

INDIANA

INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION - CROSSROADS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 10

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IRWA Chapter 10 Newsletter
May/ June
MMXXII Issue XIX

Installation Meeting

June 30th @

Daniels' Vineyard

9061 N 700 W, McCordsville, IN 46055



\$35 a person

register online by 6/16

12 noon Registration Open

12:15 pm Lunch

1:15 pm Drone Presentation by



2:15 pm Officer Installation

3:00 pm Events Concludes

IRWA Chapter 10

2022-2023 Slate of Officers:

Cindy Candler, PS - President & International Director (2 years)

Steve Knies - International Director (1 year)

Ashley Johnson, MAI - Vice President

Luke Jahn, PS - Secretary

Brian Haggard, PS - Assistant Secretary

John Petkovsek, Treasurer

Michelle Sechman, SR/WA - Assistant Treasurer

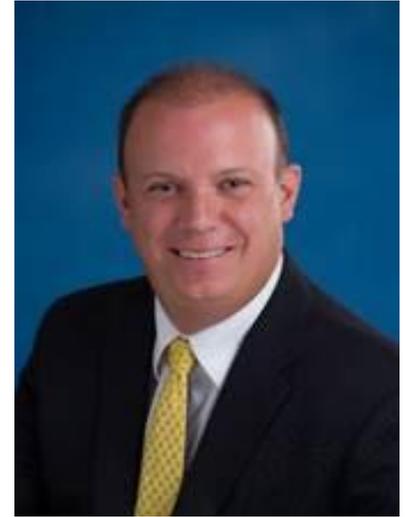
Laura Wermund Santos, SR/WA - Newsletter Editor

Shelby Hutson, RWA - Assistant Newsletter Editor

**DO YOU LOVE TO TWEET? ARE YOU GREAT WITH CREATING/
BUILDING/ MAINTAINING WEBSITES? THEN WE NEED YOU! PLEASE
CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO HELP WITH THE CHAPTER 10 TWITTER
ACCOUNT AND / OR WITH THE CHAPTER 10 WEBSITE!**

We are also looking for committee members/ chairs for the 2022-2023 board! The list of committees are on the last page of this newsletter. Please contact Cindy Candler or Ashley Johnson with any questions about serving on a committee or let them know you want to get involved and they'll help find the perfect fit!

Presidents Message



Hello Chapter 10,

I hope you are having a wonderful Spring. Speaking of spring, Chapter 10 had a wonderful showing at the Spring Forum that took place May 13-14 in Louisville, KY. It was a productive and enjoyable forum. I would like to thank Chapter 25 for being great hosts. It will be Chapter 10's turn to host the Spring Forum next year 2023. I encourage you to attend and help. It is a wonderful experience, and you can learn about the inner workings of the Region and meet many wonderful people in your profession at a tristate local level within the Region. At the Forum Region 5 elected a new slate of officers. IEC President Jake Farrell was in attendance along with Executive Director Tim Drennan and Carol Croft RWIEF President. It was nice seeing them in person and having one on one conversations about the organization.

The proposed new pathway to SR/WA designation was brought up and lengthy discussions occurred regarding this proposed new alignment/path in obtaining an SR/WA. The proposed new pathway would add 72 additional hours to obtain an SR/WA and added cost. I am sure it will be a hot topic of discussion at conference in Cleveland. The conference in Cleveland is just around the corner, June 5-8, 2022, please consider attending. It is a great event with the education programs, meeting, and networking with people in a similar profession as you. Also, did I mention Chapter 10's newsletter is one of the finalists for Newsletter Letter of the Year?!? Please send an email or drop a congratulatory call to Laura Santos SR/WA Newsletter Editor and to Shelby Hutson RWA Assistant Newsletter Editor for their hard work in making our newsletter one of the finalists.

This will be my last message as president for the newsletter. I am grateful to the members of Chapter 10 for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President. The year in office has gone by so quickly and I feel that we left things in pretty good shape for Cindy Candler, PS our incoming President. In reflecting on the year, you always want to look back and see if you could have done things differently or better. My biggest regret is that we did not have any in person classes or online classes while I was in office; I wish I pushed harder for this during my term as President. I would like to thank the Chapter 10 Board all the committee members that agreed to be a part of my term as President, also the past presidents and their knowledge throughout the year. I appreciate all of you.

Steven B. Knies
Chapter 10 President

Email

Ph. 317-661-0580

Natural gas company files eminent domain suit against central Indiana property owners

March 23, 2022 | [Daniel Bradley, Indianapolis Business Journal](#)

A Dallas-based natural gas pipeline company has filed an eminent domain lawsuit against several property owners in Boone and Marion counties.

Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line LP argues in the lawsuit that it needs to acquire new easement rights so it can reroute two pipelines before urgent construction work can begin on Interstate 465 bridges above 96th Street.

Houston-based Buckeye Terminals LLC, Indianapolis-based Baptist Homes of Indiana and Indianapolis-based BHI Senior Living Inc. are named as defendants in the lawsuit that was filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

According to the lawsuit, the companies each turned down more than \$3,000 for the easement interests on their properties that Panhandle wants to acquire. Now, Panhandle is suing to get them by eminent domain.

The easement rights Panhandle seeks to acquire by eminent domain include:

- 181 acres and 9.516 acres owned by Buckeye Terminals in Marion County.
- 220 acres owned by Baptist Homes of Indiana in Marion County.
- 063 and 0.934 acres owned by BHI Senior Living in Boone County.

The lawsuit says Panhandle owns and operates two large-diameter interstate natural gas pipelines known as the 100 Line and the 400 Line, which both cross under I-465 and 96th Street.

The Indiana Department of Transportation plans to replace the I-465 bridges over 96th Street in 2022. However, the lawsuit says the project cannot get underway until the pipelines are rerouted.

Additionally, the complaint says INDOT determined the bridges are in such poor shape that they are in danger of collapse.

“According to INDOT, the bridges have fracture critical members whose failure would probably cause a portion of or the entire bridge to collapse,” the lawsuit says. “According to INDOT, a portion of the retaining and slope wall on the east side of East 96th Street has already collapsed, requiring temporary emergency repairs to be made to the walls until the INDOT Project can begin.”

The location of the 100 Line interferes with INDOT’s ability to begin the project because it is directly under the bridges in an area where crews will need to excavate and drill in order to install new bridge supports.

INDOT will also need to realign 96th Street, which the lawsuit says will require the 400 Line to be rerouted.

“INDOT is requiring Panhandle to reroute the 100 Line and 400 Line before the INDOT Project commences in order to accommodate the INDOT Project and related excavation and drilling,” the lawsuit says.

Neither Panhandle nor any of the companies named as defendants responded to a request for comment from the Indianapolis Business Journal.

The case is [Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP v. Buckeye Terminals, LLC, et al.](#), 1:22-cv-00544.



IRWA Chapter 10 Ron and Cynde Barker Education Scholarship Crossroads Education Scholarship Program

Funded by Indiana Chapter 10 of the IRWA

Eligibility:

Chapter 10 of the IRWA welcomes applicants to apply for an Education Scholarship. Applicants must be a member in good standing for one year and be committed to achieving an IRWA credential. Scholarship funding may only be used towards the course registration fees for eligible courses. Courses must be completed within one year from the award date.

Deadline is November 1st, 2022.

Distribution:

The selection committee will be the Sponsorship/Scholarship Committee with final approval by the Chapter 10 Board of Directors. All application materials are confidential and only the applicants referred for award are presented to the Chapter 10 Board of Directors approval.

Requested Scholarship (Select One)

\$1,000 Scholarship

SR/WA Exam & Application

Applicant's Name:

Member Number:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Phone:

Chapter #:

Years as Member:

E-mail

Certification:

RWA

RWP

Other

Industry Path:

Selection Criteria:

Commitment to IRWA's Purpose and Mission:

Selection will be based on a minimum 250 word essay outlining how the scholarship funding will enable you to contribute to IRWA's Purpose & Mission, and for the applicants personal growth.

Questions?

Have questions about your eligibility? Please contact Cindy Candler @ ccandler@schneidergeomatrics.com

IRWA's Purpose:

We improve people's quality of life through infrastructure development.

IRWA's Mission:

We empower professionals by elevating ethics, learning, and a standard of excellence within the global infrastructure real estate community.

Essay Question:

Explain the reason for applying for this scholarship and how this scholarship funding will enable to you contribute to Chapter 10 and IRWA's Purpose & Mission.

Essay:

EPA WIFIA reports over \$5B in water infrastructure loans

3/24/2022

[Underground Construction](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the 2021 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Annual Report. The report highlights the program's 2021 investments in water infrastructure to protect public health and the environment, create good-paying jobs, and save communities money over alternative financing options.

"The WIFIA program has been an incredible success, providing more than \$5 billion in water infrastructure funding in 2021 to save communities \$1.5 billion while creating nearly 40,000 jobs," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "The WIFIA program, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the agency's other water infrastructure funding programs are building a better America by securing clean and safe water for all."

In 2021, the WIFIA program closed 31 loans totaling over \$5 billion to support nearly \$12 billion in water infrastructure projects. At the same time, borrowers saved \$1.5 billion and created nearly 40,000 jobs. The WIFIA program continues to broaden its reach by increasing the number of loans to borrowers with lower-rated credit, small communities, and underserved communities. Looking forward, the program has nearly 90 projects requesting over \$14 billion in funding.

Additionally, to provide real time information about the WIFIA program, EPA is launching the WIFIA Fund Facts dashboard. This interactive web-based tool includes graphics and facts about closed and pending loans. Users can filter the data to get information by loan size, project type, geographic location, and loan status.

For more information about the WIFIA program, visit the [WIFIA website](#) and to access the WIFIA Fund Facts dashboard, visit the [WIFIA Fund Facts Dashboard](#).

Welcome New Member

Emily Newmann, CenterPoint Energy

Welcome Associate Members

Mark Poncer, Linderlake Corporation

Josh Werner, Schneider Geomatics



2022 Mock Condemnation Trial



On April 28, 2022, Chapter 10 held a Mock Trial presented by Gary Kent, P.S. The Mock Trial consisted of several Chapter 10 members playing the roles of judge, plaintiff, defendant, attorney, and witness. The audience served as the jury.

To start the Mock Trial, attorneys Steve Klineman, Specialized Land Services, Inc., and Jason Lueking, Esq., Stoll Keenon Ogden, gave their opening statements from a script written by Gary Kent, P.S. It became clear from their words that the issues in this case centered around two problems: Where the existing easement was located and how much compensation the owner was due for the new requested easement area. Both the plaintiff, played by Dennis Burns, CenterPoint Energy, and the representative for the defendant, played by Zack Reilly, CenterPoint Energy, testified. The plaintiff testified that he had his own surveyor locate the existing easement and that it differed from the one provided by the defendant. The defendant testified that he agreed with the original survey of the existing easement, not the plaintiff's. Both parties testified that several offers for the new easement area had been given, but none accepted.

For expert testimony, the plaintiff's surveyor, played by Rodney Kelly, Etica Group, the defendant's surveyor, played by Josh Werner, Schneider Geomatics, and the plaintiff's appraiser, played by Shelby Hutson, Volkert, Inc., testified. The two surveyors explained that they used different methods to determine the location of the existing easement. The plaintiff's surveyor located the easement using the Plat of the Subdivision the property was located in and the defendant's surveyor used the original easement grant. The appraiser testified that no additional compensation was due to the owner for the land because the location of the easement would not affect the value. The only additional compensation that could be due is for improvements if the plaintiff's survey is correct. The trial was presided over by Judge Santos, played by Laura Wermund Santos, Negotiations, Inc.

After all the testimonies were complete, the audience was broken up into juries to decide which easement location was correct and how much compensation the owner was due. Facilitator, Gary Kent, P.S., gathered the jury ballots and read them aloud for the room to discuss. It was interesting to see the varied responses each jury gave. It just goes to show that when a trial goes to a jury, you never really know what the outcome will be!

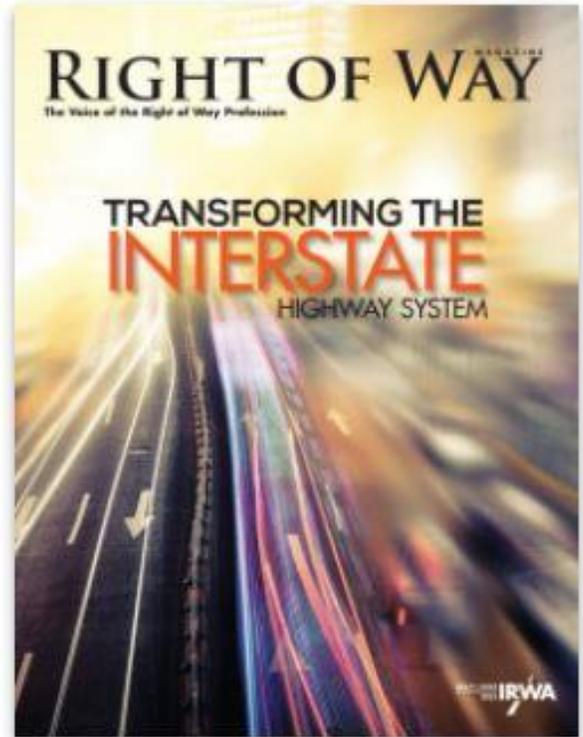
By: Shelby Hutson, RWA

Only in Indiana...

Flowers sprucing up this pothole
@ 146th & Oakridge Rd. Carmel IN



IRWA Magazine May/June
Click the photo below for the link!



Congratulations Ron Barker, SR/WA on your March 25th Retirement after
48 years with Indiana Gas/ CenterPoint Energy!

We hope you & Cynde enjoy your extra time together!

Thank you for your dedication & service to Chapter 10 over the years!



News from the Professional Development Committee

Congratulations to Madison Jones on receiving her RWP designation!

Congratulations to Chris Delawter on receiving his RWP certification!

If you missed the meeting about the new SR/WA pathway, you can watch the video of the meeting at this link. Or view the presentation at this link

If you are in the current SR/WA industry pathway and have questions of what this means to you, please reach out to Chapter PDC Chair, Patrick McCallister, SR/WA.

Please note that after July 1st, course materials will only be provided by email, and requests for printed copies from headquarters will require payment, except for Course 100. This is being done to avoid raising prices for courses.

What is the SR/WA Designation? The Senior Right of Way Professional (SR/WA), is the most prestigious professional designation granted to those right of way professionals who have achieved professional status through experience, education, and examination.

While the SR/WA professional may be a specialist in one area, they must also be familiar with all disciplines associated with the right of way profession. The SR/WA designation is the only designation reflecting evidence of professional accomplishment in the right of way profession.

Earning the SR/WA Designation will help boost opportunities and salary potential. The SR/WA Designation expands employment opportunities, increases salary potential, boosts chances for career advancement and demonstrates professional commitment. Research shows that professionals who have earned the SR/WA Designation earn more throughout their career than those without it.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to get a better understanding or for help in laying out a plan on how to achieve one of these certifications and designations. You can also go the IRWA website and visit the [Credentialing Concierge](#)

[Patrick McCallister, SR/WA](#)
[Chapter 10 PDC Chair](#)
Patrick.McCallister@wsp.com

Important Dates 2022

June 30th – Officer Installation Meeting – McCordsville, IN

July 15th – Board Meeting

August 26th – Golf Outing – Eagle Creek – Indianapolis, IN

September 15th – Board Meeting

October 27th – October Meeting – Garrison – Indianapolis, IN

November 10th – Board Meeting

December 2nd – Annual Christmas Party & Awards Banquet

IRWA CHAPTER 10 GOLF OUTING
Shotgun Start, Best Ball Scramble Tournament
Friday, August 26, 2022
Eagle Creek Golf Club, 8802 W 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 47234



Golfers:

Entry Fee # _____ @ \$90.00/person - includes pre-outing driving range bucket of balls, golf on the Sycamore Course, cart, beverages (beer, wine, soda, water) boxed lunch & cookout dinner

Subtotal \$ _____

Registration begins at 10:00 am / Golf Start Time 11:00 am (EDT)
Dinner & Awards at 5:00 pm at Eagle Creek Golf Club Banquet Room

| GOLF FOURSOME NAMES | HANDICAP | COMPANY | PHONE NUMBER |
|---------------------|----------|---------|--------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

All fees MUST be paid in advance with reservations. **Reservation Deadline is 8/19/22**

Non-Golfer Activities: Please contact Jonathan Lochner at 765-661-8805 for activity information.

Non-Golfer Fee # _____ @ \$25.00/person
(includes boxed lunch, beverages, scavenger hunt, games, & cookout dinner) Subtotal \$ _____

Outing Sponsor Options:

- Beverage Cart Sponsors \$600 and up Subtotal \$ _____
(2x5 banner displayed with your logo, Sponsors can provide cart decorations of their choice & advertising handouts if desired)
- Gold Sponsors \$500 Subtotal \$ _____
(2 x 5 banner displayed with your logo)
- Silver Sponsors \$200 - \$499 Subtotal \$ _____
(sponsorship displayed at tee box)
- Bronze Sponsors below \$200 or non-cash items* Subtotal \$ _____
(sponsorship will be included on sponsor board)
**Gifts for raffle or items for goodie bags (trinkets, golf balls, towels, etc.) contact Jonathan Lochner: 765-661-8805*

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make all checks payable to: IRWA CHAPTER 10

Sign up at www.irwachapter10.org

Or Mail checks to:
O.R. Colan Utility & Infrastructure
Attn: Jonathan Lochner
2810 W Ethel Ave, Suite 5
Muncie, IN 47304

For those needing accommodations, there are several hotels located near I465 and W 71st, and a few located near I74 and SR 167.

Whitestown & Sheridan awarded grants through Next Level Trails program

[Jacob Musselman](#)

Apr 22, 2022

[Lebanon Reporter](#)



Whitestown and Sheridan are communities that have been selected for trail expansion funding.

Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Dan Bortner announced Wednesday that 38 communities and non-profit organizations will receive a combined \$65 million for new local and regional trail development as a part of the third round of the Next Level Trails program. With funds matched from applicants, the total money invested rounds up to more than \$102 million.

“Trails connect communities together in such a personal way and are perfect pathways to good mental and physical well-being,” Holcomb said in a press release. “These continued quality-of-life investments will reap generational economic and tourism development dividends and further showcase Indiana’s incredible outdoor experiences.”

The Town of Whitestown is among the communities receiving money in this round. In total, Whitestown received \$1.1 million to complete its portion of the Big 4 Trail.

“Trails make communities better places to live by encouraging fitness, creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, and strengthening local economies,” Whitestown Parks Director Savannah Solgere said in the press release.

The southern segment is 0.75 miles long, stretching from County Road 400 South to the east end of the existing trail segment. The northern section begins at the existing Big Four Trail terminus and travels north for 0.9 miles.

“This will complete Whitestown’s portion of the Big 4 Trail,” Solgere said, adding that the project is expected to be completed in 2023.

In Boone County, Lebanon has also been a recipient of money through the Next Level Trail program. In a previous story by *The Lebanon Reporter*, Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director Kevin Krulick said the city received money to extend and widen its portion of the trail.

After the city commitments and other money given from local organizations, Lebanon received \$2.5 million from the grant program.

Whitestown’s Big 4 Trail expansion puts the trail a step closer to being a main city-connection path throughout the county, with residents being able to ride from Colfax, roughly 30 miles through to Zionsville.

Nearby Sheridan received \$2 million to add 1.85 miles. The new extension there follows an abandoned rail corridor, ending at the border of Hamilton and Boone counties along County Road 1200 East. To the south, the extension connects to the existing Monon Trail, which extends 26 miles through Westfield, Carmel, and, ultimately, downtown Indianapolis.

This third phase of the Next Level Trail grants totals more than phases one and two combined.

Next Level Trails is part of Holcomb’s \$1 billion Next Level Connections infrastructure program, which accelerates the completion of major highway projects, expands access to rural broadband services, and pursues the expansion of rail projects in northwest Indiana.

Education Update

Chapter 10 is planning on hosting the 900 course, Principles of Real Estate Engineering in the late summer or early fall. The class will be instructed by Gary Kent, PS and held at CenterPoint Energy in Danville, IN. Once we have the dates confirmed we will distribute the information. If you are interested in attending this class, be on the lookout for the email!

If you are interested in being on the Education Committee, please contact Cindy Candler or Ashely Johnson.

You never know what you'll find when digging!

[INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: WEST CENTRAL FACEBOOK POST 5/17/22](#)

HISTORIC FIND: WHILE WORKING ON E. WALNUT ST., CREWS UNCOVERED A PIECE OF FRANKFORT'S HISTORY! THE CLINTON COUNTY SHERRIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE FRANKFORT CITY BUILDING "OLD STONEY" USE TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL AND A MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHICH SHARED A GYMNASIUM. IT TURNS OUT, STUDENTS ACTUALLY USED THIS UNDERGROUND TUNNEL TO GET BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS! ALTHOUGH INTERESTING, THIS TUNNEL WAS AN UNEXPECTED FIND... BUT OUR WORKERS CREATED A SOLUTION AND ARE KEEPING THE PROJECT MOVING!



YP's Corner

Our Young Professionals committee recently hosted their summer event at Victory Field. If you missed it, don't fret! You'll be able to join the group for their fall event, which will likely be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022. This event will take you downtown to peddle along the streets on a handlebar. You'll get a chance to see the architecture, talk with colleges, and have a drink or two! This event will be co-hosted with the Young Surveyors Network and is open to many other associations. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. The date is not set in stone, so check the YP Corner in your next newsletter for the finalized details.

Contact [Madison Jones](#) with any questions about our chapters YP group.

Chapter 10 in Louisville KY from left to right: Patrick McCallister, Cindy Candler, Steve Knies, Ashley Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Yasmin Stump, Ron Barker, Angela Deddish & Sharon Fisk



REGION 5

THE QUALITY REGION

ILLINOIS — INDIANA — KENTUCKY — MICHIGAN — OHIO — WEST VIRGINIA — WISCONSIN — PENNSYLVANIA

The Spring Forum was held in Louisville, Kentucky the weekend of May 13th. The attendees had over 20 presenters sharing and helping them learn about all the activities of our Association, Region and Chapters. They also had a special event on Saturday night at Churchill Downs!

Thank you to our 2022 newsletter sponsors!



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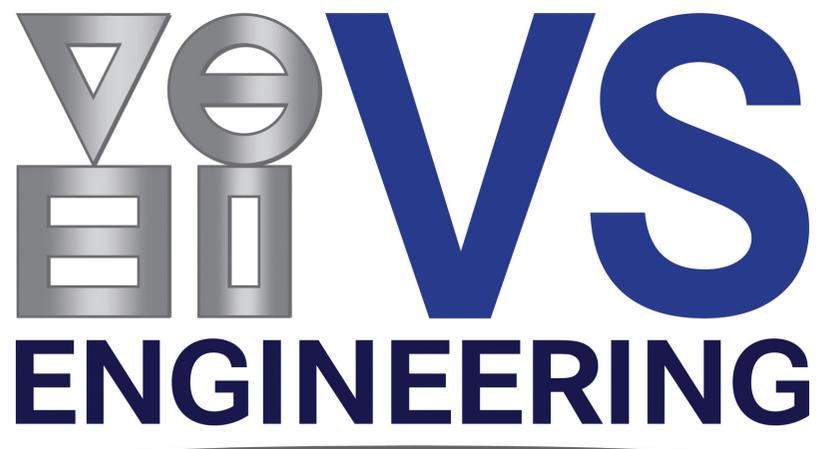
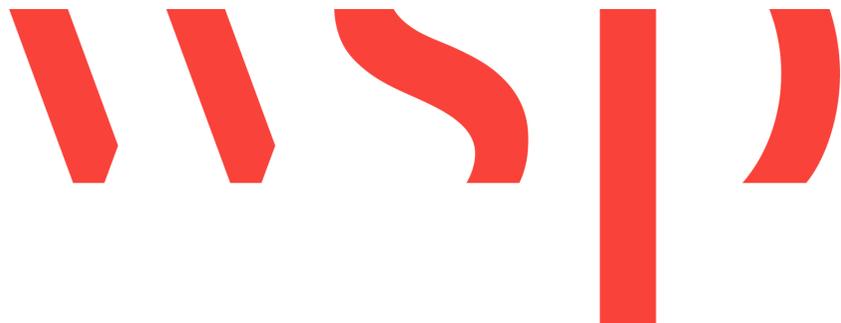
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Member Spotlight:

Name: Cindy Candler, PS

Employer: Schneider Geomatics

Time in Industry: 26 years and counting

How long have you been a member of IRWA: 10 years

Position on Board (Past or Present): Past Assistant Chapter 10 Secretary, Chapter 10 Chair of Scholarship and Sponsorship Committee, Chapter 10 Vice President and incoming Chapter 10 President

How did you hear about IRWA: John Alexander and Ron Barker both encouraged me to join IRWA Chapter 10 after attending meetings as a non-member.

Favorite Meeting or Speaker: Gary Kent, PS

What you have learned since being a member of the IRWA: I think the biggest and most valuable thing I have learn is the process of the right of way industry. From the initial design for a project to the completed project. Learning the process has greatly helped me be a better Surveyor to help my clients

What do you do in your free time: I enjoy vacation time with family, photography, volunteering in our church sound booth, watching volleyball, walking the dog, going back home to Illinois and driving the tractor and spending time with friends and family.



Drought prompts Nebraska to divert water from river it shares with Colorado

By [Deon J. Hampton](#)
April 23, 2022, 4:30 AM

Nebraska lawmakers said they would exercise the state's right to build a canal on the South Platte River to ensure its share of the water supply.



Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, in 2020. Nati Harnik / AP file

DENVER — With many Western states in severe drought and vying for their share of a diminishing amount of water, Nebraska is taking a new tack by trying to divert water from a river it shares with Colorado.

The Nebraska Legislature this week [approved construction](#) of a \$53 million canal in Colorado that would solidify its share of water from the South Platte River that flows through both states.

As climate change makes the West hotter and drier, cities and states will intensify efforts to find and secure water, and Nebraska's pre-emptive move could be a precursor to how Western states react as competition for the natural resource grows, experts said.

The Nebraska law gives the state authority to draw water from the Platte in a move state officials said would [secure its portion](#) of the river's water supply and help protect communities, businesses, agriculture and the environment across the state of 2 million people.

Both states have the right to draw from the river under a 1923 compact. Nebraska officials said they decided to exercise their right to build the canal to circumvent any big water projects Colorado may have planned for the river.

“Colorado was going to start doing some water projects that would take up a bunch of water that Nebraska would have otherwise been entitled to,” said Denny Vaggalis, legal counsel for Nebraska state Sen. Mike Hilgers, a Republican who introduced the legislation.

“We’re going to move forward to construct the canal to make sure we’re going to get that water.”

The proposed canal is not expected to drastically reduce Colorado's aquatic resources because the water that would be diverted flows in an easterly direction, water experts said. (Nebraska is northeast of Colorado.)

Colorado also receives water from the Colorado River, which supplies water to six other states and is listed as the most endangered in the nation, according to a [new study](#) by American Rivers, an environmental advocacy group.

But the state's population is growing, and so is consumption. Colorado had 5.8 million residents last year, 800,000 more than in 2010, according to the U.S. census.

Continued on next page



The South Platte River in Denver on Mar. 3, 2021. Hyoung Chang / MediaNews Group/The Denver Post via Getty Images file

Over the last two decades, the West has been the driest in 1,200 years, according to a February report by the journal [Nature Climate Change](#).

Water levels at [the nation's largest reservoir](#), Lake Mead on the Colorado River along the Arizona-Nevada border, have hit their lowest ever, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

“We don’t have a lot of water to give right now while we’re in this drought cycle,” said Peter Bennett Goble, a climatologist at Colorado State University.

Nebraska’s state Legislature passed the canal law in a 42-4 vote, and it was signed by Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican, on Monday.

“Nebraska is kind of in a reactionary mode,” said Anthony Schutz, an associate law professor and water expert at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “I don’t know if the state would have done it had it not seen Colorado really investing in its water resources and in the South Platte basin.”

He estimated the canal project would ultimately cost \$750 million to \$1 billion.

“It’s like building a highway,” he said.

Kevin Rein, Colorado state engineer and director of the division of water resources, said that he was not sure what water projects Nebraska officials were referring to, but that it could stem from a group of unfunded water projects developed in 2015.

He said Colorado would not stand in the way of construction.

“We’re not going to obstruct Nebraska from taking water they’re legally entitled to,” Rein said, adding that Colorado has always complied with the agreement and has a good rapport with Nebraska. “It’s not my objective to try and stop it.”

But the Colorado governor's office said it is not thrilled with Nebraska’s plans.

“This is still a canal to nowhere, a political stunt, and a waste of taxpayers dollars,” Conor Cahill, spokesman for Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, said in a statement. “This misguided decision continues to threaten the private land of hardworking farmers and ranchers without being able to get any more water for Nebraska or Colorado. Total waste.”

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