



June 2007

Updated August 2007

# Protect Our Wells

<http://protectourwells.org>

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday,  
August 27, 2007  
7:00 PM  
Woodmen Valley  
Chapel**

8292 Woodmen Valley  
View  
(Map page 6)

### Program:

**Dr. Bob Raynolds,  
Denver Basin  
Specialist from the  
Denver Museum**

"In Douglas County, the Arapahoe aquifer is falling about 30' per year."

Hear his predictions, based upon scientific findings, and recommendations for El Paso County .

## NO Fall-Back For Private Well Owners

A presentation in June by Keith Riley and Cortney Brand, Colorado Springs Utilities, on the Southern Delivery System (SDS), as well as 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, depending on the option chosen, additional wells in the Denver Basin may be needed by the city 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 by Bob Raynolds, about the status of the Denver Basin aquifers in El Paso County (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.

### INSIDE

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Sellers Be Ready!!

**"Waiting to fix that leaking toilet" - Page 2**  
A leaking toilet can lose up to 200 gallons of water a day!

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

## HB07-1156—Source of Water Disclosure Statement

By  
Mitchell Baldwin



HB 1156 sponsored by Rep. Marsha Looper (R-Calhan) was designed to insure that home buyers know where their water is coming from. This bill was the result of the fact that folks in the Rancho Subdivision were led to believe that they would be able to hook up to a water system in the future. That is not the case and they are still using cisterns.

Although the bill that Rep. Looper sponsored will not help the folks in the Rancho area, it should provide more information on the water sources available to the buyer. This is a disclosure the seller must make to the buyer.

The forms committee with the Colorado Division of Real Estate is currently working on a disclosure form to be completed by the seller and presented to the buyer. The disclosure requirement will be mandatory for use on January 1, 2008. The seller will have to disclose facts either about their well if they have a well or information about the company that provides them water. The form will have to be used in all real estate transactions that fall under the rules of the Real Estate

Commission; i.e. you employ a real estate broker to help you sell or buy a residential property.

What is interesting is that this bill also requires anyone selling residential real estate to disclose the source of potable water. This means that the "For Sale By Owner" folks will also need to make the same type of disclosure to the buyer. The FSBO sellers might as well download the new form from the state website:

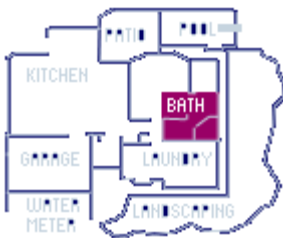
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/real-estate/index.htm>

when it becomes available and use their form. It will keep them from brain damage trying to figure out how to meet the law's requirements.

The redeeming factor about the disclosure is that if the seller makes the disclosure as required by law and the buyer runs out of water, the buyer cannot sue the seller for not having water.

**Editor Note:** You can download and read the entire bill, HB07-1156, from the State website at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>. Click on House and Bills. POW members can look for an update to this issue in the next POW quarterly newsletter coming in November '07.

### 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.

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.

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

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.)



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

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

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (IBCC), 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 establishing 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.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Roundtable Boundaries



(Continued from page 3)

### El Paso County representation

El Paso County resides in three roundtable areas: the South Platte, Arkansas, and 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 Manager 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. Gary Barber was appointed to the Arkansas Roundtable Groundwater sub-committee.

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

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# The Future of Colorado's Water Supply

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sponsored by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and was awarded \$50,000 from the statewide account.

The Metro Roundtable area has one project 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 process 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.*

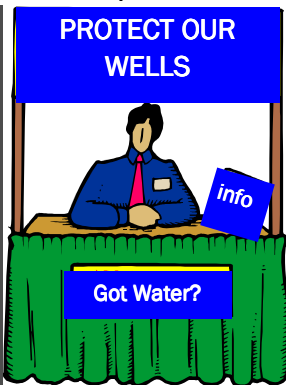
*Julia Murphy, a professional Geologist/Hydrogeologist and consultant for POW, is also a member of the Metro Basin Roundtable.*

## POW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

August starts POW's annual membership drive. Our goal is to add 500 new members and renew ALL of our current members. We know it's ambitious, but POW depends on membership numbers and funding in order to gather information about water issues, pass that information on to you and establish credibility with local and state entities as an organization with a massive following.

POW is the only one that is speaking for you - private well owners. For only \$25 a year you have the services of a professional hydrogeologist as a consultant for POW who is working in your behalf. Your membership makes us stronger and allows our voice to be heard. Please take a few minutes today to JOIN POW or RENEW your current membership.

**A POW membership form is on the back page. You can make copies and give to your neighbors and friends. We hope to see you at the meeting on August 27th.**



**Look for us at the Black Forest Festival Saturday August 18, 2007**

**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>

# Join POW!

## Protect Our Wells (POW)

### Membership Form

Renewal  New Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Newsletter: Yes  No

Please send form along with your check to:

Protect Our Wells  
P.O. Box 62716  
Colorado Springs, CO 80962



## Membership Types

**Active Membership** - Households with private wells in the Denver Basin consisting of the Dawson, Denver, Laramie-Fox Hills, or Arapahoe aquifers.

**Associate Membership** - This non-voting membership applies to all who don't qualify for Active Membership.

## Do you have a private well in the Denver Basin?

(Circle one)

Yes = Active Membership    No = Associate Membership    Don't know = Associate Membership

## Dues - \$25 / annually per household

(New memberships received Aug-Dec 2007 will expire December 2008)

_____ Community Action
_____ Issue Research
_____ Membership
_____ Publicity
_____ Monitor POW Website

## Volunteers Needed For POW Committees

As most volunteer organizations, POW needs members who are willing to serve some time on committees that are set up to target activities that align with our objectives. The only qualification is that you have a computer, internet service, and email. We'll train you about the water issues. Please select one of the committees listed.

For Information: See our Website <http://protectourwells.org> or email: [info@protectourwells.org](mailto:info@protectourwells.org)

## Protect Our Wells Directors

President:	<b>Sandy Martin</b>	719-351-1640
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Secretary:	<b>Bea Crandall</b>	719-495-4213
Treasurer:	<b>Jack Cooper</b>	719-495-3152
Director:	<b>Pam Dawson</b>	719-749-2342

