

# the Practitioner

Winter 2025

Volume 26, Issue 1

## APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference

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The APWA Colorado Chapter held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference with the theme *Shaping the Future* at the Denver Marriott West in Golden and it was another memorable event. It was yet another attendance record with over 200 people attending the conference, and we had nearly 400 for the Awards Luncheon. Thanks to everyone that came together to make this happen including our fantastic committee, great speakers, wonderful sponsors, and you, the attendees. This event was held Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 and featured two days of informative presentations, networking, and entertainment. Keith Reester presented our keynote speech on Monday. He shared his experiences on his Colorado Trail journey. Keith traveled the entire 500 miles of the Colorado Trail and he provided several takeaways from his journey and how we can apply those to our daily lives. Keith’s presentation provided the audience with a greater appreciation of the outstanding beauty and experiences in our state. Thanks to Keith for sharing his experiences with our group and offering key points we can apply to our personal and professional journeys. The conference featured general sessions as well as breakouts including presentations on local municipal agency projects. Presentations on the I-70 Floyd Hill project, incorporating AI into infrastructure management, CM/GC projects, asset management strategies, and leadership were provided and were very informative. We held our networking reception Monday evening in the lobby of the Marriott and this provided a great venue for entertainment and catching up with colleagues. Shawn Preston returned this year and dazzled our audience in amazing fashion. Thanks to those who attended for a great evening!



**Keith Reester provided the keynote presentation on his 500 mile trek of the Colorado Trail.**

We held the Annual Awards Luncheon on Tuesday to close the conference, this allowed all attendees to enjoy some additional networking time and visit conference exhibitors. Please see the separate article on the Awards Luncheon on page 2. This is the tenth year since we merged the Annual Awards Banquet with the Annual Chapter Conference which has allowed us to

# APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference

better position our chapter to pursue national recognition of our people and accomplishments with the National deadlines for applications.

We are in the process of preparing for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, October 20-21, 2025. Our Call for Papers has been released. The theme this year is **NAVIGATING A CHANGING LANDSCAPE**. Change is inevitable. Roadways deteriorate, concrete cracks, slopes erode, pipes break, budgets are tweaked, and the standards that guide design, construction, and maintenance are constantly being revised. Public Works faces this change while also managing and adapting to evolving

technologies, climate impacts, political change, and shifting public expectations. As the industry faces new challenges and opportunities, it is essential for the Public Works community to explore innovative strategies, solutions, and best practices for navigating this changing landscape. The 2025 Annual Conference will focus on the strategies, methods, tools, and technology Public Works professionals are using to adhere to the changes we are facing.

Watch your inbox for conference announcements and sponsorship opportunities. We always welcome new additions to our committee. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Chuck Weiss at [cweiss@e-470.com](mailto:cweiss@e-470.com) or by phone at 303.537.3420.

*Chuck Weiss, Annual Chapter Conference Committee Chair  
APWA Colorado President-Elect  
E-470 Public Highway Authority*

## APWA Colorado Annual Awards Luncheon

The American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter Awards Program was established in 1985 to recognize outstanding programs, projects, and individuals representing the best in the public works profession.

The awards program and luncheon became part of the Colorado Annual Chapter Conference in 2014. This year the luncheon was held on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Denver Marriott West.

The awards committee was made up of APWA members Mark Jackson, Jay Goldie and Renée Railsback who had the tough task of selecting the awarded projects this year. Nominations were submitted and judged using established criteria:

- **Innovation:** Has the individual, program, or project found new methods to provide better service to the public or to internal customers?
- **Achievement:** Did the completed project or program achieve all set goals? Were the desired results achieved and were they consistent?
- **Transferable:** Is the resulting improvement and innovation transferable to other communities and situations?
- **Cooperation:** Was there special cooperation between individuals, agencies, citizens, businesses and the general public?

**The Chapter awards ceremony was organized by the awards luncheon committee Matthew Matuszewski and Matt Knight.**

A video played during lunch allowing the Chapter to honor committee members, national awards, recipients of certifications, accreditations and scholarships as well as our many sponsors and vendors. The ceremony focused on the award recipients and the ninth graduating class of the Rocky Mountain Public Works Institute.

The awards luncheon and ceremony was attended by almost 400 people who came to celebrate these outstanding programs, projects and individuals.

The Colorado Chapter would like to thank all of the communities who submitted nominations and the outstanding public works professionals who work tirelessly to plan, build, maintain, and improve our communities.



# Message from the President

## John Burke



I'm thrilled to be elected president of the APWA Colorado Chapter, the best Chapter in all of APWA, if I may be so bold. I say this with complete confidence though as I recently attended the National APWA conference (PWX) in Atlanta last September, and our Colorado Chapter was recognized for our eighth year of receiving the Presidential Achievement for Chapter Excellence (PACE) award! Now, I know what you're thinking. Is this a variation of getting a prize from a Cracker Jack Box (I'm dating myself), or is this truly a prestigious award?

Well, let's see. The PACE Award is given annually to Chapters that consistently make a positive impact on their communities, professions, and chapter members. Ok, maybe you're not sold yet, but this award is based on nine criteria and reviewed by the National APWA president, president-elect, and the three most recent past presidents.

These nine categories include financial management, membership development, leadership development and succession planning, administration, committees and task force development, education and special events, community service and outreach, marketing and communication, and advocacy. In simple terms, your local chapter must have professional leadership, add value to the organization, and community, and train the next generation of leaders. Importantly, only 50% of the national Chapters met these requirements in 2024, and the Colorado Chapter was one of them.

Now most importantly, what does this mean to you? Well, let me frame it this way. If you wanted to obtain your Masters in Business Administration (MBA), you would probably consider a degree at Harvard to be the most recognizable and immediately respected degree. In the world of Public Works, the best training comes from experienced Public Works professionals who teach and train the next generation based on real-world, practical experience.

We need trained experts to do the hard work of operating and maintaining our critical infrastructure on a daily basis, and it doesn't take a MBA to make this happen. It takes something more difficult than achieving an advanced degree, it takes hard work, daily discipline, and showing up when it's not convenient to do the work our residents expect us to do. It's sacrificing holidays, birthday parties, anniversaries, and numerous special occasions, because serving others, is greater than personal comfort.

This is why we do what we do as public servants. We serve our communities, and colleagues by doing our best work, even during the most difficult times.

As we lean into 2025, let's remember why we do what we do, and be grateful for those who have trained us, and have led us to become the leaders we are today. And, let's do our best to show up, learn, and support the next generation of public servants by gathering your team and registering for APWA training events to learn and grow as a team.

The Colorado Chapter is only as good as its members, and I'm proud to lead this year as your Chapter President. I'm passionate about training, coaching, and leadership. If you have ideas and want to help grow our Chapter, please reach out to me and any of our amazing volunteer Board members, as we're here to listen to you and serve you.

*With warm regards,  
John Burke, City of Westminster*





# American Public Works Association

with the Colorado Avalanche



COLORADO AVALANCHE

VS



LOS ANGELES KINGS

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> • 8:00 PM • Ball Arena

**TICKETS - \$75**



Register online at <https://colorado.apwa.org>. Registration deadline is February 26, 2025.

Please contact Pam at [bdweimer@msn.com](mailto:bdweimer@msn.com) with any questions



# 2024 APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference & Annual Awards Luncheon







APWA National Region VIII Director Joubin Pakpour spoke to the awards luncheon attendees about APWA in his energetic and engaging style! We were so lucky to have him attend this year's conference!



The Chapter was pleased to recognize Chapter President Jay Goldie with his President's certificate and thank him for his service to the Colorado Chapter.



Attendees were able to gather after the last session on Monday for happy hour. We were entertained by mentalist/magician Shawn Preston who dazzled us with his amazing skills!



# 2024 APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference & Annual Awards Luncheon

# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## Projects and Programs

### Administration

- Large Community: City & County of Denver  
Program Management Standards Initiative (PgMSI)
- Medium Community: Town of Windsor  
Asset Management Project

### Disaster or Emergency Construction, Repair, or Response

- Large Community: Adams County  
Reestablishment of 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue over Kiowa Creek

### Environment

- Large Community: Denver Water  
Denver Water Northwater Treatment Plant
- Medium Community: City of Lafayette  
Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Improvements Project
- Small Community: The Nature Conservancy  
Maybell Diversion Restoration

### Operations / Maintenance

- Large Community: City of Fort Collins  
2024 Overlay - Harmony Road
- Medium Community: City of Loveland  
South Loveland Outfall Channel
- Small Community: City of Louisville  
Louisville's Unconventional Countermeasures  
Create Safer Streets

### Parks and Trails

- Large Community: Arapahoe County  
Connecting Communities: The High Plains Trail  
Pedestrian Bridge
- Small Community: City of Aspen  
Koch Park Pedestrian Connection Project

### Public Outreach

- Large Community: SEMSWA  
Splash Educational Cooperative  
Phosphorous-Free Campaign

### Structures

- Large Community: Larimer County  
Larimer County Acute Care Facility

### Sustainability

- Large Community: City & County of Denver  
Kentucky & Irving Park and Intersection  
Improvements Project
- Medium Community: City of Brighton  
Streetlight LED Conversion Project
- Small Community: City of Fruita  
H2S Mitigation Project

### Transportation

- Large Community: Arapahoe County  
Iliff Avenue Improvements
- Medium Community: City of Northglenn  
120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement Project
- Small Community: City of Cañon City  
US-50 Pedestrian Improvements

## Individuals

### Outstanding Public Works Employee

- Large Community: Caleb Owen, City of Thornton
- Medium Community: Joseph Huerta, City of Brighton

- Professional Manager of the Year - Administrative Management  
Medium Community: Joseph Leon, City of Brighton

### Professional Manager of the Year - Drainage & Flood Control

- Large Community: Dave Bennetts, Mile High Flood District

### Professional Manager of the Year - Engineer

- Large Community: Katie Gargaro, City & County of Denver

### Professional Manager of the Year - Fleet Maintenance

- Large Community: Ramón Montoya, City of Lakewood



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## Administration



## Disaster or Emergency Construction and Repair



## Operations / Maintenance

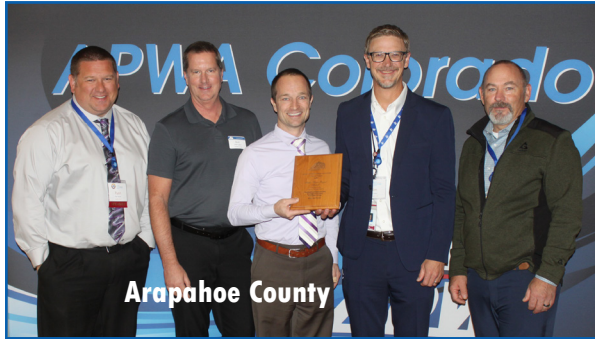


## Environment



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## Parks and Trails



Arapahoe County



City of Aspen

## Public Outreach



SEMSWA

## Structures



Larimer County

## Sustainability



City & County of Denver

Small Community  
City of Fruita



City of Brighton



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## Transportation



## Individual Awards

### Outstanding Public Works Employee



Large Community

Caleb Owen  
City of Thornton



Medium Community

Joseph Huerta  
City of Brighton



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## *Individual Awards*



Professional Manager of the Year  
Administrative Management

Medium Community

*Joseph Leon*  
*City of Brighton*

Professional Manager of the Year  
Drainage & Flood Control

Large Community

*Dave Bennetts*  
*Mile High Flood District*



Professional Manager of the Year  
Engineer

Large Community

*Katie Gargaro*  
*City & County*  
*of Denver*



Professional Manager of the Year  
Fleet Maintenance

Large Community

*Ramón Montoya*  
*City of Lakewood*

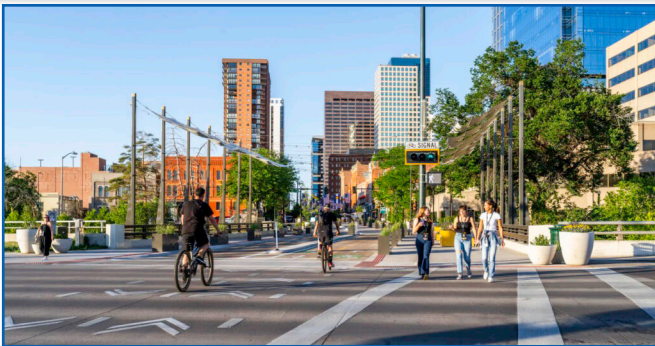
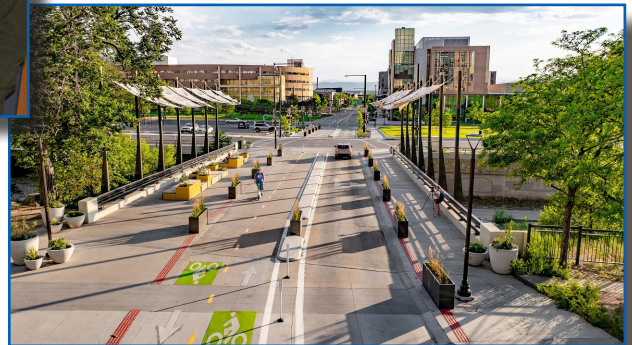


# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

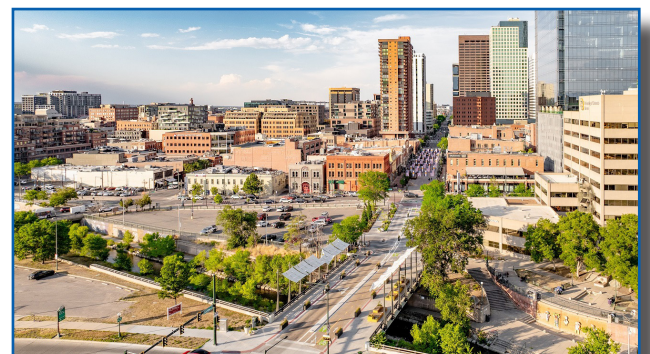
## *Project of the Year*

### *Connecting Auraria: Larimer Bridge Replacement and Streetscaping*

*City & County of Denver*



The project was envisioned not only as a rebuild of the 60-year-old Larimer Street Bridge crossing Cherry Creek but also as a gateway linking downtown Denver to the Auraria Campus, creating opportunities for approximately 35,000 students to engage with downtown businesses. A reinvention of the car-centric streetscape, the design prioritizes multimodal travel and pedestrian experience through innovative design features such as a curbsless street, storm-water planters, awnings and additional wayfinding elements. The bridge sets a benchmark for future projects by showcasing how thoughtful design can transform infrastructure into lively, accessible spaces that support equity and enrich urban life.





# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## *William E. Korbitz Award*

The William E. Korbitz Award is awarded annually to the individual who displays the character, integrity and leadership of Mr. Korbitz, the first President of the Colorado Chapter of APWA. The first award was given in

1995. The following evaluation criteria is used for evaluating the recipient.

- General accomplishments during his/her career
- Leadership characteristics that have positively impacted their agency, department, staff and community
- Contributions to the APWA Colorado Chapter
- Other contributions to the American Public Works Association
- Community involvement that has impacted and influenced the community
- Additional involvement and contributions not stated previously



Acting Public Works Director Jodi Lessman and City Engineer Nicole Hahn joined APWA Colorado President Jay Goldie in presenting Jackson with the award.

“To be recognized by peers, not only for my work with the American Public Works Association, but also for career accomplishments and contributions to the community, is the ultimate honor for me. To be mentioned alongside the best of Public Works leadership over the past thirty years is humbling to say the least. I am beyond honored and feel blessed to been able to serve the amazing communities of northern Colorado over the course of my Public Works career,” said Jackson.

Jackson has more than 30 years of experience in local and regional government and has served those years in key leadership roles. In 2023, Jackson served as APWA’s Colorado Chapter president. In February 2024, Jackson joined the acting city manager Rod Wensing as the acting deputy city manager to lead the City of Loveland during a leadership transition. In this role, Jackson guided a dedicated team in navigating the City of Loveland’s challenging decisionmaking process to implement a reduced services budget across departments. Through his visionary leadership, Jackson laid the groundwork for a thorough review of City services and programs to identify those that would need significant reduction or elimination. During these hard conversations and decision-making processes, the City was able to provide strategic budget implementations across departments. Additionally, Jackson has supported the City Manager’s Office with managing seven departments: Public Works, Water and Power, Parks and Recreation, Cultural Services, Library, Development Services and IT.

Jackson was hired as the City of Loveland’s public works director in 2018. Previously, he served as the City of Fort Collins’ deputy director for the department of community planning, development and transportation. Jackson holds two master’s degrees from the University of Colorado Denver in urban and regional planning, and Colorado State University in sociology. He earned his bachelor’s degree in industrial-organizational psychology from Colorado State University.

Under APWA guidelines, “the recipient is evaluated on general accomplishments over their career; leadership characteristics that have positively impacted their agency, department, staff and community; contributions to the Colorado Chapter; contributions to APWA outside of the Colorado Chapter; involvement that has positively impacted their community; and all other contributions and involvement throughout their life. This year’s winner has exemplified and embodied every aspect of the selection criteria.”

***Congratulations Mark!***

*Press release courtesy of City of Loveland, Nicole Yost, Communications and Engagement Director*

*Jodi Lessman and Nicolle Hahn presented Mark with his Korbitz award.*





# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## 2024 Public Work Institute



ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
PUBLIC WORKS INSTITUTE

The Rocky Mountain Public Works Institute is proud to graduate the tenth class. PWI 10 was made up of 23 outstanding individuals, representing two Western Slope and twelve different Front Range Public Works agencies. The City of Littleton graciously hosted the five, 2-day sessions. Thank you to the City of Littleton staff!

This class brings our total number to 243 graduates of the Rocky Mountain PWI! We have a strong group of volunteers on the steering committee, Laura Kroeger, Dan Hartman, Renée Railsback, Keith Reester and Bryan Weimer, as well as a wonderful group of instructors. We had a combination again this year of professional speakers as well as our own public works professionals leading class discussions. Thank you to **Dan Hartman, Laura Kroeger, Dave Skuodas, Bryan Weimer, Keith Reester, RA Plummer, Sheera Poelman, Mike Gent, Rebecca Doane, Kathleen Osher, Amelia DeLeon, John Burke, Sue Hansen, Renée Railsback, Eric Daly, Chuck Passaglia, Larry Prochazka, Tyler Svitak, and Jeff Wulliman** for sharing their experience and commitment to elevating public works.

PWI focuses on teaching eleven core competencies desired by public works agencies as well as provide an opportunity to build a personal network to assist public works professionals on a trajectory of growth and success. The 2024 PWI Class was an outstanding group! The class actively participated in the core competencies taught within the PWI curriculum.

- Supervisory techniques and skills
- Legal understanding
- Finance
- Resource management skills
- Public works operations
- Creating the future
- Fundamentals of government
- Basic management skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Community service/customer orientation skills

PWI 10 held true the vision and mission of PWI. We enjoyed hearing updates and supporting each other throughout the year. It was a pleasure to see the growth in individuals. Congratulations to Rocky Mountain PWI Class 10!

**Chad Beran**, Town of Gypsum  
**Tyler Carpenter**, Town of Johnstown  
**Angelo Chavez**, City of Westminster  
**Jeremy Clayton**, City of Littleton  
**Michael Corkins**, City of Greenwood Village  
**Nicholas Craig**, City of Westminster  
**Shawn DelMargo**, City of Englewood  
**Andrew Fischer**, City of Littleton

**Joshua Folger**, City of Littleton  
**Ben Francisco**, City of Louisville  
**Douglas Gossett**, Town of Johnstown  
**Paul Hitzges**, City of Littleton  
**Jordon Hudspeth**, Town of Gypsum  
**Kelsey Kijowski**, City & County of Denver  
**Kayla Lorentz**, City of Lakewood  
**Brandon Madril**, Town of Gypsum

**Isaiah Martinez**, Summit County  
**Ricky Martinez**, Town of Bennett  
**Paul Miller**, City of Golden  
**Robin Price**, Town of Bennett  
**Steven Scarbrough**, City of Littleton  
**Michelle-Ashley Sciortino**, Town of Castle Rock  
**Brad Sullivan**, SEMSWA

# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## 2024 Accreditations

The purpose of the APWA accreditation program is to provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the Public Works Management Practices Manual. It is a voluntary, self-motivated approach to objectively evaluate, verify and recognize compliance with the recommended management practices.

There are more than 200 agencies in the United States and Canada who have completed the accreditation process. In Colorado, there are nine agencies that have received accreditation; Arapahoe County, City of Arvada, City of Aurora, Town of Castle Rock, City of Centennial, City of Cherry Hills Village, City of Golden, City of Greeley, and City of Northglenn.

**Congratulations to the  
City of Arvada, Town of Castle Rock  
and the City of Golden  
on their re-accreditations  
this past year!**

## 2024 Certifications

**Lance Paplow, CPII, Denver Water**  
**Stephen Voigts, CPII, City of Durango**  
**Craig Schroeder, CPII, City of Thornton**  
**Tanis Manseau, CPWP-M, Pueblo County**  
**David Layman, CPWP-M, Town of Parker**

**Congratulations!**

Achieving an APWA national certification (or re-certification) is no easy accomplishment, so we wish to honor individuals who accomplish this goal. The purpose of certification is to recognize the achievements of an individual in a particular profession. APWA currently offers Certification Programs for Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP), Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII), Certified Stormwater Manager (CSM), Certified Public Works Professional-Supervision (CPWP-S), and Certified Public Works Professional-Management (CPWP-M).

## Special Thanks to the Colorado Public Works Journal

APWA Colorado Chapter would like to thank the Colorado Public Works Journal for their support of the APWA Colorado Awards Program. Their publication of each year's winners allows the Chapter to recognize the extraordinary nominations

You can view the [Colorado Public Works Journal 2024 Fall Issue](#) recognizing the APWA Colorado Awards on their [website](#)

The Chapter wishes to thank CPWJ and Jo Taylor for their work with the Chapter throughout the year!



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## *Special Recognition*

Although our scholarship and competition winners are announced and recognized throughout the year at our events and in the newsletter, they are also recognized in the Annual Awards luncheon video and are listed below. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

### **National Snow Rodeo**

#### **Single Axle Plow - First Place**

**Jed Gregersen & Brandon Steffens, Idaho Transportation Dept.**

#### **Single Axle Plow - Second Place**

**Lalo Martinez & Mike Martinez, City of Greeley**

#### **Single Axle Plow - Third Place**

**John Prather & Dave Johnson, RTD**

#### **Tandem Axle Plow - First Place**

**Troy Dussart & Nate Sullivan, City of Greenwood Village**

#### **Tandem Axle Plow - Second Place**

**Talmon Gibson & Jediah Henderson, Idaho Transportation Dept.**

#### **Tandem Axle Plow - Third Place**

**Charwon Walter & Jason Willis, Town of Windsor**

#### **Grader - First Place**

**Spencer Esch, US Bureau of Reclamation**

#### **Grader - Second Place**

**Benjamin Smith, Montrose County**

#### **Grader - Third Place**

**Brian Snyder, City of West Des Moines, Iowa**

#### **Loader - First Place**

**Talmon Gibson, Idaho Transportation Department**

#### **Loader - Second Place**

**Dakota Morgan, Idaho Transportation Department**

#### **Loader - Third Place**

**Jed Gregersen, Idaho Transportation Department**

#### **Skid Steer - First Place**

**Tomas Vigil, CDOT**

#### **Skid Steer - Second Place**

**Brandon Steffens, Idaho Transportation Department**

#### **Skid Steer - Third Place**

**Austin Teig, City of Grimes, Iowa**

#### **Top Agency**

**First Place - Idaho Transportation Department**

**Second Place - Delaware DOT**

**Third Place - Massachusetts Highway Association**

### **Scholarships**

#### **APWA-ACEC Scholarship**

**Alec Shields, Colorado State University**

### **State Backhoe Competition**

#### **First Place**

**Jimmy Romero, Lake County**

#### **Second Place**

**Colin Seaward, Town of Snowmass Village**

#### **Third Place**

**Carlos Loya Rico, Town of Carbondale**

### **APWA Colorado Inspector of the Year**

**Gilbert Mendez, City of Golden**

### **Lifetime APWA Memberships**

**James Maniscalco, UNCC**

**Janet Herman, Douglas County**



# 2024 APWA Colorado Awards

## Member Anniversaries

The Colorado Chapter recognizes members each year who achieve “membership milestones” at five year increments. Those who marked anniversaries in 2024 are listed below.

***Congratulations! APWA and the Colorado Chapter appreciate your continuing support of our organization!***



**Ken Arguello**, City & County of Denver  
**Thomas Blackman**, City & County of Denver  
**Gary Campbell**, Jefferson County  
**Rocky Carns**, JR Engineering  
**Chris Currey**, Town of Silverthorne  
**Marc Daniels**, City & County of Denver

**Brian German**, City of Boulder

**Mark Gonzales**, City & County of Denver

**Michael Grabczyk**, Town of Parker

**Paul Hitzges**, City of Littleton

**Todd Juergens**, Larimer County

**Curtis Lupton**, Gunnison County

**Randy Mourning**, City of Sheridan

**Mark Niceley**, City of Thornton

**Sarah Owsiany**, City of Louisville

**Justin Schmitz**, City of Lone Tree

**Robert Seacat**, Town of Parker

**Martin Schmidt**, Gunnison County

**Brent Soderlin**, City of Littleton

**Andy Stewart**, Mile High Flood District

**Jacob Weaver**, City of Littleton



**Ryan Adrian**, Douglas County  
**Boyd Bierbaum**, Town of Basalt  
**Karl Brekke**, City & County of Denver  
**David Bries**, City of Montrose  
**Sara Ciasto**, David Evans & Associates Inc.  
**Ryan Crum**, City & County of Denver

**Travis Easton**, City of Colorado Springs

**Pete George**, Douglas County

**Jeremy Hanak**, City of Greenwood Village

**Jess Hastings**, Benesch

**John Lamb**, Douglas County

**Scott Mattice**, Pitkin County

**Sean Owens**, Douglas County

**Ryan Phipps**, City of Colorado Springs

**Cole Platt**, City of Colorado Springs

**Derek Slack**, E-470 Public Highway Authority

**David Van Winkle**, City of Steamboat Springs



**Darren Bradshaw**, Mile High Flood District  
**Ashley Byerley**, SEMSWA  
**Mike Chaves**, City of Colorado Springs  
**Bradley Curtis**, Northern Engineering  
**Steve Durian**, Boulder County  
**Bob Exstrom**, Town of Parker  
**Jeffrey Fisher**, Mile High Flood District

**Brian Kelley**, Town of Castle Rock

**Ashley Pennick**, Douglas County

**Allen Peterson**, HR Green Inc.

**Jeff Temple**, J-U-B Engineers Inc.

**Terry Von Clausburg**, City of Aurora

**Mike Waugh**, Town of Parker

**Molly Young Trujillo**, SEMSWA



**Anne Beierle**, City of Golden  
**Christopher Carlson**, City of Loveland  
**Tom Kassmel**, Town of Vail  
**Laura Kroeger**, Mile High Flood District  
**Les Major**, City of Golden  
**Larry Nimmo**, City of Castle Pines



**Thomas Miller**

**Gary Padilla**, Town of Avon

**Leonard Sandoval**, Town of Vail

**Tom Street**, City of Longmont



# SPRING STREET CONFERENCE

April 14-17, 2025

Montrose Pavilion Event Center

1800 Pavilion Drive ♦ Montrose, CO ♦ (970) 249-7015



## State Championship Backhoe Competition

1st & 2nd Winners Sponsored to Compete at National APWA PWX

### ATTENDEES \$120 on/before April 4<sup>th</sup>

The West Slope branch of APWA Colorado presents the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Street Conference. Always an educational and enjoyable event - so plan to join us! Early registration is \$120 before April 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$150 after that date. Cancellations must be received by April 9<sup>th</sup> for a refund. Registration will open in February!

### EXHIBITORS \$325 on/before April 4<sup>th</sup>

3 Great Ways to Participate:

1. Purchase an Exhibit Space: 6-ft table/chairs, Wednesday lunch for two reps and two 10'x20' outdoor equipment spaces are included. Additional outdoor spaces are \$50 each. Registration is \$375 after April 4<sup>th</sup>.
2. Sponsor the State Championship Backhoe Competition: Your company's name/logo will be promoted and prominently displayed. Ask how you can help sponsor this exciting event!
3. Sponsor a Hole at the Golf Tournament: Sponsor a hole or prizes for Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, or Longest Putt for \$150 each. Prize donations are also accepted (golf balls, tees, putters, etc.)

### AGENDA TOPICS

- Public Works Health & Wellness: Transitioning from Winter to Summer Operations
- Public Works Bridge Rescue at Blue Mesa
- Public Works Operations on a Condensed (32 hour) Work Week
- Gravel Road Stabilization
- Local Agency Paving Specifications
- Asphalt Update and Trends
- CDL/CMV Update
- Mutual Aid Agreements - How Operators Get Involved
- Successful Leadership in Public Works
- Renewed Framework for Response to Winter
- Pavement Recycling Best Practices
- Rehabilitating Roads with Reinforcing Fabrics

### STATE BACKHOE COMPETITION

- Thursday, April 17
- \$25 Additional fee if attending conference / \$50 if not registered for conference
- Day-of registration is \$50 regardless of attendance

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

GOLF TOURNAMENT  
Black Canyon Golf Course

\$60 per person  
includes cart

1350 Birch Street ♦ Montrose, CO

Register at <https://Colorado.APWA.org>

Registration Coming Soon!



# 2025 Colorado Chapter Calendar

April 14	Spring Street Conference Golf Tournament Black Canyon Golf Course, 1350 Birch Street, Montrose, Colorado 81401
April 15-16	Spring Street Conference Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Drive, Montrose, Colorado 81401
April 17	State Backhoe Competition Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Drive, Montrose, Colorado 81401
May 18-24	Public Works Week
June 24	Chapter Golf Tournament Lone Tree Golf Course, 9808 Sunningdale Blvd., Lone Tree, Colorado 80124
August 17-20	APWA PWX, Chicago, Illinois
September 3-4	West Slope Snow & Ice Conference Gunnison County Fairgrounds, 275 S. Spruce Street, Gunnison, Colorado 81230
September 24-26	Western Snow & Ice Conference & National Snow Rodeo Embassy Suites, 4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, Colorado 80538
October 20-21	APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden, Colorado 80401
October 21	APWA Colorado Annual Awards Luncheon Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden, Colorado 80401

## 2025 Colorado Chapter Board

Elections for the Colorado Chapter Board and West Slope Branch were held in November 2024. The Chapter would like to introduce you to this year's Board and welcome our new officers and directors.

### **Officers**

- President:** John Burke, City of Westminster  
**President Elect:** Chuck Weiss, E-470 Public Highway Authority  
**Secretary:** Matt Knight, City of Littleton  
**Treasurer:** Travis Greiman, Benesch  
**Past President:** Jay Goldie, City of Cherry Hills Village  
**Chapter Delegate:** Pete Adler, Adler Consulting LLC  
**Alternate Chapter Delegate:** Renée Railsback, D2C Architects

### **Chapter Directors**

- Anne Beierle, City of Golden  
Kristin Brownson, Town of Breckenridge  
Kati Horner Gonzalez, Katigon Consult  
Jacob James, City of Lone Tree  
Shawn Poe, WSB Engineering  
Scott Schlecht, City of Boulder  
Matthew Matuszewski, City of Littleton, Emerging Professional Director

### **West Slope Branch**

- Chair:** Brandon Wallace, Montrose County  
**Chair-Elect:** Martin Schmidt, Gunnison County  
**Secretary:** Jim Hatheway, Stantec  
**Treasurer:** Kirsten Armbruster, City of Grand Junction  
**At-Large Director:** Susie Hervert, Town of Vail

### **West Slope Branch Directors**

- Joe Lucero, Gunnison County  
Curtis Milton, Montrose County

2025

October 20 & 21  
Denver Marriott  
West, Golden



## CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) is requesting abstracts for presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Conference to be held October 20 & 21, 2025. The conference will be held at the Denver Marriott West in Golden. We are interested in creative and innovative presentations. You are invited to speak and share your public works experiences.

The theme for the 2024 Conference is **NAVIGATING A CHANGING LANDSCAPE**.

Change is inevitable. Roadways deteriorate, concrete cracks, slopes erode, pipes break, budgets are tweaked, and the standards that guide design, construction, and maintenance are constantly being revised. Public Works face this change while also managing and adapting to evolving technologies, climate impacts, political change, and shifting public expectations. As the industry faces new challenges and opportunities, it is essential for the Public Works community to explore innovative strategies, solutions, and best practices for navigating this changing landscape.

The 2025 APWA Colorado Chapter Conference invites you to submit presentations that address the complexities and opportunities of each new landscape and highlight how public works professionals are adapting, leading, and thriving in the face of change. Whether through new or existing technologies, sustainability practices, or innovation, we want to hear what's on your mind. Come share your ideas and collaborate!

This conference gives you an opportunity to network with public works professionals, and share new ideas, innovative project approaches, or lessons learned with your peers.

No matter your role in public works, there is something for everyone at the Colorado Chapter's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Public works professionals from both the public and private sectors attend to stay up-to-date on emerging trends, and innovative practices and strategies. Speakers at the Conference are people like you who have met the challenge of managing public works projects and organizations. They view speaking at this Conference as a chance to advance their careers and to invest in the future of the public works profession by sharing what they know. Presentations are a way to instruct your fellow engineers, scientists, and community leaders on new techniques and interesting project lessons unique to the industry.

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

*The conference will be held at the Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Boulevard, Golden, Colorado.*

*Conference registration will begin in July.*

*Speakers will receive conference registration for the day of their presentation. If you wish to attend the other day of the conference, there is a one-day registration fee.*

## ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM

*Submittals will only be accepted using the submittal form available on the Colorado Chapter website! Please complete the submittal form and return via email to Pamela at [bdweimer@msn.com](mailto:bdweimer@msn.com) by May 1, 2025. You will receive a confirmation email. We anticipate notifying speakers of their selection by June 2, 2025.*





# YP Group Sponsors a Community Service Project with the High Line Canal Conservancy

The APWA Colorado Chapter Young Professionals (YP) group once again joined forces with the High Line Canal Conservancy to clean up the canal and do brush removal. The event was held on Saturday, October 5 from 9am-11:30am. The group of volunteers got a lot of work done in that short time! A BIG THANKS to all who participated!



## Fundraiser for Food Bank of the Rockies is a Big Success!



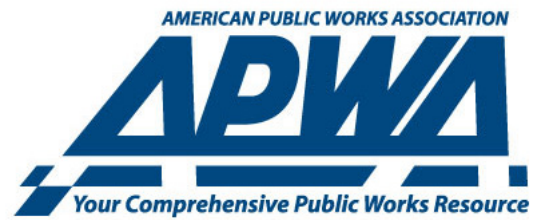
Each year the Colorado Chapter raises money for a local charity. This year, we worked with Food Bank of the Rockies and raised over \$600. THANK YOU to all who contributed!

Matthew Matuszewski and Matt Knight, our awards luncheon emcees, promoted the fundraising effort by encouraging attendees to scan the QR code on their backs to make an online contribution!



# APWA National

## News You Can Use!



## February Focus On Public Works: Water Resources

Get ready to experience APWA's best in education and credentialing with an all-new learning experience each month with [Focus on Public Works!](#) Focus on Public Works will celebrate a new technical area each month, featuring expert-led online education, trending technologies, resources, networking, and more opportunities!

## APWA Announces Partnership with BuildWitt

The world's largest organization of public works professionals recently announced it will partner with BuildWitt to provide public works professionals with access to expert-led micro-lessons tailored for all experience levels. By collaborating on educational resources specific to public works operations and maintenance, the American Public Works Association (APWA) and BuildWitt can help agencies build a better workforce by training, recruiting, and retaining top talent.

As part of this partnership, APWA's Operations and Maintenance Subcommittee will collaborate with BuildWitt to identify courses for a new public works training track that will be available to APWA members as part of BuildWitt's extensive learning library. APWA members will also receive discounts on BuildWitt's software implementation fees and registration to attend the annual Dirt World Summit.

For more information, visit the National APWA website to see the [announcement](#).

## CAPA-APWA NCAT Scholarships

The Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association (CAPA) created a partnership with the APWA Colorado Chapter to establish a scholarship in 2001 to afford people the opportunity to attend the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) Asphalt Technology training course at Auburn University. Since the inception of this partnership, 168 people have been awarded scholarships and attended the course. In 2025, seven have been selected to be attendees at the NCAT Technology Course in February 2025. The persons traveling to Auburn, Alabama are Noella Gomez Meraz (Holcim), Jeff Hill (City of Federal Heights), Megan McGuire (Yeh & Associates), Shawna Olsen (CDOT), Carson Pecot (Town of Windsor), Isaac Tadla (Benesch), and Eric Wigglesworth (Jefferson County). Congratulations!

Not only does our partnership with the Colorado Chapter of the APWA work to send people to the technology course, but we partner in other educational opportunities. CAPA and the Rocky Mountain Asphalt Education Center (RMAEC) hold webinars many times each year and each of those is open to ALL APWA members at no cost simply by registering and logging into the scheduled sessions. Many of the sessions have been recorded and are available on the CAPA website for on demand playback.

CAPA typically holds one or more technology forums each year highlighting one of the most talked about asphalt related subjects affecting agencies and industry. These are either in the spring or fall as the construction season is beginning or ending. CAPA also typically presents at the APWA Spring Street Conference on one of the current issues with road maintenance as well as the annual Construction Inspection Conference. We partner with APWA members on open houses and product showcases.

To raise funds, CAPA holds a golf tournament each year. In 2025, the tournament will be on Friday, September 12 at Fox Hollow Golf Course in Lakewood.

If you are interested in being considered for the scholarship to Auburn, look for the announcement in the CAPA Newsletter "In Front of the Paver" and on the CAPA website early summer.



# 2025 APWA Colorado Chapter Golf Tournament

**Save the Date!**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Lone Tree Golf Club

Information and Registration  
available this spring

*Sponsorship Opportunities available!*

# Are You Ready for National Public Works Week?

May 18-24, 2025

**People  
Purpose  
Presence**

Start planning now for this great week where we celebrate public works professionals!

APWA encourages public works agencies and professionals to take the opportunity to make their stories known in their communities during National Public Works Week. There are resources available to agencies to assist in the development and implementation of their own individual celebrations. Details, more information, and resources will be available on the website: [National Public Works Week](#).

# APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference & National Snow Rodeo

**Ready for Winter?  
Brrr-ing It On!**

**September 24-26, 2025**

**Embassy Suites, Loveland**

# APWA Colorado Annual Chapter Conference

**Navigating a Changing  
Landscape**

**October 20 & 21, 2025**

**Denver Marriott West  
Golden**

# News & Announcements



## News

### Check out the APWA Colorado Articles in the Colorado Public Works Journal!

APWA Colorado contributes to each issue of the Colorado Public Works Journal with timely topics. *APWA Insights* articles are written by public works professionals from across the state. “*Reflecting on the Importance of APWA Involvement*” was written by **Scott Schlecht**, Transportation Maintenance Manager with the City of Boulder and current Colorado Chapter Board Director. You can view the [Fall/Winter](#) issue as well as archived issues on their [website](#).

### 2025 APWA National Awards Program

Nominations are being accepted for the 2025 National Awards Program. There are several categories including Top 10 Public Works Leaders, Public Works Project of the Year, Small Cities/Rural Communities Project of the Year and many other categories. For more information, criteria and how to submit, please go to <https://www.apwa.org/resources/apwa-awards/>.

APWA National Awards deadline is Monday, March 3, 2025.

Detailed information about each award/category is posted on National’s website for your assistance. Should you have any questions please contact Rhonda Wilhite at [rwilhite@apwa.org](mailto:rwilhite@apwa.org).

### APWA Reporter

It’s always exciting to see Colorado contributors/articles in National’s publication, [APWA Reporter](#).

#### November 2024

Recognition of **Rick Davis**, Town of Superior, for receiving his recertification for Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII).

Recognition of **Justin Rickett**, City of Lakewood, for receiving his Certified Public Works Professional - Management certification.

*Bringing Visibility to Public Works* - written by **Kati Horner Gonzalez**, Katigon Consult and current Colorado Chapter Board Director. Kati is on the APWA Government Affairs Committee along with **John Davis**.



## Announcements

### The Practitioner

Do you have information on an emerging topic of interest, project, or news that would be of interest to our members? All members are welcome to contribute to future newsletters. *The Practitioner* is published quarterly. The submission deadlines for the 2025 issues will be April 11, July 11 and October 10.

### Interested in Membership?

When you join APWA, you join a network of professionals dedicated to excellence in all aspects of public works. Discover the many benefits of APWA membership and options for joining by visiting the [Membership](#) page of National APWA’s [website](#).



American Public Works Association  
Colorado Chapter  
Pamela Weimer, Chapter Administrator  
6540 South Tabor Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80127

Did you know that much of the information contained in this newsletter is also available on the Web? Go to the APWA Colorado Chapter website at <https://colorado.apwa.org/>



**APWA Toll Free Membership Hotline  
1-800-848-APWA**

## 2025 Colorado Chapter APWA Executive Committee and Chapter Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### WEST SLOPE BRANCH

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**Secretary: Jim Hatheway**  
Stantec  
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**Treasurer: Kirsten Armbruster**  
City of Grand Junction  
Email: kirstena@gjcity.org

**West Slope Past Chair: Scott Mattice**  
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Joe Lucero, Gunnison County, jlucero@gunnisoncounty.org  
Curtis Milton, Montrose County, cmilton@montrosecounty.net

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