

**Public Education, Participation and Outreach Workgroup of the
Interbasin Compact Committee**

**Year-End Review of Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2011
June 30, 2011**

PEPO Mission

1. *Create a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and the progress of the inter-basin compact negotiations. This will be accomplished by communicating the vision, mechanics and relevance of the 1177 process to the general public, and securing and relying upon other groups whose focus is to provide water education to the public.*
2. *Create a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the Interbasin Compact Committee and compact negotiators. This will be accomplished by encouraging participation of a broad range of stakeholders through Roundtable representatives.*
3. *Provide water education opportunities to Roundtable and IBCC members to help them make more informed decisions.*

PEPO Workgroup Members

1. Tom Acre; Metro
2. Debbie Alpe; North Platte
3. Jacob Bornstein; CWCB
4. Caroline Bradford; Colorado
5. Perry Cabot; Arkansas
6. Jeff Crane; Colorado Watershed Assembly
7. Jeris Danielson; IBCC
8. Jeff Devere; IBCC
9. Mikaela Gregg; Peak Facilitation
10. Judy Lopez; Rio Grande
11. Kristin Maharg; Colorado Foundation for Water Education
12. Denise Rue-Pastin; Southwest
13. Nicole Seltzer; Colorado Foundation for Water Education
14. George Sibley; Gunnison
15. Travis Smith; IBCC
16. Paul Strong; Yampa/White
17. Carl Trick; IBCC
18. Reagan Waskom; Colorado Water Institute
19. Bert Weaver; South Platte
20. Jay Winner; IBCC

Overview of FY2011 Deliverables

- Continued PEPO Workgroup facilitation and engagement
- Education Action Plan development for 7 out of 9 roundtables

- Funding for EAP implementation (\$1800 per roundtable) plus WSRA grant approval on education projects for several roundtables
- Development and hosting of the first Statewide Roundtable Summit
- \$2,510 in scholarships issued for roundtable member attendance at statewide at local water events
- Journalistic article produced for the IBCC annual report

Task 1: PEPO Facilitation

Over the year, the PEPO Workgroup and interested parties held eight meetings at varying locations around the state. Each meeting opened with basin reports from each roundtable's Education Liaison on the progress of their Education Action Plans. The meetings were largely focused on defining the measurable goals and objectives for the Statewide Roundtable Summit plus developing the format and content of the agenda. CFWE and CWCB met numerous times throughout the year to secure sponsorships and further plan and prepare for program delivery. As a result of the Summit, the PEPO Workgroup will be meeting jointly with the IBCC subcommittees in FY2012 to engage their recommendations in outreach efforts.

Task 2: Basin Roundtable Support

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education continued engaging the roundtables' Education and Outreach Committees in creating and implementing their Education Action Plans, including funding requests and partner identification. Strategic implementation of the EAPs in FY2012 will include integration into other statewide outreach initiatives, such as Water 2012. Highlights of each basin's EAP include the following activities:

Arkansas

Three public meetings throughout basin; Projects and Methods Resource Document; Joint meeting with Gunnison; Exploring a water quality workshop

Colorado

Produced a 40-page Colorado Basin Headwaters magazine through a WSRA grant; Exploring workshops and a PR campaign using the magazine as an outreach tool

Gunnison

Education of members via presentations at meetings; 50 participants at the State of the River symposium; Joint meeting with Arkansas; Exploring a water quality workshop

Metro

Educated 200 participants including elected officials at an outreach reception through a WSRA grant; Plan to host a follow-up, targeted workshop

North Platte

Education of members via presentations at meetings; Approved a WSRA to develop an educational package to engage stakeholders through workshops and meetings

Rio Grande

Newspaper series on roundtable activities; Student presentations at roundtable meetings; Producing a video library of related water events; Tours of roundtable-sponsored projects; Educating small acreage landowners on water and land issues

South Platte

Initial draft of EAP to develop follow-up outreach to 150 participants of 2010 public meetings

Southwest

Outreach to local press; Water 101 seminar on roundtable issues

Yampa/White/Green

Four community workshops for over 100 participants through a WSRA grant; Partnership with Cultural Heritage Program

Task 3: Statewide Roundtable Summit

On March 3, 2011, the Statewide Roundtable Summit drew participants from all corners of Colorado to discuss how to move forward with planning for the State's water supply future. The Summit was designed by the PEPO Workgroup as an opportunity to meet fellow water supply planning cohorts from around the state and continue connecting the activities and entities within the Basin Roundtable process. Lively dialogue at the Summit centered on the role of the roundtables and the IBCC Framework. Of the 275 people that registered for the Summit, 128 were from a Basin Roundtable or the Interbasin Compact Committee, representing about 40% of the roundtable community (see table below). Of the remainder of participants, 22 were supporting staff and consultants, and 125 were members of the interested public. The latter represented government agencies, water providers, engineering firms, non-profit organizations, congressional offices, academic institutions, and interested citizens.

Many take-home messages on moving forward with the roundtable process can be viewed in the Summit Proceedings at <http://cwcb.state.co.us> but the next steps as they relate to PEPO's mission include the following items:

- Subcommittees outreach to regional groups for feedback and create action items on how to move forward with strategic implementation
- Define a package of partnerships, leverage with other outreach tools such as Water 2012
- Continue development and implementation of the Education Action Plans and promote cross-sharing of basin activities
- Host another statewide summit after next milestone in the process