



## Strengthening Collaborative Capacity for Better Water Decisions

**Sylvan Dale Ranch, Loveland Colorado  
November 9-11, 2016**

### Why Collaborate?

Collaboration is derived from a Latin word meaning “to labor together” – to achieve a common goal or solve a shared problem. Good water policy decisions require decision-making processes that encourage collaboration and consensus building as well as best practices and skills to find solutions that are in the best interest of communities, the environment, and stakeholders interested in water allocation. Many existing approaches to solving water policy conflicts result in winners and losers while failing to solve more complex problems associated with water scarcity and uncertainty. Where multiple critical interests are at stake, collaborative problem-solving and consensus-building practices are more likely to result in enduring and broadly supported solutions while building capacity for resolving resource challenges into the future.



Collaboration is more than holding a series of meetings to exchange information or hammer out a hard-fought agreement. It is more than a facilitator calling on you to voice your opinion as you wait in the queue. And it is much more than compromise. Rather, collaboration is about looking at problems in new ways, interacting and engaging with other stakeholders in new ways, gathering scientific and technical information in new ways, and solving problems in new ways. It is a way to build a sense of shared ownership of our larger water allocation challenges and a commitment to work together to find integrative solutions. The need for collaboration is greater than ever as water allocation and distribution issues become more acute.

Like any skill, collaboration requires a better understanding of the principles and best practices that underlie its effectiveness. It requires diligence and perseverance around its implementation. And it requires practice.

### The Training Workshop

The future of water in Colorado and the West requires the best collaborative problem-solving and consensus building skills available. This interactive workshop is designed to strengthen capacity among water leaders and professionals to design and implement highly functioning collaborative processes and apply them to practical and complex issues affecting Colorado and the West.

The workshop delves more deeply into the following topic areas:

- Fundamental components of effective collaboration
- Best practices and skills in collaborative problem-solving and decision making
- Missed opportunities when solutions are strictly based on rights and power
- How collaboration can lead to better more enduring decisions
- Dealing with scientific and technical information
- Dealing with human and organizational challenges to productive collaboration
- Examples of successful collaborative processes
- Opportunities to practice skills and reflect on past experiences
- Opportunities to explore ideas with other water leaders and colleagues



## Training Team

The training team consists of Ryan Golten from CDR Associates, MaryLou Smith from the Colorado Water Institute, and Dan Birch from the Colorado River District. The team has a depth and breadth of knowledge in collaborative skills and practices in water allocation and management that is unsurpassed in Colorado and the West.

**Ryan Golten, J.D.**, is an experienced water attorney and mediator. Her keen understanding of technical issues and controversial dynamics makes her invaluable in helping groups solve complex problems. Along with her strategic and systems-oriented perspective, Ryan brings humor, cross-cultural understanding and the ability to build consensus in a variety of arenas. She has trained lawyers, engineers, resource specialists and others in mediation, facilitation, and collaborative problem-solving. Prior to joining CDR, Ryan practiced law with *acequia* and land grant communities and other interest groups in the Southwest. Ryan is a native of Colorado and received a J.D. from the University of New Mexico.



**MaryLou Smith** provides water policy collaboration services through the Colorado Water Institute at Colorado State University. A 40-year resident of Colorado, she designs and facilitates group process for stakeholder groups working through complex water policy issues throughout Colorado and the West. Much of her work centers around agricultural/urban/environmental water sharing strategies, and the integration of land use planning with water supply planning. She served 12 years on the Fort Collins Water Board, and currently serves on CSU's Water Archives Advisory Board. MaryLou has written and presented extensively on the challenges of managing and transforming water conflict, including in Iran for the International

Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and in Brazil for InovAgri. MaryLou was raised on an irrigated cotton and alfalfa farm in eastern New Mexico and received an M.S. in Educational Psychology from New Mexico State University.

**Dan Birch, P.E.**, has over 25 years of experience in water resources planning, management and engineering related to municipal, industrial, irrigation, recreation and environmental uses of water. Dan is the Deputy General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District and serves as Water Referee for the Division 6 Water Court. Dan has broad contacts among key Colorado stakeholders, having served on numerous water-related boards and committees, including the Colorado Water Congress (President, 2001), Interbasin Compact Committee, the Yampa/White Basin Roundtable, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, and the Colorado River Water Conservation District. He is also a trained facilitator for multi-stakeholder environmental and public policy issues. Dan holds an M.S.C.E. in Water Resources and a B.A. in Geology from the University of Colorado. Dan is a registered professional engineer in Colorado.



**CDR Associates** is one of the pioneers of the field of environmental mediation and collaboration. Founded in 1978 and based in Colorado, CDR has helped groups in 70 countries and 50 states find solutions to difficult and challenging issues that have led to valuable, long-lasting agreements on water, energy, land use and other environmental issues. CDR is known nationally and internationally for its training programs in collaborative decision-making, consensus building, negotiation, facilitation, and mediation and has trained the majority of leading professionals in the field today. Its practitioners have written and published extensively about the practice of mediation and collaboration, with books and papers translated into multiple languages. [www.mediate.org](http://www.mediate.org)

**The Colorado Water Institute (CWI)**, an affiliate of Colorado State University, connects all of Colorado's higher education expertise to the research and education needs of Colorado water managers and users, as well as those in the Colorado River Basin and the western United States. CWI was authorized by and receives funding from Congress but relies on outside grants and funding to support research and public engagement processes. <http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/>

**Registration Options** – for detailed information, visit <http://cdrassociates.org/training-courses>

- Individual from private or public sector organization - \$895
- Two or more individuals from same private or public sector organization – \$895 for first; \$595 for each additional individual
- Non-profit individual - \$495
- Unaffiliated private individual - \$495

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