SLVWCD Update!

Heather Dutton
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
Who’s Who?

- San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District
- Conejos Water Conservancy District
- CO Division of Water Resources (Division Engineer’s Office)
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD)

- Key Projects:
  - Provide augmentation water for small capacity wells.
    Augment commercial, municipal, and domestic uses.
  - Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Alamosa Counties
  - Provide office space, funding, and technical support for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project.

- Office Location: 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO

- Phone: 589-2230

- Manager: Heather Dutton

- Other Info: SLVWCD hosts Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Meetings
  - Second Tuesday of each month, 2:00pm. There are snacks!

*Heather serves as the Rio Grande Basin Representative on the CWCB
Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD)

- To enhance and protect the water rights of the citizens of the San Luis Valley who reside within the boundaries of the District.
  - Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, Alamosa, and Conejos Counties

- Key Projects:
  - Groundwater Management Subdistricts
  - Groundwater Monitoring Study
  - Habitat Conservation Plan for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed cuckoo
  - Local sponsor of the Closed Basin Project, agreement with BOR
  - Rio Grande Natural Area

- Office Location: 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO
- Phone: 589-6301
- General Manager: Cleave Simpson

*Cleave serves as a Rio Grande Basin Representative on the IBCC*
Key Projects:
- Platoro Reservoir
- Conejos Whole River Automation
- Sponsor of Conejos River Diversion and Headgate Replacement Projects
- Augmentation Program in Conejos Canyon

Office Location: 318 Main Street, Manassa, CO
Phone: 843-5261
Manager: Nathan Coombs

*Nathan is the chair of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable*
Division of Water Resources (DWR)

- Key Tasks:
  - Water Rights Administration
  - Well Permits
  - Rio Grande Compact Compliance
  - Measure Streamflow and Maintain Gages
  - RGDSS Modeling
  - Online Mapping Tools

- Office Location: 301 Murphy Drive, Alamosa, CO
- Phone: 589-6683
- Division Engineer: Craig Cotten
- Division 3 Know-It-All: Pat McDermott
Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)

- Key Tasks:
  - Roundtables and IBCC
  - Grants
  - Water Project Loans
  - Water Supply Planning – Colorado’s Water Plan
  - Interstate Issues
  - Stream and Lake Protection – Instream Flows
  - Flood, Fire, and Drought Response

- Office Location: 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, CO
- Phone: 303-866-3441
- CWCB Director: Becky Mitchell
- Rio Grande Basin Liaison: Megan Holcomb
- Rio Grande Basin Board Member: Heather Dutton
1972: The State Engineer issued rules for exempt and nonexempt wells.

DWR requires new nonexempt wells to be augmented.

Depletions replaced to impacted streams or Closed Basin.
The SLVWCD organized a Plan of Augmentation

- Purchased surface water rights
  - Transmountain
  - Native

- Changed the beneficial use to *augmentation*

- Wells that can be augmented:
  - Domestic
  - Commercial
  - Municipal
  - Agriculture

- Court decrees specify quantity of depletions for various water uses
  - SLVWCD works with DWR on “unique” situations.
SLVWCD Augmentation Program
This is how we do it!
Location of the Rio Grande Basin Soil Moisture Pilot Project Area

Rio Grande Basin in South Central Colorado

- Saguache County
- Rio Grande County
- Costilla County
- Conejos County
- Alamosa County
- Hinsdale County
- Mineral County
- San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
- Project Area Boundary
Rio Grande Water Leaders Course

March 4 - 8, 2019

The Rio Grande Water Leaders Course has been organized to provide the opportunity for 20 community members to engage in education and networking to prepare to take a future role in safeguarding, developing, and managing the water resources in the San Luis Valley.

Course Information

Where: Rio Grande Water Conservation District Office
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa
When: 6-9pm, March 4-8, 2019
Registration Fee: $30
Attendance at all meetings is required.

Applications Due February 18 at 5pm

Pick up applications at 623 Fourth St, Alamosa, or download from rio grande headwaters.org rgwcd.org slvwd.org
Drop off applications at 623 Fourth St, Alamosa, or email to leah@rio grande headwaters.org

For more information, contact Emma Reesor at 719-589-2230 or emma@rio grande headwaters.org
To Sign Up:

Probe Project
- Call Us: 589-2230
- Email: Matt@slvwcd.org

Water Leaders
- Submit An Application by February 18th
Other Big Things Happening in the Rio Grande Basin
Traditional Forecast, Forecast with Radar Data, Actual Flows

“The benefits of better observations and forecasts are tremendous. Our compact operations are based exclusively on streamflow forecasts. Inaccurate streamflow forecasts can cause unnecessary curtailment of ditches, over or under-delivery of compact obligations, and a disruption of the priority system.”

Craig Cotten, Division Engineer, CDWR, Division
Budget

Project Cost
Radar Production and Installation $700,000 - $1,000,000
Tower Design and Construction $300,000
Total $1,000,000 - $1,300,000

Project Funding
Colorado Water Conservation Board $375,000
Colorado Department of Transportation $125,000
RWEACT $360,000
Capital Development Committee $302,000
Total $1,162,000
Management and Maintenance

- Radar Management Group Comprised of Stakeholders
- Operations and maintenance expected to be $25,000-$40,000 annually.
- RGWCD, SLVWCD, CWCD, and SLVID have committed annual funds for operations and maintenance.
- Alamosa County, as the fiscal agent, will purchase and own the radar system and will provide the land and utilities at the airport.
- National Severe Storms Laboratory will process and share the data to users, including NWS.
Ongoing River Projects
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

Executive Director – Emma Reesor
- 589-2230
- Emma@riograndeheadwaters.org
Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Program - Before
Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Program - After
Instream Infrastructure Improvement

- Work with irrigators to improve diversion infrastructure, resulting in:
  - Reduced maintenance
  - Improved efficiency (automation)
  - Improved water quality
  - Enhanced aquatic habitat
  - Riparian restoration
  - Community engagement
Instream Infrastructure Improvement

Prairie Ditch Diversion - Before
Prairie Ditch Dam Replacement

Prairie Ditch Diversion - After
What’s Next?
Stream Management Plans

Locally Prioritized Streams:

- Rio Grande
- Conejos River
- Saguache Creek

Engage partners, collect and summarize data, develop and implement projects that improve water management and river conditions.
BEST FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY. BEST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. BEST FOR COLORADO.