
Proposed Framework 2.0

Drafts of chapters **shown in blue** are being presented to the Board at its September, 2014 meeting. Drafts of chapters **shown in red** will be provided at the November meeting. The Board reviewed drafts of all other chapters in prior meetings.

Transmittal letter(s)

Executive Summary

Acknowledgements

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- 1. Introduction** (*initial draft in January, 2014; revised draft reflecting new approach in November 2014*)
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- 8. Interbasin Projects & Agreements**

9. Alignment of State Resources & Policies

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9.2. State water rights & alignment

9.3. Framework on more efficient water project permitting processes

9.4. Outreach, education, & public engagement

10. Legislative Recommendations to Assist in Implementing CWP *(availability of this chapter TBD based on plan content)*

11. Updating Colorado's Water Plan



Annotation of the Proposed Framework 2.0

Transmittal Letter(s)

Letter(s) will set the stage for the draft CWP and describe the public review process to be undertaken in 2015.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary will provide a broad summary of the entire plan in an easily-digestible format.

Acknowledgements

Chapters

1. Introduction

The introduction outlines the framework and structure of Colorado's Water Plan. It describes the timeliness of the plan and recognizes Colorado's system of water law and policy. The chapter describes how Colorado's Water Plan is intended to address Colorado's water values as described in the governor's executive order and how it has been built from the grassroots efforts of the Basin Roundtables and IBCC.

2. The Legal & Institutional Setting

This chapter provides background information and describes the legal and institutional setting for Colorado's Water Plan. This will set the stage for the discussion of future implementation steps in chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9.

2.1. Description of Colorado water law & administration

This section summarizes the major tenets of Colorado's water rights system, describes water rights administration, and makes the point that water rights are private property rights that can be transferred and which, therefore, respond to the economic forces of the marketplace. This sets the stage for the discussion in Chap. 6 of what can be done about future transfers of irrigation water to new uses.

2.2. Description of interstate compacts & equitable apportionment decrees

This section summarizes the important aspects of each of our interstate water compacts and decrees and what these mean for Colorado's future water use.

2.3. Description of Colorado's local-control structure

This section provides a brief summary of the state's local government authorities and describes how those bear on decisions about the use and allocation of water in Colorado. The key point this section makes is that counties, municipalities, and quasi-municipal districts maintain considerable authority in making the water development and management decisions for which they have authority under state law.

2.4. Description of local, state, tribal, & federal agencies involved in water project planning, approval, & permitting institutions

This section states that the development and operation of water supply projects entails multiple levels of government decision-making by local, state, tribal, and federal agencies. This section briefly describes the multiplicity of agencies that are involved in the planning and permitting processes as well as their respective roles and authorities. Chap. 9.3 will then discuss the current permitting processes and address ways in which these processes, at all levels, could be improved.

3. Overview of Each Basin

This chapter describes the diversity of needs and interests throughout Colorado and highlights each basin's importance in relation to Colorado's water values. Salient aspects of each basin are highlighted and information is summarized about how the State has supported each basin from a water perspective (e.g., with the appropriation of instream flow water rights, flood assistance, drought assistance, and major funding for loan and grant programs).

4. Historical & Projected Water Supply

This chapter describes Colorado's variable water supplies and highlights where there are critical limitations and opportunities. It summarizes Colorado's surface and groundwater water supplies. This chapter refers to the Basin Implementation Plans and SWSI update and is consistent with the IBCC scenarios. It addresses climate change and dust-on-snow concerns, and opportunities for weather modification. This chapter does not describe project specifics.

5. Water Demand by Sector

This chapter summarizes Colorado's projected municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water needs based on the work of SWSI and the Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plans.

6. Water Supply Management for the Future

This chapter sets forth tools available for managing water for the future of Colorado, and sets forth Colorado's plan for addressing Colorado's future water needs.

6.1. Scenario planning, adaptive strategies, & no/low regrets

This section describes the uncertainty associated with future demands and summarizes how the scenario planning process ensures that Colorado's Water Plan prepares Colorado for a broad range of potential futures. This chapter summarizes the No and Low Regrets Action Plan and describes how to move forward with adaptive strategies.

6.2. Meeting Colorado's water gaps

This section synthesizes the regional Basin Implementation Plans and how they meet Colorado's future water needs. The section primarily refers to work of the Basin Roundtables in their Basin Implementation Plans.

6.3. Conservation & reuse

6.3.1. Municipal & industrial conservation

6.3.2. Reuse

6.3.3. Land use

6.3.4. Agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse

6.3.5. Self-supplied industrial (e.g. conservation of mining & energy water use)

6.3.6. State agency conservation (e.g. Parks & Wildlife, State Land Board)

This section describes achievable strategies to reduce future demands through conservation, reuse, and land use changes.

6.4. Alternative agriculture to urban transfers

This section describes the potential of agriculture-to-urban transfers that might offer competitive alternatives to traditional permanent “buy-and-dry” transactions. These alternatives include methods such as water sharing between agricultural and municipal water users, conservation easements which tie water to agricultural lands while allowing for temporary leasing on fallowed lands, water coops, cool weather crops and deficit irrigation. This section incorporates relevant Colorado Basin Implementation Plans as well as the No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

6.5. Municipal, industrial, & agricultural infrastructure projects & methods

This section summarizes the type and amount of infrastructure projects and methods needed to meet our current and future water supply needs, estimates how much this infrastructure will cost, highlights multi-purpose and regional projects and methods from the Basin Implementation Plans, identifies potential increased storage capacity in existing reservoirs, lists known sites for potential additional water storage projects, and makes recommendations for how to proceed.

6.6. Environmental & recreational projects & methods

This section summarizes environmental and recreational projects and methods needed for protecting Colorado’s environmental legacy and recreational opportunities, highlights important regional projects and methods, and makes recommendations for how to proceed.

7. Water Resource Management & Protection

This chapter describes the importance of protecting the availability and usability of Colorado’s water supplies by addressing the need for healthy watersheds and the quality of our water resources. The chapter will set forth Colorado’s plan for addressing the impacts of natural disasters on our water supplies, maintaining healthy watersheds, and protecting water quality.

7.1. Watershed health & management

This section describes how Colorado can pull together the state’s consumptive and nonconsumptive interests in order to protect critical watersheds from fire and other natural hazards, such as floods, beetle kill, and drought. This section synthesizes the Basin Implementation Plan watershed health work.

7.2. Natural disaster management

This section characterizes and assesses the impacts that natural disasters such as drought, flood and wildfire have on the water systems and water availability for Colorado, both now and into the future. This section examines the role that natural disasters have on the water systems and water availability for Colorado under current conditions as well as under a changing climate.

7.3. Water quality

This section summarizes the current and future role of water quality in water quantity management. This section sets forth how Colorado will support future water quality opportunities and address future water quality constraints as they relate to water quantity management.

8. Interbasin Projects & Agreements

This chapter describes the new paradigm for interbasin water projects as is represented by the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement and the IBCC's points of conceptual agreement for new transmountain water projects.

9. Alignment of State Resources & Policies

This chapter aligns the State's funding and water resource policies to Colorado's water values.

9.1. Economics & funding

This section describes the cost of implementing Colorado's Water Plan, the economics of water use in Colorado, and the economic benefit of implementing Colorado's Water Plan. It then explores options to prioritize resources and how to seek additional funding.

9.2. State water rights & alignment

This section summarizes how Colorado's state agencies are aligning their water rights to meet the water values and goals of Colorado's Water Plan.

9.3. Framework for a more efficient water project permitting processes

This section identifies ways to make water project permitting processes more integrated, effective, and efficient. It describes incentive-based criteria for those projects that meet Colorado's water values and fit within Colorado's Water Plan. Rather than creating additional permitting hurdles for water providers, this section establishes a path to more efficient permitting for water projects while maintaining the protections intended by the permitting process. Specifically, this section strives to: (1) make state and federal permitting processes more efficient and effective, (2) improve state coordination with local and federal permitting entities, and (3) develop incentive-based criteria which could be used by the state to evaluate a water project and place it on a path to official state support.

9.4. Outreach, education, & public engagement

This section reviews outreach efforts statewide and at the basin level throughout the development of Colorado's Water Plan and how the public was engaged. This section goes on to present a long-range vision for Colorado water education as a means to drive the water planning process forward in the future. Specifically, this chapter will utilize "Section 4.1--Education, Outreach, and Participation" from the Basin Implementation Plans in order to summarize outreach and public engagement efforts at the local level.

10. Legislative Recommendations to Assist in Implementing Colorado's Water Plan

This chapter makes recommendations to the Governor of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly regarding implementation of Colorado's Water Plan, which are summarized from recommendations made throughout Colorado's Water Plan.

11. Updating Colorado's Water Plan

This chapter describes Colorado's Water Plan as a living document that requires periodic updates and sets forth the process and schedule for such updates.