



ADVANCING THE LEGACY

8833 Ralston Road

Arvada, CO 80002

303.431.6422

info@coloradocattle.org

www.coloradocattle.org



**Ag Water NetWORK | [www.agwaternetwork.org](http://www.agwaternetwork.org)**

**WEBINAR Highlights – Reclaiming Reservoir Storage**

Recorded January 26, 2022

**Presenters: Deana Sheriff (West End Economic Development Corporation - Gurley Reservoir) and Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) reservoir reclamation working group**

**Gurley Reservoir Dam Face Slip and Response (Deana Sheriff presentation):**

- In 2019, heavy rains saturated Gurley dam, causing a massive slip to occur on the dam face.
- The DWR put a 50% capacity restriction on the reservoir until the dam is repaired.
- Gurley Reservoir supplies water to 12,000 irrigated acres, and 750 municipal users in Norwood and 200 users in Redvale. And, in 2021, 147 new house building permits were issued in Norwood.
- The estimated dam repair cost: \$378,356.
- The irrigators and municipalities joined together to apply for grant funding:
  - San Miguel County (\$50,000 grant)
  - Montrose County (\$32,000 grant-requested)
  - SW Water Conservancy District (\$27,642)
  - Colorado Department of Agriculture Drought Resiliency Grant (\$319,315).
  - Colorado Water Conservation Board (\$25,000 requested)
  - Farmers Water & Ditch Company (\$56,149.45 – Cash, \$44,450 In-kind)
  - West End Economic Development (\$5,000 In-kind grant writing/admin services)
- The contractor started work in the Fall, 2021 but agreed to delay invoicing until contracts with CDA, Southwest Water Conservation District are CWCB are executed.
- Work is expected to be completed by the end of February, 2022 (weather dependent).



**2. Reservoir Reclamation Working Group (Greg Peterson presentation):**

- Over 130 reservoirs are on the DWR's capacity restricted list.
- Reclaiming storage on existing reservoirs may be more economical than building new reservoirs.
- The work group's goal is to get reservoir projects ready for funding, & pursue and secure funding.
- Currently, Colorado has no designated source of funding for reservoir rehabilitation.
- Multi-benefit rehabilitation projects (ag, recreation, environment) are more likely to be funded.
- USDA's (PL-566) and Bureau of Reclamation are receiving funds via the new Infrastructure Act.
- Ex: Vouga Reservoir reclamation in Upper Gunnison Basin will help native trout and irrigators.