

Metro Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan

Approved: February 8, 2012

Background Information:

The 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 05-1177), is based upon the premise that Coloradans must work together to address the water needs within the state. The legislation created a framework to encourage dialogue on water, broadened the range of stakeholders actively participating in water decisions, and created a locally driven process where the decision-making power rests with those living in the state's river basins. The statewide structure, the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), and the local structures, the nine basin roundtables, bring over 300 diverse citizens into water supply planning discussions across the state.

As each basin roundtable carries out its charge to develop basin-wide water needs assessments, they are also required to advance the understanding of future water needs through educational programs and processes. In the statutes of HB 05-1177, each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) ... Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Moreover, the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislatively created committee of the IBCC. This group is tasked with: creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and the progress of the interbasin compact negotiations; creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators; and educating IBCC and roundtable members on water issues. The PEPO Workgroup's membership consists of the Education Liaisons, a volunteer position on each basin roundtable, members of the IBCC, statewide water education experts, staff of the Water Supply Planning section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and a consultant firm that facilitates the PEPO Workgroup. The members of this committee work to identify the best approaches for education and outreach at the statewide and basin-specific levels. The PEPO Workgroup and roundtable members are collectively defining the most helpful and meaningful ways in which the public can participate in the work of their basin roundtable.

The PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities. Each roundtable is expected to have a functioning Education & Outreach Committee tasked with creating an Education Action Plan (EAP). The EAP will

detail the educational goals and tasks most effective for the basin roundtable. It will identify roundtable member education activities that promote a well-informed and high-functioning basin roundtable. It will also define public participation objectives and appropriate implementation methods.

In 2011-2012, the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) will work with the Metro Roundtable by providing assistance in forming or strengthening an Education & Outreach Committee and creating their Education Action Plan (EAP). To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has created an application-based education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$1,800 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

I. Governance

A) Names and affiliations of Education & Outreach Committee members:

1. Tom Acre (Education Liaison), Commerce City
2. Janet Bell, Jefferson County
3. Cortney Brand, RW Beck
4. Tom Cech, Metro State College
5. Larry Cerillo, Collaborative Problem Solving
6. Casey Davenhill, Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
7. Julio Iturreria, Arapaho County
8. Mark Koleber (Chair), City of Thornton
9. Mark Shively, Douglas County Water Resource Authority
10. Phyllis Thomas, PRT Consulting

B) Annual meeting plan for Committee:

- a. Monthly; prior to regularly scheduled roundtable meetings
- b. Purpose is to discuss development and implementation of the EAP

II. Educational Priorities & Implementation

Overall goal(s) of the E&O Committee: To educate decision-makers and elected officials on solutions-oriented water supply planning			
OBJECTIVES	TASKS	LEAD(S)	TIMELINE
Integrate into statewide outreach initiatives	Inform the development of a basin-specific poster display to be used at outreach events	Tom A.	Fall 2012
	Have a roundtable presence at the 2012 Statewide Roundtable Summit	Roundtable members	March 1, 2012
	Identify Colorado Water 2012 events and activities in which	CFWE; Tom A.; Casey	Ongoing

	the roundtable will have a presence		
Solicit input from affected stakeholders	Develop Metro Roundtable “concept paper” to shop around to target audiences	Committee	Summer 2011
	Compile input to inform development of outreach events and workshops	CFWE	Fall 2012
Host a public meeting for elected officials	Develop meeting agenda based on compiled input, current issues and roundtable’s portfolio of solutions	Committee	Fall 2012
	Secure venue	Tom C.	Winter 2012
	Find appropriate speakers and meeting facilitator	CFWE	Winter 2012
	Identify and outreach to elected officials and decision-makers	Roundtable members	Ongoing
	Develop and print attendee packet of speaker/educational materials	CFWE	April
	Host the reception on April 5, 2012, including day-of logistics	All (CWCB, BRT, CFWE)	April
Follow-up from meeting	Summarize attendee evaluation forms	CFWE	April
	Organize attendee cards and coordinate roundtable responses	Tom A.	April-May
	Compile speaker presentation materials to be used at future event	CFWE	April
	Solicit input from roundtable members on next steps for education and outreach	CFWE; Tom A.; Committee	May-June

III. Budget

Resources needed to complete each task, detailed in an overall budget. The budget must identify how the \$1,800 in state funds will be used.

The Metro Roundtable has a WSRA grant with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education through June of 2012. Additional expenses to assist in the implementation of the EAP include the following:

1. Marketing and promotions to target audiences: \$500 payable to The PR Company

2. Catering for Metro Roundtable Reception: \$698 (Metro State College covered an additional \$500 in catering expenses plus in-kind contributions of securing event venue space)
3. Purchase of 100 Citizen's Guides to Where Your Water Comes From to distribute to reception attendees: \$540 payable to the Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Total = \$1,738

IV. Partnerships

Educational groups and efforts already existing in the Metro area as potential partners:

- Colorado Foundation for Water Education and Colorado Water 2012
- Metro State College of Denver – OWOW Center for Urban Water Education & Stewardship
- Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
- Douglas County Water Resources Authority
- Denver Water; Aurora Water; other water providers
- Colorado Division of Water Resources