



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
P 303.866.3441 F 303.866.4474

Memorandum

To: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members
From: Rebecca Mitchell, Water Supply Planning Section
Date: May 8, 2014
Subject: Agenda Item 8, May 21-22, 2014 Board Meeting
Colorado's Water Plan Chapter Review - Water Supply Planning Section

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

Background:

One year ago, in May, 2013 the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) was charged, through Executive Order D 2013-005, with leading the great effort of creating Colorado's Water Plan by the end of 2015. CWCB board and staff continue to align existing efforts in order to successfully deliver the grassroots-based Colorado's Water Plan. This agenda item will continue to be a recurring item in future agendas.

As part of the development process for Colorado's Water Plan, the CWCB continues to draw from a variety of resources. Colorado's Water Plan will be built upon the work of the Basin Roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) as well as the findings of Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). The work of the Roundtables includes their Basin Implementation Plans and the work of the IBCC, which includes scenario planning, the No and Low Regrets Action Plan, as well as emerging discussions, which include new supply development. Several Roundtables have also expressed an interest in having the new supply development conversation. In addition, there are numerous Water Supply Reserve Account studies, the Colorado River Water Supply and Demand Study, and expertise and analysis from across the CWCB and other sister agencies that will need to be incorporated.

At the September and November, 2013 Board meetings, the Board continued to discuss the development and structure of the agency's efforts and how they fit with other ongoing efforts such as the work of the IBCC and Basin Roundtable process. Emphasis was placed on coordinating these various efforts, necessary timelines for development, and associated roles and responsibilities. The framework for Colorado's Water Plan was reviewed in detail at both meetings, and the Board guided staff through several recommendations for how to further evolve the framework. An overview of outreach and public engagement activities statewide and in each basin was provided.

In January, 2014 staff presented drafts of the following sections of the Framework to the CWCB Board for review and comment.

- Chapter 1. Introduction and Background
- Section 5.1. Scenario planning and adaptive management and no and low regrets
- Section 5.2. Natural disaster management



In March, 2014 staff presented drafts of the following sections of the Framework to the CWCB Board for review and comment. The Board also held a workshop to work on overall strategy moving forward.

- Chapter 2. Overview of Each Basin

All draft sections released for public review to date are available online at www.coloradowaterplan.com. Updated versions of these chapters and sections, based on Board and public input, will be presented to the Board in October, 2014.

An overview of outreach and public engagement activities statewide and in each basin was also provided at both the January and March, 2014 Board meetings. Due to significant public interest, the outreach portion of the Colorado's Water Plan update to the CWCB Board was split off into its own agenda item for the May Board meeting. Additional information regarding public input and Colorado's Water Plan can be accessed through that agenda item beginning in May, 2014.

Discussion

Staff will give presentations on key CWP updates and will lead a discussion with the Board on the items outlined below.

CWP Framework & Annotated Framework

The CWP Framework and Annotated Framework are included in the Board packet for reference, including changes based on Board comments and public input received since the March, 2014 Board meeting. Significant changes to the Framework consisted of the reorganization of subsections within Section 5.6 in order to separate M&I conservation, reuse, and land use topics as suggested by the CWCB Board. Additionally, Chapter 7 was expanded to include two sections, one of which will provide future recommendations regarding education and outreach, and the other a summary of activities during the development phase of Colorado's Water Plan. Other changes to the Annotated Framework are noted within the document and colored in **RED** ink.

Staff will present drafts of the following sections of the Framework to the CWCB Board for review and comment:

- Section 5.4 Water Quality
- Section 5.6 Conservation and Reuse
 - 5.6.1 M&I conservation
 - 5.6.2 Reuse
 - 5.6.3 Land use
 - 5.6.4 Agricultural conservation
 - 5.6.5 Self-supplied industrial (e.g. conservation of mining and energy water use)
 - 5.6.6 State agency conservation (e.g. Parks and Wildlife, Corrections, State Land Board, etc.)
- Section 5.7 Alternative Agricultural to Urban Transfers
- Section 5.10 Framework on more efficient water project permitting processes

Additionally, staff will provide updates and lead discussions related to 1) the short-term time-line through the development phase of Colorado's Water Plan, and 2) the long-term strategy that will comprise Chapter 9 Process for Plan Update.

The main objective of the overall discussion is to review the draft section of the Framework, and continue to work with the Board to ensure that staff has sufficient direction to move forward with the development of specific elements of the plan and on the timeframes and approach to draft the plan. The Framework, Annotated Framework, and draft chapters and sections are living documents.

