**Presenters’ Take-Away Points & Contact Information**

**CDA’s Approach to Agricultural Hydropower**

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1. The Colorado Department of Agriculture is presently building a small hydropower program for the agriculture community to facilitate the development of pressurized irrigation systems and ditch drops.
2. This program will engage all of the stakeholders (private and public) that can play a role in helping producers and ditch companies build small hydropower projects more quickly and cost-effectively.
3. The Department is hiring an energy specialist that will work directly with producers and ditch companies as needed to move projects more quickly from conception to completion. This specialist will help wherever it is needed and provide connectivity to rural electric co-ops, USDA, and others to facilitate implementation. The position should be on board by late May

**Findings from Delta County Agricultural Hydro Assessment & Agricultural Hydropower Case Studies**

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1. We are confident about the statewide potential of pressurized irrigation system, but need more information to quantify the potential of ditch drops across the state.
2. Hydropower can be used to power a center pivot with electricity or mechanical energy using excess pressure or flow.
3. When technically feasible adding hydropower to pressurized irrigation system installations is very cost effective.
4. Developing hydropower on ditch drops is site specific and depends on conditions which must be known, such as flow.

**NRCS’s EQIP Program & Agricultural Hydropower**

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**Electrical Interconnection**

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**Getting New Small Hydro Permitted, Financed and Built**

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1. The Colorado Energy Office has developed  a Small Hydropower Handbook which provides an overview of the development process.
2. The process starts with a site assessment which can be completed over the phone, followed by a feasibility assessment which requires a site visit.
3. FERC permitting is now relatively quick and straightforward.  FERC can complete processing of applications in about 60 days
4. There are federal and state financing sources which can support development of agricultural hydropower.  Most importantly, forthcoming new incentives though NRCS are expected to significantly reduce costs.