



Denver Basin Aquifers  
Private Well Owners Association

November 2007

# Protect Our Wells

<http://protectourwells.org>



## Mark Your Calendar....

Come and go anytime 7:00 – 8:30 PM

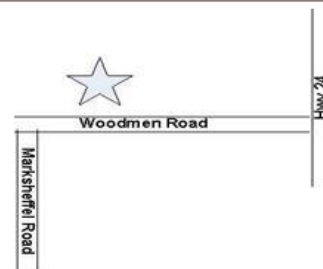
Visit with us and other exhibits to make some sense of .....

- Groundwater and groundwater issues
- Who owns the water under your property
- What is known about the availability of groundwater
- What conservation steps you can take
- How to ensure your septic is operating properly

Other Exhibitors: Colorado University Extension Center, Colorado Springs Utilities, Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Management District, Cherokee Water District, El Paso County Water Authority, Falcon/Peyton Plan Committee, Arkansas Basin Roundtable

## PROTECT OUR WELLS - OPEN HOUSE

**Date:** Monday, November 19, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
**Where:** Woodmen Valley Chapel  
8292 East Woodmen Valley Road



## PROTECT OUR WELLS APPLIES FOR GRANT

At our last meeting you heard John Moore, an expert in the field of geology and hydrogeology, echo Bob Raynold's, Denver Museum, words that there needs to be more monitoring of the Denver Basin Aquifers to help determine how much groundwater is available and how quickly it is de-

creasing.

POW had presented it's monitoring plan to the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners in 2005 and plans to move forward with implementation of that plan by applying for a grant through the Arkansas Basin Roundtable

that is funded from the Water Supply Reserve Account of the Colorado Water Conservation Board established by Senate Bill 06-179.

See us at the Open House for more information.

Sandy

# You Want Me To Drink What?????

By Bea Crandall

On November 27-28, POW's Hydrogeologist consultant, Julia Murphy, and I attended a Colorado Ground Water Management Policy Forum. **The purpose of the conference** was to bring key water entities from around the state together to address how to get the best out of Colorado's groundwater AND formulate policies that combine:



- the reality of science (hydrology)
- engineering capability
- environmental needs and
- legal rights and obligations.

A big order.

Attendees and speakers ranged from Harris Sherman, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and Colorado Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs, to farmers, environmentalists, engineers, attorneys, and private well owners. There were several legislators including House District 19's Representative Marsha Looper.

The theme of the conference was Aquifer Recharge - treating wastewater (yes, sewer water) from various sources such as subdivisions in water districts and recharging it back into the aquifers. Presentations of successful, extensive recharge systems in California and other states were given.

Closer to home, Cherokee Metropolitan District is working on a recharge project that will process over 4 million gallons per day, however, the recharged water will be returned only to the Southern part of the Upper Black Squirrel Creek. Kathy Hare, President of the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Management District, states that

"Over time, this process will result in depletion of both the Upper Black Squirrel Creek and the Denver Basin". She would like to see wastewater treatment plants that will recharge the majority of the basin. In addition, she recommends regulations placing new 2 1/2 acre subdivisions on centralized wastewater treatment facilities (recharging the basin with less pollution).

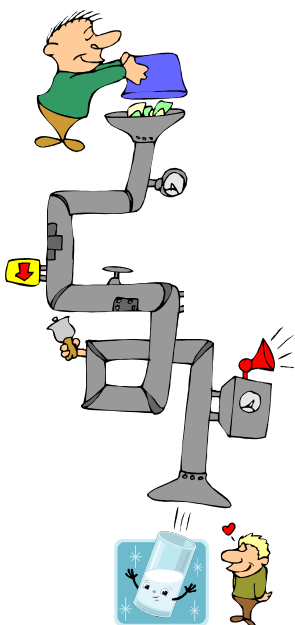
Another ever-present tone of the conference was how to get all of the water providers, water users, government agencies and other organizations to cooperate in obtaining the best use from all of Colorado's available water. A defensive attitude apparently prevails statewide. An allegory of "The Crab pot Syndrome" was presented by Gary Barber, Chairman of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. He referred to a book by William Warner, where crabs in a basket ready for the pot are not trying to get out of the basket, but have their claws locked on each other keeping each other down instead of climbing out. "Their natural instinct is to 'oppose' and none can escape".

Gary questions, "Can we avoid going into the cooking pot ourselves with regard to water supply in Colorado.? Perhaps we should move beyond a win-lose paradigm to "not lose".

At a "working lunch" participants were asked to come up with answers to a set of questions. One group recommended a new water court category so that interested parties (but not involved) could receive all information in the case without having to file as an objector.

The conference was not intended to solve all of the state's groundwater issues, but to bring together the players and begin a dialog for cooperation. The speakers were excellent, and the mix of attorneys, engineers, scientists, and legislators was an interesting approach.

Additional information, such as legal implications of recharging and other subjects presented at the conference, will be available at POW's "Open House" on November 19th. Also see the list of exhibitors at POW's website at <http://www.protectourwells.org>.



## WARNING—COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

By Marilan Luttrell

Colorado Citizens For Property Rights

In August many people of the Ellicott area received notice from the State Division of Water alerting us to Cherokee Metropolitan Water District's (CMWD) request for a determination of water rights in our areas. CMWD claims under old leases from 1954 that they have reserved the right to drill wells on private property in various areas to any depth for water to supply upcoming developments by having paid royalties all these years to the original 8 families.

Some of the private property owners have businesses in the area but most of the 85 "new" land owners are just ordinary people. They have a home and a well and CMWD wants to draw water from under those wells and possibly cause personal wells to go dry.

We formed Colorado Citizens for Property Rights (formerly fighting the toll roads with Marsha Looper) and we are working to raise awareness and support for changing laws that cover citizens water rights. We realize that everyone we talk to may be facing the loss of their water in their lifetime. Not only that, but we are fighting the loss of our property values and the future of our land for future generations. We have retained a lawyer and our hearing before the ground water hearing officer is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs.

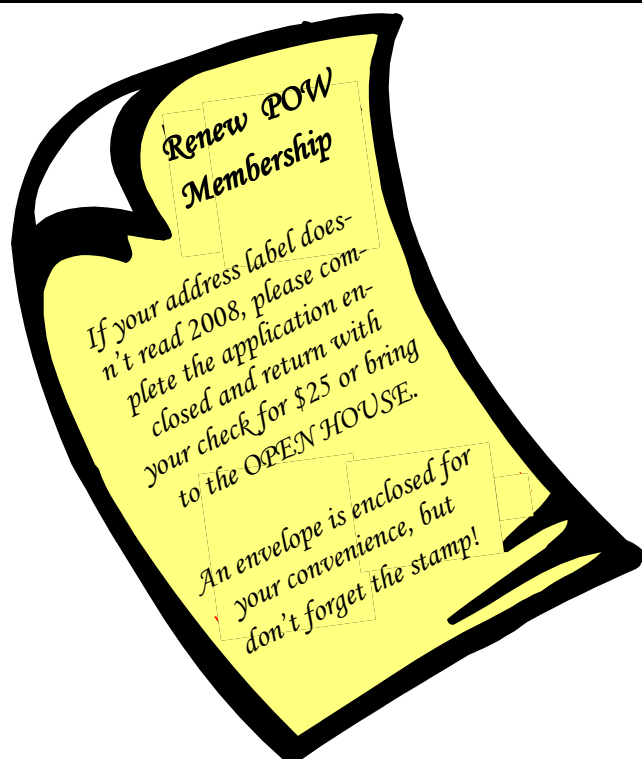
We are extremely concerned that even if CMWD fails in this action that they will continue to search our area in hopes of obtaining water to supply their ever growing need.

We continue to fight so that the State will hear us and make permanent changes to protect people's water rights and come up with plans to responsibly supply growth as well.

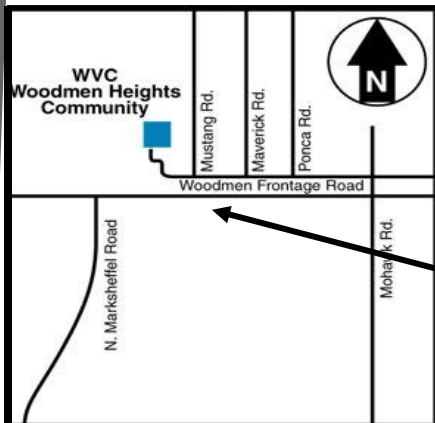
I personally own a small family farm where I raise all natural fresh beef, pork, lamb, poultry meats, dairy products in the way of goats milk, eggs and vegetables my entire family of 14 needs for the year, as well as crop products, pasture, forage and the like for these animals to graze on. As a lifetime member of this community I do not want to see it's people lose the beautiful life we have been able to build here. So many places in the world now are deserts due to the lack of planning in providing water to people. We live in such a fragile western ecosystem as it is that all of us need to be involved in our future and concerned about our water.

Our group meets the first Friday of each month from 7-9 at the New Hope Church 2150 N Ellicott Hwy in Ellicott. We have a general fund at the Farmers State Bank for anyone who would like to contribute. We appreciate the chance to partner with groups like POW to bring people more information and education. Please visit our website for updates:

<http://coloradocitizensforpropertyrights.com>.



Protect Our Wells  
c/o Sandy Martin, Editor  
7505 Mallard Drive  
Peyton, CO 80831



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Monday November 19, 2007  
(See front page)

## Protect Our Wells Directors

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**Director:** Vacant  
**Director:** Vacant

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For Information: See our Website <http://protectourwells.org> or email: [info@protectourwells.org](mailto: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 P.O. Box 62716, Colorado Springs, CO 80962