

January 2022

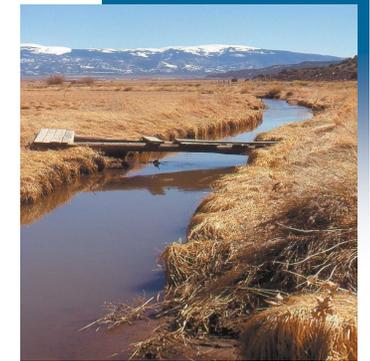
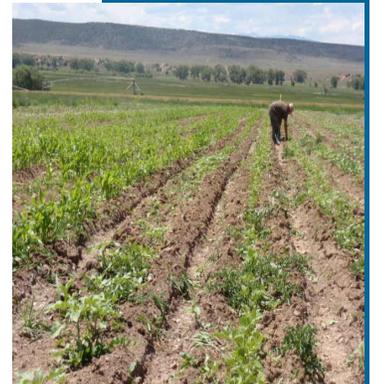


Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

# El Parciante

Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association  
PO Box 721 – 401 South Church Place  
San Luis, Co 81152 719-298-6731

## El Parciante



The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association would like to wish you and your families a safe and healthy new year filled with moisture.

## POSTPONED: 2022 Congreso de Acequias

The Association has decided to shift the annual Congreso from January to June this year to allow for an outdoor event. This year, we encourage irrigators to bring their families with them. We all know that farms and ranches require the work and support of the whole family and we hope to have everyone involved, especially as we hear from and teach the next generation.

We plan to hold student creative contests, inspired by acequia life and culture, so please keep an eye out for announcements in the schools. If you would like to honor a family or community member who has died within the last year, please email the name and photo of that person to: [sangredecristo-acequia@gmail.com](mailto:sangredecristo-acequia@gmail.com)

### Sangre De Cristo Acequia Association Mission Statement

**To Preserve Acequias,  
Their Traditional  
Governance  
And Water Rights**

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## Call for Board Members

The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association is looking for new members to serve on the Board of Directors and we hope all will consider! All boards have practical, legal, and ethical duties. These responsibilities ensure proper oversight and enable the organization to make consistent progress toward its mission. The expectation of this board is that you attend and prepare for board meetings, which currently occur monthly in the evening. An individual must be over 18 to be considered. The majority of members must be surface water users in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano, or Las Animas Counties to be eligible to serve on the board; however, those who are involved with organizations that work with the acequia community are also eligible.

Why join? This is a chance to share your ideas and talents to keep the acequia community strong. The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association hosts the annual Congreso, facilitates community workshops, and partners with University of Colorado Law

on the Acequia Legal Assistance Program, to protect water rights and practices. As a board member, you can provide input to ensure that this work continues to be meaningful and explore future work and partnerships that are meaningful to your family, your ranch, your acequia. We are especially hopeful to find a new board member interested in serving on the Rio Grande Roundtable Basin to represent acequias. The Roundtable reviews funding requests aligned with the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plan and gains valuable perspectives about issues impacting water in the San Luis Valley.

Process: If interested, please email or mail a letter of interest to the Association by February 28, 2022. Please include in the letter: name, contact information, acequia(s) on which you irrigate, why you would like to become a board member and what skills or experience would be helpful to the board. Names and a short description of each candidate will be shared in the March newsletter and candidates will be voted via



**The Board & Staff**  
**Delmer Vialpando, President**  
719-672-0944  
**Andy Manzanares, Vice President**  
719-588-7607  
**Norman Maestas, Secretary**  
719-672-3933  
**Charlie Maestas, Treasurer**  
719-672-3949  
**Jock Jacober**  
970-319-8962  
**Steven Romero**  
719-672-3372  
**Acequia Association Office**  
719-298-6731

ballot at an annual meeting of delegates.

Email letters of interest to: [sangredecristoacequia@gmail.com](mailto:sangredecristoacequia@gmail.com)

Mail letters of interest to: PO Box 721, San Luis, CO 81152





## Designation of Delegates from Acequias

In order to elect board members (new and renewing), the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association asks that each acequia submit the name of their delegate using an acequia delegate form which will be attached to this newsletter. The SdCAA will determine whether to hold the election at Congreso or at a special annual meeting specifically for purposes of electing the board. Please choose a delegate at your annual meeting and return the form by April 15th+

## Land, Water, Community

By Beatrice Medina (2017)

The land is what we use to survive.  
The water is for our crops  
The Community is stronger than you could imagine.  
Each section of land has a place and a purpose  
Each drop of water gives us what we have today.  
The Community works together.  
Look at what we have,  
We have family  
We have heart  
We have passion  
We have this because of the land.  
Tell me what you see  
Show me the way of life  
Help me learn the ways of the community  
The land gives us a home  
It gives us food  
It lets us be Free,  
The land lives even with little water,  
It shows its beauty  
And gives us what it can.  
My Community is all it can be,  
It might not be perfect,  
But it's perfect to me.

## Acequia Assistance Project Update

After completing their fall semester training, our student-attorneys and supervising attorneys are hard at work for your community! Along with bylaws and water rights cases, students are examining the decrees catalogued in the watershed assessment for accuracy. The Project will provide pro bono services to help any acequia correct an inaccurate decree in water court. Other research groups are looking through the decrees in Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, and Las Animas counties to identify additional acequias, or ditches that could qualify as acequias if the recognition statute was broadened. We recognize some ditches were established by acequia members after statehood, have been operating as acequias ever since, and would like to be recognized as acequias under the law. Identifying how many of these ditches exist is the first step in finding a solution to this problem. Please reach out to the Project if your ditch fits this description.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the annual Congreso! You can speak with me there and fill out an application for legal services, or you can email me directly any time at [Gregor.MacGregor@colorado.edu](mailto:Gregor.MacGregor@colorado.edu). Please reach out if we can help you with establishing or amending bylaws, researching title to water rights or land served by an acequia, filing for water rights, mediating a dispute on your ditch, or helping to record the historical use of water on your acequia.

Gregor MacGregor

Director, Acequia Assistance Project



Want to learn more about Colorado Water Law or your rights as an irrigator?

The Colorado Acequia Handbook is a free resource available on our website

[www.coloradoacequias.org](http://www.coloradoacequias.org).

### Calendar

- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Meeting – the second Tuesday of each month. Beginning at 2:00 pm in Alamosa.
- SdCAA Monthly Meeting— The second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM Via Zoom meeting.
- Castilla County Conservancy District Meeting—The Third Friday of each month at 12:30pm at 324 Main St. San Luis.

Have a an event you want readers to know about? Please send the information to [sangredecristoacequia@gmail.com](mailto:sangredecristoacequia@gmail.com)



### Water Use

Water in any stream, or river in Colorado is an adjudicated right . Therefore, it belongs to the water right holder , Acequia water is no different. The water that flows through the Culebra Watershed Acequias belongs to the parciantes (landowners) on the acequia, who use the water to irrigate their land. Using the water without this right is stealing and is in direct violation of Colorado Law.



## New Mexico Acequia Association Online Series for Youth

NMAA is excited to share a series of online gatherings for young people from acequia communities – “Con Nuestras Corazones, Para Nuestra Gente (With Our Hearts, For Our People): Career & Life Paths To Care For Your Acequia Community”.

From February – June 2022 we will host EIGHT different online events – you are invited to join all the sessions, or just the ones that interest you most! Each one will focus on a different way that you can use your unique interests and skills to help care for your community and the land and water of New Mexico. Each event will feature inspiring local leaders who will share what they do with their career and life, why they love it, how they got there, and how you can get involved.

This series is designed for middle school, high school and college aged youth, but is open to all ages and families.

TO REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/7whi3G7qZ95gu8Uy5>

**\*\* SCHEDULE \*\***

Free & Online (join by Zoom or phone)

ALL session are held from 5:00-6:00pm

- Wednesday February 16 – Feeding Our People: Acequia Farming, Ranching & Food Businesses
- Thursday February 24 – Leading & Organizing: The Work of Mayordomos & Commissioners
- Wednesday March 9 – Puro Manos: Adobe, Wood, Weaving & Herbal Medicine Making
- Thursday March 24 – The Heart of Acequia Culture: Artists, Musicians & Poets
- Thursday April 7 – El Agua No Se Vende: Law & Policy Advocacy
- Wednesday May 4 – Telling Our Stories: Acequia History, Storytelling & Documentarian Work
- Wednesday June 15 – Soil, Water, Forest & Climate Science to Care for Acequias
- Thursday June 30 – Using Tech to Protect Traditions: Infrastructure, Engineering & Mapping

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/7whi3G7qZ95gu8Uy5>

DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE: <https://lasacequias.org/career-livelihood/>

Questions? Contact: [emily@lasacequias.org](mailto:emily@lasacequias.org) / 505-995-9644

