

# 2014 colorado watershed assembly ANNUAL REPORT

CWA's mission is to provide support for collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders to protect and improve the conservation values of land, water, and other natural resources of Colorado's watersheds.

PO Box 211729 | Denver, CO | 80221  
CWA: 720 722-4213  
River Watch: 303 291-7322  
[www.coloradowater.org](http://www.coloradowater.org)

The Colorado Watershed Assembly provides a statewide voice to increase public awareness of watershed issues and plays a variety of roles in supporting grassroots organizations. We are a collaborative, membership-driven association that promotes and supports citizen engagement in natural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement through programs and partnerships. For more information, visit our website.



The **RIVER WATCH PROGRAM** is a statewide, water quality monitoring program for citizen scientists of all ages. This program, which is a partnership with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, is comprised of volunteers from over 130 different public, private, and charter school groups, watershed organizations, and private individuals who monitor over 300 different rivers and streams throughout Colorado each year, making the program the largest collector of data in the state. You can help the RW team in your area through CWA membership and by a direct, tax deductible contribution to the RW Program on our website.

The **INFLOW NETWORK** is an electronic information network designed to engage water interested groups and citizens in state water policy and provide up to date information, such as funding opportunities, job openings, trainings and events. Because the Inflow works to bring attention to local watershed efforts, member news keeps this network relevant. Send in your news and events to keep the community informed of what you do. Become a member today and help support this valuable networking tool.

**WATERSHED PLANNING** – The Assembly continues to work with our member groups and funding partners to create a useful resource for local watershed planning efforts. Information collected in collaboration with the Water Quality Control Division and their Measurable Results Program as well as the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program of the Colorado Water Conservation Board is available on our website providing insight into lessons learned and valuable contact information for further networking.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – The Colorado Watershed Assembly hosts the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference each year as a collaborative effort with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and the Colorado Riparian Association. This popular conference provides a forum to expand cooperation and collaboration throughout Colorado in natural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement. The conference is an important opportunity to inform participants about timely issues and innovative projects while providing valuable networking opportunities. Visit [coloradowater.org/Conferences](http://coloradowater.org/Conferences) for more information!



The **COLORADO HEALTHY RIVERS FUND (CHRF)**, financed by the Colorado checkoff program, provides tax-payers the opportunity to contribute to local conservation groups by making a donation when they file their state tax return. CWA partners with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to advertise Fund and review applications submitted by conservation groups seeking funding for their efforts to protect our land and water resources. Donating to the CHRF not only helps local conservation groups conduct restoration projects, but it also shows state agencies and legislators that you value healthy rivers. Don't forget to make a donation this April.

*"CWA will become an example of collective impact. We plan to work with important actors from different sectors to move outcomes. We will become the diverse membership organization our founders envisioned. Please join us in this effort to bring nonprofits, governments, businesses, and the public together to achieve our shared goals and to count our blessings."*



- Casey Davenhill, Executive Director

## STAFF

**Colorado Watershed Assembly**  
Casey Davenhill *Executive Director*  
Erika Shioya *Member Services Coordinator*

## River Watch

Michaela Taylor *Program Director*  
Shayna Miller *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Matt McIntyre *Water Quality Analyst*  
Patty Forsburg *Lab Assistant*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted James *President*  
Zach Smith, *Vice President and Treasurer*  
Brian Epstein, *Secretary*  
Julie Vlier, P.E.  
Sarah Parmar  
Kelly Heaney



## How much do you love healthy watersheds?

When you make a contribution to the Colorado Watershed Assembly, you are part of a collaborative, statewide association of individual citizens and watershed groups working together to inform public policy and restore, preserve, and enhance the water, land, and natural resources of Colorado watersheds.

Do your part for healthy watersheds today. Make a donation or become a member at [www.coloradowater.org](http://www.coloradowater.org)!





# HIGHLIGHTS

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The 2013 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference, *Water: What is the New Normal?*, in Avon, CO was another success, with over 200 participants enjoying interactive workshops, engaging speakers, and energizing networking opportunities. Over 92% of our evaluation respondents found the overall conference value to be “very high” or “high”. This conference is incredibly important to our efforts to connect watershed groups with statewide resources.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Colorado Watershed Assembly continues to be a leader in citizen science. From 2013-2014, the number of River Watch groups grew to 135. Our dedicated volunteers are key to providing high quality data to decision makers while fostering lifelong environmental stewards. In 2014, our volunteers collected samples on over 300 river sites throughout Colorado, providing important baseline data to state agencies.

This year, River Watch collaborated with the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) to collect macroinvertebrates (bugs) on 20 of their 25 priority sites. This data was used by the WQCD to refine biological indicators that measure the health of rivers.

River Watch data also contributed to the development of the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission’s newly adopted standards for nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrients are among the nation’s priority pollutants and setting these standards helps Colorado maintain the high quality waters we depend on.

## COLORADO DATA SHARING NETWORK (CDSN)

CWA has been the fiscal sponsor for the Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC) for the past 5 years. In 2013 and 2014, we helped bring legal review and fiscal structure to this hardworking group of professional volunteers who have created the CDSN. The CDSN’s mission is to facilitate water quality monitoring and seamless data sharing among all interested parties to characterize water quality in Colorado. More information at: [www.coloradowaterdata.org](http://www.coloradowaterdata.org)

## COLORADO HEALTHY RIVERS FUND (CHRF)

Since the establishment of the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund in 2003, over 125,000 citizens have donated more than \$1,099,000 by using a convenient tax return checkoff to fund more than 72 local water enhancement projects in Colorado. The CHRF is administered through Colorado Water Conservation Board in association with the Water Quality Control Division and Colorado Watershed Assembly.



## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Amy Conklin, LLC                       | Lake Fork Valley Watershed Conservancy  |
| Animas River Stakeholders Group        | Lake Fork Watershed Working Group       |
| Big Dry Creek Watershed Association    | Norwest Corporation                     |
| Big Thompson Watershed Forum           | Pioneer Natural Resources               |
| Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners      | Purgatoire Watershed Partnership        |
| Clear Creek Watershed Foundation       | Rio Grande Restoration Foundation       |
| Coalition for the Upper South Platte   | Roaring Fork Conservancy                |
| Eagle River Watershed Council          | Sand Creek Regional Greenway            |
| Friends of the Poudre                  | Tamarisk Coalition                      |
| Grand County Water Information Network | Tetra Tech, Inc                         |
| Grand Environmental                    | Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership       |
| The Greenlands Reserve                 | Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association |
| Huerfano County Farm Bureau            | Western Slope Conservation Center       |
| Institute for Environmental Solutions  | West Greeley Conservation District      |

## VALUED PARTNERSHIPS

- |                   |                     |                  |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Amy Beatie        | Heather Dutton      | Nicole Seltzer   |
| April Montgomery  | Jeannette Hillery   | Norman Lastovica |
| Barb Horn         | Jennifer Barrow     | Paul Lander      |
| Beorn Courtney    | Jim Shaw            | Pauline Adams    |
| Bill Battaglin    | Joan Howerter       | Rachel Richards  |
| Bill Gooseman     | John Weiner         | Reed Dils        |
| Bill McKee        | Jonathan Gates      | Reinout Van West |
| Bill Meyers       | Julene Bair         | Rick Lofaro      |
| Brian Epstein     | Julie Vlier         | Ron Jameson      |
| Casey Davenport   | Kathleen Doherty    | Russell Walker   |
| Christi Turner    | Kathy Doyle         | Sarah Parmar     |
| Christine Hartman | Kelly Heaney        | Steve Krest      |
| Dan Kowal         | Ken Ransford        | Steve Smith      |
| David Rees        | Linda Andes-Georges | Susan Pollack    |
| Richard Parachini | Maggie Pedersen     | Susan Reed       |
| Dorothy Johnson   | Marc Alston         | Ted James        |
| Frank Riggle      | Markian Feduschak   | Wendy Hawthorne  |
| Gia Pizzichini    | Mary Menz           | Zach Smith       |
| Gil Hassinger     | Meghan Trubee       |                  |
| Greg Naugle       | Nancy Weil          |                  |

## FOUNDATIONS, GRANTS, AND CONTRACTS

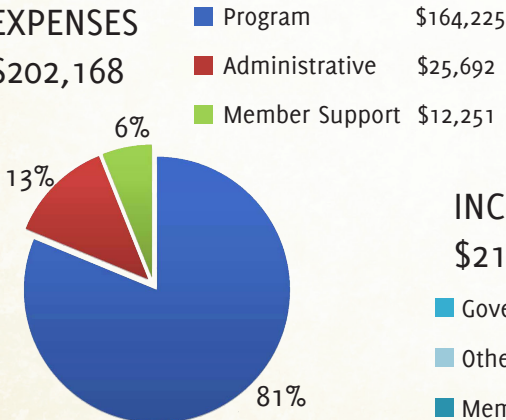
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Chatfield Watershed Authority
- Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund
- McKee Family Foundation
- Xcel Foundation
- Colorado Water Conservation Board

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Colorado Foundation for Water Education
- Colorado Riparian Association
- Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council
- Colorado Trout Unlimited

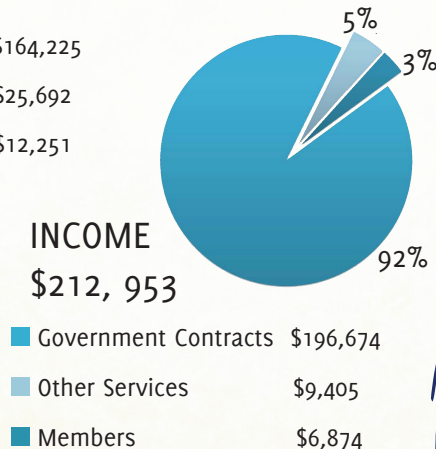
## EXPENSES

\$202,168



## INCOME

\$212,953



\*Results of operations through August 2014. Full fiscal year results available upon request.

