

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441  
Fax: (303) 866-4474  
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Chatfield Cooperators

FROM: Tom Browning

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor

Mike King, DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel, CWCB Director

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**What:** Chatfield Reallocation FR/EIS Progress Meeting Minutes  
**Where:** 143 Union Blvd, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lakewood (Tetra Tech Conference Room)  
**When:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 (9:30am to 11:30am)

1. Introductions and general announcements
  - Gwyn Jarrett (USACE) welcomed the group and introduced the agenda. Topics included Capitol Representatives Update, Filling the Gap (CEC Report), Study Update (budget/schedule, and other project updates), EIS Discussion Items, Action Items for Unresolved Issues and Tasks, and Wrap-Up.
2. Capitol Representatives update
  - David Howlett of Capitol Representatives provided an update on Chatfield funding. The Congress/House will be taking up another year long CR which is expected to pass. Capitol Representatives believes it will allow Chatfield to get funding in this difficult budget environment. The president is currently trying to cut \$40B for FY'11 budget. \$104 million has been allocated for USACE general investigations. Chatfield is not currently in the President's budget as a water supply study.
  - USACE is required to develop a work plan for the rest of the fiscal year, which will become public after it is approved. Capitol Representatives was not able to meet with the OMB this year, but will continue to press the case for Chatfield.
  - The project will likely face the same scenario next year of a continuing resolution. The project will likely need FY'13 appropriations, and Capitol Representatives will press hard to get Chatfield in the president's budget for FY'13.
  - The Senate will take up a water reauthorization bill this year, but the house likely will not. Capitol Representatives will resubmit the request for funding on behalf of the water providers and the CWCB on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It is assumed that approximately \$75,000 in additional funding is needed to complete the EIS and complete the public meetings.
  - David reported that the Chatfield team had a good meeting with Rock Sullivan, the assistant secretary for USACE, regarding the Chatfield project. He was

surprised to hear of the struggles with the budget. Gwyn added that the USACE Headquarters is very supportive of the project

3. Report Overview – “Filling the Gap” (CEC)

- Becky Long, of CEC, presented a power point that summarized the “Filling the Gap” Report that was prepared by WRA, Trout Unlimited, and CEC to address strategies for meeting future water demand on the S. Platte River Basin.
- Becky can provide electronic or hard copies of the report or the power point via email [Becky@ourcolorado.org](mailto:Becky@ourcolorado.org).
- The report states that the estimated Front Range water needs are 365,000 acre feet by 2050. One of the main challenges of meeting this demand, as identified by the report, is to leave adequate flow in rivers to support healthy ecosystems.
- The report focuses on four main methods to meet the demand.
  - Structural projects, or Acceptable Planned Projects, that utilize smart principles. Chatfield is included on this list of projects.
  - Water conservation and efficiency
  - Water reuse
  - Agriculture and Urban Cooperative water use.
- The report shows that these four strategies could meet and exceed the demand, but concedes that water reuse can have a large energy demand.
- Becky then asked for the groups’ questions and comments, some included:
  - The report is overly optimistic on estimates of conservation and reuse.
  - Conservation is a harder sell than the report describes it to be because it will affect the cost of water
  - Has the report considered storage during high flows?
  - The report should include more endorsed infrastructure projects
  - The report must consider the impact of water rights in the reuse discussion
  - Did the study look at federal or state policies that need to be addressed?
  - Water is greatly underpriced and undervalued, and society will have to begin to pay the real cost.
  - Water reuse should be promoted in positive manner.
  - Climate change projections for available water are important to consider.
  - How does the report address getting users off of groundwater onto a renewable resource?
  - Could you eliminate all the APP projects and still meet the projected demand line?
  - The report is helpful in identifying Chatfield as one of the APPs.
- Becky concluded her discussion of the report by saying that other questions and comments could be taken via email at [Becky@ourcolorado.org](mailto:Becky@ourcolorado.org).

4. Study updates (Corps/Tetra Tech)

- Gwyn gave an update on the current status of the Tetra Tech contract. The contract modification with Tetra Tech has been awarded and funding is available for incorporating the remaining comments into the FR/EIS and public meetings.

Gwyn distributed the Project schedule of the FR/EIS reviews and public meetings. This schedule is based on meeting several critical path items on time in the next few weeks, including the resolution of the DNR-Water Provider negotiations. USACE has identified the budget capability of the remainder of the FY to be \$137,000

- The new target date for FR/EIS revisions is the end of April. There is some outstanding information that must be submitted to the USACE and then forwarded to Tetra Tech. The DNR text is still under review and negotiation; the USACE is reviewing the current version. Per the current schedule, the FR/EIS will be sent to Headquarters on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for review and comment. The district office has communicated a 30 day turn-around for Headquarter comments.
- Public Comment is scheduled for 60 days, July 25 – September 30. The IEPR review will run parallel with the public comment period. There was a request from the group that Gwyn revise the schedule to separate out when the public meeting preparation starts, when the public meetings will be held, and when the public comment period takes place.
- Tetra Tech is working through the revisions from ATR and Cooperator comments. The Denver Water operational scenario (per EPA comments) is also being added. Tetra Tech will wait until user contracts for Brighton, Perry Park, and Mount Carbon are finalized to remove these entities from the FR/EIS. There were suggestions from the group to include some language addressing the potential shift in upstream vs. downstream providers; the Corps will review this issue and determine whether additional text should be added to the FR/EIS. Tetra Tech is also making updates related to the revisions to Preble's mouse critical habitat designation. The current status of Penley was discussed; the Corps will review whether any additional discussion is needed in the FR/EIS.
- Update on State/Water User Negotiations – Rick McLoud indicated that negotiations are ongoing, but not complete; this could affect the FR/EIS schedule.
- Mark Shively provided a public relations update. Web PR is printing 500 copies of the Chatfield project flyer to show that the DEIS will be released in 2011. Web PR is also seeking volunteers to change the phone number on the bulletin boards at the park. He is also working with experts to prepare educational one-page white papers on a number of topics such as the EIS process, project overview, project participants, project beneficiaries, mitigation, water efficiency and conservation of resources.
- Potential meeting places were discussed, including the Denver Botanic Garden's new Chatfield visitor center or the park barn - could be used depending on when the meeting would be held, and local schools should be considered. Other suggestions were discussed, including field trips to the park as part of the public meetings, or as a separate event.
- The Corps will schedule 2 to 3 public open house meetings

5. Other items / new business:

- Denver Water discussion – potential operational scenario will be added to the FR/EIS. Bob Peters indicated that this idea may be losing some steam.

- There is some field work being done at Chatfield for new potential wetland sites including groundwater sampling and well creation.
- Eric Laux will be presenting at the Corp's National Water Supply Conference in June. Rick McCloud will be attending to offer a different perspective on the project.

6. Wrap-up: Next meeting : May 19, 2011 at 9:30am