



**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01**  
**COMMEMORATING THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEFT HAND DITCH COMPANY**

**WHEREAS**, in 1866, ten years prior to Colorado statehood, the Left Hand Ditch Company was formed for the purpose of constructing a ditch to convey water for mining, milling and irrigating lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Left Hand Ditch Company initially had 100 shareholders using water with priority dates of 1860 to 1870, including a diversion off of South St. Vrain Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1876 the voters approved the Colorado Constitution, and pursuant to Section 6 of Article XVI of Colorado's Constitution, the "right to divert unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied", and "Priority of appropriation shall give the better right as between those using the water for the same purpose..."; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers along St. Vrain Creek discovered water was being diverted over to Left Hand Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, this discovery escalated a dispute that concluded in 1882 when the Colorado Supreme Court affirmed the doctrine of prior appropriation, and in doing so maintained Left Hand Ditch Company's right to divert; and

**WHEREAS**, today the Left Hand Ditch Company has over 400 shareholders, provides water to irrigate up to 23,000 acres, and has successfully operated for 150 years as an essential foundation for the sustenance of the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, over its 150 years, the officers and staff of Left Hand Ditch Company have served its shareholders with tremendous dedication and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Richard Berman is a quintessential leader with 44 years of service to the Board of Directors of Left Hand Ditch Company; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this eleventh day of January two thousand and sixteen, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Board of Directors commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Left Hand Ditch Company, and honor the current and past shareholders, officers, and staff that for a century and a half have demonstrated tremendous vision and dedication, and a respect for the legacy of this company.

**Adopted, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 2016**

**Attest:**

  
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Dennis Yanchunas, President

  
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Bill Haselbush, Secretary