



WESTERN PLACES/WESTERN SPACES CONFERENCE

HOT, DRY, AND CROWDED: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The West of the future will be warmer and more populous, and as a result, will face significant challenges with respect to our water supplies, our ability to withstand unpredictable weather patterns and extreme storm events, and our capacity to preserve our economy and our quality of life while adapting to the coming changes. The climate is changing, but we *can* do something about it.

Land use planning, water planning, and disaster mitigation are just a few of the tools available to help prepare for an uncertain future. We can work now to prepare our communities and landscapes for the impacts we are sure to experience. We can use design to create places that are more sustainable and adaptable. We can use integrated water and land use planning to help stretch dwindling water supplies. We can use our natural systems to create more resilient communities that are cooler and more connected. And we can work to ensure that the communities of our future are more equitable, affordable, and inclusive.

For RMLUI's 29th Western Places/Western Spaces conference, we will be looking at the ways in which we can use design, planning tools, and creative approaches to better plan for a future that will be different from the known past. The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is partnering with us to develop a track focused on integrating land use and water planning. In addition, we will consider how our built environments, using mixed use design, transportation infrastructure, and even building codes, can help reduce our impact on climate change and create a more comfortable and sustainable living environment. We will explore how our natural systems and outdoor spaces can be designed for greater resilience, cooler micro-climates, and more water-wise landscaping. We also will focus on rural resilience and how to adapt sustainability innovations and new technologies to small towns and rural communities. Finally, we will consider how climate change is likely to affect our natural resources—from our recreational playgrounds to our economic engines—and discuss ways in which our land use strategies can or should adapt in anticipation of changes across our Western landscapes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

8:30AM – 10:00AM

2020 Keynote — Shaping Community in the Era of Climate Change: Seven Thoughts for a More Sustainable Future

Climate change is the definitive environmental challenge of the 21st century, and our current land use patterns are making it worse, not better. In this fast-moving presentation of the latest data alongside vivid photographs and aspirational images, Kaid Benfield will set the stage for a better way forward, emphasizing why we cannot forget about suburbs, how human-scale density can be our friend, why Americans don't walk much, how there's a wonder drug for cities and towns and why, ultimately, sustainability must come from the heart.

F. Kaid Benfield, Senior Counsel, PlaceMakers, LLC

Kaid Benfield is one of the country's most steadfast voices for making cities, towns, and neighborhoods work better for both people and the environment. Based in Washington, DC, he serves as senior counsel at PlaceMakers LLC, a city and town planning consultancy working across the United States and Canada.

Before joining PlaceMakers in 2015, Kaid worked for over thirty years as a senior attorney and program director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where he founded and led the organization's sustainable communities program and, before that, managed the litigation of some of the organization's most important legal cases.

10:15AM – 11:45AM

A Climate of Change: Confidentiality, Conflicts & Public Citizenship

The practice of land use and environmental law presents many ethical conundrums in the era of climate change. This session will explore ethical issues for lawyers, engaging a roundtable discussion among legal ethics experts and practitioners working on legal matters related to climate change. These experts will explore a number of common ethical problems, such as those arising in the context of increasing protests in support of, and against, clients, as well as how to deal with potential conflicts between agency experts and their political bosses in a regulatory context. They will also field and discuss questions from the audience

Speakers:

Eli Wald, Charles W. Delaney Jr. Professor, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Kevin Lynch, Associate Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

James Martin, Shareholder, Beatty & Wozniak

Can Gentrification Be Ethical in Planning?

The word “gentrification” in the planning community can be viewed as a positive, negative, or often misused description. This session will explore the intersection of ethics, gentrification, and planning, offering educated solutions from experts with differing viewpoints in a roundtable format with audience participation. The session will deal with questions of equity in planning and how ethics and gentrification interact within the scope of planning. The panelists each bring different insight into the topic of ethics and gentrification and allow for the conversation to be well-rounded while not silencing any views on the topic.

Moderator:

Stewart Kane, Third Year Law Student, University of Nebraska College of Law

Speakers:

Yvette Freeman, Senior Strategist, Progressive Urban Management Associates

Erica Heller, Senior Planning Manager, Brendle Group

Jeremy Németh, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Colorado Denver

Tareq Wafaie, Principal, Clarion Associates

Hot Topics in Water & Land Planning for Climate Adaptation

This session will highlight climate issues, particularly regarding an increasingly hot, dry and crowded western United States. Speakers will focus on current controversies related to climate mitigation and adaptation actions that can be taken within water planning and the intersection of land and water.

Moderator:

Faith Sternlieb, Program Manager, Babbitt Center for Land & Water Policy

Speakers:

Brad Udall, Senior Water & Climate Research Scientist, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University

Kathy Jacobs, Director, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions, University of Arizona

Sarah Fox, Assistant Professor of Law, Northern Illinois University

Creating and Preserving Affordable Housing in the West: Challenges and Solutions

Development and preservation of affordable housing has universal challenges: the costs of land, labor, materials and capital are the most basic. The need to keep rents affordable for lower-income families requires efficiencies in construction and operation, as well as limiting debt to the extent possible by using scarce grant funds. Affordable development is even more difficult in rural areas, where incomes are lower and the costs of labor and materials are often higher. Add in the scarcity of financial resources and increased competition for them, and the barriers to the creation and preservation of housing in rural areas become even higher. This session will examine those challenges and present information on how they are being met in the West.

Moderator:

Rodger Hara, Principal, Community Builders Realty Services

Speakers:

Suzanne Anarde, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Mark Berry, Attorney, Law Office of Mark Berry

Robin Wolff, Senior Program Director, Enterprise Community Partners

12:00PM – 1:00PM

You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet: Transforming the Built Environment Through Its Nonresidential Spaces

Planners, public officials, and others do not focus enough on the nonresidential development opportunities that will reshape metropolitan areas. By 2050 (the blink of the proverbial eye), half of all such spaces will be repurposed in some fashion. Add driverless cars and e-scooters and the like to the mix, and we'll see that more than half of our parking lots will be surplussed. But the really interesting phenomenon is that total nonresidential space needs per capita will increase even if parking demand decreases. In this talk, Dr. Nelson will try and make sense of these trends and will show what the market is demanding for nonresidential spaces.

Speaker:

Arthur C. Nelson, Professor of Planning and Real Estate Development, University of Arizona

TOUR — 1:15PM – 4:30PM

Westminster Station: In Pursuit of a Community of Opportunity

Visit a compact, mixed-use, walkable urban neighborhood at Westminster Station and see how they have integrated a large urban drainage and flood control project with a 38-acre regional park, trail network, and innovative NaturePlay area for a diverse and underserved part of the community. In addition, speakers will discuss the role this transit hub plays in Westminster's Transportation and Mobility Plan and a balanced housing strategy that includes the local public housing authority as its largest landowner and socially conscious development partner.

Moderator:

Jenni Grafton, Housing and Transit Oriented Development Manager, City of Westminster

Speakers:

Nicole Ankeney, Senior Landscape Architect, City of Westminster

Kristin Decker, Deputy City Attorney, City of Westminster

Kristina Evanoff, Transportation and Mobility Planner, City of Westminster

Seth Plas, Senior Projects Engineer, City of Westminster

1:15PM – 2:45PM

Water Law & Policy 101

This session will provide an introduction to water law for non-lawyers (or at least non-water lawyers), Colorado River law and policy, and the evolution of state rules for sustainable water management. Topics for this presentation include, but are not limited to: adjudication, loss of rights, water markets, scenarios involving state ownership (e.g. instream flow, leasing), interstate compacts, tribal reserved rights, public rights, and practical implications (e.g. how often and what to do when a water user doesn't follow the paper right or records are inaccurate?).

Moderator:

Jim Holway, Director, Babbitt Center for Land & Water Policy, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Speakers:

James Eklund, Water Practice Lead, Squire Patton Boggs

Anne Castle, Senior Fellow, Getches-Wilkinson Center, University of Colorado

Emily Tibbott, Senior Program Advisor, California Strategic Growth Council

How Green Is My Infrastructure: What You Need to Know about the Law

This panel of planners and lawyers will go beyond the basics of green infrastructure and its use in community planning to discuss key aspects of the law surrounding local green infrastructure programs, including the authority local governments have to adopt green infrastructure requirements and case law regarding implementing regulations. The panel will begin with a discussion of state and federal enabling authority for local green infrastructure legislation and then cover recent case law concerning the power local governments have to implement such provisions and potential legal limits. This part of the session will summarize sources of enabling authority and relevant court decisions in plain language. In the second part of the session the panel will explore specific local ordinances and other regulatory actions that can and have been used to implement green infrastructure strategies. This part of the panel will focus on ordinances and other implementing legislation already adopted at the local level.

Moderator:

Jonathan Rosenbloom, Professor of Law, Vermont School of Law

Speakers:

Chris Duerksen, Senior Advisor, Clarion Associates

Craig Richardson, Director, Clarion Associates

Group Homes for Those in Recovery: Recent Developments and Understanding What Stakeholders Want

Two planner-lawyers who have written a book on group homes will provide an update on the law and then engage a sober house developer/operator and the leader of a neighborhood group opposing it, in an effort to understand what both sides need and want, and to discern how such controversies might be avoided and resolved.

Moderator:

Dwight Merriam, Attorney at Law

Speakers:

Brian Connolly, Shareholder, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti, PC

Steve Elkins, Senior City Planner, City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development Department

Steven Polin, Attorney, The Law Office of Steven G. Polin

Progress by the Numbers: Determining the Impact of Water and Land Use Integration

How do we know if a community has achieved the successful integration of water and land use? This session will share the results of a year-long, stakeholder-driven project that engaged water utilities and land use planners from across Colorado to identify metrics that local governments and State officials can use to measure the effectiveness of water and land use integration. We will discuss how these metrics will provide interpretable data and trends to guide elected officials and catalyze action within communities, while also being consistent across communities in order to gain a picture of progress across Colorado.

Moderator:

Waverly Klaw, Associate Director for Resilient Communities and Watersheds, Sonoran Institute

Speakers:

Stu Feinglas, Retired Water Resources Specialist, City of Westminster

Liesel Hans, Water Conservation Manager, Fort Collins Utilities

Sarah Martin, Planner, Brendle Group

Christy Wiseman, Land Use & Water Planner, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Small Towns, Big Change: Civic Engagement and Rural Resilience

Shifting growth, market, and climate patterns are reshaping the Rural West, and communities need engaged citizens to anticipate and adapt to change. For over 20 years, community review programs in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming have helped build rural capacity and encouraged residents and leaders to think and talk about challenges productively to inform durable local solutions. Our multi-year, USDA-funded Western Community Assessment Network (WeCAN | communityreview.org) brings together collective rural community development knowledge from over 150 communities. We plan to share our findings and explore the trends and indicators that will matter to planners and policy makers.

Moderator:

Erik Kingston, Housing Resources Coordinator, Idaho Housing and Finance Association

Speakers:

Lorie Higgins, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Idaho Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

Juliet Daniels, Extension Educator, University of Wyoming Community Development

Gloria O'Rourke, Coordinator, Montana Economic Developers Association

3:00PM – 4:30PM

From Principles to Practice: Putting Equity at the Forefront in Climate Change Adaptation, Land Use & Water Planning

Scarcity of water in the West is well-known. However, less well-known are inequities that exist here and across the Country regarding access to safe, affordable drinking water; adequate infrastructure to serve all community members; land uses compatible with disaster risks, such as floods or drought; and housing sited in areas free from environmental degradation, including water pollution. Water Equity policies require local governments, communities, developers, and water providers to consider and address inequities when preparing/reviewing plans, or proposing/considering areas for development. This panel will present Water Equity issues to raise awareness of inequities through a presentation of case studies, potential remedies, and audience discussion.

Moderator:

Susan Wood, Planning Project Manager, Regional Transportation District

Speakers:

Jorge Figueroa, Director and Principle, El Laboratorio

John Berggren, Water Policy Analyst, Western Resource Advocates

Exactions in The Climate Change Era: What Nollan And Dolan Portend for Impact Mitigation

This session will reframe the legal topic of exactions in the context of climate change. For thirty years, whether and when the government may require dedications of property or money in connection with a land use approval has been a hotly debated legal topic. As the world warms, local governments may request new and different forms of impact mitigation of developers. But will the law allow it? This session will discuss the current status of the law of exactions and what we can expect as climate change mitigation becomes increasingly important.

Moderator:

Brian Connolly, Shareholder, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti, PC

Speakers:

Sarah Rockwell, Attorney, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP

J. Thomas Macdonald, Attorney, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti, PC

Jessie Lawrence, Attorney, Law Office of Jessica Eaton Lawrence / Lawrence Meeting Resources

Public Subsidy to Private Equity: Measuring the Social Costs of Housing Speculation

Growth patterns in the West are driven by population, climate, economic and recreational trends, and the resulting speculation reduces neighborhoods and communities to a game of Monopoly. This session explores the social and economic impacts of real estate speculation and inflation. As housing commodification, conversions and inflation displace larger cohorts of cost-burdened residents in destination communities, what are the resulting measurable costs felt by families, neighborhoods, communities and institutions? Using college student populations and other demographic cohorts, we'll explore these costs along with policy, market-based and legal remedies available to communities.

Moderator:

Erik Kingston, Housing Resources Coordinator, Idaho Housing and Finance Association

Speakers:

Stephen Miller, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Professor of Law, University of Idaho College of Law

Jessie Dexter, Student Basic Needs Collective Impact & Initiatives Coordinator Boise State University

Jennifer Newcomer, Director, Shift Research Labs

Financing Resilient City Growth

Facing threats from ferocious wildfires, persistent droughts, or repeated coastal and riverine inundations, cities and towns are recognizing that they can't afford to build and rebuild neighborhoods with a business-as-usual mindset. This session will explore how communities can plan and pay for the housing, community development, infrastructure, law, or planning projects necessary to address proven or anticipated natural hazards. The bad news is that very few state and local governments have made progress toward this end. The good news is that our existing toolbox of planning, land use and zoning tools (including impact fees, mitigation fees and other developer fee requirements) might provide the basic instruments that local and state governments need to begin developing infrastructure to address rising sea levels, rising temperatures, dwindling water supplies, and flooding riverine and coastal environments.

Moderator:

John Marshall, Associate Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law

Speakers:

Julian Juergensmeyer, Ben F. Johnson Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law

Arthur C. Nelson, Professor of Planning and Real Estate Development, University of Arizona

Green Under Pressure: Current Practices in Land Conservation

With a population density averaging over fifty-two people per square mile in Colorado (and rising), more communities are looking for ways to preserve open areas and maintain rural character. During this session, speakers will share their expertise, experiences, and case studies in land preservation. Delve into topics such as alternatives to 35-acre subdivisions, land conservation programs, restructuring failed subdivisions to preserve open lands, dealing with recreation/tourist impacts on open lands, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Moderator:

Melinda Beck, Attorney, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti, PC

Speakers:

Lesli Ellis, Community Development Director, Larimer County

Cathie Pagano, Director of Community and Economic Development, Gunnison County

Chad Phillips, EdgeUp Planning Consultants

4:30PM – 6:00PM

Networking Reception

Meet your fellow attendees to discuss the day's events, share stories, and enjoy some light refreshments.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

8:30AM – 10:00AM

The Role of Water in Livable Cities

This session will examine the intersection of water and land use through a look at urban landscapes and the functions they serve. It will ask, “What needs do our landscapes meet for us?” Today’s urban landscapes serve many purposes for our cities, including meeting functional, aesthetic, environmental, and psychological needs for the community. This session will examine how these needs might be met effectively in a changing future where water is scarcer, urban density is increasing, values and perspectives are evolving, and temperatures are rising.

Moderator:

Greg Fisher, Manager of Demand Planning, Denver Water

Speakers:

Mary Ann Dickinson, President & CEO, Alliance for Water Efficiency

Austin Troy, Professor, Chair of the Department of Planning and Design, University of Colorado Denver

Kathryn Weismiller, Senior Planner, Denver Water

Colorado's New Oil and Gas Paradigm

This session will explore the recent changes to the way Colorado regulates oil and gas, including re-balancing of authority between the state and local governments and the impact of changes to the composition and regulations of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Oil and gas attorneys will discuss the limits of this new authority, how local governments are using their new powers, and some of the legal challenges that could arise.

Moderator:

Julia Rhine, Senior Associate, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Speakers:

Mark Mathews, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

James Martin, Partner, Beatty & Wozniak

Matthew Sura, Western Environmental law Partners, Partner

The Hottest Topic in Housing: Who Wins in Gentrification

This panel will explore the costs and benefits of gentrification--a polarizing debate in the housing discipline. Panelists will discuss who is most affected by the market forces we call gentrification, who gains, and who loses--and why gentrification does not need to be a zero sum game.

Moderator:

Heidi Aggeler, Managing Director, Root Policy Research

Speakers:

Charles Brennan, Research & Policy Analyst, Colorado Center on Law & Policy

Mollie Fitzpatrick, Senior Consultant, Root Policy Research

Analiese Hock, Principal Planner, City and County of Denver

Planning for Climate Change: Practical Regulatory Strategies for Local Governments

This session will focus on practical local strategies to address climate change while avoiding political mayhem and halting economic progress. Impracticable "fixes", or those poorly suited to the West, can lead to pushback and resistance to address this very serious issue. As an example, in 2017, Denver voters passed an initiative requiring all new or renovated buildings to have green roofs. While the initiative was aimed at mitigating climate impacts, it was widely panned for being too expensive and impractical. Since many communities will be hard-pressed to avoid zoning changes aimed at mitigating climate change impacts, let's get this right.

Moderator:

Brian Connolly, Shareholder, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti, PC

Speakers:

Don Elliott, Director, Clarion Associates

Molly Mowery, Executive Director, Community Wildfire Planning Center

Tiffany Zezula, Pace University Law School

Looking Forward: The Future of Transportation Infrastructure

In the face of population growth, congestion, and the climate crisis, evaluating the current state of transportation infrastructure and its ability to work in a hot, dry, and crowded future is critical. This panel will provide attendees an overview of the current state of transportation and look forward to opportunities and challenges as the public right-of-way adapts to meet the needs of our communities as we work toward a safer, better-connected, and sustainable future.

Moderator:

Ann Bowers, Principal, Fehr & Peers

Speakers:

Jessica Fields, Director, Toole Design

Robert Spotts, Air Quality and Mobility Analytics Manager, DRCOG

Eileen Yazzie, Planning Manager, City and County of Denver

10:15AM – 11:45AM

The Policy/Market Nexus: How Do We Make Water-Smart Growth Standard Practice?

Sterling Ranch—a master planned community in Douglas County—pushed the boundaries of water planning in the land use process through lower water dedication requirements, a community rainwater harvesting system, and a separate but parallel change to a land use law. Attendees will hear perspectives from the developer, the county planning director, and the project's water engineer on how these innovative strategies came to fruition, as well as how the water efficiency and rainwater harvesting features are working today in the occupied development. In addition, attendees will gain an understanding of broader trends related to water and land use planning that are being implemented in new development projects.

Moderator:

John Berggren, Western Resource Advocates, Water Resources Analyst

Speakers:

Harold Smethills, Sterling Ranch Development Company, Chairman

Terence Quinn, Director, Community Development & Planning Services

Beorn Courtney, Water Resources Engineer, Element Consulting

Waverly Klaw, Associate Director, Sonoran Institute

Legal Updates in the Rocky Mountain West

Hear from the region's top experts, discussing trending cases of significance from all levels of the federal and state court system involving the latest in land use and zoning law as well as an opportunity to discuss areas ripe for further court or legislative action. Learn how recent case law may impact planning ordinances, procedures, and general plans.

Moderator:

Jason Morris, Partner/Attorney, Withey Morris, PLC

Speakers:

David Foster, Partner, Foster Graham Milstein & Calisher, LLP

Jessie Lawrence, Attorney and Mediator, Law Office of Jessica Eaton Lawrence / Lawrence Meeting Resources

Jeff Parker, Partner, Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry, P.C.

Vulnerable and Valuable: Resilience & Preservation in Mobile Home Parks

Through the lens of equity in climate resilience investment, staff from the cities of Aurora and Boulder will discuss equity, resilience and preservation as they relate to mobile home parks. Particular emphasis will be placed on Zero Energy Modular (ZEM) housing; what it is, the findings of the 2019 ZEM market study, and the promise of ZEM as a replacement housing option in mobile home parks and as an affordable housing solution as communities face increasing weather extremes. Additionally, contrasting case studies in two different mobile home parks – Ponderosa Mobile Home Park in Boulder and Denver Meadows in Aurora – will be presented.

Moderator:

Carolyn Elam, Energy Manager, Department of Climate Initiatives, City of Boulder

Speakers:

Kristin Hyser, Deputy Director of Housing, City of Boulder

Crystal Launder, Housing Planner, City of Boulder

Dan Money, Assistant City Attorney, City of Aurora

Jay Sugnet, Senior Housing Planner, City of Boulder

Grow Your Own Food: Oasis Solutions

Food deserts are a very real phenomenon, but the solution can be built into the design of new developments or even redevelopments. This session will showcase several different approaches to including access to locally grown, healthy, and organic food in the development of new or existing neighborhoods. It's time to turn food deserts in food oases—a great antidote to a Hot, Dry and Crowded future!

Moderator:

Flo Raitano, Director of Partnership Development and Innovation, DRCOG

Speakers:

Jules Kelty, Executive Director, Focus Points Family Resource Center

Laura Lavid, Community Engagement & Marketing Director, Fresh Food Connect

Matthew Redmond, Director, Agriburbia

Resilience Planning for Uncertain Futures

Resilient communities in the West will be able to adapt and thrive no matter what disruptions they face. Disruptions facing the West include long-term stresses such as drought, ecosystem degradation, and lack of affordable housing as well as short-term shocks such as fire, loss of major industries, and extreme temperatures. Building adaptive capacity to these vulnerabilities requires communities to look to the future in planning processes, develop creative solutions, and build partnerships across sectors to tackle systems level problems. This session will discuss the Colorado Resiliency Office's approach to planning for these challenges and highlight case studies of communities who are incorporating resilience into planning and programs.

Moderator:

Kate Guibert, Local Resilience Program Manager, Colorado Resiliency Office

Speakers:

Imogen Ainsworth, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Durango

Enessa Janes, Community Resilience Coordinator, City of Arvada

12:00PM –1:30PM

Carver Colloquium — The Rights of Nature: Should Bodies of Water Have Legal Rights?

The Carver Colloquium is an annual event that presents divergent or alternative viewpoints on cutting-edge issues in these fields in a point-counterpoint format. Held this year in conjunction with the annual conference, the Carver Colloquium will present a debate on The Rights of Nature. Historically, nature has been viewed as public or private property, and decisions about its use are decided accordingly. Rights of Nature advocates argue that nature should have a right to exist and thrive of its own.

Moderator:

Jan Laitos, John A. Carver Jr. Chair, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Speakers:

Laura Chartrand, Founding Partner, Chartrand Law, LLC

Grant Wilson, Executive Director & Directing Attorney, Earth Law Center

TOUR — 1:30PM –5:00PM

Learning from What Denver Did Right: Multimodal Transportation, Microclimates, & River Access

Take a short walking tour highlighting some of the community design aspects of Denver that have influenced transportation, walkability, microclimates, and natural resources. Denver's urban form has been changing over time to accommodate shifting demands for transportation and community amenities. With climate change impacts already being felt across the west, adaptation and mitigation go hand in hand at the local level. While microclimates combat the urban heat island, multimodal transportation helps to ensure we do our part to curtail the cause. We will explore Denver's successes in these areas so that other communities can build on them.

Moderator:

Summer Waters, Founder, Colorado Walking Tours, LLC

Speakers:

Chessy Brady, Transit-Oriented Development Manager, Denver Regional Transportation District
Kevin Logan, Project Manager, Pivotal Architecture

1:45PM –3:15PM

Building Watershed Resilience through Innovative Partnerships

In the Rocky Mountain West, the vast majority of the water we depend on for human uses starts as snow on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Increasingly, water providers are working in partnership with public land managers and other partners to plan for and implement forest management practices to ensure resilient, secure water supplies in a warming climate. This session will examine innovative partnerships aimed at protecting and restoring watershed integrity, and will connect these examples to a larger, West-wide movement for building watershed resilience.

Moderator:

Sarah Bates, National Wildlife Federation-Northern Rockies, Deputy Regional Director and Senior Director, Western Water

Speakers:

Claire Harper, Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service Region 2
Mike McHugh, Aurora Water, Environmental Permitting Coordinator
Brad Piehl, JW Associates, Principal

What's Up with Planning on the Front Range

This session is the report out from a morning retreat of city and county planning directors from along the Front Range, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs. Topics come from the morning agenda set by the directors themselves, but typically deal with issues such as affordable housing, infrastructure, economic development, and land use planning techniques to improve quality of life. The session is structured to encourage individual directors to provide their perspectives. No speeches, no powerpoints.

Moderator:

Peter Pollock, Ronald Smith Fellow, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Speakers:

Laura Aldrete, Executive Director, City and County of Denver Department of Community Planning & Development

Dale Case, Director, Boulder County Land Use Department

Lesli Ellis, Director, Larimer County Department of Community Development

Cameron Gloss, Planning Manager, City of Fort Collins

Jill Jennings Golich, Director, Adams County Department of Community & Economic Development

Brad Mueller, Director of Community Development, City of Greeley

Travis Parker, Planning Director, City of Lakewood

Peter Wysocki, Director, City of Colorado Springs Department of Planning & Development

Homeless in the West: What Can Communities Do?

One results of the hot, dry, and crowded Rocky Mountain West is an increase in homelessness. As with any issue, there are a number of ways communities can address this challenge. One of the first challenges for communities is assessing the size of the homeless population, and then developing programs and regulations to address the issue. This session showcases some assessment tools to better understand localized homelessness and to develop data-informed homelessness supports, services and prevention strategies. In addition, the discussion will include a review of the policies communities are adopting—both positive and negative—and explore a case study of a new program in Adams County, Colorado.

Moderator:

Daniel Brisson, Director, University of Denver Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness

Speakers:

Paolo Diaz, Poverty Reduction and Neighborhood Outreach Manager, Adams County

Nantiya Ruan, Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Sallie Strueby, Research Associate, University of Denver Center for Housing and Homeless Research

Putting Stewardship on the Map: Using Mapping Tools to Build Partnerships

The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) answers the question: who takes care of our environment? Panel members used STEW-MAP to survey civic groups who conserve, manage, monitor, transform, educate on and/or advocate for the environment across Denver. It is both a study of the area's civic environmental stewardship resource and a publicly available online database and visualization tool to support a range of practical applications. We discuss how partners from government, universities, and non-profits have used STEW-MAP in the Denver Metro to understand and strengthen the civic capacity to care for the natural resources of Denver's neighborhoods.

Moderator:

Travis Warziniack, USDA Forest Service, Research Economist

Speakers:

Austin Troy, University of Colorado Denver, Professor and Chair of Urban and Regional Planning Department

Dana Coelho, Metro Denver Nature Alliance, Alliance Director

Modes in Motion: Connected, Automated, Shared & Electric Vehicles

Technology is changing the way we travel at an unprecedented pace. As the transportation system evolves, communities across the West are considering the impacts and opportunities for connected, automated, shared and electric vehicles. Panelists from the public and private sector will speak to the importance of partnerships and pilots that are changing transportation. Attendees will learn about new modes of transportation and how they fit into the transportation network.

Speakers:

Crissy Fanganello, Director of Applied Innovation, Panasonic

Lauren Isaac, Director of Business Initiatives, Easy Mile

Celeste Stragand, Mobility Strategist, Ford Smart Mobility

Sophie Shulman, Colorado Department of Transportation

Nicholas Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, City and County of Denver Public Works Department

3:15PM –5:00PM

What Does Our Future Hold? Utility Leadership Report Out

Water utility leaders met recently to discuss water and land use integration. Topics of discussion included what new directions utility planning might take; innovations in policy, planning, programs, and projects; and what they see on the horizon as growth continues and our communities face a water deficient future. For the final session in the Land Use & Water Come listen, learn, ask, and converse with utility leaders about what they think of our regional and state future.

Moderator:

Kevin Reidy, State Water Conservation Technical Specialist, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Christy Wiseman, Land Use & Water Planner, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Speakers:

Lisa Darling, Executive Director, South Metro Water Supply Authority
Mary Ann Dickinson, President & CEO, Alliance for Water Efficiency
Mark Marlowe, Director, Castle Rock Water
Peter Mayer, Principal & Founder, WaterDM

Fast & Furious

This session gives speakers just ten minutes to talk, but covers a range of topics. This session is always fun and allows us to explore some topics not covered in the rest of the conference.

Nature-Based Solutions to Our Region's Most Wicked Problems

Green infrastructure planning and implementation at landscape and regional scales is increasingly demonstrating the power and possibility of nature-based solutions in addressing some of the biggest challenges facing rapidly growing places like Metro Denver. The panelists will present two local case studies—the High Line Canal Conservancy's Stormwater Transformation and Enhancement Program and the Metro Denver Nature Alliance's emerging Regional Vision for People + Nature—and others from Atlanta, Georgia and Kansas City, Missouri. Using these examples, we will explore opportunities to develop resilient and thriving regions in the face of climate change and its variable impacts and continued urban growth.

Moderator:

Dana Coelho

Director, Metro Denver Nature Alliance

Speakers:

Cathy McCague

Program Manager, Highline Canal Conservancy

Hot, Dry and Flammable: Community Survival in The Age of Climate Change

As climate change makes the west hotter and drier and we're increasingly building into the wildland-urban interface, fires are not only increasing in numbers and size, they are also harder—and more costly—to contain. While fire has traditionally been the purview of fire fighters and emergency managers, fighting fires successfully starts with how we design communities. This session shows that our first line of defense depends on how planners, architects and developers accommodate growth while making existing—and future—communities safer. We want tomorrow's firefighter to view well-planned communities as assets rather than liabilities when controlling fire.

Moderator:

Erik Kingston, Board Member, Idaho Rural Partnership

Speakers:

Stephen Miller, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Professor of Law, University of Idaho College of Law

Jaap Vos, Professor of Bioregional Planning, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology University of Idaho

Deanna Smith, Program Coordinator, Idaho Smart Growth