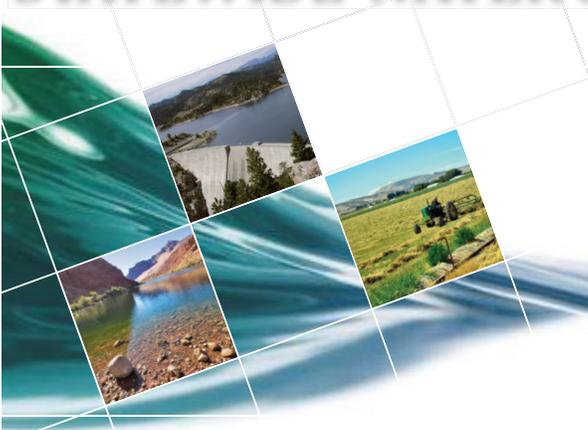


STATEWIDE WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE



December 2013

John Hickenlooper - Governor
Mike King - DNR Executive Director
John Stulp - IBCC Director
James Eklund - CWCB Director

Basin Implementation Planning

Overview

In 2005, the Colorado General Assembly passed the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 05-1177). The Act set up a framework for basin roundtables to help solve Colorado's future water challenges by:

- 1. Preparing a water needs assessment for their consumptive and nonconsumptive needs,**
- 2. Assessing water supply availability, and**
- 3. Identifying projects and methods to address their consumptive and nonconsumptive needs.**

During 2011, the basin roundtables summarized their needs assessments in Basinwide Water Supply Needs Assessment Reports (Basin Reports) that were based on the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2010. As part of these reports, each basin roundtable provided details on their consumptive and nonconsumptive projects and methods; this information will be a starting point for addressing consumptive and nonconsumptive gaps in each basin.

This fact sheet defines the purpose of the Basin Implementation Plans, provides an overview of the technical assistance available to the basin roundtables for the Basin Implementation Plans, outlines the timeframes associated with this effort, and summarizes how this information will be utilized in the development of the SWSI Update and the Colorado Water Plan.



Colorado's Nine Basin Roundtables

Basin Implementation Planning and SWSI Update

A key component of the SWSI Update and the Colorado Water Plan will be to identify ways to close the existing consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply gaps. The Basin Implementation Plans will identify short-term and long-term projects and methods by the basin roundtables that will be critical to understanding how Colorado can meet its future water challenges.

Another key component of the SWSI Update and the Colorado 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.

Basin Implementation Plan Purpose

The main purpose of the Basin Implementation Plans is to address the gaps identified in SWSI 2010. The plans will be prepared under the direction of the basin roundtables and will build upon local planning efforts. The Basin Implementation Plans will provide a mechanism for basin roundtable members and other stakeholders to work together to overcome potential project implementation constraints, effectively implement water projects that achieve designated regional water management objectives, and address the basins' gaps. In addition, it may be necessary to identify opportunities and constraints in the basins for meeting water supply gaps determining how water is used in the basins under variable hydrology—dry, average, and wet conditions. Sources of water used in most basins include native water (surface and tributary groundwater), transbasin water, water used by exchange, reuse, nontributary groundwater, and reservoir storage. A basin water operations summary will be helpful to a basin roundtable and assists in gaining a better understanding of which projects and methods

may be successful in meeting the consumptive and nonconsumptive gaps. This effort will form a foundation for the SWSI Update.

Technical Resources for the Basin Roundtables

The basin roundtables are at various stages in their implementation planning process. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has committed the following resources to this effort—CWCB staff and the SWSI planning contractor will assist the basin roundtables in developing their plans. The Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Phase 2 resources can focus on modeling efforts that assist in developing these plans for the four West Slope basins. If there are any aspects of planning that a basin roundtable wants a more in-depth analysis, or if the basin is extremely complex, the basin roundtables are encouraged to utilize Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) basin and statewide funds for these efforts. These funds will be available and prioritized for funding of this effort.

On the following page is a meeting plan schedule for the CWCB to work with the basin roundtable representatives and contractors. The basin roundtables will need to adhere to this schedule. These meetings will be held at a single location with all the basin roundtable representatives and contractors.

A Basin Roundtable Implementation Guidance document has been produced and can be found at the CWCB website at <http://www.cwcb.state.co.us/>. The CWCB will provide technical assistance to the basin roundtables for basin implementation planning, which includes identification and implementation of projects and methods. Below is the timeline to accomplish this and ensure that critical components of the Basin Implementation Plans are completed in sufficient time to be incorporated into the SWSI Update and the Colorado Water Plan.



Basin Implementation Planning Schedule and Meeting Plan for 2013-2014

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—December 12, 2013

MEETING 1: Kickoff Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes

- Overview of the Basin Implementation Plan
- Identify goals and measurable outcomes
- Identify important studies, water management issues, and concerns
- Discuss existing consumptive and nonconsumptive project and methods information
- Present Basin Fact Sheets

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—February 10, 2014

MEETING 2: Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs and Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

- Review information packages developed regarding needs and opportunities and basin operations list of information sources:
 - WSRA Grant information summaries
 - Nonconsumptive projects and methods database information for each basin (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
 - Information on the protection that the projects and methods may provide across the basin (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
 - Focus area mapping (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
 - Mapping that overlays the projects and methods and focus area mapping (provided in Nonconsumptive Toolbox)
- Review existing hydrology diversions, storage, exchange potential, hydrology (wet, average, dry), and instream flows
- Review updated consumptive projects and methods information and identified projects and processes (IPPs) lists
- Review nonconsumptive needs

Basin Roundtable Summit—March 6, 2014

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—April 30, 2014

MEETING 3: Projects and Methods and Implementation Strategies for Projects and Methods

- Review basin operations analysis
- Discuss shortages and in-basin solutions
- Finalize in-basin solutions
- Provide recommendations on Path Forward
- Identify strategies to ensure public education and acceptance
- Identify funding mechanisms and strategies for implementing water supply projects and methods
- Additional feasibility analysis and identifying partnerships/sponsors

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—June 5, 2014

MEETING 4: How Plan Meets Measurable Outcomes

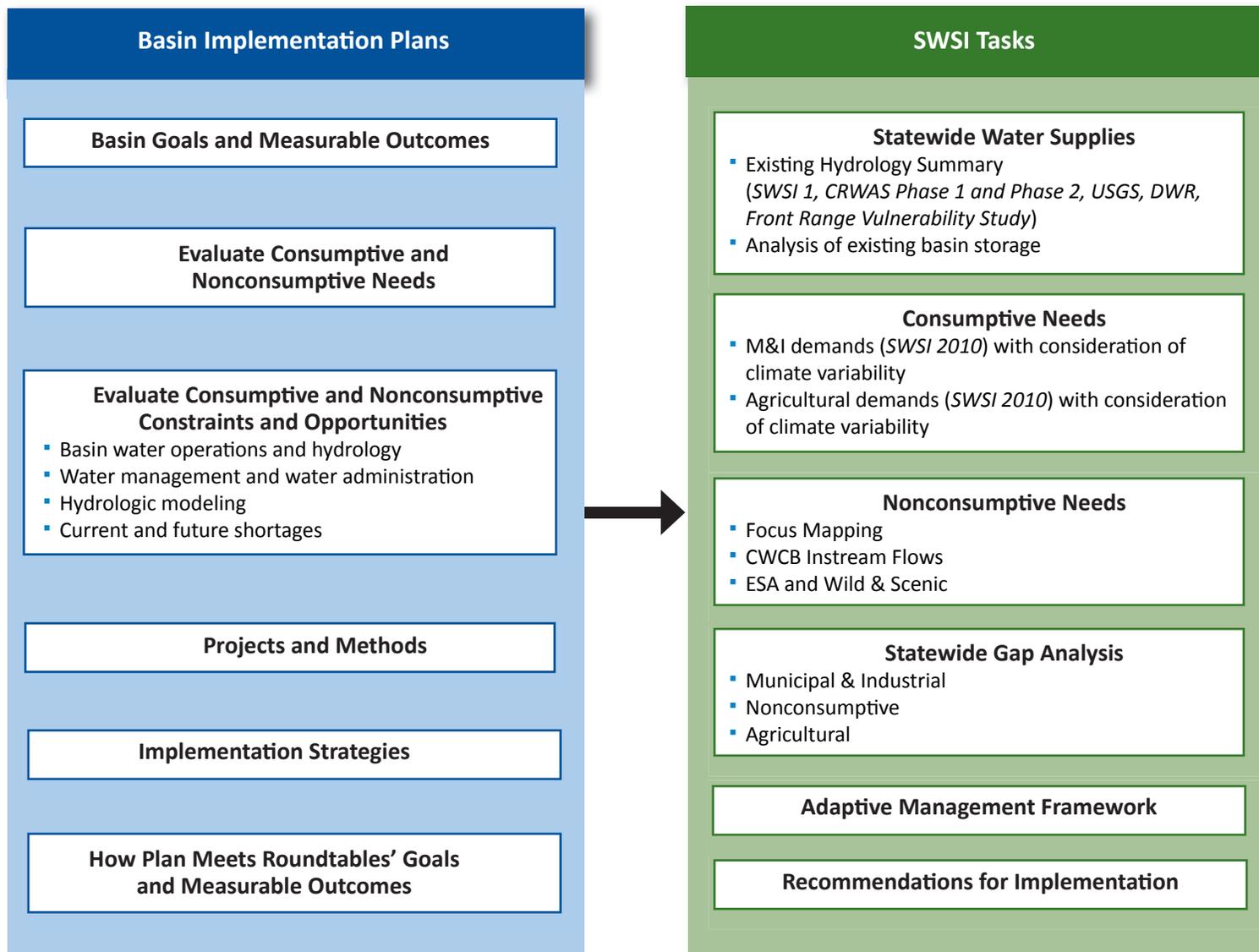
- Provide feedback on draft Basin Reports
- Revisit goals and measurable outcomes
- Report on how Plan meets goals and measurable outcomes
- Identify Basin Implementation Plan sections for consideration in the Colorado Water Plan

Basin Implementation Planning Guidance Overview

The following is guidance for the basin roundtables for what needs to be included in the Basin Implementation Plans. Each basin roundtable will work to conduct extensive community outreach, with support from the CWCB, to ensure diverse participation and input by stakeholders across the basin.

- **Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes** – This section provides an opportunity for roundtables to envision what they and the project proponents in their basin can and should accomplish. This section will highlight the water management challenges for the basin based on the 2011 Basin Reports, define the goals and measurable objectives, and describe how the goals and measurable outcomes are consistent with the SWSI Update and the Colorado Water Plan.
- **Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs** – This section will summarize existing reports and information that may be relevant to the Basin Implementation Plans, such as from the 2011 Basin Reports. The information summarized for this portion of the Basin Implementation Plan will help roundtables determine how well they are currently meeting their goals and measurable objectives and where there are additional opportunities to meet those needs.
- **Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Constraints and Opportunities** – The purpose of this section is to help roundtables better understand what the constraints and opportunities are within their basin to meet their needs.
- The potential places where solutions to meet the goals and measurable outcomes will be determined. As part of this effort, current basin operations, infrastructure opportunities, hydrological modeling, and nonconsumptive reaches may be used. These will then be examined in the projects and methods section to further develop the solutions to meeting the basin roundtables' needs.
- **Projects and Methods** – This section is the heart of the Basin Implementation Plans, identifying the projects and methods needed to meet the basin roundtables' consumptive and nonconsumptive needs. As part of this task, the basin roundtables should update and refine their list of consumptive and nonconsumptive IPPs. Because every roundtable has a gap above and beyond their IPPs, the basin roundtables should also identify potential new structural and nonstructural solutions to their gaps and shortages.
- **Implementation Strategies** – The Basin Implementation Plans will identify water management challenges and opportunities within the basin and provide a framework for meeting the challenges. This will include recommended paths forward for their basin and implementation of projects and methods.
- **Measurable Outcomes** – The basins will describe how this plan meets the roundtables' goals and measurable outcomes, including how well consumptive and nonconsumptive gaps would be met if the plans were implemented.

The Basin Implementation Plans will provide the foundation for the SWSI Update. The major tasks for the Basin Implementation Plans and the SWSI Update are shown in the figure below.



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