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Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE

970-468-0295 ● Fax 970-468-1208 qqwater@nwccog.org

QQ Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2017
10 AM – 3 PM
Mountain Parks Electric
321 West Agate Avenue
Granby, CO 80446-0170

AGENDA

10 AM	Introductions
10:15 AM	Moving forward with integrating Land Use & Water Planning *Presentation by Torie followed by discussion.*
11:00 AM	Presentation: Western Resource Advocates and the River Sisters Cities initiative. *Jorge Figueroa, WRA*
11:30 AM	Update on two ongoing studies
11:45 AM	QQ Member dues- 3% proposed increase
12:00 PM	QQ group photo
12:10 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Member updates
1:15 PM	Better utilizing reclaimed water – *Phil Overeynder, City of Aspen Utilities Engineer for special projects*
1:45 PM	Request for NWCCOG 208 revision to recommend Grand Lake as Outstanding Waters – *update to QQ.*
2:00 PM	Water quality updates *Lane, Torie, and Ashley Bembenek, consultant to QQ for Gunnison Basin WQCC rulemaking*
2:30 PM	Legislative updates- *Torie*
3 PM	ADJOURN

6.3.3 LAND USE

> "Every community can do better on water conservation and efficiency via locally determined measures, such as, but not limited to, reinvestment in aging infrastructure, community education, enhanced building codes, and water-sensitive land-use planning." Guiding statement from county commissioners, as submitted in their input document regarding Colorado's Water Plan.[194]

As Colorado grows, land-use planning and water planning will become more closely connected through the integration of several principles. Integration does not mean dilution of local control. Connecting these planning disciplines will not diminish private property rights, 1041 powers, and local zoning and development control. Financial incentives, best practices, partnerships, and technical resources can potentially better coordinate and enhance land-use planning and water planning. While density will be a major factor in reducing urban water demand, it is but one facet of creating more water-sensitive land-use decisions.

The manner in which Colorado develops into the future will have a strong influence on Colorado's future water supply gap, and vice versa. This topic is relevant today, as illustrated by the fact that six boards of county commissioners representing both the eastern and western slopes, including Boulder, Denver, Eagle, Grand, Pitkin, and Summit Counties, as well as elected officials from the City and County of Broomfield, collaborated to craft comments about land-use-water integration for Colorado's Water Plan. The importance of water-sensitive land-use planning was stated as, "1. Decrease the water supply gap. As Colorado's population continues to grow, well thought out, effective, sustainable, and predictable land-use planning is essential. 2. Provide low cost alternatives for meeting the Gap. Water sensitive land-use often results in less stress on water systems, indoor and outdoor water savings, and reduction in expensive long-term capital outlay. 3. Protect the values of Colorado, including vibrant economies, agriculture, open space, and recreation. Local land-use planning should be among the first points of consideration to protect and support all of Colorado's values and economic drivers. 4. Create more predictability and reliability as well as reduce risk in water supply planning, in turn creating more sustainability for current and future residents. 5. Encourage shared solutions including best management practices, collaborative physical projects and practical land-use models to address water quality and quantity challenges. 6. Result in benefits that reduce infrastructure and service costs, and enhance a community's quality of life."[195]

In 2009, the CWCB began preliminary work in this arena by hosting the *Water and Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future* conference, and in 2010, it created an associated report and density memo describing several actions that bridge land and water issues.[196] Recently, urban land use has been a major discussion point at the IBCC, which incorporated several options into the Water Conservation No-and-Low-Regrets Action Plan. Additionally, at the July 24, 2013 Joint Front Range Roundtable meeting, 92 percent of participants strongly agreed or agreed with the recommendation that water supply planning and land-use planning should be coordinated. At that same meeting, 55 percent of participants agreed that "coordination of urban land planning and water supply planning" was the most important conservation recommendation to discuss that day.[197]

The following projects and initiatives illustrate these recommendations—and are being pursued in Colorado today.

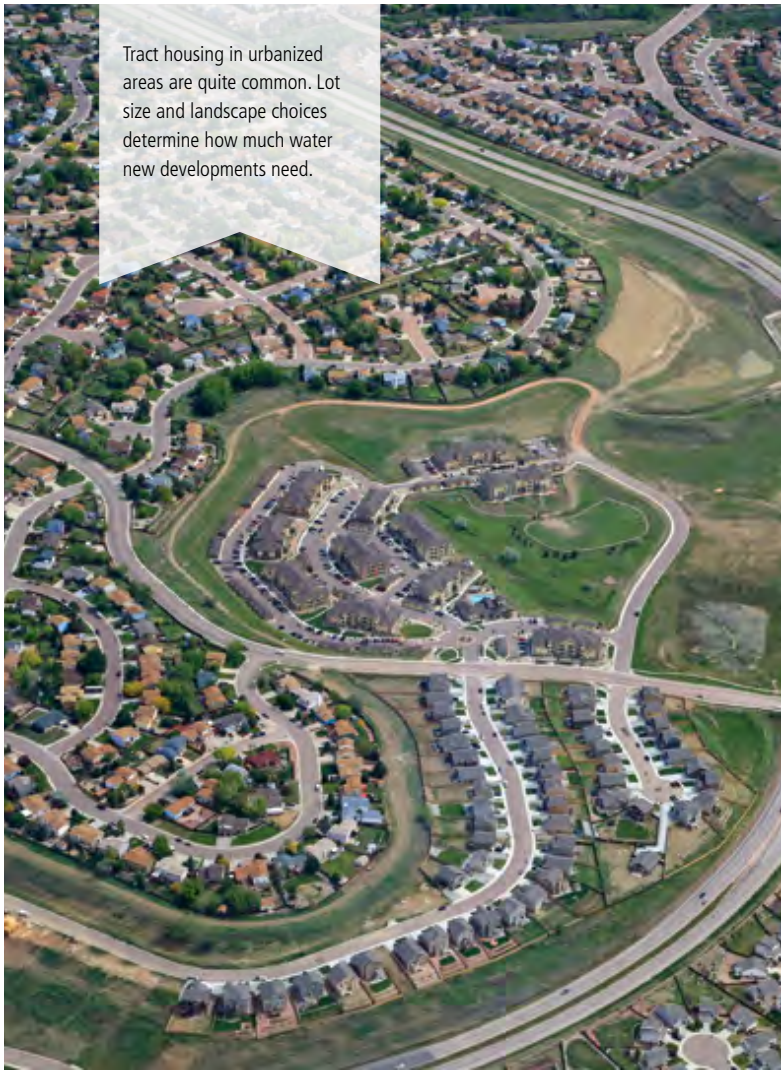
Net-Zero Water Initiative

The Colorado Water Innovation Cluster is researching net-zero water through a CWCB water efficiency grant, and has assembled a large stakeholder group to create a net-zero water planning template, guidebook, and toolkit.[198] Net-zero water is a water management concept that mitigates effects on water quantity and quality through best practices, which are incorporated into the development or management of a site. While not truly a net-zero strategy, the best practices can result in a water-neutral site. Net-zero water strategies can be applied to a building site or on a more regional scale, and connect water management to land-use planning. The Net Zero Water Planning Template, as well as the guidebook and toolkit, will help users quantify their water footprint, evaluate reduction strategies, and recognize financial and environmental benefits by reducing their effects on water use and water quality.[199]

Land Use Leadership Alliance

A recent collaborative effort involving water planners and land-use planners from local jurisdictions is moving the dialogue forward. Pace University School of Law's Land Use Law Center brought its Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training program to Colorado in fall 2013. This training convened land-use and water planners with city managers, city council members, developers, regional government planning groups, and CWCB staff for four all-day sessions focused on the land-use and water planning nexus. These sessions proved very productive in the development of strategies for better integration of land and water planning, and also assisted in the development of relationships between land and water planners within and among municipalities.[200]

This collaboration is a model for integrating local planning efforts within a local government and with regional planning efforts. The latest LULA trainings took place in May 2015 and involved the participation of five more Front Range municipalities, including Westminster, Lakewood, Commerce City, Broomfield, and Aurora. Additionally, representatives from South Adams Water and Sanitation, Denver Water, Bancroft-Clover Water, and Green Mountain Water and Sanitation attended. The LULA trainings will serve as a template for trainings the CWCB and the DOLA will organize in 2016, as Senate Bill 15-008 outlines.



Tract housing in urbanized areas are quite common. Lot size and landscape choices determine how much water new developments need.

Denver Regional Council of Government's Metro Vision

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has also been exploring the nexus between water use and land-use patterns in recent years. Adopted in 2011, the latest *Metro Vision 2035* document, which for the first time includes a section that ties water conservation to land-use planning.

DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WATER CONSERVATION VISION, GOAL, AND POLICIES

Vision: The Denver metro region will maximize the wise use of limited water resources through efficient land development and other strategies, recognizing that no single strategy will meet the state's water needs and the region will need to pursue a range of strategies concurrently.

Goal: Reduce regional per-capita M&I water use by working with municipalities, counties, water providers, and other stakeholders within the next 6 to 12 months (February 2012) to identify a specific numeric target or measurable benchmark against which to measure progress.

Policies:

1. **Regional Collaboration.** DRCOG will bring together local governments, water providers, and other stakeholders to facilitate collaborative efforts that promote water conservation.
2. **Best Practices.** DRCOG will work to increase understanding of the link between land devel opment and water demand, and to identify best practices for promoting the efficient use of water resources across the region.
3. **Efficient Land Development.** Compact devel-opment, infill and redevelopment consistent with DRCOG's urban growth boundary/area and urban centers policies will help reduce water demand and related infrastructure costs.

Source: DRCOG Metro Vision 2035:34

DRCOG has a sustainability goal of increasing housing density by 10 percent between 2000 and 2035.[201] According to DRCOG's most recent analysis, the region has increased in density by 5.3 percent since 2000. These data suggest that the region is well situated to achieve the 10 percent density level by 2035.[202] In the residential housing sector, that 10 percent increase will produce approximately a 5 percent decrease in water use—which equates to 31,000 to 46,000 acre-feet of annual savings for the Denver metro area, depending on population growth (both existing and new). At the medium population growth, this is nearly 42,000 acre-feet of savings annually.[203]

Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue

Through a WEGP grant that addresses the water and growth dilemma, the CWCB is funding a project to estimate demand reductions from various land-use patterns. The Keystone Center secured funding from several grantors (including the CWCB) to complete a two-year dialogue that will bring together water providers, land-use planners and developers, public officials, and other key stakeholders. The goal is to identify meaningful strategies, practices, and policies that will help Coloradans achieve a measurable reduction in the water footprint of new development and redevelopment, and move closer to a long-term balance between water use and growth. To date, the project has produced a draft research report that examines strategies for implementing land-use patterns that reduce water demand. The report identifies four strategies that have the most potential to reduce water demand: Developing smaller residential lots (cluster development), changing from single-family to multi-family development (infill), increasing multi-family development (moving-up), and imposing turf/irrigation restrictions.[204] Additionally, Denver Water and Aurora Water are modeling their service areas' water use patterns on top of existing land-use patterns. The group will then use DRCOG's UrbanSim model to generate future land-use patterns with the overlay of water use patterns. As the project progresses, it will generate several different exploratory scenarios by 2040. These scenarios could reflect the effects of climate change, economics, market demand, and political will for regulation. In 2016, this water and growth project will create a report and roadmap that describes the most promising strategies for addressing the water and growth dilemma in Colorado, along with specific recommendations for implementing and disseminating the strategies.[205]

Recent Legislation

In 2008, Colorado passed legislation requiring that building permit applications for developments of more than 50 single-family equivalents include specific evidence of an adequate water supply. Adequate water supply is defined as one that is sufficient for the development in terms of quality, quantity, and dependability. Developers must submit proof of adequate supply to the local government through a report from a professional engineer, or from a water

supply expert, that identifies the water source and the types of demand management appropriate for the site. Under this law, a local government was permitted to make the adequacy determination only once, at the beginning of the development permit approval process.[206] In 2013, the governor signed legislation that modified the definition of the term "development permit." The new definition clarifies that during the development permit approval process, the local government may grant permits for individual stages, rather than for the entire development.[207]

In 2015, Colorado passed Senate Bill 15-008, which tasks the CWCB and the DOLA with implementing trainings for local water use, water demand, and land-use planners. The topic areas will cover best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation. Additionally, the bill requires that all covered entities' water efficiency plans must evaluate best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation that they may implement through land-use planning efforts.

BIPs

Each basin roundtable is formulating its own implementation plan that will include land-use goals and activities, in addition to already-planned projects and methods. Chapter 6 explores all of these.

Arkansas Basin

The Arkansas Basin did not address land use in an extensive manner in its BIP. The Arkansas Basin did, however, create a policy calling for the integration of land-use and water resource planning.

The Arkansas Basin came to consensus on a policy statement regarding land-use and water resource planning.

- *Policy Statement: The Arkansas Basin Round table supports the integration of land-use and water-resource planning.*[208]

Creating a policy statement for this type of integration is an important first step in the future of demand management in the Arkansas Basin.

Colorado Basin

The Colorado BIP created a theme; set a goal, measurable outcomes, and short- and long-term needs; and identified projects and methods that connect land use with water conservation.

Theme 5 is to "develop local water conscious land use strategies," with a primary goal to "develop land-use policies requiring and promoting conservation." The measurable outcomes associated with this goal include:

- *Developing recommendations for city, county, and state governing bodies promoting water awareness and efficiency in land-use policy.*
- *Developing educational material or opportunities for elected and planning officials on water supply issues and conservation options.*
- *Preserving agriculture by reducing the transfer of agriculture water to municipal use.*[209]

The Colorado Basin established short-term needs, long-term needs, and projects and methods to accomplish this goal. In the short term, it will review existing land-use regulations for water-conscious development requirements and evaluate potential growth in unincorporated areas and water supplies to those areas. In the long term, it will provide local jurisdictions with financial support to implement water-conscious development requirements, and draft recommended model-basin and statewide land-use planning guidelines that focus on water conservation and water-efficient land-use development. As for projects and methods to accomplish the goal, the Colorado Basin suggests the creation of statewide grant opportunities to enable local jurisdictions to review land-use regulations, conduct public outreach, and implement regulations. Additionally, current governmental council should develop model land-use regulations, and every county and city within the basin should have conservation plans with identified goals. The plan also asks that "the state land-use regulations be evaluated to meet long term exponential state population growth (and water demand) with a limited water supply."[210]

Additionally, the Grand County Region, Summit Region, Eagle River Region, Middle Colorado Region, and Roaring Fork Region all developed specific land-use themes and methods in their needs analysis.

The themes include:

- *Develop local water conscious land-use strategies that focus on growth that affects water supplies and nonconsumptive/environmental needs.*

The methods include:

- *Limit development to within urban boundaries*
- *Promote water conscious growth development through improved land-use policies.*
- *Water providers should work with neighboring entities to provide and plan for growth between boundaries*
- *Implement water provider conservation projects*
- *Review local governments' land-use policies for water-quality and environmental protection standards.*
- *Assess county master plans and codes for improvements in smart growth land-use policies*
- *Ensure new development appropriately incorporates water-related values.*[211]

Gunnison Basin

As with other BIPs, the Gunnison BIP ties land use to water conservation and demand management. The Gunnison Roundtable established goals related to land use and water conservation. Goal 9, which outlines public outreach and education regarding the role of citizens of the Gunnison Basin, identifies land use as a process to achieve this goal: "The GBRT Education Committee will prepare and present annual half-day State of the River seminars for local governments and planning staffs, with the objective of making sure that land-use decisions and new developments are made within the context of the Basin's probable water future." [212]

The Gunnison Basin also identified statewide principles that connect water efficiency, conservation, and demand management.

Principle 5: ***Water conservation, demand management, and land-use planning that incorporates water supply factors should be equitably employed statewide.*** *Demand management strategies supported by the Gunnison Basin include growth only in proximity to existing or planned infrastructure, high density versus urban sprawl, and landscape limitations. Development in proximity to existing infrastructure should be encouraged only in non productive, or the least productive, land to preserve productive agricultural land. The Gunnison Basin believes that land-use policies are essential to promoting both water and land conservation. Local land-use policies and regulations should discourage sprawl, link water supplies to development, and provide incentives for higher density developments."* [213]

Additionally, the Gunnison Basin discusses land use in terms of Colorado River supplies. Under Principle 3: ***Any new supply project from the Colorado River System must have specifically identified sponsor and beneficiaries and meet certain minimum criteria, and "entities must incorporate water supply factors into land-use planning and development.***[214]

North Platte Basin

Due to low population and little municipal use, the North Platte Basin did not address land use in its plan.

Rio Grande Basin

As this chapter stated previously, the Rio Grande Basin has a low population and relatively minor municipal water use. The Rio Grande Basin does not address land use as more urban water basins have, but instead describes the use of conservation easements to manage land development. The conservation easements preserve agricultural land as well as environmental attributes.[215]

South Platte/Metro Basin

According to the South Platte/Metro Basin, municipal water departments are tasked with meeting a large portion of the water supply needs in the South Platte Basin, and are already using programs such as water audits, rebates for efficient water fixtures and appliances, and education to reduce demand. These efforts could be more effective if water departments worked with their respective planning departments to plan and require water-efficient usage and land development within their cities. For instance, a water department may work with its planning department to implement water-efficient landscaping codes, subdivision regulations, zoning requirements, and master plans.[216]

Nevertheless, many water utilities' current roles are generally limited to providing for water needs within their service areas, with little cross-over to land-use authority. The South Platte/Metro Basin discusses current land-use authority and water provider authority, opportunities for collaboration,

and examples of current work in this arena. The plan describes the issue that has made collaboration between water and land-use planning difficult in the past. The South Platte/Metro Basin states, "The primary responsibility held by water utilities is to provide for water needs within communities. Coordinating or integrating the land-use and water planning process is a relatively new area being explored for reducing municipal water use. Increasing awareness of limited future water supply opportunities and the potential effects of climate change helps to spur this integration of planning."[217]

The South Platte/Metro Basin indicates that there are opportunities for closer collaboration and reduction in water use through more integrated land-use planning. These include:

- *Updates to Comprehensive Plans,*
- *Changes to zoning requirements,*
- *Revising water/land-use subdivision regulations, and*
- *Using the direction provided by the State Water Engineer and recent legislation.*[218]

With regard to opportunities, the plan states that "increasing residential density has the potential to significantly improve water use efficiency and will continue to result in reduced effects on natural resources. The highly urbanized areas of the Front Range corridor have many opportunities to redevelop lands for higher population densities."[219]

Projects the South Platte/Metro Basin highlighted include the Keystone Center Land Use Study and LULA. The Keystone Center project will identify land-use patterns across the metro area and find ways to more closely integrate land and water planning. The LULA training program "focuses on finding land-use solutions to the challenges posed by growing Front Range populations and Colorado's limited water resources. The LULA program is designed to help local land-use and water leaders create new networks of support, identify successful land-use techniques, and develop implementable local strategies that will enable a more 'water-smart' future for the region."[220]

The South Platte/Metro BIP ends with a land-use recommendation in the section *Recommendation for Additional SP-BIP Analysis and Refinements.* This recommendation is:

Further Analysis of Planning Coordination— *The South Platte and Metro Roundtables recommend further investigation into options for increased coordination between water utilities and land-use planners to better plan for water-efficient growth.*[221]

Southwest Basin

The Southwest Basin identified a need to organize informational events about water conservation, land-use planning and water reuse efforts, tools and strategies. "One strategy to achieve the short-term goals of conservation, land-use planning (which will include coverage and discussion of the 60/40 and 70/30 ratios referenced above), and water reuse is to implement a pilot conservation and land-use planning session in 2015. Initially it is anticipated that this would be a two to four hour workshop for local decision makers and water utility personnel." If successful, the basin could host the session throughout the basin (for example, in Cortez, Telluride, Pagosa Springs, and other locations) as with the Water 101 Seminar.[222]

Yampa/White/Green Basin

The Yampa/White/Green Basin did not describe projects or plans for land use in its BIP.

ACTIONS

One objective of Colorado's Water Plan is that by 2025, 75 percent of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning. Ten communities have completed land-use and water trainings through the LULA process, and in order to reach the 75 percent population objective, a total of 80 communities and water providers will need to have participated in similar trainings by 2025. The trainings will support approximately 80 water providers and communities statewide to incorporate land-use practices into their water conservation plans. To facilitate the use of local land-use tools to reduce water demands for municipalities and urbanization of agricultural lands, the State will work with partners to pursue the following actions.

1. **Encourage the use of local development tools:** Through voluntary trainings in 2016, the CWCB and DOLA will encourage local governments to incorporate best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation into land-use decisions.

Trainings may cover the following topics:

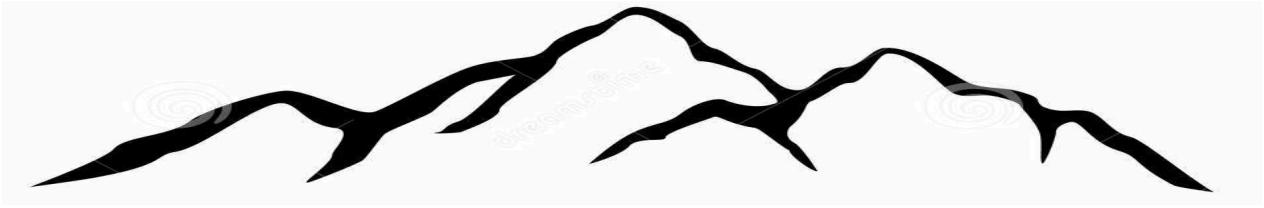
- Expediting permitting for high-density buildings and developments that incorporate certain water efficiency measures, such as efficient irrigation systems (with plan-check and install-check).
- Including water supply and demand management in comprehensive plans.
- Installing climate-appropriate landscapes.
- Understanding the societal and environmental benefits of urban landscapes
- Using appropriate amounts of soil amendments.
- Incentivizing maximum-irrigable-area or WaterSense-certified landscapes.
- Instituting tax incentives for incorporating certain water efficiency measures for high-density developments, such as cluster developments.
- Establishing structured impact (tap) fees designed to promote water-wise developments and in-fill.
- Developing water-budget rate structures to help maintain initial projected water budgets for a site.
- Introducing landscape and irrigation ordinances.
- Exploring the environmental and farmland benefits of water sensitive urban land-use planning.
- Creating more stringent green-construction codes that include higher-efficiency fixtures and appliances and more water-wise landscapes.
- Exploring landscape-oriented professional education or certification programs.
- Examining opportunities to reduce agricultural urbanization and fragmentation.[223]

2. **Examine barriers in state law for implementing the above local development tools:** Over the next 18 months, the CWCB will examine barriers local jurisdictions may face while implementing local development tools.
3. **Incorporation of land-use practices into water conservation plans:** Over the next 18 months, the CWCB, through partnerships, will develop new guidance for water conservation plans that requires the incorporation of land-use practices. This is an addition to C.R.S. 37-60-126.
4. **Strengthen partnerships:** To be successful in integrating land-use and water planning, the CWCB will need to partner with many different agencies and groups. Within the next year, the CWCB will establish meetings with various agencies to map out ways in which the CWCB and other agencies can work together on these issues.

- Local municipalities, local water providers, and county governments will implement water and land-use plans. Without their partnership and support of new ideas, comprehensive water and land planning will not succeed. In addition to partnering with local entities, the CWCB will partner with the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties Incorporated and the Special District Association to ensure successful integrated water and land-use planning.

- The DOLA is involved in the land-use in the local government arena. Like the CWCB, the DOLA can also leverage its grant funding for water and land-use planning initiatives, such as incentives for incorporating water supply into comprehensive land-use planning.
- The DORA regulates professionals in various industries and works to create a fair market place. The CWCB will work with the DORA to focus on the landscape and irrigation industry or the property management industry, and to consider developing certifications for these industries to conserve water.
- Home-building and construction organizations, such as the Home Builders Association, LEED, and the U.S. Green Building Council, will be building communities that have a direct influence on water demand. They must be involved in crafting the vision for future water-sensitive developments.
- Non-governmental organizations, such as Keystone Center, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Western Resources Advocates, American Planning Association, and economic development councils, can advance land-use and water integration innovation and research.
- Academic institutions, such as Colorado State University, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Denver, One World One Water Center-Metropolitan State, and Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, can advance land-use and water-integration innovation and research.
- LULA brings an innovative training model that could change the way Colorado looks at this subject by breaking down institutional silos. The CWCB will work with LULA, or another local group, to create a Colorado-specific training model for the integration of sustainable, long-term, land, and water planning.
- Councils of governments make connections between the local and state government levels. Councils of governments can be strong allies in trainings and research about the land-water nexus.

5. **Funding:** The CWCB should use the WEGP funds and Water Supply Reserve Account grant funds to fund aspects of the land-use and water planning nexus. The CWCB will work with the basin roundtables to proactively seek applicants to use WSRA funds for larger regional efforts that tie more directly into the basin roundtables. It will use the WEGP funds for smaller, more localized efforts.



Boulder County | City & County of Denver | City & County of Broomfield | Eagle County
Grand County | Pitkin County | Summit County

To the Colorado Water Conservation Board,

We respectfully submit the following comments regarding the importance of integrating land use planning in the development of the Colorado's Water Plan (CWP). Six boards of county commissioners, including Boulder, City & County of Denver, Eagle, Grand, Pitkin and Summit, are signatories to these comments. Mayor Randy Ahrens and city council member Sam Taylor from City & County of Broomfield are also signatories.

The local government perspective is essential to the CWP. The CWP uses growth projections that indicate that Colorado's population may as much as double by 2050. Land use decisions made by county commissioners directly influence the timing, location, intensity and water demands of this new growth. Likewise, the water use and supply decisions made by county commissioners affect the state as a whole: the way future water demands are addressed in one part of the state necessarily affects water availability and the capacity for future growth in other areas of the state. Because of its structure, the CWP process does not easily allow for problem-solving engagement among local policy makers to address these statewide issues. Roundtables are largely technical and locally-focused; they are not designed to address the local land use issues connected to water planning across Colorado. CWCB comment opportunities are limited to short statements, or one-way written communication.

We believe that interactive discussions about cross-basin land use goals and values are essential to the success of the CWP process. Our interjurisdictional meetings and comments are one step toward assisting the CWCB to accomplish move in that direction.

We developed these comments during a series of five meetings held between commissioners from front range and west slope counties over several months. These meetings consisted of joint discussions about how Colorado can continue to thrive with adequate water resources for future needs while protecting the economy and environment that makes this state such a great place to live and visit.

At the first in the series of meetings, the commissioners developed a guiding statement that framed discussions over the next few months:

> Every community can do better on water conservation and efficiency via locally determined measures such as but not limited to reinvestment in aging infrastructure, community education, enhanced building codes and water sensitive land use planning.

The below recommendations would help create a stronger Land Use Section of the Water Plan.

A. The Land Use subsection of the Water Plan (Ch. 6.3.3) should be elevated.

B. The Water Plan should include additional introductory language emphasizing the importance of local land use planning. As county commissioners, we respect the need for local control and therefore believe in supporting proactive and not reactive solutions that are appropriate for the varying needs and regions of the state. These solutions must address concerns related to current resident needs and future population growth. The following are examples of why water-sensitive land use planning should be stressed in the Water Plan.

Water sensitive land use planning can:

1. Decrease the water supply Gap. As Colorado's population continues to grow, well thought out, effective, sustainable, and predictable land use planning is essential.

2. Provide low cost alternatives for meeting the Gap. Water sensitive land use often results in less stress on water systems, indoor and outdoor water savings, and reduction in expensive longterm capital outlay.

3. Protect the values of Colorado, including vibrant economies, agriculture, open space, and recreation. Local land use planning should be among the first points of consideration in order to protect and support all of Colorado's values and economic drivers.

4. Create more predictability and reliability as well as reduce risk in water supply planning, in turn creating more sustainability for current and future residents.

5. Encourage shared solutions including best management practices, collaborative physical projects and practical land use models to address water quality and quantity challenges.

6. Result in benefits that reduce infrastructure and service costs, and enhance a community's quality of life.

C. The Land Use section of the Water Plan should coalesce common elements in various Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) into policy recommendations, and should more substantively outline the existing and ongoing tools/ best management practices available to date.

1. The current draft of Section 6.3.3 on Land Use Planning includes summaries of four ongoing studies regarding water planning and land use planning. While this is useful, we believe it is more useful to explain how the studies are consistent or where they differ, what their recommendations are, and how their recommendations may be used in the future.

   The Water Plan should collect ongoing studies and other data from local governments, associations, and state agencies related to water and land use planning. Section 6.3.3 of the Water Plan could also serve as a clearing house for other resources on the subject of water sensitive land use planning, such as Model Land Use Codes or case studies.

2. The current draft of Section 6.3.3 recaps land use planning recommendations from different BIPs, with many of the Basins sharing similar recommendations. We hope that the CWCB will gather the recommendations from various BIPs and produce some suggested action points to better integrate land use planning and water planning.

3. Water sensitive land use planning is a statewide issue. As such, it is proper for the CWCB and DOLA to have a role in coordinating and encouraging that integration while honoring Colorado's proud history of local control.

D. We recommend potential "Action Steps" in the Water Plan be more specific.

The action items could be broken into steps best-suited for various communities based on various factors, including geography, demography, population, expected rate of growth, etc.
Because we believe that Colorado should move forward quickly to consider land use planning practices that that take into account water usage and supply, we suggest that two additional steps be included in the Plan:

1. **Evaluate potential impacts on the Gap of land use planning and water planning integration.** We suggest that CWCB include an analysis of the impact of land use planning practices on the Gap in the next update of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative.

2. **Establish goal timelines for implementation, including funding, of identified actions**. Goals relating to land use planning must be a high priority for the Water Plan, on equal pace for successful project development and funding as any other part of the Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments in the formation of Colorado's Water Plan,

Commissioner Deb Gardner
Boulder County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Merrit Linke
Grand County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
City & County of Denver

Commissioner Stephen F. Child
Pitkin County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry
Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Dan Gibbs
Summit County Board of Commissioners

Randy Aherns
Mayor, City & County of Broomfield

Sam Taylor
Town Council Member, City & County of Broomfield

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE (QQ)

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Summary of May 7, 2014 Land Use and Water Conservation Workshop

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/ Quantity Committee (QQ) hosted more than 35 planners and planning commissioners, primarily from headwaters towns and counties on the West Slope. Several attendees represented Front Range communities as well, including Arapaho County and Denver Water.

The workshop started with an introduction of the statutory authority and requirements that connect land use planning with water supply availability and planning. A panel then presented on various communities' approaches to integrating land use decision making with water supply considerations, water conservation and watershed protection. The workshop then became hands-on, with a session to brainstorm land use planning practices and regulations that work to achieve water conservation and water quality objectives within participant's communities.

The following is a summary of the panel presentations, discussion session and conclusions reached during this workshop.

I. Panel discussion on integrating land use decision-making, water supply considerations, and water conservation.

Panelists for this workshop included:

Tom Boni, *Eagle Town Planner*
John Ely, *Pitkin County Attorney*
Peter Grosshuesch, *Breckenridge Director of Community Development*
James Shockley, *Winter Park Town Planner*

Panelists answered and discussed a series of three questions. Participants in the workshop were encouraged to ask questions and provide additional feedback from their communities.

1. What plans/regulations does your jurisdiction use to ensure that new development will have adequate water supply? What challenges have you faced with respect to that issue?

Answers to this question reaffirmed that local governments currently control timing, density, and location of development, and require development to provide adequate water supplies. The techniques communities employ for ensuring adequate water supplies vary.

The Town of Winter Park has robust regulations to ensure adequate water supplies, in part because of the reduced flows in the Fraser River caused by transmountain diversions. 65% of the Fraser River is diverted to the Front Range before reaching Winter Park.[1] The Town developed much of its land use code to protect the health of the Fraser River through the Town. The Town limits the issuance of development permits to maintain 10 cfs (cubic feet per second, a unit of measuring flowing water) in the Fraser River. The Town also does not allow outside irrigation anywhere in Town limits.

When new developments apply for annexation into towns, the application serves as an opportunity to evaluate and control water supplies. The Town of Eagle, for example, requires the annexor to donate all water rights to the Town which then are leased back for use in the development. The Town of Eagle's Land Use Code also requires developers to give assurance of adequate public facilities in development applications. If no such facilities are available, the developer must upgrade existing facilities or provide new facilities. The Town of Breckenridge also requires new development to bring its own water supplies.

2. How do your plans/regulations protect streams, wetlands and other riparian areas from the impacts of land use and development and major challenges in protecting riparian areas?

Local governments actively regulate land use development for the protection of river corridors and riparian habitat. Local governments are also making significant public investments in river restoration and preservation. Specific funding and regulatory examples are listed below.

- **Management plans for river and stream corridors**, such as the Brush Creek Management Plan in the Town of Eagle. Such plans identify values in stream that should be protected and then require new development to preserve those values in order to be approved for a development permit. The Town of Eagle also works collaboratively with the Eagle River Watershed Council to implement recommendations in the Eagle River Watershed Plan.
- **Defining development areas on property.** Pitkin County regulates permissible areas of development within a property with an eye on riparian habitat protection, and imposes limits on landscaping outside of the design area.
- **Regulating septic systems**. Generally, participants and panelists agreed that septic systems are huge sources of pollution and degraded water quality in rural areas. Septic systems are also problematic because when they are not working properly the cost of repairs or replacement can be exorbitant. Panelists agreed local governments should look for methods to regulate septic systems and to help fund replacements. Summit County and other jurisdictions have explored options for addressing septic problems, such as requiring a septic inspection and compliance with current regulations upon the sale of homes. Summit County also encourages replacement of septic systems with sewer by

[1] Coley/Forrest Inc., "Water and its Relationship to the Economies of the Headwaters Counties," Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, December 2011 <http://nwccog.org/docs/qq/QQStudy_Outreach%20Summary%20Jan%202012.pdf>.

requiring new development to minimize phosphorous loading to Lake Dillon.

- **Conservation easements.** Pitkin County has two zoning districts that require conservation easements before development approval.
- **Local government ownership of the river corridor.** The Town of Winter Park attempts to purchase as much of the river corridor through town as possible to protect river health and water quality and to add recreation and tourist opportunities. Generally, a new annexation to Winter Park requires town ownership of the river corridor.
- **River restoration projects**. Local governments are actively investing in projects that will improve river corridors, water quality, and riparian habitat in their communities. For example, the Town of Breckenridge invested in seven river restoration projects to date, primarily related to abandoned in-stream mines.
- **Construction management regulations.** Local governments regulate erosion from construction sites and limit impervious surfaces to reduce potential sediment loading into the rivers.
- **Revegetation requirements**. Local governments require the revegetation of disturbed areas with native species as a condition of development permits.
- **Setbacks** to prevent riverfront development from encroaching on riparian habitat. However, three panelists agreed that setbacks of 25 feet or 30 feet are often inadequate. The small setbacks also create an enforcement problem.
- **Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Fund.** In 2008 voters in Pitkin County passed a dedicated 0.1% sales tax for healthy rivers and streams. The Fund allows Pitkin County to award grants, develop restoration projects and participate in litigation to protect healthy rivers and streams. The Fund is administered by the Board of County Commissioners with the advice of a citizens' board.

The panel's discussion of the significant local government investment in river restoration turned to a broader discussion of how to ensure the Colorado Water Plan protects already-existing investments. Participants recommended gathering information on what investments have been made by various communities in the QQ region for inclusion in the Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan. Examples of local government investment are listed as Exhibit 1.

3. Does your jurisdiction use the concept of "carrying capacity" or similar analysis in planning or regulation to ensure that new development is located in areas where the natural environment can accommodate the development?

Some local governments have embraced the idea and funded studies to better understand how many people a community's available natural resources, including water, can support, as several panelists described. Other panelists stated that once a study came up with a carrying capacity number, then it's politically difficulty to limit growth once it reaches that number due to concerns about how this could affect the economy of the area. In contrast, other local governments have embraced the idea and funded studies to better understand how many people a community's available natural resources, including water, can support.

The Town of Breckenridge completed carrying capacity studies as recently as 5-7 years ago. The study conducted in cooperation with Summit County examined what the Town and County will look like by 2030 and whether the leadership liked the direction the area was headed.

Breckenridge also funded a recent study of the capacity of all infrastructure including water and wastewater. The Town of Winter Park has regulations directly tied to the carrying capacity for the Town. The water capacity is capped (based on average density of currently zoned lands) to protect the river from over development. These capacity studies are subject to reevaluation, such as the potential to allow for more growth in Winter Park through new water available as a result of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement.

While John Ely, Pitkin County's attorney, questioned the effectiveness of a "carrying capacity" approach to planning, he also highlighted Pitkin County's Growth Management Quota System, which establishes a set number of development permits available on a competitive basis to ensure slow, measured growth that won't get ahead of Pitkin County's quality of life. Likewise, the Town of Eagle institutes an urban growth boundary to help control density and ensure growth happens slowly enough to provide time to react.

II. Small Group Discussions: Water Conservation Targets in Comprehensive Plans.

Small groups debated the various pros and cons of requiring water conservation targets, such as a certain goal in gallons per capita per day, in local comprehensive plans. Participants explained why some alternative water conservation measures might work better in their communities than targets, identified issues with rural areas utilizing wells, and considered how they might prioritize the different water conservation methods. Finally, discussion focused on the best forum to integrate land use and water conservation.

1. Should water conservation targets be required in comprehensive plans?

Generally, most participants in this workshop positively affirmed that water elements should be required in comprehensive plans. Participants felt that conservation targets or something similar would be appropriate to implement water conservation in comprehensive plans. Several commented that targets were useful because they were flexible and could be easily changed. Water use goals or targets should include timelines to be most effective.

The metric that different communities would use to measure conservation was problematic. A method to determine the actual population using water day-to-day is necessary to avoid the appearance of inflated per capita use in communities where tourism and recreation-based population swings are dramatic. Many people in rural communities also rely on septic systems for wastewater treatment and wells for water supplies; usually neither of these services is metered. Water conservation targets based on gpcd may not adequately consider these situations.

Finally, some participants highlighted the difficulty in a local government instituting a conservation goal when a special district provides the water for development in that same area. Even for these areas that may want to implement water conservation regulations, such change can be cumbersome with multiple districts and multiple processes. Nevertheless, the local government regulates where, how, and when development occurs and what conditions if any should be imposed on the amount of water that development uses.

For these reasons, most participants felt communities should adopt their own specific water conservation goals to allow local governments to tailor goals to their own needs. The metric used to calculate the baseline for comparing improvements in water conservation was important to most participants. One group offered the suggestion that gallons "consumed" per capita per day might more fairly compare local water use with trans mountain diversions since most water delivered to a household is not consumed but rather returns to the stream, whereas water that is diverted out of the basin has no return flows in the basin.

2. What alternative methods of conserving water would work in your communities? How should these methods be prioritized?

Participants discussed several possible techniques that might help implement water conservation in their communities. Such techniques include:

1. Requiring higher density development, which is also beneficial as a practical land use tool, especially for resort communities where tourists want to take advantage of public transportation.
2. Improvements in outdoor irrigation and landscaping, including:
   - Watering restrictions (participants were mixed as to the effectiveness for their communities)
   - Landscape design regulations, including encouraging alternative grass types
   - Evapo-transpiration-sensing fixtures for outdoor irrigation
   - More efficient irrigation practices and efficiency incentives (although many communities already do not allow outside irrigation for lawns)
3. Lodging tax that could be used to redevelop infrastructure (like the Pitkin County Healthy Streams tax, mentioned in the panel discussion above), for infrastructure improvements
4. Incorporate Low Impact Development protocols to protect water quality for stormwater runoff
5. Adjustable water billing rates based on water usage or a monthly "budget" of water calculated for a new development.
6. Metering of wells to include in compliance with targets.

Most participant discussions mentioned the importance of prioritizing efforts on measures that result in the highest water savings, such as outdoor irrigation regulations, in many regions around the state.

Each group also emphasized the importance of education in implementing water conservation measures. The general public should understand the reasons for such regulations. In order to gain momentum for implementing water conservation regulations, land use planners, planning commissioners, and elected officials all need continued education on the importance of such efforts.

3. What is the best forum to further land use and water integration?

Participants generally agreed that all government sectors, from the federal level through the state and county to the community, would need to be involved in meaningful water conservation. One group pointed out the importance of working with federal agencies to protect water infrastructure from wildfire, for example.

Many acknowledged that the issue is very localized, with strong momentum to keep it that way, but on many levels it should be a more regional discussion. Several groups mentioned that regional organizations like NWCCOG should be taking the lead, along with organizations directly involved in land use planning like the American Planning Association, Colorado Counties, Inc., or the Colorado Municipal League.

Each group grappled with whether they felt state legislation to mandate water conservation targets for communities statewide would be an acceptable solution. Many were hesitant to invite state action because of how varied communities' water challenges are and how unique the solutions might be. As discussed above, a system of state-wide targets created concern among some participants. Some mentioned that some type of state legislation could be possible, even if targets were not ideal. Others were very supportive of state legislation that would require water conservation and water availability elements in all comprehensive plans. Across the board, participants remained concerned about what the metric would be for targets or some other mechanism for water conservation.

III. Conclusion.

Local governments have the authority and tools to make sure that new growth and development do not outstrip water supply. These tools are been used effectively in many communities to protect the quality of life and important natural resources identified in master plan goals. The workshop agreed on the importance of integrating land use planning with water planning and making sure this discussion is included as part of the Colorado Water Plan, especially in light of State projections that Colorado's population may double by 2050 with necessary water supplies for many of those people yet to be built or even identified. Immense opportunities exist for closing Colorado's future water supply gap through land use planning and conservation while also restoring and maintaining healthy rivers and preserving agriculture.

Participants recommended continuing discussions on how best to establish and measure water conservation targets in land use planning, but emphasized that this is best done at the local level. They also want to consider legislation that would require, rather than allow, a water planning element in municipal and county master plans around the state.

Participants decried the knowledge gap about water conservation in the planning profession and recommended that more should be done to close the gap. All were in agreement that the dialogue about the intersection of land use planning and water conservation must continue. Regional organizations like Councils of Governments, American Planning Association, Colorado Counties, Inc., and the Colorado Municipal League should provide leadership to educate and assist local governments in instituting water conservation and water availability elements in comprehensive plans.

Exhibit 1

Examples of Nonconsumptive Restoration Projects in Headwaters Counties

Many nonconsumptive projects have been completed at considerable investment of time and money. These projects deserve to be recognized and protected from future water projects envisioned by the Colorado Water Plan.

The following are only *examples* of the many nonconsumptive projects initiated by local governments to benefit the environment and recreation in their communities. QQ encourages the Colorado Water Plan process, specifically those undertaking planning efforts in the Colorado Basin, to consider completing such a list for the entire Colorado River Basin in Colorado. Such a list is important both to give a sense of scale and expense of these projects and to document investments that could be endangered with additional development of water resources in the Colorado Basin.

These sample responses were provided by NWCCOG members in response to the following emailed question:

> NWCCOG/QQ is seeking information to include in the Colorado River Basin implementation plan for the Colorado Water Plan. We want to make sure that the Plan takes into account watershed restoration projects and other water body protections so that protected segments are not jeopardized by future transmountain diversion water development projects. **Examples are the stream restoration in Breckenridge in former mining areas, Town of Eagle water body setbacks required for new development along Brush Creek, or conservation easements allowing public access along stretches of the Roaring Fork.**
>
> Please let us know whether your jurisdiction has restored any stream segments, acquired any conservation easements on any stream segments, or spent money on or required other watershed restoration work.
>
> Please identify the specific stream reaches that have been protected or restored and an estimate of the amount of money spent on the projects.

Town of Fraser

The Fraser River Project, an aquatic habitat enhancement project completed in 2006, addressed riparian restoration of two miles of river through town.

Town of Frisco

In the past ten years the Town of Frisco has done extensive tree plantings to the benefit of the watershed on the Frisco peninsula in Dillon Reservoir. We have also created a white water park on Ten Mile Creek that included river restoration and improvement to the fish habitat.

Town of Silverthorne

The Town of Silverthorne has made a number of investments in restoring and protecting the Blue River corridor through Town, including:

- RICD below Dillon Reservoir with kayak park construction planned
- Paths/bridges along the River in Town
- Multiple Blue River restoration and habitat improvement projects
- Old Dillon Reservoir to supplement flows on the Blue River
- Several parks on the river
- Open space and conservation easements on the river
- Wastewater treatment plant investments

Eagle County and Eagle River Watershed Council

- River health and restoration projects in Eagle County, collaborative efforts of Eagle County and the Eagle River Watershed Council, include:

- Edwards Restoration Project- a $4 million project on the Eagle River was that will be completed by spring 2015.

- Basin of Last Resort- a $20 million sand clean up and prevention project for a 10 mile segment along I-70 to protect Gore Creek and the Eagle River. This is a CDOT project in response to a TMDL and is on-going, current monitoring costs alone are $15,000/year.

- Camp Hale – watershed improvement projects that the National Forest Foundation is guiding this process, with Marcus Selig being the primary contact. Originally it was a $5million project- made up of a $2.5 million match from USFS and the remaining $2.5 match from NFF's fundraising efforts, but is now estimated to cost $10-20 million for competition.
- The Eagle River Watershed Council restored the Eagle with the ERWSD above and below Lake Creek to mitigate temperature issues.
- Several boat ramps have been constructed on the Colorado River.
- The Town of Minturn also conducted restoration on the upper Eagle River in two phases with assistance.

Town of Breckenridge

At least 7 major restoration projects have been completed, including:
- Cucumber Creek: $130,000
- Maggie Pond: (pending response)
- Riverwalk (in town): $8 million
- Wellington Oro: $4 million for the building; $300,000 annual operating
- Block 11: $51,450
- 4 mile bridge: (pending response)
- Upper Swan: $279,800

- Miners Creek: $29,600
- Sawmill Creek: $117,170
- Klack: $181,000
- Illinois Gulch: $141,310
- Kayak Park: $225,000
- Stan Miller: $1 million

GROWING WATER SMART:

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND WATERSHEDS

Spring 2017

Jeremy Stapleton

Integrated Land Use and Water Planning Workshop

When:

September 11-13, 2017

Where:

Keystone, CO

Application Deadline:

July 10, 2017

Apply Online!

SONORAN INSTITUTE

Why Integrate Land Use and Water Resource Planning?

Colorado's population has grown from 1 million people in 1930 to over 5 million today. Population projections anticipate it could nearly double by 2060. To sustain this growth, Colorado will need to better manage its water supply. Although Colorado is a headwater state, the state's water supply faces increasing uncertainty with over-appropriated river basins, longer droughts, and more frequent fires. Colorado's Water Plan predicts that by 2050, the state could have a gap between water supply and demand of up to 560,000 acre feet.

How will Colorado address this gap in a way that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and sustains Colorado's high quality of life in urban, rural and agricultural communities? It is imperative Colorado's communities learn to manage their water resources more sustainably. Historically, planning for water resources and planning for land use development have been conducted in silos. Yet land use decisions have profound impacts on the quantity of water people and buildings consume and the quantity and quality of the water entering our ecosystems and replenishing our supplies. Going forward, communities will need to be more deliberate in integrating decisions about how and where they build with decisions about how much water development uses and how to best steward our sources of supply.

"Goal: 75 percent of Coloradans live in water smart communities by 2025."

Colorado Water Plan

Jeremy Stapleton

Jeremy Stapleton

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Sonoran Institute and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Resilient Communities and Watersheds program introduces communities to the full range of communications, public engagement, planning, and policy implementation tools to realize their watershed health and community resiliency goals.

Through Growing Water Smart, Colorado communities can learn how they can integrate land use and water planning. Participants in this program will gain:

- An understanding of demographic and climatic trends and impacts on water supply and demand at the state and local level.
- Knowledge of the strategies and tools for integrating water efficiency and conservation into land use planning.
- A commitment to improved collaboration among multiple disciplines, agencies, and decision makers involved in water and land use planning.
- The ability to communicate to the community the need for aligning land use decisions with water supply.
- An action plan to help communities become more water smart.

"Ensuring a prosperous future and healthy watersheds through the integration of water resource and land use planning."

Resilient Communities and Watersheds

Jeremy Stapleton

Jeremy Stapleton; aerial support provided by LightHawk

Jeremy Stapleton

Jeremy Stapleton

Sonoran Institute

Workshop at a Glance

Combining topical sessions with team-based action planning, Growing Water Smart offers an opportunity to learn from peers and experts about the challenges and opportunities of realizing a secure and prosperous water future.

Day 1 focuses on the population and climatic trends impacting Colorado and the State response to these trends.

Day 2 introduces a strategic planning framework for leading your community through a process to become more water smart, followed by a deep exploration of the nexus between water supply and demand and land use.

Day 3 prepares your team to return ready to build the political will to become a water smart community.

The workshop will begin mid-afternoon on the first day and ends mid-afternoon the third day

Who Can Apply

This workshop is designed to build a collaborative team committed to taking local action. Applicants are encouraged to build a team of 5 to 7 that includes a diversity of knowledge, skills, and perspectives such as:

- Water utility and water resource managers
- Land use planners
- Elected officials
- Planning Board members
- Public works staff
- Key Town and/or County staff
- Regional planning organizations
- Developers

More competitive applications will be teams that include one elected official, a staff person from the planning department, and a representative from the water management agency or utility serving their community. If this is a multi-jurisdictional proposal, then an elected official or staff person from the other communities should be represented on the team.

Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

1. Team composition.

2. Ability to demonstrate local commitment to wanting to address water sustainability.

3. Understanding of projected growth and uncertainties associated with meeting future water demands.

4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnership among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

Community Challenge Statement

Applicants must develop a 700-word challenge statement that answers the following questions:

1. **Water Awareness:** Describe your understanding of current and forecasted water supply and demand for your community. How well understood and accepted are these figures by decision-makers and the community?

2. **Planning and Policy:** Does your community have an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan? What plans, policies, and programs are in place in your community that address water efficiency and conservation? How well are they being implemented?

3. **Collaboration:** What is the level of cooperation or collaboration among the entities responsible for water planning and land use planning? Describe any opportunities or challenges you might want to address in this workshop.

4. **Desired Outcomes:** How does your community believe it will benefit from better integrating water and land use planning? Be as specific as possible.

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Team Roster

Applicants must also complete the list of team members as part of the application process.

Supporting Materials (optional)

Applicants may submit copies of news articles and links to any reports or publications that provide additional information in response to questions posed as part of your challenge statement. You may also provide letters of support from local officials to strengthen your application. Submit these via email by the deadline.

Costs Covered

Lodging and most meals will be provided, including dinner on Day 1 as well as breakfast and lunch on Day 2 and 3. Teams will be responsible for dinner on their own on Day 2.

Application Deadline

Applications, including the challenge statement, team roster, and supporting materials (optional), are due by 5pm (MDT), July 10, 2017. **Apply Online!**

Contact Information

For more information or to submit optionalmaterials:

John Shepard
Senior Director of Programs
Sonoran Institute
520-290-0828, ext. 1108
jshepard@sonoraninstitute.org

Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Gates Family Foundation.

Support the Sonoran Institute

Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America. Learn more about how you can help at **SonoranInstitute.org/donate**.

The Mission of the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. We work at the nexus of commerce, community, and conservation to help people in the North American West build the communities they want to live in while preserving the values which brought them here. We envision a West where civil dialogue and collaboration are hallmarks of decision making, where people and wildlife live in harmony, and where clean water, air, and energy are assured.

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Go to **SonoranInstitute.org** to learn about our programs, history, and recent news.

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NWCCOG/ QQ Member Dues spreadsheet

With proposed 3% increase for 2018 dues

June 29, 2017

County	2016 Q/Q DUES	2017 QQ DUES (3% increase)	2018 PROPOSED QQ Dues increase (3% increase)
Eagle County	21,500	22,145	22,809
Grand County	21,500	22,145	22,809
Gunnison County	5,000	5,150	5,305
Jackson County	0	0	0
Park County	4,500	4,635	4,774
Pitkin County	21,500	22,145	22,809
Summit County	21,500	22,145	22,809
Municipality		0	0
Aspen	6,800	7,004	7,214
Avon	0	0	0
Basalt (Eagle & Pitkin)	1,250	1,288	1,326
Blue River	0	0	0
Breckenridge	5,250	5,408	5,570
Carbondale	3,250	3,348	3,448
Crested Butte	1,500	1,545	1,591
Dillon	750	773	796
Eagle	1,750	1,803	1,857
Fraser	700	721	743
Frisco	1,750	1,803	1,857
Glenwood Springs	0	0	0
Granby	700	721	743
Grand Lake	700	721	743
Gypsum	2,000	2,060	2,122
Hot Sulphur Springs	200	206	212
Kremmling	1,000	1,030	1,061
Minturn	650	670	690
Montezuma	0	0	0
Red Cliff	250	258	265
Silverthorne	1,700	1,751	1,804
Snowmass Village	0	0	0
Steamboat Springs	2,500	2,575	2,652
Vail	6,250	6,438	6,631
Walden	0	0	0
Winter Park	1,250	1,288	1,326
Yampa	200	206	212
Associations		0	0

NWCCOG/ QQ Member Dues spreadsheet

With proposed 3% increase for 2018 dues

June 29, 2017

Colorado River Water Conservation District	3,500	3,605	3,713
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District	500	515	530
Water & San Districts		0	0
Basalt Sanitation District	100.00	103	106
Bellyache Ridge Metro District	100.00	103	106
Copper Mountain Consolidate	900.00	927	955
Dillon Valley Dstrict	500.00	515	530
Eagle River Water & Sanitation	2,000.00	2,060	2,122
East Dillon Water District	500.00	515	530
Granby Sanitation Dist	500.00	515	530
Grand County Water&San Dist	500.00	515	530
Hamilton Creek Metro District	100.00	103	106
Kremmling Sanitation District	100.00	103	106
Mid Valley Metro District	100.00	103	106
Silver Creek Water & San Dist	100.00	103	106
Snake River Water District	500.00	515	530
Snowmass Water & Sanitation	2,000.00	2,060	2,122
Three Lakes Water & San Dist	0.00	0	0
Town of Silverthorne - SDJSA	2,000.00	2,060	2,122
White Horse Springs Water Dis	100.00	103	106
Winter Park Ranch Water & Sa	500.00	515	530
Winter Park Water&San Dist	500.00	515	530
Total Dues	151,000	155,530	160,196

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments – Dues calculated using a formula applying a $.52 multiplier on population and .009 mils multiplier on assessed valuation.

Water Quality & Quantity – Region 12 Counties up to $21,500 and Municipalities based on a % of total produced water. Associate Members based on a contribution.

Source of Data:

Population: July 2012 Estimates, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Demography Section

Assessed Valuation: State of Colorado, Year 2012 Annual Report, Division of Property Taxation

NWCCOG Council Hearing

10 AM on July 27, 2017
Community House, Grand Lake, CO

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) will hold a rulemaking hearing to consider a request to amend the Regional Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) to recommend designation of Grand Lake as an Outstanding Water, as defined at 5 CCR 1002-31.6(47).

Written comments on this proposal are encouraged. These comments should be emailed to Lane Wyatt at qqlane@nwccog.org and are due by 5:00 pm on July 7, 2017. Limited public comments will be taken at the hearing.

Any individual or entity may request party status if they would like to provide more detailed comments or make a presentation. Requests for party status, including an estimate of the time needed for the presentation should also be emailed to Lane Wyatt at qqlane@nwccog.org by 5:00 pm on July 7, 2017.

Order of Proceedings for the Hearing

1. Introduction and staff report to NWCCOG Council.

2. Presentation from Outstanding Grand Lake Foundation, proponents of the request.

3. Party comments.

4. Public comments.

5. Response to party and public comment by Outstanding Grand Lake Foundation.

6. Staff response and wrap-up.

   ----- Comment period closed-------

7. NWCCOG Council deliberation and decision.

NWCCOG will provide time limitations for each of the above topics. Notification of time allotments will be made to parties and proponents after the July 7th submission deadline. Questions from the NWCCOG Council will not count against assigned time limits. For more information please contact Lane Wyatt at 970-485-0561 or qqlane@nwccog.org.

Legislative wrap-up, progress on Water Plan criteria
Posted to the QQ Blog on May 16, 2017.

Last week, as the legislature wrapped up, QQ pledged to continue working on several key issues that did not see success in this session. While legislators worked around the clock to make progress on key issues for our state (health care, education, construct defects), there remain three water-related topics about which we would like to find workable solutions in future years.

1. We worked with a bipartisan group of legislators during the session to develop legislation that would direct the Colorado Water Conservation Board to integrate the criteria in Colorado's Water Plan into their decision-making processes-- both for funding determinations and in determining when the state will endorse or help facilitate water projects. This work was based on a letter from West Slope Republican legislators delivered a letter to the Governor mid-session.

   While we did not identify a path for legislation in this session, legislators were almost all interested in moving this effort forward in the interim and the next legislative session. QQ also is dedicated to this ongoing effort, and looks forward to working more closely with legislators and the Department of Natural Resource. In particular, we would like to thank Representative Marc Catlin, Representative KC Becker, Representative Jeni Arndt, Senator Don Coram, and Representative Diane Mitsch Bush for their leadership and support on this issue.

2. QQ remains interested in productive legislation that better integrates water planning and land use planning on a State level. Two bills this session addressing this issue were postponed indefinitely: HB 17-1273, which would have required developers to address water conservation when submitting adequate water supply determinations; and HB 17-1364, which would have added water elements to the statutory list of optional elements of a master plan, along with requiring any water element to discuss water conservation.

Figure 1: Steamboat Springs development

   While these bills were not perfect, they each would have taken a step to encourage local governments to better integrate water planning with land use planning while allowing local governments the freedom to choose the best way to do so. It is clear coming out of this session that there is an opportunity to dialogue and better understand different perspectives on what legislation might accomplish and what other opportunities exist to better integrate water and land use planning.

3. A sustainable, long term funding source for the aquatic nuisance species (ANS) boat inspection program under Colorado Parks and Wildlife proved elusive this session. HB 17-1321, which would have raised CPW fees and licenses as well as establishing an ANS sticker purchase program to fund the boat inspection program, was postposed in the last week of the session. The late timing of the bill and its demise meant that there was no time for an alternate bill that would have just established the ANS sticker program. Long term funding will be an outstanding issue to hopefully be addressed next year. In the meantime, we are grateful to our legislators, Representative Bob Rankin and Representative Millie Hamner, for their efforts to include ANS boat inspection in the budget package as SB 17-259.

We appreciate legislators working with QQ during the session, especially our QQ legislators: Representatives KC Becker, Millie Hamner, and Diane Mitsch Bush and Senators Kerry Donovan and Randy Baumgardner. We look forward to continuing this work over the summer.

Bill No.	Bill Description	Sponsor	Status	Calendared	Notes	*Official* position (unless otherwise noted)
House bills						
HB 17-008	**Exempting scientific research of greywater with human subjects from WQCC greywater control regulations**	Rep. Arndt; Sen. Sonnenberg	Signed by Governor			Support
HB 17-1190	**Limited application of the St. Jude's case**	Rep. KC Becker	Signed by Governor			Monitor
HB 17-1219	**Expand CWCB Fallowing and Leasing Pilot Program**	Rep. Arndt & McLachlan; Sen. Donovan & Crowder.	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Support
HB 17-1233	**Expanding SB 19 to protect historic consumptive use for water conservation**	Rep. Arndt; Sen. Crowder	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Support
HB 17-1248	**CWCB Projects Bill**	Rep. Arndt; Sen. Sonnenberg	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Support
HB 17-1285	**Refinance Water Pollution Control Program**	Reps Mitsch Bush & Lawrence; Sens. Jahn & Cooke	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Monitor
HB 17-1289	**State engineer rulemaking for streamlined historic use calculation.**	Reps. Valdez & Hansen; Sens. Crowder & Coram	Signed by Governor		Changed to interim review bill	Recommend: Support
HB 17-1291	**Alternate Storage Not Change if Already Quantified**	Reps. J. Becker & Arndt.	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Monitor

Senate bills						
SB 17-117	**Recognizing Industrial Hemp for Ag Water Right**	Sen. Coram; Reps. Valdez & Catlin	Signed by Governor			Monitor
SB 17-202	**Species Conservation Trust Fund**	Sen. Coram; Rep. Esgar	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Support
SB 17-259	**General Fund transfer for Natural Resources Programs.**	Sen. Lundberg; Rep. Rankin	Signed by Governor			Recommend: Support
POSTPONED INDEFINITELY						
HB 17-1256	**Minimum distances for locating oil and gas from schools**	Rep. Foote	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Monitor
HB 17-1273	**Adequate water supply determination must include water conservation measures.**	Reps. Hansen & McKean	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Support
HB 17-1321	**CPW Fee Bill (including ANS funding)**	Reps. Wilson & Arndt	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Support
HB 17-1364	**Adding water conservation elements to master plans**	Reps. Arndt & Hansen	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Support
SB 17-002	**Compulsory Triennial Review of Rules by Each Principal Department**	Sen. Humenik	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Oppose

SB 17-014	**Prohibiting local governments from inspecting underground petroleum storage tanks.**	Sen. Baumgardner, Coram; Rep J Becker.	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Monitor
SB 17-235	**Pilot project for sea planes in state park waters.**	Sen. Crowder	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Oppose
SB 17-282	**Dedicate Reservoir Release for Environmental Purposes through CWCB**	Sen. Sonnenberg; Rep. McKean & Esgar.	POSTPONED INDEFINITELY			Recommend: Monitor
SJR 17-013	**Nutrient regulations requiring public input and legislative review**	Sen. Coram; Rep. Catlin	Lost in House			Monitor