



Colorado's Water Supply Future



Interbasin Compact Committee Annual Report

October 31, 2012

To the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture,
Livestock, and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee
on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy



Table of Contents

Page 1	Accomplishments Since October 2011
Page 2 to 3	Letter from John Stulp
Page 3	Goodbye to Eric Hecox and Welcome to Rebecca Mitchell
Page 4 to 6	Where are we headed with scenario planning and adaptive management
Page 7 to 8	Draft Scenarios
Page 9 to 10	Portfolios
Page 11	Updated Roadmap SWSI 2016
Page 12	Statewide Roundtable Summit 2012
Page 13 to 14	Preserving Colorado Agriculture
Page 14	Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO)

Accomplishments since October 2011

- Development of the Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management process
- Completion of the Roundtables' 38 portfolios
- Development of ten representative portfolios by the IBCC (currently being reviewed by roundtables)
- Development of five initial scenarios by the IBCC (currently being reviewed by roundtables)
- Second Statewide Roundtable Summit
- Two joint Roundtable meetings between West Slope and Front Range roundtables regarding conservation
- Greater Basin Roundtable understanding of the trade-offs inherent in meeting Colorado's future water supply needs
- General agreement, through the portfolio development exercise, that:
 - We must plan for a variety of possible futures and thus we should continue with scenario planning
 - There are no easy solutions or silver bullets, and we need to pursue all types of projects and methods concurrently in order to balance the tradeoffs
 - A high success rate for the identified projects and processes statewide is critical to meet our municipal needs
 - Conservation measures should be implemented and monitored to quantify their impact
 - Nonconsumptive needs should be addressed
 - Agricultural shortages should be addressed and agriculture should be preserved
 - Identification of specific solutions to address the 2050 water supply gap is needed
- Development by the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup of the IBCC of seven consensus messages and the establishment of partners who would like to help spread these messages.
- Several roundtables beginning work on their basin plans
- Implementation and/or funding of agriculture, municipal, nonconsumptive, and multi-purpose projects



John W. Hickenlooper - Governor
Mike King - DNR Executive Director
Jennifer Gimbel - CWCB Director

From John Stulp

*Special Policy Advisor to the Governor for Water
 Director of Compact Negotiations*



I am happy to report that 2012 has been a busy and productive year for the Interbasin Compact Process. In last year's report, we highlighted the completion of SWSI 2010 and nine basin reports. Over the course of the last year, the IBCC and the nine Basin Roundtables have embarked on a scenario planning and adaptive management process.

There is general agreement that to meet the State's future municipal and industrial demands while protecting our agricultural, environmental and recreational values, there are no easy solutions and we need to pursue all types of projects and methods to meet these needs. Four major sources of water supply have been identified as solutions for meeting Colorado's future water demands:

- Municipal and Industrial Conservation
- Agricultural Transfers
- New Supply Development
- Implementation of Water Providers' Projects (IPPs)

To ensure grassroots input in developing statewide solutions, each roundtable was asked to develop one or more statewide portfolios (different combinations of strategies to address future M&I demands) using the portfolio and tradeoff tool. With nearly 40 portfolios developed by the Basin Roundtables, the IBCC recognizes that we must plan for a variety of possible futures and is now considering how the various portfolios perform under 5 different scenarios.

Through the process with the Roundtables and the IBCC, I have been extremely impressed with the substantive conversations that have occurred within and amongst members of the Roundtables, IBCC and others. In March, the Basin Roundtable Summit was a tremendous success where over 300 participants shared ideas and perspectives on the process. Many Roundtables are currently having meaningful conversations with other roundtables on the topic of municipal water conservation and how this important "leg of the stool" can be used to help meet Colorado's water supply Gap.

In the near future, we will begin working closely with the Basin Roundtables to begin the development of basin plans. This effort will continue to refine each basin's consumptive and nonconsumptive needs, available water supplies, and develop in-basin projects and methods to meet their water supply gaps. Staff is currently working with the Basin Roundtables to encourage strategic implementation of projects through the use of funding sources such as the CWCB loan program, the WSRA program, and several CWCB grant programs for nonconsumptive projects.

The CWCB is on a 6-year planning cycle for assessing Colorado's long-term consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs with a scheduled update to SWSI in 2016. In addition, the Governor asked that a State Water Plan be developed based on scenario/portfolio work, SWSI, and the work associated with both short-term and long-term projects and methods. This effort will be a partnership between the CWCB, the IBCC, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Basin Roundtables, and other stakeholders who come together as a state to collaboratively address Colorado's water supply challenges. Key components of SWSI 2016 and the State Water Plan will include the following:

- Adoption and implementation of the SWSI 2010 recommendations work plan.



John Stulp letter continued from page 2

- Evaluation of the SWSI 2016 approach and methodology—including the methodology for future gap calculations—with the involvement of the CWCB, IBCC, and the Basin Roundtables
- Closing the existing consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply gaps through the implementation of both short-term and long-term projects and methods identified by the Basin Roundtables.

Another key component of SWSI 2016 and the State Water Plan will be a focus on how we can collaboratively address implementation elements that will be needed to address our future water supply needs and challenges. Using an adaptive management plan approach will allow for a flexible implementation plan that addresses future uncertainties. The scenario planning effort being led by the IBCC will be utilized to develop the adaptive management plan. The drought impacts we have seen across Colorado this year sends a strong message of how important strategic water planning is to protect our economy and citizens. This report summarizes the work and countless hours invested by staff and the citizens throughout the state that serve on the IBCC and Basin Roundtables.

Goodbye to Eric Hecox and Welcome Rebecca Mitchell



After 7 years with DNR and the Colorado Water Conservation Board Eric Hecox decided it was time to move onto another water adventure as Executive Director of the South Metro Water Supply Authority. Eric was an extremely valuable part of the basin roundtables, interbasin compact committee, and water supply reserve account grant processes. He worked hard to move difficult conversations forward and always managed to do it with a smile. His leadership and knowledge will be missed but it is good to know that he will continue to be actively engaged with the water community in his new role.



We welcome Rebecca (Becky) Mitchell as the new Water Supply Planning Section Chief; she comes to us from the Executive Directors office of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) where she was the Water Policy and Issues Coordinator. Prior to joining DNR she worked in both the public and private sector as a consulting engineer.

Becky brings excellent experience, many valuable skills, and new energy to the mix as a staff leader and contributor to the on-going IBCC and BRT processes. She looks forward to moving ahead with key efforts such as scenario planning and SWSI 2016.



Where are we Headed with Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management

How we got here:

When undergoing the portfolio tool exercise, roundtable members were encouraged to at least build portfolios for the “mid demand/mid supply” scenario.

A scenario is a future that the water community has little or any control over. We can’t control what the climate is going to be like, how the economy will grow or change and the response populations will have in moving to or staying in Colorado.

A portfolio is a combination of water solutions. These include, projects and methods already being planned for by water providers (a.k.a. identified projects and processes or IPPs), conservation, reuse, new water supply development, and agricultural transfers. (For more definitions, see Figure 1.)

As roundtables discussed planning for the future, many of them indicated that there was very little chance that we will wind up in a “mid” future. Instead, many roundtables built portfolios to deal with futures that had a lot of water supplies or no water supplies, futures with very high economic and population growth and futures with different energy economies. Some roundtables discussed and built portfolios for futures that could be very hot, and those where the climate is similar to what we’ve observed over the last century or so. Other roundtables wanted to consider other future aspects that were not possible in the portfolio and trade-off

tool, such as the variability of water supplies, land use patterns, the agricultural market, social attitudes, and the availability of water efficient technology.

The basic message: “we need to plan for a variety of different futures since we cannot predict what 2050 will be like.”

When the IBCC sat down to discuss these and related issues, they agreed with the roundtables. Working with staff and the technical team, Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management was further defined, keeping in mind the governor’s request for a State Water Plan.

What is Scenario Planning?

Scenario planning allows Colorado to plan for an uncertain future. Plans from other states are made up of some combination of what staff refers to as the “Three P’s”:

1. **Projects** & methods (activities happening on the ground that have a direct affect on water supplies or demands, such as a water project or a conservation activity),
2. **Policies** (guidelines that ensure future funding, technical support, and decisions will be made to support the plan elements), and
3. **Programs** (CWCB or other agency activities that actively work with water users to implement aspects of the plan. Examples could include existing programs like the

Loan program, Alternative Agriculture Transfer Method and WSRA grant programs, the Instream Flow program, or the work of the Office of Conservation and Drought Planning)

A critical aspect of scenario planning is to identify a certain set of projects, policies, and programs that can move forward in the

Scenario Planning	A process to formulate and evaluate future uncertainties regarding demand and supply
Scenarios	Alternative futures (water demand and supply) that portfolios will be tested against
Portfolios	Different combinations of strategies to address future M&I demands
Strategies	Groupings of similar projects and methods (e.g., "four legs of the stool," IPPs, Conservation, Ag Transfers, and New Supply)
Projects and Methods	Specific actions that help implement a strategy (e.g., IPPs, roundtable projects and methods, long-term conceptual projects)
Metrics	Evaluation indicators that assess how the portfolios relate to meeting M&I demands, nonconsumptive needs, and agricultural needs
No Regrets Actions	Near-term strategies or projects and methods that produce benefits under most future scenarios
Adaptive Management	The process of using triggers and outcomes to develop phased implementation of future projects and methods
Triggers	Decision points based on scenarios used to identify possible outcomes
Outcomes	Varied future paths based on triggers and used to establish phasing of future projects and methods

Figure 1—Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management Definitions



Scenarios and Adaptive Management continued from page 4

near term because they will be helpful or at least be minimally harmful in any future scenario.

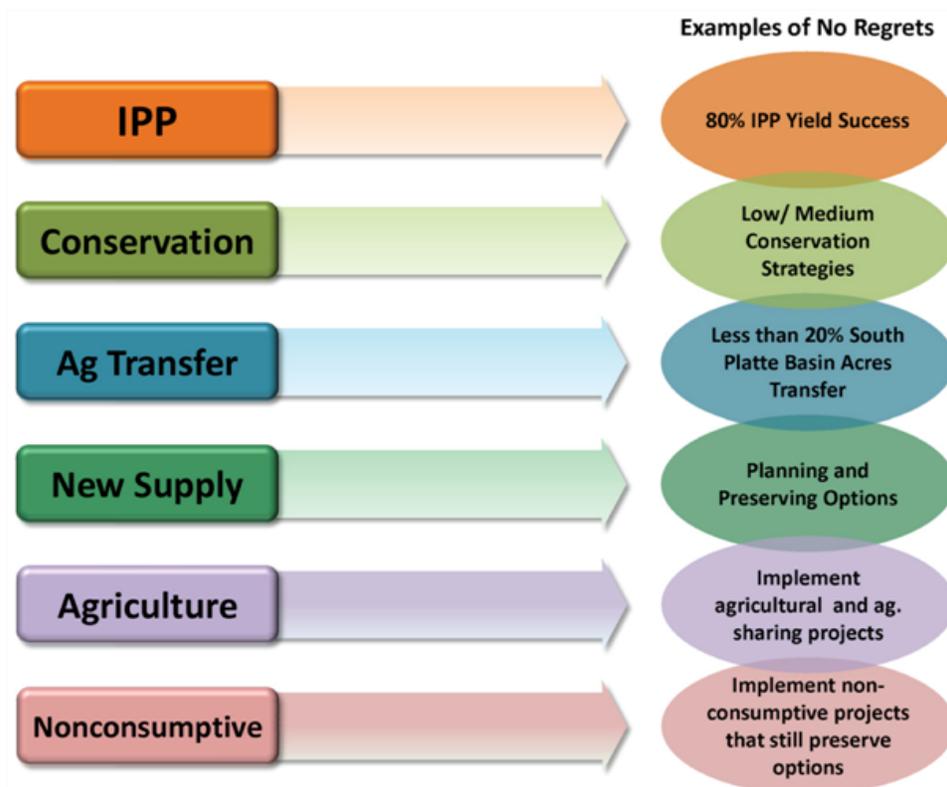
These actions are called “no regrets” or “low regrets.” Coming out of the Statewide Roundtable Summit on March 1st, several general themes emerged as potential low regrets strategies that were common across the portfolios developed by the roundtables. These initial draft no/low regrets are depicted in figure 2 and further discussed in the portfolio article on page 10.

This is the first critical aspect of a plan, but we also have to adapt to the future as we enter it, and there is considerable work to be done to help establish how we might do that. These steps are summarized below.

1. Summarize roundtables’ portfolios and the range of each portfolio element (complete; see Figure 3)
2. Get specific about projects and actions that make up a portfolio
3. Use a mix of qualitative and analytical metrics to evaluate how the portfolios do in the scenarios (e.g., how much do they cost are they reliable; what are the effects to the environment; what are the effects to

- agriculture?)
4. Some portfolios will do better in some scenarios than in others
5. This will help us understand what the low regrets/no regrets actions may be
6. Use the metrics and best professional judgment to launch a policy level discussion about how the portfolios could be improved and then improve them
7. Establish triggers/sign posts in the future so that we can monitor which future we are heading towards
8. Build an adaptive management plan so that we know how to respond to that future.

An Example: Let’s take a portfolio that mostly focuses on IPPs and agricultural transfers to meet municipal and industrial needs. Working from existing technical information and with the affected roundtables and the IBCC, the large agricultural transfer will be further defined. Is it one large project? From where does it divert? Is it an alternative agricultural transfer method or traditional dry-up? These and other questions will need to be answered.



Then, we will test this agricultural transfer focused portfolio against the different scenarios, looking at cost, the environment, impact to agriculture, and municipal reliability. The portfolio will perform better in some scenarios than others. It will likely do better in the low supply/high demand scenarios (Hot and Growth and Adaptive Innovation) because there is not sufficient water on the West Slope to provide a reliable supply. However, it will likely not do as well in the scenarios with water supplies similar to the

Figure 2— Examples of no/low regrets



Scenarios and Adaptive Management continued from page 5

past 50 years or so. Under these scenarios, a portfolio focused on agricultural dry up, may not be very good for the environment compared to others, may still be costly, will likely performs poorly for the agricultural economy, and may be okay -but not great - for municipal reliability.

Looking across the portfolios and scenarios, a certain amount of agricultural transfer will be identified as needing to occur under any potential future, as well as some necessary tools for making that agricultural transfer have the least impact as possible. From this, we can identify the “low” or “no” regrets actions. We’ve already determined that the amount of initial agricultural transfer is nearly 20% just from urbanization and IPPs. Furthermore, CWCB policies and programs could be developed to encourage this and future transfers to be done in the way that is least damaging to agriculture and rural economies as well as the riparian and wetland environments dependent on agricultural runoff. There may be additional low regrets actions to preserve options to use transferred water for a future where agriculture is viable and

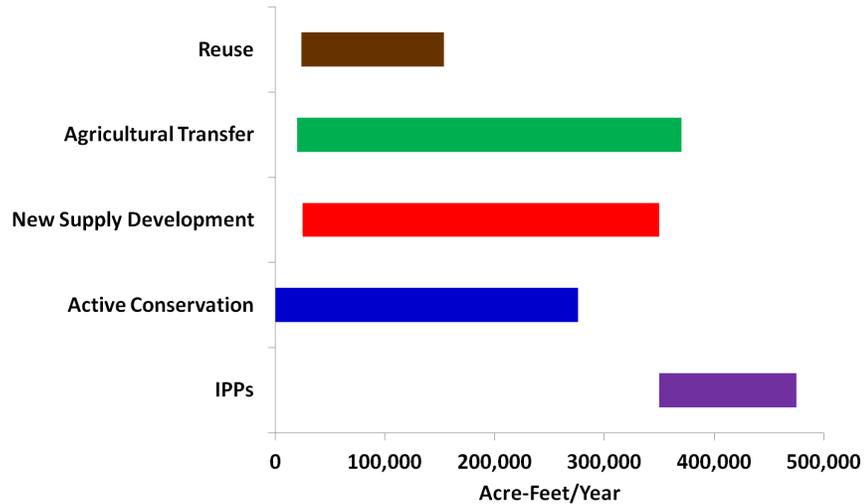


Figure 3— Range of portfolio elements based on Roundtable efforts

there are sufficient alternative water supplies or conversely to utilize more agricultural transfers should we need them in a very dry and hot future for community uses.

The IBCC’s scenario planning and adaptive management work, together with the Basin Plans developed by the Roundtables, will be the basis of the State Water Plan. Collectively, this work will need input from the Roundtables, the IBCC, CWCB, water providers and users.

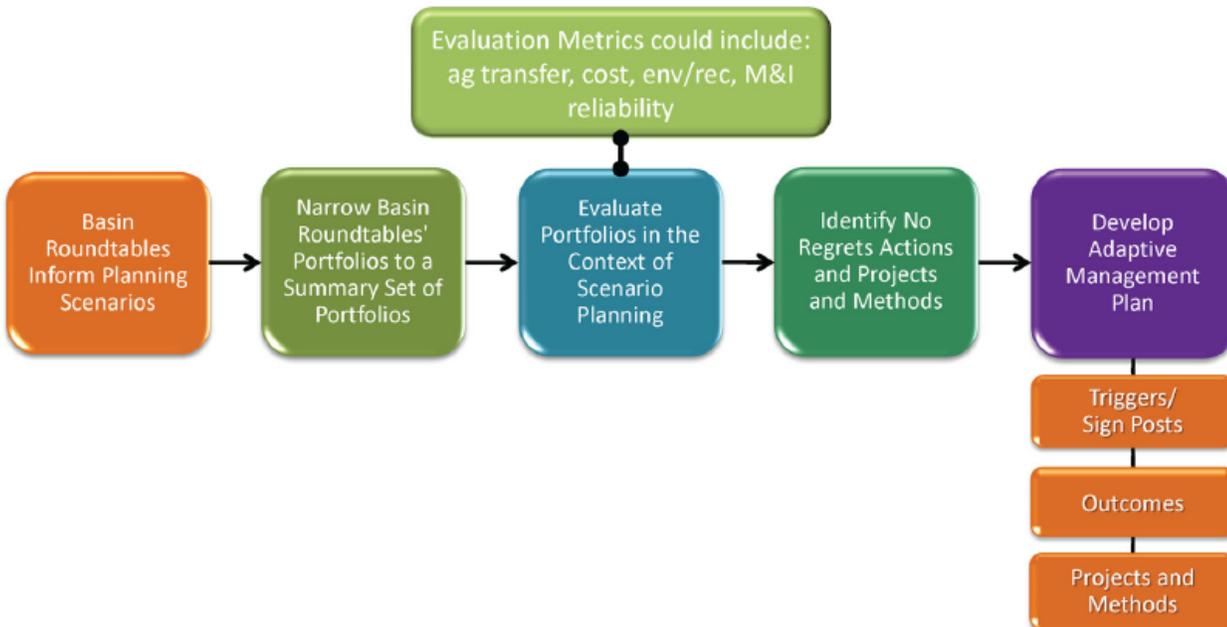


Figure 4— Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management Process



Draft Water Supply and Demand Scenarios

Based off the roundtables' work, the IBCC identified five initial draft scenarios that represent a broad range of possible futures. In order to capture the richness of the conversations at the roundtables and to help people envision these futures better, the IBCC chose to name them and provide some description. The Scenario Task Group produced three sets of documentation:

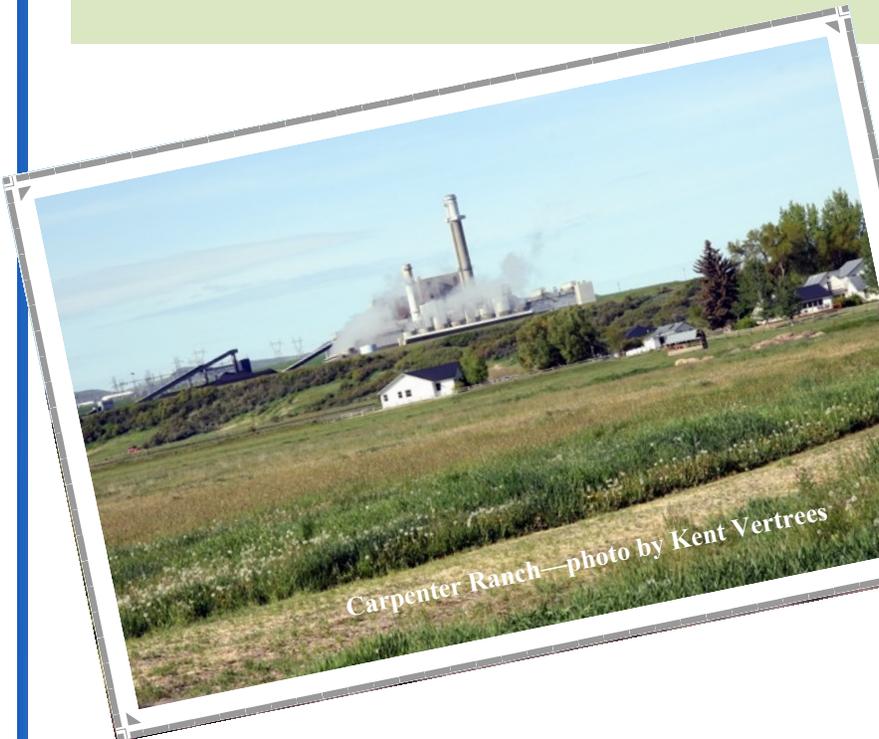
- 1) A descriptive paragraph for each scenario,
- 2) a table comparing each of the major drivers, and
- 3) a pictorial comparison of each.

The table and graphics to the right combine two and three.

IBCC and staff are currently in the process of sharing these scenarios with all of the roundtables and gathering feedback by November 9th. The scenarios will then be further considered during the November IBCC meeting.

The scenarios are:

1. Business as Usual
2. Weak Economy
3. Cooperative Growth
4. Adaptive Innovation
5. Hot Growth



Drivers	Business as Usual
A. Population Growth /Economic Growth	 Mid
B. Climate Status / Water Supply	 20th Century Observed
C. Energy Water Needs	 Moderate (ongoing oil shale research)
D. Agricultural Demand and Agricultural Water Demand	 Decrease in irrigated acres due to urbanization Ag exports and demands constant Ag is not able to compete with urban areas for water Ag water demands decreased
E. Water Efficiency Technology	 M&I: Moderate/Passive Ag: same as today
F. Social/ Environmental Values	 No Change
G. Urban Land Use	 No Change
H. Regulatory Constraints	 Regulation Deregulation No Change
I. M&I Water Demands*	 Middle of the five scenarios

* The exact ranking will be completed upon further an



DRAFT Scenario Drivers 10/8/2012

Scenarios				
	Weak Economy	Cooperative Growth	Adaptive Innovation	Hot Growth
	Low	Mid	High	High
	20th Century Observed	Between Hot and Dry and 20th Century Observed	Hot and Dry	Hot and Dry
	Low (no oil shale)	Low (no oil shale)	Low (no oil shale)	High (oil shale)
	Decrease in irrigated acres due to urbanization	Slight decrease in irrigated acres due to urbanization	Slight decrease in irrigated acres due to urbanization	Significant decrease in irrigated acres due to urbanization
	Ag exports and demands lower	Ag exports down and local demands up	Ag exports down and local demands up	Ag exports and demands high
	Ag is not able to compete with urban areas for water	Ag is able to compete with urban areas for water	Ag is able to compete with urban areas for water	Ag competition with urban areas is unchanged from today
	Ag water demands decreased	Ag water demands are slightly higher	Ag water demands are slightly higher	Ag water demands are higher
	M&I: Moderate/Passive	M&I: High	M&I: High	M&I: Moderate/Passive
	Ag: same as today	Ag: Efficiencies are implemented	Ag: Efficiencies are implemented	Ag: same as today
	No Change	Increased Awareness	Increased Awareness	Full Use of Resources
		Increased willingness to pay for ecological services	Increased willingness to pay for ecological services	No willingness to pay for ecological services
	No Change	Higher Density	Higher Density	Lower Density
	Regulation Deregulation	Regulation Deregulation	Regulation Deregulation	Regulation Deregulation
	No Change	Increased	Increased but expedited	Reduced
	Lowest of the five scenarios	Second lowest of the five scenarios	Second highest of the five scenarios	Highest of the five scenarios

analysis that will incorporate climate change. This ranking is estimated for now based on data available from SWSI 2010.



Summary Set of Portfolios Based on Basin Roundtables'

During the spring of 2012, each of the nine basin roundtables developed at least one portfolio indicating ways to meet future municipal and industrial water needs. The purpose of this exercise was to help roundtable members understand the consequences of different water solutions with a broad-brush planning tool. Roundtable members were able to see "trade-offs" for the amount of agricultural dry-up, the amount of agriculture that

would need to be in a rotational fallowing program, the potential impact to flows on the South Platte, Colorado, Yampa, Green, Gunnison, and Blue rivers, and how much the portfolio would cost. Many roundtable members commented that this exercise helped them understand the concerns of other stakeholders throughout the state.

In total, roundtables came up with 38 portfolios that explored a wide range of possible solutions made up

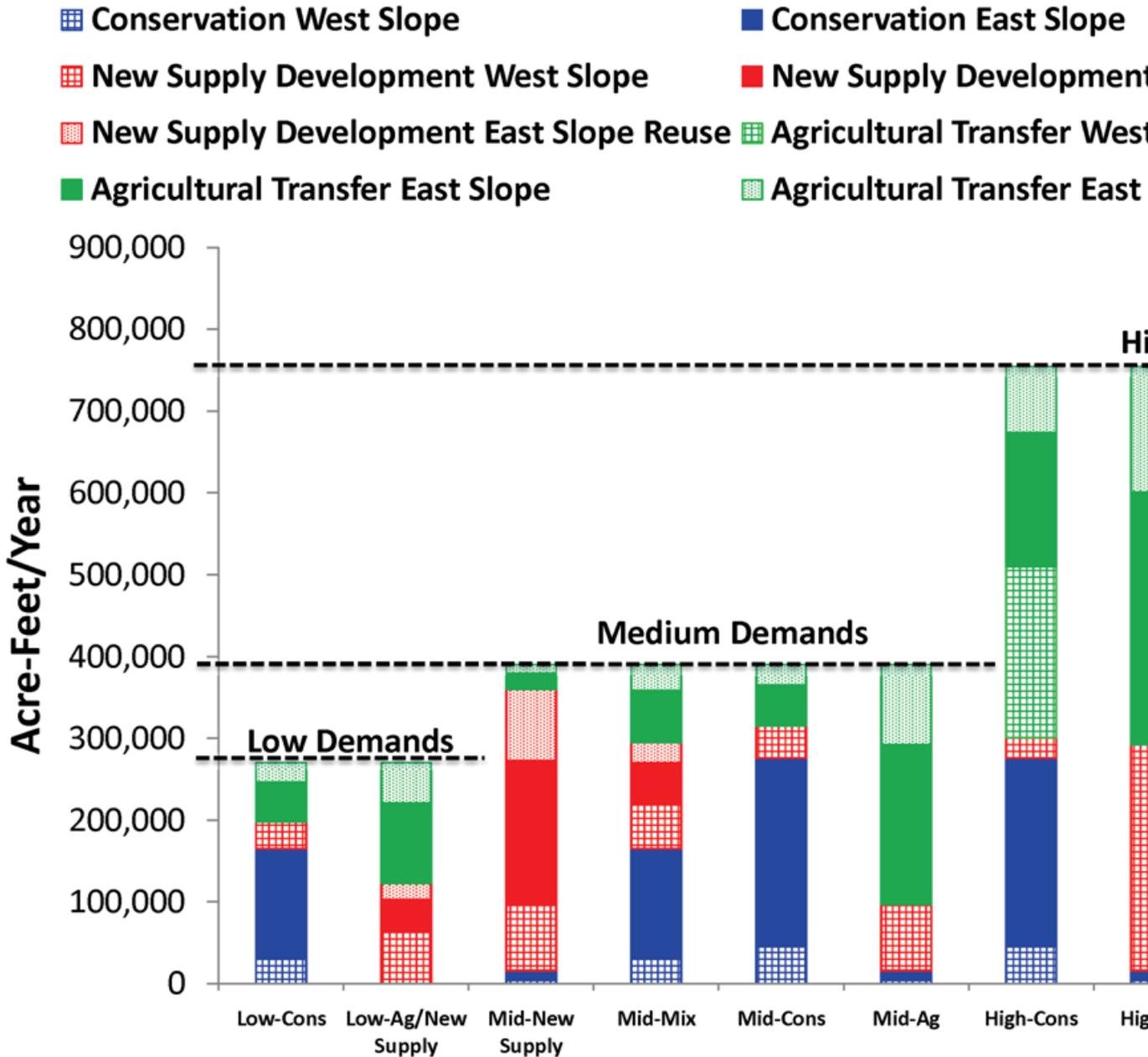


Figure 5—Summary set of portfolios based on basin roundtables' work



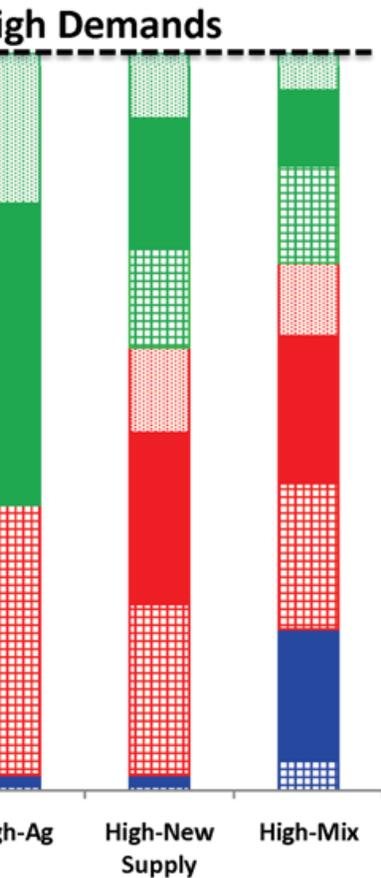
Portfolios continued from page 9

of agricultural transfers, identified projects and processes (IPPs), conservation, and new supply development of the Colorado River both for in basin and transbasin purposes.

Several common themes emerged from the portfolios and form the initial basis for the low/no regrets discussion.

- **IPPs:** One of the key similarities is that most roundtables indicated that they trusted other basins to define their level of IPP success. In all, roundtables determined that about an 80% success of the IPPs was a reasonable estimate and would be necessary in order not to see the greater impacts of additional agricultural transfers and/or transbasin diversions.
 - **Conservation:** Every roundtable agreed that conservation is important and part of the solution moving forward. However, there was considerable disagreement regarding the level of conservation that is possible, how much of that can practically be used for meeting new municipal and industrial needs, and lastly how much should be applied to these needs versus helping for drought protection. While there is disagreement about whether and how much water saved through conservation can be relied upon to meet future water demands, there is agreement that the 1177 process should help move Colorado forward with implementation of conservation measures and continued monitoring.

East Slope
 West Slope
 South Slope Reuse



- **New Supply/ Agricultural Transfers:** Several themes emerged, such as those described below.
 - ◆ We need to meet our municipal needs, but we must do so in a way that minimizes the impact to agriculture and nonconsumptive interests.
 - ◆ There is general agreement regarding the need to plan for a range of water availability scenarios in order to minimize impacts to agriculture and nonconsumptive needs.
 - ◆ Continued dry-up of agriculture is not in the state’s best interest. Most roundtables determined that agriculture in the South Platte is of statewide significance. Impacts in the South Platte could have ripple effects to agriculture in other areas of the state. Therefore, roundtables generally tried to limit the amount of agricultural transfers above current levels to about 20% of South Platte agriculture.
 - ◆ We should plan for a range of water availability scenarios. The 1177 process should support further planning for new supply projects and additional discussion about ways to use alternative agriculture transfer methods to minimize the impact of agricultural dry-up throughout the state.
- **Nonconsumptive:** Nonconsumptive needs were seen as important by all roundtables and there is support to continue moving nonconsumptive projects forward, and in particular if they are multi-purpose in nature.
- **Agriculture:** Similarly, there is support for agriculture projects, especially when they are multi-purpose in nature.

Paying attention to these common themes, and the particulars of all thirty eight of the roundtable portfolios, the IBCC identified ten representative portfolios. These are shown in **figure 5**, labeled with the specific roundtable portfolios they represent. The next step is to further develop the portfolios so that they are more specific and then test them against five different future scenarios.



Updated Roadmap SWSI 2016

While scenario planning and adaptive management is major part of the IBCC’s work, there are a number of other critical activities that are necessary to move towards a balanced State Water Plan. On May 1st, 2012, IBCC Director John Stulp sent out an updated roadmap that describes the path forward for the IBCC, Basin Roundtables, and CWCB concerning the Water for the 21st Century Act. As described in the memo, our focus over the next twelve months will include:

1. *Portfolio Development and Scenario Planning* (primarily the work of the IBCC)
2. *Implementation of Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods and Basin Planning* (primarily the work of Basin Roundtables)
3. *Initiation of SWSI 2016 and the State Water Plan* (the work of CWCB, Basin Roundtables, and the IBCC)

Each of these is described in more detail below and is summarized in **Figure 6**.

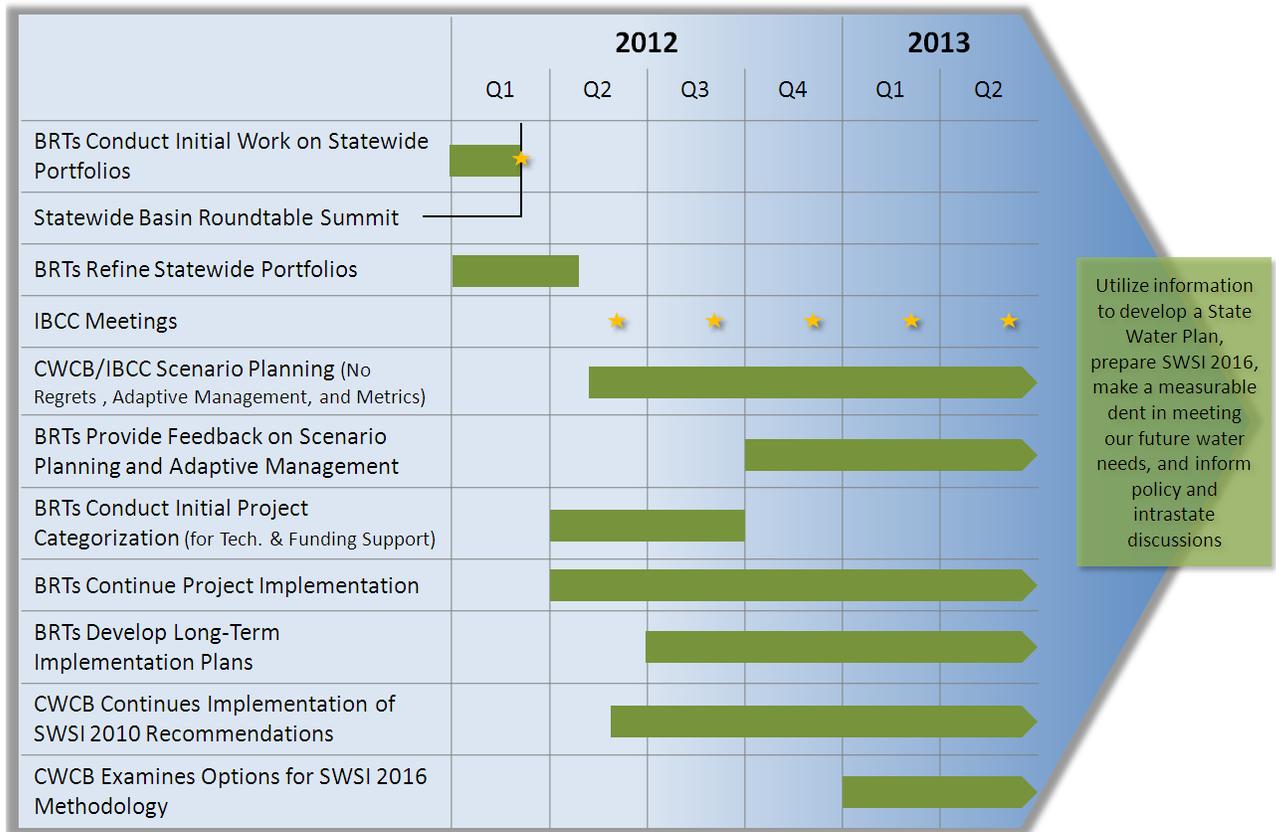


Figure 6—Updated Roadmap Schedule

This memo can be found by going to:

<http://cwcwweblink.state.co.us/weblink/0/doc/158922/Electronic.aspx?searchid=dcae18b1-d014-4a5a-a51f-63b4b4fdb654d>

www.cwcb.state.co.us—IBCC & Roundtables, then look under Additional Information.



Statewide Roundtable Summit 2012

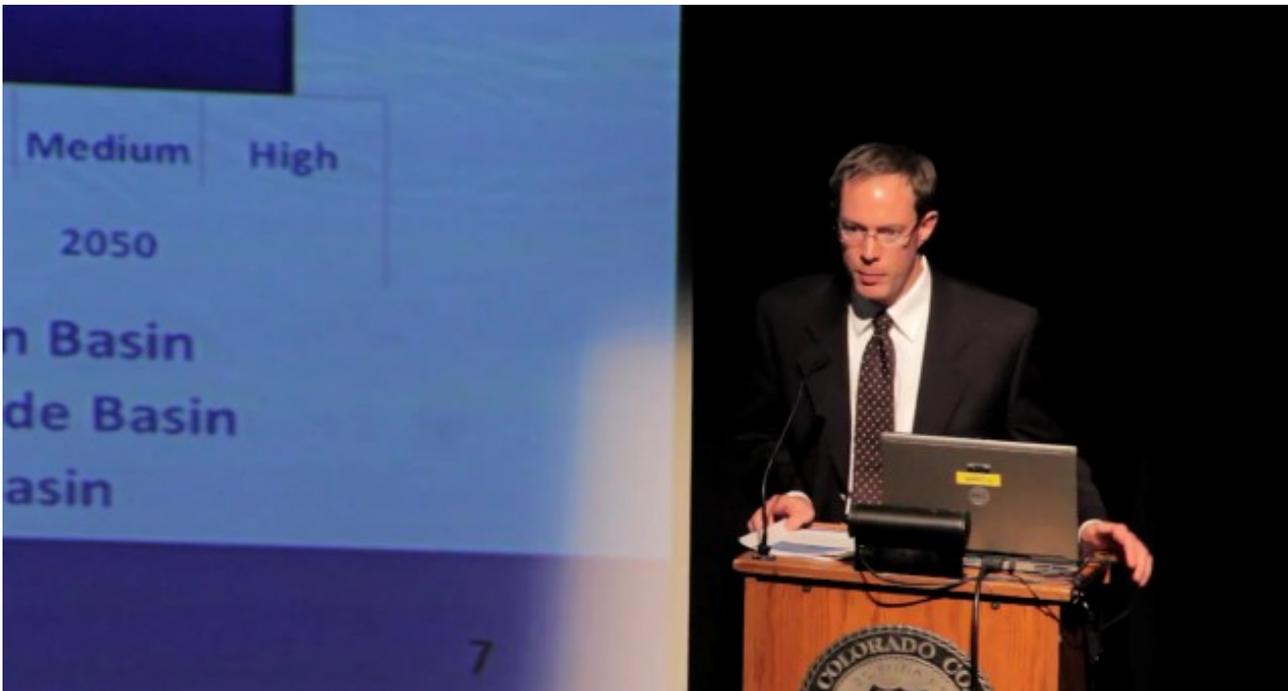
The second Statewide Roundtable Summit took place on March 1st, 2012. Approximately 300 guests met concerning the following goals:

1. Explore roundtable portfolios for several scenarios and their commonalities and differences
2. Brainstorm initial common implementation elements across portfolios to help inform further Basin Roundtable portfolio development
3. Identify implementation elements that need cross-basin dialogue
4. Initiate long- and short-term implementation efforts to meet both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs

Seventy nine percent of respondents to a survey sent out to all participants indicated that the Summit was excellent or very good. The majority of respondents liked meeting other roundtable members and interested public best (70%) as well as both the morning (61%) and afternoon (62%) table discussions. In addition, when asked “Would you say the roundtable and IBCC process has made progress within the past year?” the results were as follows:

Yes, definitely	28%
Yes, somewhat	48%
Not sure	18%
Little progress	6%
No progress	0%

Information from the Summit was used to inform the Updated Colorado Water for the 21st Century Roadmap that outlines a path forward.





Preserving Colorado Agriculture

As Colorado’s population continues to grow in the coming decades, it is likely that increased transfers of agricultural water rights will occur in order to satisfy increased municipal and industrial (M&I) water demands. While it is expected that Colorado’s future water demands will be met through all of the “four legs of the stool” (conservation, new supply, identified projects and processes, and agricultural transfers), the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) through the SWSI 2010 report and other analyses has indicated in the coming decades, irrigated acreage is expected to decline throughout the state due to a variety of reasons:

- Urbanization;
- Planned agricultural to municipal transfers;
- Additional agricultural to municipal transfers necessary to address the M&I water supply gap; and
- Other reasons, including compact compliance (e.g., Republican River and the Rio Grande) and augmentation requirements.

The CWCB found that the water providers' specific projects and processes that are planned for implementation to meet future water demands could yield approximately 500,000 acre feet if 100% successful. Even if completely successful, there still remains a water supply gap. Over the past several years, many of these water projects have been proceeding through the federal permitting process with no guarantee of success. Considering the difficulty of successfully permitting water projects, the alternative for many water providers is likely to be the transfer of agricultural water rights. The CWCB has found that if the “Status Quo” development trend continues, the South Platte Basin is estimated to lose 301,000 to 424,000 acres of currently irrigated land by 2050.

Due to the likelihood that increased transfers of agricultural water rights will occur in the coming decades, there is support from the CWCB, IBCC, Roundtables and others to identify alternatives to traditional transfers resulting in permanent dry-up in order to minimize the negative socioeconomic impacts to rural communities that so often result from such transfers. Rotational fallowing, interruptible supply agreements, water banks,

purchase and lease backs, deficit irrigation and changing crop type are the kinds of options that are available as alternatives to permanent agricultural transfers.

The Colorado General Assembly through support of past CWCB “Projects Bills” has tasked the CWCB with finding and facilitating viable alternatives to the “buy and dry” approach. To date, the Legislature has provided funding through the 2007, 2009 and the 2012 CWCB Projects Bills for a total of \$4 million to assist in numerous studies and pilot projects which have helped move these important water supply management options forward. It should be noted that this program was recently recognized by the Western Governors’ Association as a successful model for other Western states to adopt to help promote innovative water sharing strategies.

Below is a list of projects funded through CWCB’s Alternative Water Transfer grant program:

- Rotational Land Fallowing & Water Leasing Program in the Lower Arkansas Valley (i.e. Super Ditch)
- Flex Market Concept
- Water banking concept and survey of Front Range municipalities
- Lower South Platte River On-Farm Demonstration Project
- Alternative Transfers in the Yampa Basin
- Colorado River Compact Water Bank
- Lake Canal Demonstration Project
- Maintaining Ag Productivity on Formerly Irrigated Lands
- Lower South Platte River Water Cooperative





Agriculture continued from page 13

Through this program and CWCB's efforts, significant progress has been made towards making alternative water transfers a viable option for municipalities. This year, several pilot projects have been initiated to determine how some of these projects could be implemented on a large scale. Partnerships between the cities, farmers, land conservancies, funding partners and environmentalist have been created through this program and appear to have great potential for success.

Basin Roundtables are beginning to recognize the need to focus on basin level planning and look for ways to increase the flexibility within the system through alternative transfers, cooperative agreements, drought plans and additional infrastructure while respecting Colorado Water Law and individual property rights. While there is much work to be done, there is reason to believe that alternative water transfers will provide a viable option for municipal water providers in the not so distant future.

Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Committee (PEPO)

As we move forward with the work of the IBCC, Basin Roundtables, and CWCB, education will become more and more important.

During this year, the IBCCs Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Workgroup developed several consensus messages. These are as follows:

1. We have a stakeholder driven process in the state working on solving our future water needs
2. Our water needs exceed our planned supplies, creating a "gap." We need a portfolio of solutions that incorporates water from conservation, reuse, agricultural to municipal transfers, and the development of new supplies to minimize the impact to agriculture, the environment, and recreation
3. This will cost money in the future
4. We are also supporting agriculture, environmental, and recreational projects and many projects can be multi-purpose, meeting more than one need
5. Our water future is connected statewide (i.e. transbasin projects, agricultural and recreational economies, impacts of compact calls)
6. Why and how to get involved in the current work of the IBCC
7. A State Water Plan that incorporates a balanced portfolio of solutions will occur in 2016.

In partnership with Water 2012, the year of water, roundtables and partners have taken these messages

and spread them widely through local newspapers, displays at libraries, and in presentations to civic groups, reaching over 350,000 people.

As of this printing, PEPO is planning on hosting a Water Communications workshop on 10/29/2012.

At this workshop we'll learn from experts throughout the state on how to transform these messages to be more digestible to the public and identify partners who can help broadcast each one of these. The goals for the workshop are as follows:

- I. Engage stakeholders and establish partnerships between IBCC, PEPO Workgroup, Basin Roundtables, and key water education entities
- II. Learn how other campaigns and organizations have successfully developed outreach mechanisms
- III. Develop a collaborative outreach strategy that focuses on communicating and receiving feedback for Colorado's future water solutions

Special guests and speakers include John Stulp, Senator Al White (Colorado Tourism Office), Mike Sukle (Sukle Design and Denver Water's Use Only What You Need campaign), Steve Coffin (GBSM and Value of Water), Cindy Jennings (Volition Strategies and Water 2012), and Judy Lopez (Rio Grande as a rural example). The group has already agreed that in large part, messages work best when they are localized, but still struggles with how to bring these consensus messages statewide.



Below Rio Grande Reservoir
Photograph by—Rio de la Plata



For more information, please contact:
Colorado Water Conservation Board, WSPS
1580 Logan St., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3441
Email: ibc@state.co.us
<http://cwcb.state.co.us>