



**COLORADO DIVISION OF  
WATER RESOURCES**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 818  
Denver, CO 80203

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# StreamLines

Newsletter of the Office of the State Engineer

## Ditch and Reservoir Operators Workshop March 9, 2009

Over 250 people attended the first ever Ditch and Reservoir Operators Workshop held in Greeley on March 9, 2009. Unlike other symposiums and conferences which tend to focus on long-term planning and supply issues for managers, this workshop focused on the specifics of actually operating a ditch or reservoir. Topics at



Colorado Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs makes a presentation to the Workshop attendees

the conference included water measurement devices, Excel for ditch and reservoir companies, introduction into dam safety, invasive species control, Colorado Division of Water Resources website navigation for data, technology in use of data loggers and telemetry, water supply forecasting, and a basic history of water development.

Dick Wolfe, State Engineer, was the luncheon speaker sharing information on statewide issues focusing on issues associated with compacts, well issues in the

various basins and the state the budget situation. Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs spoke concerning significant legal principles and recent Colorado Supreme Court decisions associated with water administration. The conference was a great success and is aligned with the Division's mission to educate users assisting in assuring the maximum beneficial use of the state's water

allocation while protecting water rights users.

Special recognition should be given to Division of Water Resources employee Brent Schantz for the vision for the conference and spearheading its implementation. Brent received DWR's Leadership of the Year award based

on this and other work he does as the lead water commissioner on the South Platte below Greeley.



Colorado Foundation for Water Education  
Display Board

## Photos from Ditch and Reservoir Operators Workshop



Audience with educational and vendor displays along the wall



Tom Ley, CDWR, presents to a break-out session concerning Water Measurement



Alan Halley, Northern Water, presents to a break-out session concerning Applications of Technology in Water Measurement and Supply



Don Magnuson, New Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company, presents to a break-out session concerning Applications of Technology in Water Measurement and Supply



Elizabeth Brown, Division of Wildlife, presents during a panel discussion concerning Invasive Species



## DWR's Dam Safety Branch meets with Colorado's Congressional Staff

Mark Haynes, Chief of the Safety Dams Program for the Division of Water Resources, recently returned from Washington, D.C., where he attended the quarterly Board of Directors meeting for the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO). As the State of Colorado's representative to ASDSO, Mr. Haynes was elected to the Board of Directors of the association last September. The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following national and local dam safety issues and actions: legislative advocacy pertaining to the appropriations for the National Dam Safety Program and the Small Watershed Program, and the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act before Congress; fostering partnerships with national organizations such as NRCS, USSD, COE, ASFPM and NHWC; status of the Department of Homeland Security dam sector activities as they relate to national and local dam security; update on the implementation of the National Levee Safety Program by the chairman of the National Levee Safety committee; requirements for the upcoming updates to the National Inventory of Dams and Performance Parameters database by the States; and, discussions on the updates to the Constitution and Bylaws of the association and revisions to the National Dam Safety Program Act.

While in Washington D.C., the members of the ASDSO Board of Directors also participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Policy Week and Congressional visits to bring attention to the condition of our nation's infrastructure. ASCE recently completed their 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which identified serious deficiencies in the nation's infrastructure due mainly to the aging and deteriorating facilities. In the Report Card, the nation's infrastructure was broken up into thirteen major categories, and America's infrastructure was given an overall grade of a "D". The condition of the nation's dams was also given a grade of "D". The local section of ASCE also prepared a Report Card for Colorado's infrastructure where the overall grade was considered to be a "C+" with the dams in the state given a grade of "B". The grade for the dams was



Left to right: David O'Sadnick (Golder & Assoc.), Jeff May (president, Colorado's ASCE Section), Representative John Salazar, Matthew McDole (L.S. Gallegos), John France (URS Corp.), Mark Haynes (Colorado Division of Water Resources)

attributed to effectiveness of DWR's dam safety program to inspect and identify deficiencies at dams and the CWCB's low-interest loan program to help dam owners in repairing their existing dams.

This year, ASCE concentrated their efforts on obtaining support for various acts and bills related to dams, aviation and surface transportation. The Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act being reintroduced to

Congress will provide \$200 million over five years for the repair and rehabilitation of existing publicly owned dams. The act was introduced to 100th Congress and was narrowly defeated last year due lack of funding. Colorado currently has 30 dam repair projects approved for publicly owned dams and ready for construction totaling approximately \$11.5 million in construction costs. During Mr. Haynes' Congressional Hill visits, he spoke with the offices of Senators Udall and Bennet, and Representatives Salazar, Markey and Coffman to encourage support for the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act. He also spoke personally with Representative Salazar and his staff, who is one of the key sponsors for the Act, regarding the Act. Mr. Haynes was also requested by the offices of Representatives Salazar and Markley to provide them with more information on the dams and deficiency dams in their respective districts.



Seated starting on left: Robert Stevens (Arcadis Corp.), Mark Haynes, John France, Matthew McDole, Ian Lyle (staff member of Senator Udall), Amber Kauffman (TEC Engineers), David O'Sadnick



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 7** Colorado Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors Meeting, Denver, Colorado; for more information, contact Laura Kalafus at 303-866-3581
- May 15** Colorado Ground Water Commission Meeting, Parker, Colorado; for more information, contact Rick Nielsen at 303-866-3581
- May 19-20** Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting, Pueblo, Colorado; for more information, contact Lisa Barr at 303-866-2599
- July 7** Colorado Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors Meeting, Denver, Colorado; for more information, contact Laura Kalafus at 303-866-3581