

SEO Forum 2010 - "Biographies of our speakers"



Steve Witte

The Division Engineer for Division 2, which includes the Arkansas River Basin within Colorado. Steve's responsibilities include distribution and regulation of the waters within natural streams of the basin according to the priority allocation system and the terms of the Arkansas River Compact.

The Colorado Division of Water Resources has employed Steve since graduation from the Colorado School of Mines in 1978. Steve has served as a staff engineer in the Water Supply Branch of the State Engineer's Office, as Assistant Division Engineer in Water Division 3 (Rio Grande), as Division Engineer in Water Division 6 (Yampa, White, and North Platte) and as Division Engineer in Water Division 2 since 1988.

Dick Wolfe

Dick Wolfe was appointed the State Engineer and Director of the Colorado Division of Water Resources on November 26, 2007. As State Engineer, Dick is responsible for the direction and management of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, which has a staff of 252 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$27 million. The Division is responsible for distribution and administration of water in accordance with statutes and interstate compacts; the implementation of a statewide dam safety program; the permitting of the use of ground water and construction of wells; the collection and dissemination of data on water use and stream flow; and conducting various studies concerning water resources and the availability of water supplies. The State Engineer is Colorado's commissioner on five interstate compacts and is responsible for assuring compliance with these compacts. The State Engineer is also the Executive Director of the Colorado Ground Water Commission and is the Secretary of the Board of Examiners for Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors.

Mr. Wolfe's education experience includes a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University in 1983 and 1986 respectively. He is an Advisory Board Member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University. Mr. Wolfe is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and authored several articles in various publications, including *"Water Administration: State Engineer's Office"* in the Colorado Water Law Bench Book. Dick led the South Platte Task Force in examining water issues in the Northeast Colorado Basin and made recommendations on possible solutions to the challenges facing the state's water users.

Dick is a native of Colorado and was raised on a farm in Weld County. Dick also served on the Fort Lupton City Council and was the mayor of Fort Lupton from 1995 to 1997. Dick was a partner with Spronk Water Engineers for seven years specializing in water resources on various water right issues in Colorado, Kansas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Dick has been with the Division since 1993.

Kevin Rein

Kevin is the Assistant State Engineer – Intrastate Water Supply and Litigation in the Denver office of the Division of Water Resources (State Engineer's Office). In addition to providing support to the State Engineer on general matters, Kevin manages and is directly involved with the teams that perform well permitting, subdivision water supply review, substitute water supply plan review, water court activity review and numerous other duties associated with the administration of surface and ground water in the state. Kevin is a native of Colorado, a registered professional engineer in the state, and has worked for the Division of Water Resources for the past twelve years.

Thomas W. Ley, PE, PhD

Tom is the Chief Program Manager of the Hydrographic and Satellite Monitoring Branch for the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Duties include coordination with cooperating Federal, State and private entities; coordination with the State Engineer and other sections of the Division of Water Resources; management of the expenditure of the funds allocated to the program; streamflow record review and quality control; and direct operation and maintenance of local stream gages. Tom is also responsible for the two periodic publications of the section: a periodic report on the status of the Satellite-Linked Water Resources Monitoring System (SMS) and the annual publication of final stream flow records developed by the Branch each water year. Additional on-going work activities include technical coordination of projects with Colorado State University (CSU) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to: 1) improve and enhance the CoAgMet weather network in the lower Arkansas River Valley, and 2) establish, operate, and manage two precision weighing lysimeters for crop coefficient research at the CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford CO.

Tom's education includes a PhD, Irrigation Engineering at Utah State University, Logan UT in 1995, hydraulic design; water supply development and conveyance; stochastic hydrology; surface, sprinkle and trickle irrigation design; biophysics of plant canopies; applied soil physics; experimental design; drainage engineering. MS, Agricultural Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO in 1978, Irrigation and Drainage, groundwater hydrology; natural resources law; managerial considerations in irrigation engineering; irrigation pumping systems; drainage. BS, Agricultural Engineering, Colorado State University, Ft Collins CO in 1977, hydraulic engineering; hydrology; soil mechanics; fluid mechanics; surface irrigation; sprinkler irrigation; engineering statistics; Fortran programming.

Tom's previous work experience includes Senior Irrigation Engineer, Winrock International, EPIQ Water Policy Team, Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, Imbaba, Cairo, Egypt. (Acting Team Leader/ Chief of Party from 1997 to 1998. These duties consisted of a multi-disciplinary team of engineers, economists and sociologists working with senior-level Ministry officials to analyze current water resources management policy and practice in Egypt and develop recommended strategies for policy enhancements and reforms needed to maximize the overall utilization efficiency and productivity of Egypt's water resources, primarily the Nile River. From 1983 to 1997 Tom was the Extension Irrigation Engineer and Associate Professor for the Cooperative Extension at Washington State University for the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, WA.

Scott C. Cuthbertson, P.E.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, Scott began his career as a refinery process design engineer for Conoco in refineries throughout the continental United States and England. In the mid-80s, Scott's focus shifted from process design to environmental aspects of refinery operations eventually becoming the Director of Environmental Affairs for Conoco refinery operations in the Western United States. Subsequent partnerships in environmental consulting and remediation businesses led to Scott's current role as Assistant State Engineer for Colorado. Experience gained over the last 30 years as a manager, design engineer and business owner crafted an accomplished appreciation for the big picture blending technical, regulatory and personnel needs. Nothing is more enjoyable for Scott than helping teams use process based systems to find creative solutions.

Representative Sal Pace

(D) Dist. 46, Pueblo County. Representative Pace is a professor at the Colorado State University-Pueblo campus, is the Assistant Majority Caucus Chair, Vice-Chair of the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee and a member of Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. Sal is also a member of the Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Joint Judiciary Committee. Sal and his wife Marlene reside in Pueblo, Colorado.