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**WELCOME!** For more information on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, visit [www.rgbrt.org](http://www.rgbrt.org)

### NEXT ROUNDTABLE MEETING: MAY 12, 2020 @ 2 PM

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the next Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meeting will be held virtually. Community members are welcome to “attend” either on the phone or by computer. The agenda is available online at [www.rgbrt.org](http://www.rgbrt.org). **All comments and questions during the meeting should be directed to the facilitator through the “Chat” function to help us avoid confusion and extra noise.** Attendees are also encouraged to keep microphones muted to prevent background noise.

#### TO JOIN MEETING BY COMPUTER:

[HTTPS://WWW.GOTOMEET.ME/RIOGRANDEROUNDTABLE](https://www.gotomeet.me/riograndeRoundtable)

TO CALL IN BY PHONE: (TOLL FREE): 1-866-899-4679 OR +1 (571) 317-3117 ACCESS CODE: 759-646-093



Environmental and Recreation



Agriculture



Water Administration



Municipal & Industrial



Education and Outreach

## Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update Subcommittees

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable is getting ready to update our BIP, and we want your expertise to help inform the process! If you're interested in participating in any of the subcommittees shown, email [info@riograndeheadwater.org](mailto:info@riograndeheadwater.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information about the Roundtable and BIP Update, visit [www.rgbrt.org](http://www.rgbrt.org)



## WELCOME TO THE BASIN - SOPHIA SIGSTEDT, LYNKER TECHNOLOGIES

With the lack of in person meetings, it's hard to get to know newcomers to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. We'd like to remedy that by introducing Sophia Sigstedt! Sophia is a hydrogeologist and consultant with Lynker Technologies and grew up in northern NM, spending a lot of time in San Luis Valley as a kid. She studied the San Luis Valley under Dr. Fred Phillips at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology where she earned her masters degree in Hydrology. Sophia specializes in basin-scale water resources and hydrogeology, currently working with groundwater modeling and water rights work. Sophia brings extensive experience in the Rio Grande Basin, as she was mentored in conjunctive administration of surface and groundwater rights by Dr. Chuck Brendecke, who did water rights work in the Conejos Basin.

Sophia loves rock climbing, camping and fishing, skiing in the winter and open water swimming in the summer. She's a self professed country kid who grew up with lots of land and animals like donkeys, ducks and pheasants, next to a river with springs to drink and watercress to pick, swimming holes, and train tracks. Make sure to say "Hello" to Sophia when we meet again in person!



*Sophia riding the tractor at her family's New Mexico ranch (top) and out in the field with her best friend Fischer "Fish" (below). Photos courtesy of Sophia Sigstedt*



## ROUNDTABLE MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

*We are proud of our Roundtable members. They are community members with an investment in water use, conservation, and beneficial projects. We feature a member in each issue so that our community can get to know us a little better. You can find a complete list of members at [www.rgbrt.org](http://www.rgbrt.org).*

## KEVIN TERRY - RECREATION REPRESENTATIVE



Kevin Terry is a fisheries biologist born and raised in northern New Mexico with a fly rod in his hand. After attending Oregon State University and receiving a bachelors in Fisheries Science, Kevin moved to Colorado. Kevin and his wife Stephanie are raising their twins on the banks of the Rio Grande where Kevin is working for the Western Water and Habitat program of Trout Unlimited. In his role, Kevin splits his time working to protect and restore populations of the native Rio Grande Cutthroat trout and working within the water community to strategically identify and implement water transactions for in-stream flows with ecological benefits while simultaneously providing water and services to farms and ranches of the San Luis Valley. He also provides expertise for local youth environmental education. Kevin is the recreational representative to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

# LOCAL PROJECTS GREEN LIT BY COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Projects approved by the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable were given an additional necessary stamp of approval by the Colorado Water Conservation Board of Directors at their March 12, 2020 meeting in Denver. These projects included Colorado Open Lands' Schaefer Farm and Jackson Ranch Conservation Easements, Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative's Roundtable Community Education Staff Liaison, Terrace Irrigation Company's Outlet Works Repair, and Cenicero Ranch assessment.



## RIO GRANDE RIVER AT DEL NORTE PLAY WAVE OPEN!

Boaters can enjoy big waves thanks to the spring runoff entering the Rio Grande River. The play wave is the latest construction project in the Del Norte Riverfront project completed thanks to the City of Del Norte and the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project.

*Photo credit: Bethany Howell*

## IN MEMORY OF JEANNE "GIGI" DARRICADES

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable wishes to extend condolences to Mike Gibson, Roundtable member, and his family and friends as they experience the passing of Mike's wife, Gigi Darricades.

Gigi died peacefully in Alamosa after a long battle against an incurable cancer. Gigi spent her life working on the front lines of rural healthcare, beginning in New Mexico, where she met the love of her life, Mike. Gigi and Mike moved to Utah and Wyoming before moving to Colorado - and eventually, to the San Luis Valley in 2000. Gigi not only practiced health care law, but practiced environmental law and was an expert in land conservation law. She represented the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust as well as numerous private landowners, before becoming the CEO and President of Valley-Wide Health Systems in 2011. She was honored as the CHAMPS 2018 Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award for her dedication to solving the problems of health, poverty, and human rights. March 6, 2020 was declared "Gigi Darricades Day" by the organization. Gigi served on numerous boards in the community including KRZA community radio, SLV Immigrant Resource Center, Adams State University, and SLV Federal Bank. She also supported many non-profits, including the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, RiGHT, SLV Animal League, La Puente, and the Boys & Girls Club. Gigi leaves behind her beloved husband, family, and friends across the world, but the world itself is a better place for having had Gigi in it.

**DECEMBER 29, 1952-APRIL 22, 2020**



**Gigi's full obituary can be found at the Valley Courier's website: [www.alamosanews.com](http://www.alamosanews.com).**

A Celebration of Life will be planned in the future when conditions around the country are safe for a gathering of family and friends. If you would like to make a financial donation in Gigi's name, please make it to:

The San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center  
225 6th Street, Suite B  
P.O. Box 1534  
Alamosa, CO 81101



## AROUND THE VALLEY



## SPRING RUNOFF IN FULL FLOW



Across the Basin irrigation ditches large and small are experiencing the full effects of snowpack melting into creeks and streams. The Monte Vista Canal (upper left) has been recently cleared for maximum carrying capacity. Farmers are also filling retention ponds and accessing groundwater for center pivot irrigation, like this sprinkler system outside Center. *Photos by Bethany Howell*



## “SAFER AT HOME” COVID 19 IMPACTS ON RIO GRANDE BASIN

Due to the “Safer at Home” restrictions limiting large groups, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable will continue to hold virtual meetings for all Roundtable business until further notice. This includes meetings for the Basin Implementation Plan sub committees.

## STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY

While we encourage our local population to practice the Colorado Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 guidelines, we can still enjoy our beautiful San Luis Valley. Fresh air and sunshine are great cures for the indoor blues. Use caution when hiking or biking trails, and be aware of increased wildlife activity!



*Photo Credit: Elephant Rocks by Bethany Howell*

### 2020 YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP POSTPONED



*The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative hopes to hold camp in August. Capacity will be even more limited. Registration is open, and full refunds will be given in the event of cancellation. Check out [www.rgwcei.org](http://www.rgwcei.org) for more information!*

Like what you’re reading? Sign up for future editions of the RGBRT Newsletter at [info@riograndeheadwaters.org](mailto:info@riograndeheadwaters.org)

Want to share news about your water projects, organizations, or events? Email your information to Bethany Howell, Public Education Participation & Outreach Liaison at [rgwcei@gmail.com](mailto:rgwcei@gmail.com)

We’re also happy to share statewide initiatives, events, and other water-centric programs happening in other basins. Let us know!