

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2022 | KEYSTONE, COLORADO

SDA 

2022 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Featuring the 2022 SDA Award Winners

Lead the Way



Welcome to the 2022 SDA Annual Conference!

We are so excited for this year's Conference! We have assembled an outstanding lineup of experts and professionals who will provide valuable information on a wide variety of topics and issues. As always, we will also be featuring inspirational keynote speakers and plenty of chances to meet and visit with other professionals in your field. In addition, we would like to thank our 16 Platinum Sponsors as well as our generous Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors and exhibitors who are rounding out this dynamic three days. The SDA Board and staff look forward to seeing you throughout the event!

Ann A. Terry

SDA Executive Director

SDA Annual Conference

Tuesday, September 13



7:30-9:15 am, Longs Peak Ballroom

Welcome Breakfast featuring Anton Gunn

The Admired Leader: How to Increase Your Influence and Impact

Sponsored by TCW Risk Management



Join us as we kick off the 2022 Annual Conference! The morning will begin with the Presentation of the Colors and the singing of the National Anthem. We will then welcome our keynote speaker, Anton Gunn.

Your effectiveness as a leader is only as strong as your ability to influence. The challenge today is that most organizations do not give their leaders the tools needed to create lasting impact on their workforce. Recent studies show incredibly high percentages of employees are disengaged at work and actively looking for new jobs. Additionally, current reports reveal that teams are unhappy, underperforming, and overlooked by their management or leadership. Filled with impressive data, heartwarming stories, and real-world examples, Anton teaches how anyone can become a greater influencer and leader by embracing seven simple principles.

9:30-10:30 am
Cont. on page 3

Session T-1, Torreys Peak I-II

Utility Rate Study Step 1: The Revenue Requirement

Jason Mumm, Melanie Hobart, and Colton Richard from FCS Group

This session will focus on the concepts, principles, and best practices of utility rate making with a focus on what is commonly referred to as the revenue requirement (financial plan): the first analytical step of three which make up a comprehensive rate study. The presentation will focus on key study components that aid in the calculation of the complete system operations and capital investment strategy. Additionally, prudent financial metrics will provide the foundation for how the revenue requirement is developed. The presentation will also highlight industry best practices in the development of an independent revenue calculation, adequately funding capital needs, and projecting O&M costs, etc.

Session T-2, Torreys Peak III-IV

Organizational Change: Leading the Transition

Chief David Wolf from Estes Valley Fire Protection District

Our communities are constantly undergoing change, and as special districts we must continually evolve and adapt to provide our essential services to our citizens and guests. This course will discuss how districts can recognize the need for change; communicate that need to their internal and external stakeholders; and develop plans or strategies to navigate the change. We owe it to those we employ and serve to remain proactive in responding to changing conditions – and that responsibility lies with our Boards and district leaders.

Session T-3, Crestone Peak I-II

Employment Gone Awry: How to Navigate Employee Complaints, Grievances, and Investigations

Applied for 1 Hour CLE

Kathryn Winn from Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC and Ashley Hernandez-Schlagel from Nathan Dumm & Mayer PC

Do you know what to do when an employee submits a complaint? What is the difference between a complaint and a grievance? Come find out what form(s) a complaint can take, what steps to take once one is made, and how and when to conduct an investigation...and then what to do with the findings. Our simple and concise advice is designed to keep you out of trouble and give you a roadmap for navigating some of the trickiest employment matters.

Tuesday, September 13

9:30-10:30 am

Continued

Session T-4, Crestone Peak III-IV

Going to the Voters for Funding: Successful Ballot Measure Best Practices, Strategies, and Stories *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

David Flaherty from Magellan Strategies

Nearly all special districts in Colorado sooner or later need to place a ballot measure before voters to approve funding increases for their operations, capital projects, or other needs. Asking voters to approve a ballot measure that raises their own taxes is never easy. However, there are ballot measure best practices and fundamentals that can help a special district ballot measure be in the position to achieve voter approval. This session will walk through those fundamentals and share insights from 15 years of successful ballot measure projects.

Session T-5, Castle Peak

10 Cybersecurity Practices to Keep Special Districts Safe *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Mac Clemmens from Streamline

Special districts are increasingly becoming a target of cyberattacks. With insurance rates skyrocketing and cyber coverage increasingly hard to qualify for, now is the time to be ready and safe. Join us as we walk you through 10 easy steps that will protect you from 99% of threats. We promise to speak plain English and leave you with an easy checklist to protect yourself and the community you serve.

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Session T-6, Torreys Peak I-II

Finding the Right Rate Design for Your Utility

Jason Mumm, Melanie Hobart, and Colton Richard from FCS Group

Utility rates can be structured in many ways: there can be fixed charges, usage charges, block pricing, usage allowances, low-income discounts, and different ways to group the customer classes. All of these features affect how the rate burden is distributed to your customers. The rate design chosen by your organization can be a function of history, policy choices, and what data is available in your billing system. Sometimes your organization might develop new priorities, such as affordability concerns or conservation goals. When you see some issues in your utility rate structure, how do you address them?

Session T-7, Torreys Peak III-IV

Health, Fitness, and Longevity for the Working Professional

Eric Hassel from Purgatory Metro District

The health and longevity of our districts is important, but what about our health and our longevity? Join us to learn how we as busy professionals can use simple strategies to maintain and improve our health, fitness, and longevity for life. What does it really mean to us to be healthy? Is it enough to simply be well and free from disease? Are the choices we are making leading us towards disease? Health is a long game and it's not about our health at this moment today, but about how today affects our health in the long run.

Session T-8, Crestone Peak I-II

Infrastructure Funding from Application Through Construction *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Dannah Koeniger, PE from GMS, Inc., Consulting Engineers and Lisa Mayers from Spencer Fane LLP

Funding water and wastewater infrastructure projects can be daunting for a small special district. This session will go through the process of obtaining grant and loan funding, from the applications through construction. It will include discussion on available funding, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; the process for grants and loans; execution of the grant/loans; implications of TABOR, including enterprises; legal and bond counsel consultation usually required; and construction requirements set by funding source.

Session T-9, Crestone Peak III-IV

How to Navigate Senate Bill 21-1286: Energy Benchmarking

Oscar Rangel and Matt Schiller from Veregy

Senate Bill 21-1286 (Energy Benchmarking) passed last year, and it will start being enforced in 2022 for buildings greater than 50k square feet. This applies to ALL facilities for commercial, state, and local government, including special districts. This informative session will discuss options and alternatives as to what you need to do to prepare your district.

Session T-10, Castle Peak

Preparing for FAMLI *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Tracy Marshall and Evan Grimes from the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Division

With the passage of Prop 118 in November 2020, Colorado voters approved the paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) initiative. The FAMLI Division will provide a high-level overview of the program, the participation options for local governments, and address what action employers need to take over the next several months before premium collections begin on January 1, 2023 and benefits become accessible in January 2024. Get the answers about contractors and districts with no employees and find out your district's responsibility, how to opt out before the end of this year, and what your obligations are as an employer.

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Tuesday, September 13



12:00-2:00 pm, Longs Peak Ballroom

Awards Luncheon featuring Dr. Jannell MacAulay

Command Your Mindset

Sponsored by CEBT (Colorado Employer Benefit Trust)

We are honoring our award winners at the beginning of Conference this year! Join us as we celebrate these exceptional Board members, Managers, and districts.

We will also feature U.S. Air Force veteran, Dr. Jannell MacAulay, and her enlightening presentation, "Command Your Mindset." No matter the situation—combat, carpool, or corporate deadline—stress and overwhelm manifest the same way in our bodies. We launch into survival mode, which leads to degradations in our focus, our relationships, and our career longevity. Jannell takes leaders and teams on a transformational journey of self-reflection, leaving you with actionable skills to master your internal environment, command your mindset, and elevate your performance. She will help you live a more present and connected life—increasing productivity, facilitating creativity, and improving performance with your teams both at work and at home.



2:15-3:15 pm

Session T-11, Torreys Peak I-II

Interactive Forecast Model to Aid in Decision Making

Stephanie Stanley and David Simonson from Highlands Ranch Metro District

Join us to learn about an Excel based interactive forecast tool developed by staff that provides graphics to help elected officials evaluate multiple scenarios with various revenue assumptions and options to add/delete programs and services to determine impact over several years. Find out how this valuable tool has worked in our district and how it might be helpful in your district as well.

Session T-12, Torreys Peak III-IV

Metropolitan Districts: Development that Pays Its Own Way

Tim McCarthy from Schedio Group LLC

"Development that pays its own way" is a phrase often attributed to metropolitan districts. But who is paying for what? Attorneys, accountants, managers, and engineers who specialize in serving Title 32 metropolitan districts work diligently and collaboratively every day to ensure that revenues generated by the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by metropolitan districts are spent only on those constructed improvements that benefit the public. This seminar will focus on methodologies employed to identify soft, indirect, and hard costs associated with the design and construction of public improvements.

Session T-13, Crestone Peak I-II

A Crash Course in the Public Nature of Running a District: Why and How District Governance Differs from the Private Sector *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Katie James from Folkestad Fazekas Barrick & Patoile, PC

This educational session will provide an overview of the public nature of special districts as contrasted to privately run companies or organizations. Most Board members have experience in the private sector, and they are often confused about the inability to just "run the district" or "make decisions" without public involvement. Discussion will include an explanation of several key public components and how they differ from the private sector (in no particular order): 1) public notice of meetings and parameters of attendance and involvement at same; 2) transparency notice and ability to contact elected officials; 3) budgeting process and filings; 4) construction contracts and bidding requirements/process; 5) CORA and public records; 6) public funding sources and TABOR.

Session T-14, Crestone Peak III-IV

A New Best Practice for Collection System Management

Jonathan Borden from RH Borden and Company

In 2021, the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool approved a new best practice for sanitation districts. This presentation will describe this new practice which makes it possible to maintain sewer pipes and manholes according to their individual condition. The presentation will also review new technologies including Transmissive Acoustic Assessments, 3D Manhole Scanning, and real-time ultrasonic level monitoring. It will also review new data visualizations in ArcGIS that enable wastewater managers to see the pipe flow condition and even view digital twins of manholes in virtual space leading to more convenient, timely, and efficient asset management decisions. Class participants will come away from this presentation with an understanding of the new condition-based maintenance option available to sanitation districts.

Session T-15, Castle Peak

Colorado Fire Commission: Stakeholder Engagement = Success

Pam Feely, Kevin Whelan, and Clark Hemker from the Colorado Fire Commission; and Melissa Lineberger from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

The Colorado Fire Commission, established in 2019, is focused on developing stakeholder driven solutions to Colorado's fire problem and its consequences. Over its first three years, the Commission has addressed mutual aid, dispatch, fire funding, data, community risk reduction, and firefighter training and certifications. Many of these efforts have resulted in new legislation that provides funding and resources to support the Colorado Fire Service's efforts to protect Colorado's communities. One big effort underway is working on developing codes for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). There was an effort during the 2022 Legislative Session to establish a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board based on a recommendation from the Commission, and we anticipate the work on this Board will continue in the 2023 Legislative Session. In this session you will learn about the work of the Commission, its successes, its future efforts, and how to get involved.

Tuesday, September 13

3:45-4:45 pm

Session T-16, Torreys Peak I-II

Real-World Lessons: What Should Special Districts Know About Remote Implementations?

Pete Thibideau, PMP from Tyler Technologies, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sped up the transition to remote software implementations, and special districts, many of whom are launching projects using ARPA funds, are navigating new implementation approaches, realizing benefits, and adapting to challenges. In this discussion, we will look at recent trends and share real-world remote implementation lessons, including tips and best practices for implementation methodology, up-front planning, resource management, user engagement, and optimization of remote benefits. We will look at the commonalities of successful implementations and pitfalls to avoid. Attendees will hear about the benefits of remote implementation for special districts and learn about tools and tips for user knowledge retention; planning and prep work that breeds success; client resource impact and scheduling considerations; and environmental impact and cost savings.

Session T-17, Torreys Peak III-IV

A New Approach to Municipal Debt Financings Using Blockchain (and It's Not Crypto-Currency) *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

David Ulbricht, Attorney from the Special Districts Association of Oregon; and Manish Dutta and Tammie Arnold from Alpha Ledger

Utilizing private permissioned blockchain infrastructure, in a regulated environment, can reduce costs and improve issuer access to capital in the municipal market. Whether it's a direct loan, private placement, or publicly offered debt obligations, the panelists will discuss how blockchain technology can be integrated into municipal finance; the value proposition for issuers and investors; the long-term benefits to the public finance system; and the practical uses that are being applied today. They will also differentiate the use of blockchain technology for public finance from the crypto market.

Session T-18, Crestone Peak I-II

Construction Projects: From RFP to Completion *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

John Chmil from Lyons Gaddis

Whether it is an entirely new facility or the renovation of an existing facility, construction projects are always a significant undertaking both financially and operationally for special districts. This presentation will aim to cover the legal basics of the process as well as the practical considerations as a district moves through each phase of a project. Having a clear understanding of these expectations at the start will assist districts in organizing their next construction project and keep the project moving forward when the unexpected inevitably occurs.

Session T-19, Crestone Peak III-IV

If You're Not First, It Doesn't Mean You're Last

Eric Bailey from South Fort Collins Sanitation District; Stan Javernick from Hensel Phelps; and David Oerke from Jacobs Engineering

As a special district we are continuously working to stay ahead of growth and increased regulation while being mindful of the financial impact to our customers. This presentation will show one example of a gamble on a new technology that failed and how our district was willing to continue to look for "new" processes that eventually paid off. These process changes were to address the need for growth while trying to maintain efficient use of our constituents' dollars.

Session T-20, Castle Peak

Policy Engagement and Your District *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Michael Valdez from SDA and Larry Hudson from The Fulcrum Group

Join us for an insightful discussion on the importance of engaging with legislators (both on the state and federal level) as well as your local county commissioners and city council members. This lively discussion will also include suggestions on how to effectively communicate with the Governor's staff, including cabinet members and their associated state agencies. We'll offer helpful tips on how best to interact and work with these different types of officials not only on policy issues that may affect your district, but also on a more routine basis for the continued success of your district.



4:45-8:00 pm, Longs Peak Ballroom and Conference Center Patio

Opening Night Extravaganza

Sponsored by Community Resource Services of Colorado (CRS)

Join us for a night of fun and festivities! This year we will have music on the beautiful Conference Center patio with the ever-popular Randall McKinnon as well as a lively DJ and trivia games in the ballroom! And of course lots of amazing food!



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Wednesday, September 14



7:30-9:15 am, Longs Peak Ballroom

General Breakfast Session featuring Jason Hewlett

The Promise: Discover Your Signature Moves

Sponsored by CSAFE

Sit back, watch, laugh, and sing along in Jason's entertaining and insightful presentation, all while identifying the talents and strengths you possess which make you who you are as a leader. Jason will inspire you to make a promise to utilize that which makes you an effective leader and capable of helping others do the same. Imagine going back to your district motivated with the ability to not only identify the strengths of others, but also to help them realize their gifts to benefit the entire team and organization and show them how to give their best every day. By allowing everyone in the organization to use their incredible signature moves, you will bring your success to new levels.



9:30-10:30 am

Session W-1, Torreys Peak I-II

The Five W's of Mandatory (and Voluntary) Child Abuse Reporting *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Emily Powell from Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

Many special districts, including fire protection districts, ambulance districts, park & recreation districts, and others, have employees and volunteers who are legally mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. Other employees and volunteers may also make voluntary reports of suspected child abuse, even if they are not mandatory reporters. This seminar will help special districts understand their reporting obligations through an examination of who is a mandatory reporter, what is required to be reported, when to make a report, where suspected child abuse is reported, and, most importantly, why to call in a report, including addressing frequent concerns of accuracy, anonymity, and liability.

Session W-2, Torreys Peak III-IV

Making a Difference for Employees: How Government Employers are Looking for a Great Response to "the Great Resignation"

Jennie Waski from RTD; and Corey Gallifant and Heather K. Smith from Empower

Through our exclusive interviews, we learned many government agencies are paving the way by:

1) adjusting to COVID and what is next; 2) focusing on financial wellness; 3) prioritizing employee satisfaction; and 4) identifying key roadblocks.

Session W-3, Crestone Peak I-II

Building Resilience in Your Water and Wastewater Utilities

Kyra Gregory from Colorado's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (COWARN)

We have all learned about the importance of resilience during the pandemic. This presentation will give decision makers special tools to help plan for the future of their water/wastewater utility through asset management, strategic planning, workforce planning, emergency response management, and operations and maintenance programming.

Session W-4, Crestone Peak III-IV

Establishing a Citizens Academy for Citizen Engagement

Sherry Eppers and Kari Larese from Highlands Ranch Metro District

Learn how Highlands Ranch Metro District staff planned, developed, and launched a Citizens Academy program to involve and engage citizens in the community. With careful planning, collaboration with fellow local organizations, and effective promotions, we have found success involving citizens in our program in a short time. After graduating from the Highlands Ranch Citizens Academy, many citizens in our community have stepped into leadership roles, run for elected office, and have served as volunteers for our organization and other agencies.

Session W-5, Castle Peak

Optimizing Leadership Function (formerly titled - Overcoming Leadership Dysfunction)

Jeff Arnold from Leading Associations

Being a great Board is hard. So, no one wants to have to deal with distracting personality issues and factional players. Yet, complex organizations dealing with complex issues are bound to have complex relationship challenges. We will learn to identify the four areas of dysfunction and gain tools for addressing each area. Attendees will gain keys to creating a high functioning entity and be able to focus on the most important parts of their position. You will learn specific tools and strategies for overcoming cultural issues, conflicts, and difficult personalities.

10:30-11:00 am

Exhibitor Hall

Break

Take a few minutes to visit with fellow attendees and enjoy a mid-morning treat.

Sponsored by Gregory and Associates



Gregory and Associates
Financial Services

Wednesday, September 14

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Session W-6, Torreys Peak I-II

Access to Affordable Financing for Rural Communities, including Special Districts, through USDA Rural Development

Armando Valdez, and Joe Montgomery from USDA Rural Development

Affordable financing is available to help your district! Find out how USDA Rural Development can help with loan and grant funding to develop or improve essential public services and community facilities and water and wastewater systems in rural Colorado. USDA has over 60+ programs available to assist rural communities and special districts with financing.

Session W-7, Torreys Peak III-IV

NSDC Federal Updates for Colorado's Special Districts

Cole Karr from the National Special Districts Coalition

The National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) will provide the latest from Washington, as Congress dives deeper into the election cycle and toward the end of the term. Find out more on what is moving and shaking from the special districts' perspective and hear the latest on priority efforts to federally define special districts, investigate gaps in fire suppression infrastructure, and how NSDC's grant services can help your district identify funding opportunities for projects and programs.

Session W-8, Crestone Peak I-II

There is Nothing Normal About Leadership in Our New Normal

Chief Kris Kazian from Windsor Severance Fire Rescue

We have all experienced one of the greatest leadership challenges of the last 100 years. How do we take what we learned and start to build a solid leadership foundation going forward and beyond? Our new normal is anything but "normal" and unlike anything we have ever seen before. It is time to look forward and start to lead out of this place we have found ourselves in.

Session W-9, Crestone Peak III-IV

The Updated Colorado Water Plan and Recent Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives: How Do These Affect District Water Suppliers? *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Evan Ela and Joe Norris from Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, PC (CEGR Law)

A 2023 update of the Colorado Water Plan was recently published in draft form for public comment, due by the end of September 2022. This session will discuss the Water Plan generally, the update, data trends observed since 2014, and potential benefits or detriments to district water suppliers. This session will also discuss the recent legislative activity regarding a lawn replacement program, water rights speculation, water from ponds for wildland fire suppression, and fees on customers to fund water storage projects. We will also describe recent State regulatory efforts against community ponds and how to effectively deal with such regulatory actions.

Session W-10, Castle Peak

The Special District Emergency Communications Playbook: How to Cover Your Digital Bases

Mac Clemmens from Streamline

Wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, and sudden closures can leave district leaders wondering how to best get the word out. In this talk, Streamline will cover the 8 most important communication channels to cover in an emergency: your website, social media, email, text, push notifications to local cell phones (reverse 911), Nextdoor, local media, and public information registries.

12:00-2:00 pm, Longs Peak Ballroom

General Lunch Session featuring Laurie Guest

Are We Having Fun Yet? Communication and Teamwork is More than a Game of Chance

Sponsored by Streamline

Are you overdue for a fun, laugh-while-learning experience? Wouldn't it be nice if you could also get reacquainted, reenergized, and recommitted to the work at hand? Heck, while we're at it, why not throw in improved personal interactions and a morale boost? In this engaging presentation, Laurie will teach you ways to improve communication between all types of team members and build better internal and external rapport. You'll also learn ways to create a fun environment and lasting workplace relationships as well as how to swap words to create connection.



STREAMLINE



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Coffee and tea stations throughout
the Conference sponsored by
Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher &
Ruhland, PC (CEGR Law)



Wednesday, September 14

2:15-3:15 pm

Session W-11, Torreys Peak I-II

Don't Let Your Grievance Procedure Let You Down *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Adele Reester and Cathy Tallerico from Lyons Gaddis

Whether the grievance process is in an administrative policy or collective bargaining agreement, learn about the top ten mistakes found in the grievance process and what provisions to add or clarify in your grievance process to avoid these costly mistakes.

Session W-12, Torreys Peak III-IV

Managing Metro Districts in a Politically Polarized World

Matt Hopper from Aerotropolis Area Coordinating Metro District; Matt Urkoski and Anna Jones from CliftonLarsonAllen; and Murphy Robinson from Robinson Corporations Security Group

As the local political context around metro districts continues to heat up, residents in metro districts are challenging special district taxes with increased frequency. Common issues that arise in public meetings and CORA requests include charges of fiscal mismanagement and lack of transparency and accountability of special district Board members. This session will address some common themes, how to balance truth with fiction, and navigate a changing and complex statutory world while maintaining our collective sanity.

Session W-13, Crestone Peak I-II

Leading with Ethical Behavior

Dennis Gatlin from Boxelder Sanitation District

Leadership and ethical decision making are dynamically intertwined. The values we bring to the table as leaders and how we express them in decision making define our personal ethics and that of our organizations. Leaders understand that making ethical decisions is challenging and complex. How they navigate these perilous waters is safer if they understand the relationship between leadership, ethics, and values. This interactive session introduces important ethics concepts to help participants make sound ethical decisions. The session is practically framed and "hands-on" so attendees can deal with everyday ethics problems. This session will help leaders recognize important values that shape their responses to ethical dilemmas, gain personal insights into ethics response mechanisms, and build skills for effective ethics responses.

Session W-14, Crestone Peak III-IV

Staff Sourcing Your GIS: How a Rural Water District Utilizes the Entire Staff to Build a GIS that is Useful for Everyone

Joe Robinson from Little Thompson Water District

Little Thompson Water District is a large water district with a limited staff. We have learned ways to utilize all employees to build our Enterprise GIS system into a tool that is useful for everyone. Join us as we discuss workflows, staff training, and equipment needed to boost your GIS system in the office and the field.

Session W-15, Castle Peak

Funding Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements with the State Revolving Fund (2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Edition)

Kelly Shen from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Austin Reichel from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority; and Sean Oliver from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates significant resources into the State Revolving Funds for the next five years for improvements to water and wastewater infrastructure, lead, and emerging contaminants remediation. This session will cover the additional funding, grant opportunities, and the nuts and bolts of the SRF process for communities exploring their funding options for upcoming projects.

3:15-3:45 pm

Exhibitor Hall

Break

Whether you want something sweet or salty, you'll find the perfect snack.

Sponsored by Gregory and Associates



3:30-5:00 pm

Longs Peak Ballroom

Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool Annual Membership Meeting and Keynote Address: Nothing Changes, if Nothing Changes

Chris Nunes, Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE)

Special districts that do not adapt are in for challenging times, including the loss of relevance, revenue, and value to a community. The more rapid the pace of change, the more dire the consequences of sticking to old processes, procedures, and programs. Key strategies rooted in innovation and creativity need to be used to ensure changes are made. The goal of this presentation is for attendees to develop strategies on how to facilitate change through innovation.



Don't forget to visit all of our Sponsors and Exhibitors who will be on hand throughout the Conference!

Wednesday, September 14

3:45-5:00 pm

Session W-16, Torreys Peak I-II

Securing Your Greatness in the Eyes of the Public

Mac Clemmens and Maria Lara from Streamline

Special districts are often unsung heroes in their communities, yet they provide critical infrastructure the public may not know exists. In this talk, learn how to tell your story and make sure your district's services can be more easily found online.

Session W-17, Crestone Peak I-II

A Collaborative Renewable Water Supply Project for Municipal Water Suppliers While Also Increasing and Preserving Agricultural Uses Along the South Platte River

Joe Frank, PE from Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District; Rebecca Tejada, PE from Parker Water and Sanitation District; and Chris Fehn, PE from Lytle Water Solutions, LLC

The overarching objective of this project is to provide new renewable water supplies for Parker Water and Sanitation District (PWSD) and other municipalities and special districts, as well as additional supplemental irrigation water supplies for farming in the lower South Platte River Basin, thereby sustaining rural economies. This collaborative project, which should be a blueprint for future special district water development projects, develops new, currently unused water supplies on the South Platte River that would otherwise be in excess of Compact commitments by Colorado, all without doing any "buy and dry" of existing agricultural lands. This presentation will describe the project components; consensus building between municipal and agricultural entities; engineering to evaluate the optimum project design for both entities; and the infrastructure to store and convey the water for use by both PWSD and the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District.

Session W-18, Crestone Peak III-IV

Think Big! Innovations and Funding Opportunities for Special Districts *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Allison Ulmer from Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC; Cole Karr from the National Special Districts Coalition; Chris Matkins from Ally Utility Consulting; and James McLaughlin from Ute Pass Regional Health Service District

With the right mix of creativity, leadership, and funding, special districts can go above and beyond for their communities in countless ways. We will explore innovative programs that special districts have developed and federal funding opportunities that exist to support innovative and collaborative endeavors. We will learn how Ute Pass Regional Health Service District is filling an unmet need for mental health services through its Community Integrated Health program, and we will learn about the robust programs put in place by various special districts to protect their employees and their infrastructure from cyberattack (listen up, water and sanitation districts!). This panel will push districts to think beyond the basics to identify and fulfill the unique needs of your community.

Session W-19, Castle Peak

Leading By Example: Creating Effective Board/Management Relationships Before It is Too Late

Chief TJ Steck from Elizabeth Fire Protection District

Every district has experience when it comes to Board members and management clashing. This presentation will use real experiences to develop tools that help avoid the awkward manager/Board tensions that can sneak up right under your nose. Together, we will identify ways to build confidence and trust from our customers and employees while creating a unified leadership.



5:00-7:00 pm, Conference Center Patio

Boots and BBQ Evening Event Featuring the Beau Thomas Band

Sponsored by Ramey Environmental Compliance and Colorado SIPA

Entertainment sponsored by the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool

Wear your favorite pair of boots as you enjoy some delicious BBQ with all the fixings right on the Conference Center patio. There will even be live entertainment with the Beau Thomas Band, courtesy of our friends at the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool!



Continued on page 10

Water stations throughout the Conference
sponsored by Fromm & Company, LLC



Thursday, September 15



7:30-8:45 am, Longs Peak Ballroom

General Breakfast Session featuring JoAnn Groff

The Good, The Bad, and The Confusing

Sponsored by COLOTRUST

Property taxes in Colorado have become a source of confusion and change in the past two years. How will it all work? Colorado's Property Tax Administrator, JoAnn Groff, will walk through the in's and out's of everything you need to know.



9:00-10:00 am
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Session TH-1, Torreys Peak I-II

Making Moves in the Right Direction: GIS and How It Can Benefit You

Luke Lovato, EI and Wade Wheatlake, PE from Merrick & Company

In an ever-changing world, computer technology continues to dramatically change the way utilities and special districts operate. From converting old paper maps and records to electronic formats to displaying critical information about a utility's assets, implementing a GIS (Geographic Information System) can be a game changer in the way a utility maintains its assets. There are many variables to consider when establishing a successful GIS such as quality of data, data management, and funding. This presentation will dive into the trials, tribulations, and lessons learned in the development of a successful, accurate GIS for a local water and sanitation district. We will discuss how the district implemented the program and how it has been beneficial.

Session TH-2, Torreys Peak III-IV

Deciphering Inflation and Understanding Supply Chain Disruption: What Can Local Governments Do to Protect the Budget?

Glenn Scott from Morgan Stanley

Inflation and shortages are impacting both operating budgets and projects. Join CSAFE's portfolio manager, Glenn Scott, for a discussion of supply chain disruption, the nature of inflation, and prospects for the budget. Glenn is a financial advisor and Senior Portfolio Management Director at Morgan Stanley.

Session TH-3, Crestone Peak I-II

How to Prepare for and Run Effective Board Meetings *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Bob Cole and Bart Miller from Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC; and Chief Mike Dell'Orfano from South Metro Fire Rescue

This program will provide practical tips on how to create Board meeting agendas to facilitate the conduct of Board business, productive Board discussion, and resolution of district issues. Presenters will cover the procedures that Boards are legally required to follow including the Colorado Open Meetings Law, requirements necessary for holding executive sessions, and effective use of study/work sessions to develop issues and inform Board members of information they will need prior to taking action. In addition, presenters will offer suggestions on how to integrate public participation into Board meetings in ways that allow for meaningful public input and avoid the disorder that can hamper productive Board functioning. Attendees will get the benefit of practical information from experienced legal counsel for special district Boards and from district staff experienced in organizing Board meetings for maximum success.

Shuttle buses to and from the Conference Center sponsored by Spencer Fane LLP



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Don't forget that if you need a little extra space, you can watch the livestream of any of the sessions from your laptop in the outdoor event tent!

Outdoor tent sponsored by GovDeals

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Thursday, September 15

9:00-10:00 am
Continued

Session TH-4, Crestone Peak III-IV

Mind Your P's, Q's, and KPI's: Key Performance Indicators

Chris Nunes, Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool keynote speaker

The overall challenge with Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) used in special districts is that they were created by the accounting and finance departments. Secondly, many of the KPI's used do not measure outcomes but just tabulate use levels. This session will review the concept of KPI's, how to create meaningful KPI's, and how to use data that is already collected and can be easily obtained.

Session TH-5, Castle Peak

TABOR Survival Skills: What You Need to Know *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Geoff Wilson from Wilson Williams LLP; and Dianne Criswell from the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool and SDA

Coloradoans, especially local government folks, have a good grasp of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). However, have you taken a close look at the text recently? This session will refresh you on the basics – and then take you on a trip into the wilderness to explore how to navigate TABOR's provisions as your district looks to address new challenges and trends. Join us for a practical and lively discussion of the provisions of TABOR to keep in mind to avoid pitfalls as your district plans for its future in this dynamic environment.

10:30-11:30 am

Session TH-6, Torreys Peak I-II

Workers' Compensation and the Questions You Didn't Know You Should Ask *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Jennifer Alvarado and Paula Lowder from the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool

What are the critical questions you need to be aware of? In this interactive session, our Workers' Compensation experts will talk through the important issues you need to know about in an ever-changing Workers' Compensation environment. Please come prepared with your own questions that we'll be happy to address.

Session TH-7, Crestone Peak I-II

Preparing for the May 2023 Elections...The Do's and Do Not's for a Successful Election *Applied for 1 Hour CLE*

Micki L. Mills, Sarah Luetjen, and Linda M. Glesne from Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, PC (CEGR Law)

Here we go again...already! How many of you had a wild and crazy May 2022 election? It is as important to know what NOT to do as much as it is to know what TO do so you do not screw up your election. It will be fun to talk about the May 2022 election nightmare still fresh in our minds.

Session TH-8, Crestone Peak III-IV

Crisis Communications: Lessons Learned from the Marshall Fire

Sara Farris from North Metro Fire Rescue District; Jennifer Churchill from Boulder County; Carrie Haverfield from the Boulder County Sheriff's Office; and Michelle Kelly from Mountain View Fire Protection District and the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team

As the Marshall Fire wreaked havoc across Boulder County, a short-staffed group of PIOs assembled to quickly disseminate messaging to the community. The hours and days that followed would set the tone for a long recovery for residents, businesses, and county staff. Those who led communications during the Marshall Fire will share their experiences and lessons learned from the first week of the incident response, including perspectives from the field, incident management team, and Emergency Operations Center. They'll share tips for overcoming common challenges during large-scale incidents; organizing and utilizing your team (in person and remotely) for better efficiency; and planning ahead to be better prepared for the next crisis.

Session TH-9, Castle Peak

Deep Dive on Property Tax Issues

JoAnn Groff, Colorado's Property Tax Administrator

Picking up from the keynote presentation on Thursday morning, this continued conversation will take a deeper dive into everything you need to understand about the changes in property taxes and the State backfill.

11:30 am, Longs Peak Foyer

Grab-and-Go Lunch

Sponsored by Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc.

Enjoy our Grab-and-Go Lunch that you can stay and enjoy before heading home or take with you in the car.



See you in 2023, September 12-14, in Keystone!

2022 Award Winners

2022 J. Evan Goulding District of the Year

Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District

The J. Evan Goulding District of the Year Award was established by the SDA Board of Directors to recognize a district's major accomplishments, focused on the aspects of community spirit and leadership. This year's winner, the Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District (FVMRD), has shown tremendous embodiment of both of these qualities.



The history of the District's emphasis on community spirit began in 1978. During this year, the residents of Fraser Valley submitted a petition to the Grand County District Court requesting the creation of a special recreation district. The request was initiated to provide the Fraser Valley facilities a way to offer recreational and educational programs that would enhance and stimulate the summer season economy, thereby benefiting the community. This broader offering of recreational activities would need an entity to organize, manage, and fund the programs, thus the creation of the special district.

The original service plan outlined the facilities that the committee of residents had envisioned. These services included a golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool, community building/clubhouse, baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, and a trail system. In January 1979, voters approved the formation of Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District, and a mill levy increase was added to property taxes to support the operation.

In the last five years, the District has taken on several large projects: completion of the "freeze the rink" ice rink refrigeration project; updating the agency Master Plan; two different instances of bond re-financing for community enhancement projects, saving taxpayers over \$2,000,000 and reducing the debt service term by two years; negotiating private vendor lease agreements at the Fraser Valley Sports Complex for the operation of an aerial adventure park and paintball venue; the successful passage of a revenue stabilizing measure to protect property tax assessment rate reductions; and executing an exclusive launch/land agreement with a hot air balloon operator.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created numerous chal-

lenges for the District. Loss of revenue and jobs from facility closures was abundant. Immense strain was felt across all facilities from workforce shortages forcing reduced hours and in some cases, additional complete closures. New protocols had to be developed for all district operations. FVMRD was not immune to the challenges that we all faced during this difficult time in our history.

A critical component of FVMRD's success is their innovative, service-oriented, hardworking, and loyal employees and volunteers. These dedicated individuals pour their hearts and souls into the District, with the majority of the management team having been with the agency for over ten years. When there is a need, the staff has risen to the challenge through things like operating a boutique bowling alley and movie theater in order to keep the community asset open and to improve the variety of activities available to the community.

Despite facing significant challenges, FVMRD has continued to thrive and has grown significantly over the years, encompassing 218 square miles in the eastern portion of Grand County. The towns of Winter Park, Fraser, Tabernash, and surrounding rural areas all benefit from the services provided by the District. Currently, FVMRD is comprised of six service divisions, including Administrative, Recreation, Park Maintenance, and Family Entertainment. FVMRD takes pride in owning and operating multiple award-winning facilities, including the Grand Park Community Recreation Center; Pole Creek Golf Club & Bistro 28 Restaurant; the Fraser Valley Sports Complex; the IceBox Ice Rink; and the Foundry Cinema & Bowl. In addition, there are a large number of youth and adult recreation programs, summer day camps, and specialty camps and events that are managed by FVMRD.

For over 40 years, FVMRD has enriched the community that surrounds them. They strive each day to keep their mission alive of providing a recreational and educational experience for their residents and guests through innovative, quality programs and facilities that promote health and wellness.

We would like to thank Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer for sponsoring the 2022 SDA Annual Regional Workshops!

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2022 Manager of the Year Award Winner



David Lighthart
Evergreen Metropolitan District, West Jefferson County Metropolitan District, and Kittredge Sanitation and Water District

Congratulations to David Lighthart, our 2022 Manager of the Year award winner. David's career with the Evergreen Metropolitan District began 38 years ago in the Wastewater Department in plant maintenance. He was quickly promoted to Wastewater Lead Operations Manager, followed by a promotion to District Operations Manager, Assistant General Manager, and finally to General Manager, a role he has served in for the past eight years.

Under David's leadership, the Evergreen Metropolitan District has worked to improve the working environment of all departments through careful analysis of the workers and making the necessary changes to enhance their working conditions. David is known for his technical knowledge of the operations of the District, but beyond that, he is consistently praised for his abilities to inspire and empower the people around him. Using these skills, David has strived to create a district that consistently goes above and beyond.

David's impact is far-reaching. In 2020, the town of Evergreen was faced with the Elephant Butte Fire right in their own backyard. The established agreement that David had put in place with the Evergreen Fire Protection District allowed response units to quickly access the water at Evergreen Lake and use that resource to rapidly control the fire. Subsequently, David also coordinated with local landowners to ensure the runoff from the fire did not enter the upper Bear Creek Watershed, thus preventing contamination of the water supply for the community.

David has also been a vital part of growth within the Evergreen Metropolitan District. He paved the way for additional streamlined consolidations; improved communications within the water, wastewater, and construction departments; and took an active role in weekly department meetings in order to gain a better understanding of the District while fostering relationships with his employees.

David continues to lead by example, frequently visiting job sites and facilities to ensure that the crews have what they need to make safety a top priority while efficiently keeping the projects on schedule. From time to time, you may even catch David performing traffic duty to ensure that his crews have the necessary breaks to keep their minds focused on the tasks at hand.

2022 Board Member of the Year Award Winner



James G. (Jim) Ling
South Fort Collins Sanitation District

We are pleased to announce our 2022 Board Member of the Year award winner, Jim Ling. Jim is Chairman of the South Fort Collins Sanitation District and has served on the Board of Directors for 17 years. Jim is a retired US Air Force Colonel and Vietnam veteran and holds degrees in chemical engineering, industrial engineering, and engineering economics as well as a PhD in nuclear resource management. In September 2001, Jim moved to Fort Collins with his wife and daughter.

During his tenure on the Board, Jim negotiated the first inter-district agreement with the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District and South Fort Collins Sanitation District, which clarified cost-sharing arrangements, established annual joint Board meetings, and improved the collaborative decision-making process between two affiliated Boards. In addition, Jim was the driving force behind two major wastewater plant expansions, including a recent \$35 million reclamation plant to accommodate future growth in residential and commercial wastewater needs. Jim helped to ensure that the project was under budget and on schedule while also meeting all EPA and CDPHE requirements.

Through Jim's leadership and forward-looking management, the District has been able to effectively manage the ever-increasing demand for low service fees despite increases in other area utilities. Within the last five years, the District has grown exponentially with approximately 2,347 sewer taps and an average of 50 sewer inclusions, and Jim has been a major factor in helping to manage this tremendous growth.

Jim has consistently utilized thoughtful and knowledgeable leadership by incorporating his unparalleled ability for careful listening and collaboration. These unique abilities have helped to ensure that the District will continue to effectively put the needs of the community at the forefront of their service.

Continued on page 14



Board Member Service Award



Kathy Morris

We would like to thank Kathy Morris from Durango Fire Protection District for her eight years of dedicated service to the SDA Board of Directors. During Kathy's years of service, she has served one year as Board Secretary, two years as Board Treasurer, and two years as Board Vice President.

Board Member Service Award



Al White

We would like to thank Al White from Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District for his years of dedicated service to the SDA Board of Directors. Al has served on the SDA Board of Directors while also participating as a key contributor to the SDA Legislative Committee for several years.

2022 District Safety Award Winner

Estes Valley Recreation and Park District



When it came time to select Colorado Special Districts Pool's 2022 District of the Year, Estes Valley Recreation and Park District was a standout candidate from the very beginning.

As our team toured their facilities over the past few years, each visit showed marked improvement in safety and loss prevention and highlighted a commitment to life safety and the preservation of property. Their growth as a Colorado Special District Pool member has resulted in a burgeoning safety culture that permeated every aspect of their organization from team meetings, safety committees, and day-to-day operations. Today, they are more organized and efficient; dedicated to completing training programs both in-person and online; and doing their best to stay proactive in their safety program. All of the Estes Valley Recreation and Park team is proud of what they are doing, something that is obvious when touring their District's facilities.

This award doesn't just mark the culmination of their hard work; it is only the beginning of what they are sure to accomplish in the coming years.

Congratulations to Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, the Colorado Special Districts Pool's 2022 District of the Year.

SDA

*See you next year,
September 12-14,
in Keystone!*

2022 SDA Annual Conference

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Complimentary WiFi and mobile device charging stations during the SDA Annual Conference brought to you by the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool.

Plus, get one complimentary coffee or tea drink at the Conference Center coffee shop!



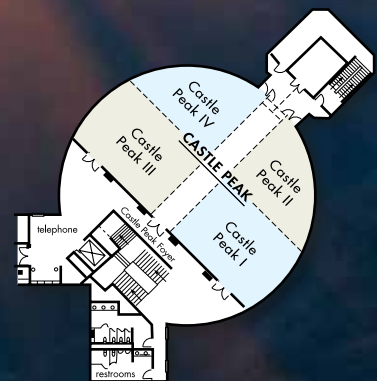
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**See you next year,
September 12-14!**



Second Floor

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Special District Association of Colorado