

STATE OF COLORADO

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: CWCB Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Kevin Houck, Watershed & Flood Protection Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: March 5, 2014

James Eklund
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #29, March 18- 19, 2014 Board Meeting
Watershed & Flood Protection- The 2013 Alberta Flood – Notes on a Similar
Event**

Staff Recommendation: *This is an informational item only. No Board action is required.*

Background:

In November 2013, the Colorado Water Conservation Board was contacted by a policy consultant to the Province of Alberta, who is exploring ways to improve the province's abilities to prepare for and respond to floods. The catalyst for this inquiry was a significant flood event that impacted Calgary and nearby towns in June 2013. The scope, scale and sheer speed of Alberta's 2013 floods resulted in the first-ever Provincial State of Emergency. The flooding resulted in total damage of over 5 billion dollars, and is considered the costliest disaster in Canadian history. The province was seeking international expertise to determine ideas to upgrade their capabilities. During this contact, the consultant indicated that they were referred to the expertise of the Colorado Water Conservation Board after making many contacts throughout the U.S. According to the consultant, the province is also interested in hearing about the State's experiences from our own 2013 flood, as it shares many of the same characteristics of Alberta's devastating flood.

Following this initial contact, the Province of Alberta indicated their intention to set up a Flood Forecasting and Hydrologic Modeling workshop with experts from other Canadian provinces and from around the world to compare best practices regarding forecasting and modeling. They asked for CWCB staff to attend at Alberta's expense to discuss their operations in these topics.

Kevin Houck attended this workshop, held in Calgary on February 18-20, 2014. Also in attendance were officials from the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, the Canadian federal government, the Netherlands, and Scotland. Officials from Australia and Japan were invited, but were not able to attend the meeting.

Kevin Houck will inform the board of best practices discussed during the workshop and will present pictures and information from the 2013 Alberta flood, which bore many striking similarities to Colorado's 2013 flood.