

2025 Working DRAFT Agenda (September 12, 2025)

2025 COALITION OF RIO GRANDE WATER USERS 3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Cooperating on the Rio Grande”

Sponsored by *New Mexico Irrigation Leader* magazine
El Dorado Hotel & Spa
309 W San Francisco Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501
September 30-October 2

TUESDAY, September 30

Lobby Bar

5:00-7:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception Sponsored by Rubicon Water**

WEDNESDAY, October 1

7:30 a.m. **Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee**

7:50 a.m. **Welcome:** Kris Polly
 New Mexico Irrigation Leader magazine

Invocation: Glenn Tenorio
 Water Resources Irrigation Program Manager
 Department of Natural Resources
 Pueblo of Santa Ana

Pledge of Allegiance

8:00 a.m. **Opening Keynote: Working Together on the Rio Grande**
 Brian Richter
 President, Sustainable Waters

8:30 a.m. **Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Coalition**
Speakers: Eugene Jiron (Invited)
 Governor of Isleta Pueblo

 Phoebe Suina (Invited)
 Owner and Founder

High Water Mark, LLC

Clint Lente (Invited)
Isleta Pueblo

Glenn Tenorio
Water Resources Specialist/Irrigation
Pueblo of Santa Ana, Manager,
Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Coalition Vice Chairman

9:30 a.m.

Ki uta ki tai: Freshwater Management in Aotearoa New Zealand from the Mountains to the Ocean

A Waitaki case study of how Māori concepts such as mahinga kai and te mana o te wai are integrated into regulations and river plans.

Speaker: Elizabeth Soal
Contributing Editor
New Zealand Irrigation Leader magazine

10:00 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m.

New Mexico Legislative Priorities

Speakers: Representative Kristina Orteza (Invited)
Chair of the House Agriculture, Acequias and
Water Resources Committee
New Mexico State Legislature

11:00 a.m.

Urban Investment in the Watersheds

Speakers: Mark Kelly, PE
Water Resources Division Manager
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

Christine Chavez
Water Resource and Conservation Manager
City of Santa Fe Water

Adrienne Widmer
Utilities Director
City of Las Cruces

12:00 noon

Lunch

Sharing a River: The Challenges of a Shrinking Rio Grande

Speaker: John Fleck
Director of Water Resources, Department of Economics
University of New Mexico
Colorado River Research Group

- 1:30 p.m. **Transforming Center Pivot Irrigation Through Drip Technology**
 Speaker: Monty Teeter
 Developer and CEO
 Dragon-Line Irrigation
- 2:00 p.m. **Case Study: Total Canal Control Installation, Carlsbad Irrigation District**
 Speakers: Coley Burgess
 General Manager
 Carlsbad Irrigation District
- John Lind
 Account Manager, Southwest
 Rubicon
- 2:30 p.m. **Case Study: Canal Lining, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District**
 Speakers: Jason Casuga
 General Manager
 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- Brian Nami
 Business Development Manager – Central USA
 Concrete Canvas USA
- 3:00 p.m. **Ice Cream Sundae Break Sponsored by HDR Engineering**
- 3:30 p.m. **Updated Stormwater Modeling**
 Speaker: Sam Colter
 Civil Engineering Masters Student
 University of New Mexico
- 4:00 p.m. **Reducing Costs and Nitrogen Losses with Satellite Data**
 Speaker: Jackson Stansell
 Founder and CEO
 Sentinel Ag
- 4:30 p.m. **Canal Hydropower**
 Speakers: Casey Ish
 Conservation Program/Special Projects Manager
 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- Steve Johnson
 Senior Director of Business Development
 Emrgy
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. **Technology and Services Reception**

THURSDAY, October 2

7:30 a.m.

Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee

7:50 a.m.

Welcome: Kris Polly
New Mexico Irrigation Leader magazine

Invocation: Glenn Tenorio
Water Resources Irrigation Program Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Pueblo of Santa Ana

Pledge of Allegiance

8:00 a.m.

Colorado State Legislature Priorities

Speakers: David Robbins
President & Co-Founder, Hill & Robbins P.C.

Cleave Simpson
Senator
Colorado General Assembly

9:00 a.m.

Grant Writing Guidance

Speaker: Sarah Pruden
Grant and Marketing Manager
Rubicon

9:30 a.m.

Supplies Through Water Exchanges

Speaker: Sandy Fabritz
Director of Water Strategies
Freeport McMoRan

10:00 a.m. **Networking Break**

10:30 a.m.

How to Lobby Congressional Offices

Speakers Dillon Kuehn
Vice President
Water Strategies LLC

Lane Simpson
Legislative Assistant
Water Strategies, LLC

11:00 a.m.

Federal and State Issues Update

Speakers: Dillon Kuehn

Vice President
Water Strategies LLC

Lane Simpson
Legislative Assistant
Water Strategies, LLC

11:30 a.m.

Rio Grande Basin Study

Speakers: Jennifer Faler
Area Office Manager
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

A History of Conflict and Solutions on the Rio Grande

Speaker: Michael R. Gabaldon, P.E. (Invited)
Client Director
Governments | Communities
Black & Veatch

1:30 p.m.

Reclamation Update

Speakers: Acting Commissioner David Palumbo
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

2:00 p.m.

US-Mexico Opportunities

Speaker: Maria Elena Giner
Former Commissioner
International Boundary and Water Commission, US Section

2:30 p.m.

Leading Environmental Law Decisions from the Supreme Court's 2024-2025 term, and Related Developments in the Lower Courts and the Current Administration

Speaker: Damien Schiff
Senior Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation

3:00 p.m.

Networking Break

3:30 p.m.

New Zealand February 14-21, 2026 Tour Itinerary Review

Speaker: Elizabeth Soal
Contributing Editor
New Zealand Irrigation Leader magazine

4:00 p.m.

Closing New Zealand Tour Drawing

Three (3) \$1,000 credits toward the 2026 New Zealand Tour sponsored by *Irrigation Leader* Magazine. Must be a registered CRGWU attendee and present to win. See eligibility rules.

HOTEL INFORMATION: The conference will take place at the El Dorado Hotel & Spa, 309 W San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Your reservation includes full buffet breakfast, complimentary

airport shuttle service, complimentary Internet service, and free parking. To make or confirm your room reservation, please call (800) 955-4455.