



Demystifying Colorado Water for Legislators "Level 201" - Agricultural Water Needs and Solutions Agenda

March 22, 2023

7:30-8:45am

Colorado State Capitol Room HCR0112

This session will cover Colorado's agricultural water needs and solutions for adapting to a drier future. Presenters will cover various efforts underway across the state to strategically retire agricultural lands, research reduced consumptive use, modernize systems, preserve water quality, and achieve profitability using less water. The common aim is to create greater economic and environmental resiliency for the state's agricultural economy and local food ecosystem in the face of drought, reduced water availability, and competition from population growth.

7:30am **Welcome and Overview**

Jayla Poppleton, Executive Director, Water Education Colorado

7:35am **Intro to Ag Sector Water Challenges and Priorities**

Kate Greenberg, Commissioner of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Agriculture

7:45am **Collaborative Water Sharing in the Arkansas Basin**

Kelly Roesch, Project Manager for Agriculture in the Lower Ark Basin, Colorado Springs Utilities

8:00am **Adapting and Gaining Resilience on the Ground**

George Whitten, Regional Assistant Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and Board Member, Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Paul Kehmeier, Salinity Program Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Paul Bruchez, Rancher, Reeder Creek Ranch, and Board Member, Colorado Water Conservation Board

8:45am Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Doug Kemper, Executive Director, Colorado Water Congress

****Coffee and Grab and Go Breakfast for Legislators provided by Colorado Department of Agriculture**