):

Continued evolution of alternatives to agricultural buy and dry, conservation easements, lease-fallowing.

Speaker(s):

Ed Roberson, Palmer Land Conservancy

### #4 Lower Huerfano River near confluence with Arkansas River

Discussion Topic(s):

Watersheds: Fire and Flood.

Speaker(s):

Carrie Adair, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

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## #5 Crowley County Heritage Center

Discussion Topic(s):

History of Crowley County, including water and economic impacts.  
Local economic picture.

Speaker(s):

Matt Heimerich, Palmer Land Conservancy

## #6 Rocky Ford Highline Lease

Discussion Topic(s):

Learning from early projects and the "birth" of Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs).  
Alternatives to permanent dry-up of irrigated agriculture.

Speaker(s):

Rick Kienitz, Aurora Water

## #7 Arkansas Valley Research Center - Agricultural irrigation water efficiency

Discussion Topic(s):

Irrigation efficiency in agriculture; Rule 10 and water efficiency legal issues,  
including the need for augmentation water.

Speaker(s):

Michael Bartolo, Ph.D, Colorado State University - Arkansas Valley Research Center  
Lane Simmons, Colorado State University - Arkansas Valley Research Center

## #8 Water Quality - Polyurea lateral lining project in Swink

Discussion Topic(s):

Water quality - nonpoint sources, water quality issues in the valley, best  
management practices.

Speaker(s):

Mike Weber, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

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## #9 Farm tour - Diamond A Farms

Discussion Topic(s):

Agriculture - soil health, water efficiency and maintaining agricultural productivity

Speaker(s):

Phillip Chavez, Diamond A Farms

## #10 Lower Purgatoire River near Confluence with Arkansas River

Discussion Topic(s):

Purgatoire River priorities and ongoing efforts; Tamarisk removal.

Speaker(s):

Julie Knudson, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership  
Steve Kastner, Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District

## #11 John Martin Reservoir: Environment and Recreation

Discussion Topic(s):

Environmental and recreational goals. Lower Arkansas River Watershed Plan. Fish and wildlife, ecosystem benefits and services in the Lower Arkansas.

Speaker(s):

Rena Griggs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## #12 John Martin Reservoir - Arkansas River Compact

Discussion Topic(s):

Compact Compliance and monitoring; Permanent pool in John Martin.

Speaker(s):

Bill Tyner, Division Engineer, Division II and Operations Secretary, Arkansas River Compact Administration

Discussion Topic(s):

Meeting compact obligations. Water sharing agreements.

Speaker(s):

Don Higbee, Lower Arkansas Water Management Association

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## Tour Part 3 – Live Q&A with Tour Speakers

Arkansas River Compact

Live Q&A in Break-out Rooms

*A chance to join and switch “rooms” with different tour speakers.*

Closing

DRAFT

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