Received
County Adminstration
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Colorado Water Workshop

Jeff Sellen, Director (970) 943-3162 jsellen@western.edu

May 16, 2013

Mr. Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Gunnison County
200 E. Virginia, Suite 104
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Mr. Birnie:

I am writing today to request your support for this year's Colorado Water Workshop at Western State Colorado University. Over the past 36 years, the Water Workshop has grown to be a trusted forum, where, in the words of Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregg Hobbs, "the whole water community shows up" for two days of thoughtful and forward-looking presentations on the most pressing issues of the day. This year's theme is "Planning for the New Normal."

Governor Hickenlooper has recently directed the Colorado Water Conservation Board to develop a statewide water plan. Given the uncertainties that we face (population growth, climate change, new political and economic realities), this planning process will be vital to the future of our state. The current drought only serves to underscore the urgency of the task. At this year's Water Workshop, we will begin with a half day in which we ask, "What is the new normal?" On Thursday and Friday we will then explore the ways in which we can plan for this new normal.

The Workshop will be held July 17-19 on the WSCU campus in Gunnison. Topics for this year's workshop will include:

- A New Normal for the Colorado River Compact?
- Planning for Metropolitan Growth
- The New Normal for the Rio Grande Basin
- Riparian Values and Instream Flows
- Urban, Suburban, and Rural Interfaces
- Fire and Beetle Kill: A New Normal for our Forested Watersheds
- Planning in the Basins: The IBCC and the Basin Roundtables

In addition to our regular program, there will be a number of recreational/educational activities. WSCU President Helman is hosting a POND Networking event for the Workshop at his on-campus residence on Wednesday evening, July 17. At recent Workshops, a large percentage of the participants were there for the first time. We hope that networking events like this, as well as a stimulating agenda, will further extend our reach. On Thursday evening, the Workshop will collaborate with Gunnison's I-Bar Ranch to bring you the singer/songwriter Michael Martin Murphy. Finally, on Thursday morning, participants will choose one of the following excursions: Boat Tour into the Black Canyon, Rafting on the Gunnison, or a Tour of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in nearby Gothic, Colorado. Each of these Thursday morning events is free of charge to Workshop participants.

The Colorado Water Workshop is a not for profit enterprise, and would not exist without your generous support. There is widespread enthusiasm for the Water Workshop this year, and your sponsorship will reflect the value you place on education and balanced dialog on pressing water issues. Sponsorship will also demonstrate your leadership in the "water world," and your organization will benefit from prominent listing on the conference program and other conference materials. Your pledge of support also comes with complimentary registrations according to the following contribution schedule:

Partners	$5,000 and up: 6 complimentary conference registration plus free display space
Grantors	$3,000 to $4999: 4 complimentary registrations plus free display space
Donors	$2,000 to $2,999: 3 complimentary registrations plus free display space
Benefactors	$1,000 to $1,999: 2 complimentary registrations plus free display space
Sponsors	$500 to $999:1 complimentary registration plus free display space

I offer my sincere gratitude for your consideration of sponsorship of this year's Colorado Water Workshop and for your generous support for past workshops. Checks may be made out to Colorado Water Workshop, Western State Colorado University, and sent to the Colorado Water Workshop, 600 North Adams Street, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison, CO 81231. Please don't hesitate to contact me you have questions.

We look forward to hosting you this July.

Jeff Sellen