



June 2007

Protect Our Wells

<http://protectourwells.org>

NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 4, 2007
7:00 PM
Woodmen Valley Chapel
(8292 Woodmen Valley View)

Program:

Help Protect Groundwater

Learn about the common septic system failures that threaten groundwater.

Gary Hall, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Agent, will discuss the basic structure of the septic system, what it does, how it works and what you can do to help protect groundwater and save yourself time and money.

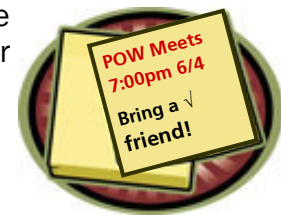
NO Fall-Back For Private Well Owners

It was quite a presentation by Keith Riley and Cortney Brand, Colorado Springs Utilities, on the Southern Delivery System (SDS).

Unfortunately, that presentation, as well as the one we had by Gary Barber, El Paso County Water Authority (EPCWA), confirmed, "That private well owners do not have water resources to fall back on when their well runs dry". We'll continue to monitor the progress of SDS because, as you'll remember, depending on the option chosen, additional wells in the Denver Basin may be needed to supplement the water being transported.

In addition, as we learn more about these plans, the significance of a strong POW membership looms more important. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join with us. You could start by bringing them to our next meeting where we'll give updates on what we have been doing and follow with an excellent program about septic systems by Gary Hall (see sidebar). We welcome all to visit our website or call me or one of our other directors.

Thanks for your support, Sandy



Where's Your Well Permit?

With the passage of HB07-1156, by Jan 8, 2008, all listing contracts and contracts for sale of residential real property will include the source of potable water in a disclosure statement.

If the source is a water provider, the following information: name, address, phone number,

and website will be required.

If the source is a well, this bill requires the disclosure to include a copy of the well permit, if one is available.

The obligation to provide the disclosure shall be upon the seller. (Continued page 5)

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Roundtables formed under Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act.

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Status of developments POW is tracking.

"Waiting to fix that leaking toilet" - Page 5
A leaking toilet can lose up to 200 gallons of water a day!

The Future of Colorado's Water Supply

Julia M Murphy, Hydrogeologist

Decisions regarding water have become increasingly complex due to Colorado's unparalleled growth and multiple water uses. To address the growing concern of meeting diverse water needs, a collaborative process was established under the Colorado Water for the 21st Century act. A permanent forum for water discussions was established to include stakeholders from cities, counties, municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, recreational, and water rights owners throughout the state.

Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee

Basin Roundtables

The entire state was divided into nine areas. Eight of the nine areas were delineated based on the State's major River Basins. Due to the unique needs of the Denver Metropolitan area, this area was carved out of the Arkansas and South Platte River Basin to form the ninth Roundtable.

Two hundred and ninety nine Coloradans are serving as roundtable members bringing a diversity of interests, backgrounds, experiences, and geographic perspectives to Colorado's water discussions. Roundtable participants include representatives from eight different state and federal agencies, in addition to the involvement of 26 non-voting members bringing a cross-basin perspective to each roundtable.

Interbasin Compact Committee

Equally important to the Roundtable process is the establishment of the Interbasin Compact Committee, a 27-member committee tasked to facilitate communication between roundtables. The IBCC is comprised of two representatives from each basin, six appointees by the Governor, the Senate and House Agriculture Committee Chairpersons, and the Director of Natural Resources. They also had to develop By-laws, Charter, and Public Education and Outreach Working Group. The focus of the Charter is to "govern and guide negotiations between roundtables".

Funds are available to Roundtables

Senate Bills (SB06-179) and House Bills HB05-1385 and HB06-1400, were passed by the legislature to assist with the roundtable in establishing their needs assessment. SB06-179 created a water supply reserve account. Administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board under HB1385, \$10 million from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund is transferred by the State Treasurer annually and is to be used for the Basin Roundtables water activities. This money is earmarked for projects that encompass multiple roundtable interests (Statewide account).

HB-1400 also allocates monies to the Roundtables. These monies come through the Division of Natural Resources with \$500,000 budgeted for administration and the balance (approximately \$640,000) for Roundtables to use in conducting needs assessments (Basin Account).

Responsibilities

Along with establish their bylaws, each roundtable is tasked with:

1. Developing a basin-wide needs assessment
2. Evaluate the availability of water supplies
Propose projects or non-structural methods for meeting water supply needs; Preference is to be given to unappropriated water supplies.

The roundtable activities are required by law to be open to the public. Public involvement is identified as an essential element.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board plays a very large role in the process. A few of their functions are to: encourage cooperation between the various water interests; track and support water supply projects including the legal, financial or political issue than may hinder the process; and provide statewide outreach and education.

El Paso County representation

El Paso County resides in three roundtable areas:

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Roundtable Boundaries



(Continued from page 2)

the South Platte, Arkansas the Metro. As such, they are afforded three representatives; one voting member on each roundtable. In 2005, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners appointed Phil Steininger, District Manger of Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, to the South Platte roundtable, Gary Barber with the El Paso County Water Authority to sit on the Arkansas Roundtable and Frank Jaeger, District Manager for Parker Water and Sanitation to sit on the Metro Roundtable. Most of El Paso County is within the boundary of the Arkansas Roundtable.

Private well owners do not have separate representation but their interests should be represented by the County in which they reside.

Proposed projects in the Arkansas and Metro areas

Since late 2005, all roundtables have been meeting on a monthly basis. To date, about 4 million dollars in grants has been awarded to projects throughout the state. In the Arkansas Roundtable area, three projects have been funded.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit project. This project is sponsored by the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise was awarded \$200,000 in grant money from the statewide fund. This money will be combined

with matching funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to fund a conduit that will bring higher quality drinking water to communities east of Pueblo.

The Upper Black Squirrel Creek Aquifer Recharge and Storage Evaluation,

sponsored by the El Paso County Water Authority, was granted \$70,000 from the Basin Account to fund this project which will evaluate the feasibility of using the alluvial aquifer in eastern El Paso County for storing water from Cherokee Water District's proposed waste treatment facility. The idea is to put water into the aquifer for storage and later recover that water for use.

Long-term Management of Non-native Phreatophyte Trees and Mapping Project for the Arkansas Basin.

This third project is designed to complete the mapping and management plan of invasive plant species that negatively impact the limited water resources. This project was sponsored by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and was awarded \$50,000 from the statewide account.

The Metro Roundtable area has one project

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The Future of Colorado's Water Supply

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funded. **The Chatfield Reservoir relocation environmental impact statement (EIS) and feasibility report.** A total of \$103,000 was awarded from the basin account to assist in completion of the feasibility of relocating 20,600 acre-feet of storage water from the Chatfield Reservoir.

A project that has been approved through the Metro Roundtable but has yet to receive final approval for

\$130,000 is for an agricultural water-optimization project sponsored by Parker Water and Sanitation and CSU. This focus of the project is to optimize agricultural water use freeing up water that can then be leased for municipal use.

The objective for the upcoming year set by Harris Sherman, executive Director of DNR, is on the further development of each Basins needs assessment, identifying multi-objective collaborative solutions; and establishing goals for the interbasin compact proc-

ess and public educations and outreach. Sherman states "This... work is a critical step in meeting Colorado's future water supply needs..."

Source: *Interbasin Compact Process, Colorado's Water Supply Future, Colorado Department of Natural Resources.*

Julia Murphy is a member of the Metro Basin Roundtable.

What's Developing?

Benet Hills Monastery Relocation—Hwy 83

- Neighboring residents to Benet Hills are concerned about impact of commercial well in the Dawson Aquifer.
- Discussions are underway regarding the feasibility of a Denver Well to replace the Dawson.

Sanctuary in the Pines—Intersection Vollmer and Shoup Roads

- This Morley-Howard Investments 2,378-acre development was approved by the El Paso County BoCC on April 26th.

Bent Grass—Woodmen Rd and Falcon Meadows

- On February 6th, the El Paso County Planning Commission approved 389 single family homes on 126 acres.
- Issues with adjoining homeowners must be resolved before submitted to BoCC.

**Bob Reynolds, PhD
Denver Museum of
Nature & Science
Returns to POW
August 27th**

Important Dates:

- POW Board of Directors Meeting—1st Monday each month, Woodmen Valley Chapel Community Center
- El Paso County Water Authority—1st Wednesday each month, County Office Building

Interesting Websites:

Colorado Water Facts
<http://waterknowledge/colostate.edu/>

Newsletter: Colorado Division of Water Resources
<http://water.state.co.us/pubs/Strmlne.asp/>

Colorado Counties
<http://www.ccionline.org/>

Interbasin Compact
<http://dnr.state.co.us/Home/ColoradoWaterforthe21stCentury>

HB07-1156—Source of Water Disclosure Statement

(Continued from page 1)

If the seller complies, the purchaser will not have any claim against seller or licensed person (real estate agent) for damages resulting from an alleged inadequacy of the property's source of water.

So, do you know where your well permit is? Or is it still in the name of the original owner? Take some time now to get your paperwork in order. You can visit the Colorado Division of Water Resources online at :

<http://water.state.co.us/groundwater/groundwater.asp>

Search for your well permit by clicking on DWR Online Mapping (Well Permit Locator) in the navigation panel on the right. If you need to change the name or address on the permit, click on Forms in the same panel.

Mitchell Baldwin, POW Vice President and realtor, will have more information at our meeting June 4th.

Taking care of this now, may save you some time later.

Background: From *The Independent*, Feb 8-14, 2007 *Dry Spell* by Naomi Zeveloff

Newly elected state Rep. Marsha Looper (R-Calhan), representing Rancho in House District 19, is sponsoring a bill that could protect people who move to waterless properties.

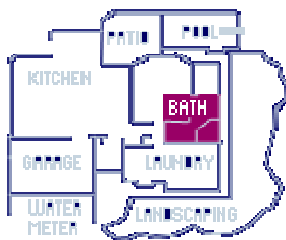
HB 1156 would demand that a land seller fully disclose a property's water source to any buyer. If the water comes from a well, the seller must give the buyer a copy of the well permit.

Many without water in Rancho contend that when they bought their land, they were told they could hook up to a water system in the future. That never happened.

Looper's bill won't help the waterless already living on Fort Carson's outskirts, but it will clear up any confusion for people who move there in the future.

"It does not help my friends and the citizens of [Rancho]," says Looper. "I hope to continue to find some solution."

Water Conservation Happens In Small Ways Too!



We all know that there are things we can do around the house to conserve our precious water. Unfortunately, we often become so overwhelmed by the price tags that we stop there. I know I can't replace my top loading washer for a front loader now and I can't afford to install a full-house On-Demand Hot Water System.

leak water. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)

There are, however, some things we can all do that only take a little maintenance or changing of habits. Let's start with the bathroom where toilets are the biggest user of water in the home. A regular toilet uses 5 gallons of water per flush. A water-saving toilet uses 1.6 gallons per flush.

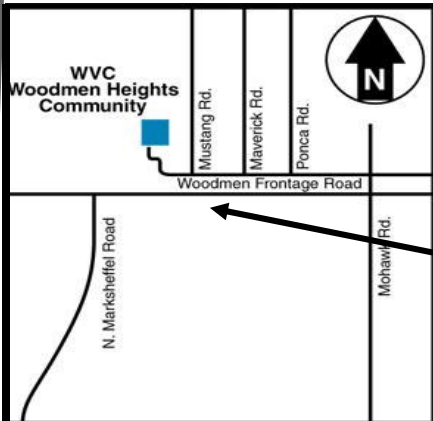


A family of four can save 20,000 gallons of water a year simply by only running water to rinse while brushing teeth.

Can't replace your old toilet, well consider that 20% of the toilets

We'll pass along other ways to conserve but encourage you to seek out changes and let us know what you find.

Protect Our Wells
PMB22
6835 White Fir Ln #7
Black Forest, CO 80908



MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday June 4, 2007
(See front page)

Protect Our Wells Directors

Officers

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Secretary: Bea Crandall 719-495-4213
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Director: Pam Dawson 719-749-2342
Director: Vacant
Director: Vacant

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For Information: See our Website <http://protectourwells.org> or email: info@protectourwells.org

About Our Organization

Protect Our Wells (POW), dba Denver Basin Aquifers Private Well Owners Association, is a non-profit, citizen-based organization formed to advocate the interests of private well owners in the Denver Basin. The purpose of Protect Our Wells is to:

- Advocate and promote the unified interests of private well owners at the local and state levels
- Gather information about the status of Denver Basin groundwater supplies and advocate their conservative use
- Educate private well owners about Denver Basin groundwater

Annual membership is \$25. Send check to our treasurer, Jack Cooper, at PMB22, 6835 White Fir Ln #7, Black Forest, CO 80908