



## **WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE (QQ)**

---

P.O. Box 2308 • Silverthorne, Colorado 80498  
970-468-0295 • Fax 970-468-1208 • email: qqwater@nwccog.org

---

The Water Quality and Quantity Committee (QQ) comprises municipalities, counties, water and sanitation districts, and conservancy districts in the headwaters region of Colorado located in Grand, Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, Park and Gunnison counties. The Colorado River Conservation District is also a QQ member. The Board is made up of elected and appointed officials from member jurisdictions.

QQ's purpose is to facilitate and augment the efforts of member jurisdictions to protect and enhance the region's water quality while encouraging its responsible use for the good of Colorado citizens and the environment.

QQ monitors water development activities and participates in legislative and administrative proceedings that affect water quality or quantity in the basin of origin. QQ Committee meetings operate as a forum for policy formulation and strategic decision-making by QQ Committee members.

QQ staff provides members with legislative monitoring, water quality information, litigation and rulemaking support, transmountain diversion oversight, and related technical assistance to further intergovernmental cooperation, and increase political clout with state and federal agencies. Day-to-day aspects of the QQ program are administered through a contract for services staffed by Barbara Green, Lane Wyatt, and Torie Jarvis. Together, they offer a combination of legal, public policy, lobbying and environmental engineering skills to the membership.

### **CURRENT QQ PROJECTS**

QQ has had several ongoing and completed projects in 2012 – 2013 that are listed below.

- Participation in the Colorado River Basin Roundtable [a result of the 2005 Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act] and Non-consumptive Needs Subcommittee. Lane Wyatt was appointed to the Roundtable by Summit County Municipalities. Holding their interests in mind, he also considers all headwater issues including instream uses, recreation, the environment, and issues of transmountain diversions.
- Lobbying on legislation pertinent to QQ members and the headwaters region. This coming year will be the tenth year QQ has had a lobbyist on staff.
- Support for the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement negotiations. The agreement resolves longstanding legal issues between the Denver Water Board and the West Slope and sets the stage for a new, cooperative way of approaching transbasin water issues. The idea of a cooperative approach was first developed through the Upper Colorado Project, a long-range water resources planning project initiated by QQ.
- Legal representation of QQ as a party in oil and gas commission rulemakings with the goal of protecting the authority of local government in permitting oil and gas facilities.
- Technical support on a stream flow management plan, which identifies scientifically sound flow levels to protect instream values in Grand County. The model includes stream and riparian improvement projects that may be used as a model for other counties.
- Technical support to Grand County during the EIS process for the Windy Gap Firing Project and the Moffat System expansion. QQ testified at the Grand County 1041 permit proceedings for the WGFP.
- Participation as a stakeholder in the development of a local alternative for the Colorado River Wild and Scenic process, which is part of BLM's resource management plan.

- Development of a report identifying the economic implications of maintaining stream flows in the headwaters. Following its release, the report was utilized for outreach at a wide variety of forums. QQ is evaluating opportunities to expand the study.
- Active involvement at the forefront of legal and technical water quality issues associated with abandoned mines in Summit County's Snake River watershed. As a result, a plan is in the works for water quality remediation without National Priorities List (NPL) listing through the EPA.
- Participation of QQ as a party in the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission rulemaking on nutrient criteria. QQ continues to track developments as this new regulation is implemented in phases.
- Coordination with the University of Arizona and the Conserve to Enhance program to establish a pilot project in Colorado that encourages individual water conservation for the purpose of improved stream flows or environmental enhancements.
- Preparation of the NWCCOG 208 Regional Water Quality Management Plan, approved by the NWCCOG Board in May 2012 and currently under review by the Water Quality Control Division. The 208 Plan provides many of the legal underpinnings of QQ legal positions on water quality.
- Participation in the 1051 Water Conservation Technical Advisory Group, developed to implement HB10-1051, which addresses water conservation data collection. QQ worked with CWCB to ensure QQ members and smaller West Slope water providers were included in the process.
- Participation as member of the steering committee for the Water Efficiency Action Network of the Colorado River Basin (WEAN-CRB). WEAN-CRB is a Colorado River basin-wide group of diverse stakeholders working to advance water efficiency on a basin scale.
- Oversight of the statewide water plan effort, and the impact of such efforts on headwaters' interests.
- Board meetings that not only address pertinent organizational business, but that offer a forum for information sharing and education on state-wide issues. For example, a recent QQ meeting sponsored a panel on forest management for watershed protection and developed a white paper on the results of that discussion.

## ORGANIZATION

QQ's 2013 members, associate members, and participating water and sanitation districts include:

|                            |                     |                                              |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Eagle County               | Aspen               | Basalt Sanitation District                   |
| Grand County               | Avon                | Bellyache Ridge Metro District               |
| Gunnison County            | Basalt              | Copper Mountain Consolidated Metro           |
| Pitkin County              | Breckenridge        | Dillon Valley Metro District                 |
| Summit County              | Carbondale          | Eagle River Water and Sanitation District    |
| Park County*               | Crested Butte       | East Dillon Water District                   |
| Colorado River Water       | Dillon              | Fraser Sanitation District                   |
| Conservation District*     | Eagle               | Granby Sanitation District                   |
| Upper Gunnison River Water | Fraser              | Grand County Water & Sanitation District     |
| Conservancy District*      | Frisco              | Hamilton Creek Metro District                |
|                            | Granby              | Kremmling Sanitation District                |
|                            | Grand Lake          | Mid-Valley Metro District                    |
|                            | Gypsum              | Silverthorne Dillon Joint Sewer Authority    |
|                            | Hot Sulphur Springs | Silver Creek Water District                  |
|                            | Kremmling           | Snowmass Water & Sanitation                  |
|                            | Minturn             | Three Lakes Sanitation District              |
|                            | Red Cliff           | White Horse Springs Water & Sanitation       |
|                            | Silverthorne        | Winter Park Water and Sanitation             |
|                            | Steamboat Springs   | Winter Park West Water & Sanitation District |
|                            | Vail                |                                              |
|                            | Winter Park         |                                              |
|                            | Yampa               |                                              |

\* Associate members

