

Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar GRAD592

Fall 2016 Theme:

Topics in Western Water Law

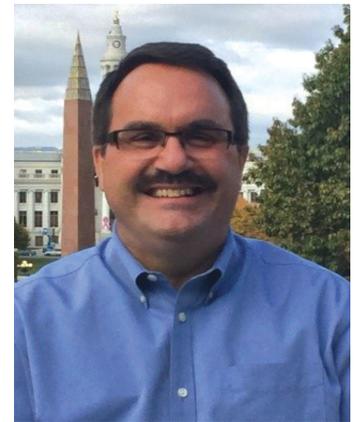
Monday, November 28, 2016 4:00 – 5:00 PM,
BSB Room 103

Water Law Administration and Management

Dick Wolfe, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Biography:

Dick Wolfe was appointed State Engineer and Director of the Colorado Division of Water Resources on November 26, 2007. As State Engineer, Dick is responsible for the direction and management of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, which has a staff of approximately 260 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$25 million. The Division is responsible for distribution and administration of water in accordance with the State Constitution, State statutes and interstate compacts, the implementation of a statewide dam safety program, the permitting of the use of ground water and construction of wells, and the collection and dissemination of data on water use and streamflow. Wolfe is Colorado's commissioner on five interstate compacts, Executive Director of the Colorado Ground Water Commissioner, and Secretary to the Colorado Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors. He has been with the Division since 1993. Wolfe's education experience includes a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University in 1983 and 1986, respectively. He is a native of Colorado and was raised on a farm in Weld County.



Abstract:

Cooperation, flexibility, and honesty have shaped the river management system that we employ today to meet the challenges of effective and efficient management of Colorado's water resources. The enormous challenges facing us require a collaborative decision-making process that reaches common ground to develop a sustainable water future that meets our numerous and diverse needs. Water administration needs to be transparent and accountable. The regulated community should not have to blindly trust government— they need bases for decisions.

We have evolved to a robust administration system that started in 1879 with the creation of the position of water commissioner. Our system of water administration is complicated but manageable. There are many existing and emerging issues that must be considered to ensure that we are continuing to maximize the State's most precious resource while appearing to paradoxically sustain it.

We must endeavor to weave our way through the myriad of state and federal laws pertaining to statutes, case law, Supreme Court decisions, compacts, rules and policies to ensure they are as compatible as they can be with the physical system we are trying to administer. Wolfe will attempt to explain this complicated system.



Colorado State University



All interested faculty, students, and off-campus guests are encouraged to attend.
For more information, contact Reagan Waskom at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu or visit watercenter.colostate.edu.

