



Colorado's Water Plan - Implementation Progress



MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	CRITICAL ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	CRITICAL ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	CRITICAL ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	CRITICAL ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS
Supply-Demand Gap	1. Supporting BR7's in implementation	<p>WSRF program funding: Distributed over \$5M in WSRF funds from statewide and basin accounts since the beginning of November 2015. This \$5m has been successfully leveraged against over \$25M in matching contributions. Project examples addressing the Supply-Demand Gap include: Upper Arkansas Multiple Use Project Phase I, Advancing Direct Potable Reuse to Optimize Water Supplies and Meet Future Needs, McInnis Water Delivery Improvement Project, Montezuma Water Improvement Project, Remote Creek Landfill for the Upper Gunnison Basin, and Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrates.</p> <p>WSRF Criteria and Guidelines update: CWCB and Basin Roundtables are revising the WSRF criteria and guidelines to achieve the goals and measurable outcomes identified in the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan and to produce measurable results and decrease gaps, with transparent reporting and accountability. Draft criteria and guidelines were presented to the CWCB Board in July and will be discussed at the Criteria and Guidelines Committee and BEC meeting in August. Final criteria and guidelines will be presented to the Board in November.</p> <p>Proposed CWCB Funding Plan: In May, the CWCB Board charged the CWCB staff with developing a creative water funding plan for up to five years. The proposed plan includes a one-time \$50 million investment into a repayment guarantee fund and an annual transfer of \$10 million to WSRF. \$5 million for the Watershed Restoration Program, and \$10 million for additional non-reimbursable CWCB programming. This plan was presented to the Board in July as a three-year funding plan, with the potential for up to five years. The BEC will discuss the plan in August. It will be finalized by the Board in November and then, if approved, incorporated into the CWCB Projects Bill that goes to the Colorado legislature for approval during the 2017 session. The proposed plan would go into effect July 2021.</p> <p>SWR update: CWCB staff and consultants had the kick-off meeting in July and continue to have collaborative meetings to discuss schedule, communications, and methodology of progress. The CWCB and Basin & Catchment will present the SWR update and next steps at the Water for People event at the summer Colorado River Congress conference in August.</p> <p>Basin Implementation Plan coordination: The Arkansas Basin held an implementation webinar in September 2015 to carry out the goals of their Basin Implementation Plan. Other roundtables are looking at the potential benefits of such a position (South Platte/Metro, Southwest, Rio Grande).</p>	Land Use	1. Land Use Trainings	<p>Bridging Silos - Land Use Water Planning Trainings: CWCB staff is working closely with DOLA to establish a curriculum and a series of water planning trainings set forth in Senate Bill 8 from 2015. These water planning trainings will begin in the fall of 2015. Roundtable has expressed interest in hearing from the training team. CWCB and DOLA will conduct a "train the trainer" workshop at the Colorado American Planning Association annual conference in Colorado Springs on September 28, 2015. Additionally, the CWCB is partnering with the Sonoran Institute and Sonoran Institute for Land Policy to continue these trainings into the future. They are seeking Gates Family Foundation funds to build on the curriculum being developed to focus on several communities throughout Colorado to provide training and technical assistance on the integration of land and water planning. This collaboration will further the reach of the CWCB and help achieve the goals set out in Colorado's Water Plan.</p> <p>Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue: The working group is going through an intensive exploratory scenario planning process that is looking at various futures concerning land use patterns and water demand. First scenario planning workshop was held on May 26, 2016 and second was held on July 27, 2016. The group has modeled demand under various future land use patterns and will use those resulting outputs to quantify the future scenarios.</p> <p>Water Research Foundation Water Supply and Land Use Project (WRF 462): The CWCB is a member on the Project Advisory Committee. The project is exploring the types and methods of securing new water supply through land use decisions. Much of the other work being completed in this field is focusing on reducing demand through land use decisions. This is a nation-wide research project but there will be implications for closing the supply-demand gap in Colorado and contributing to the stretch goal.</p> <p>State agencies committing to land use planning: This has been an ongoing discussion to incorporate land use planning into management practices into the daily operations of our water state agencies and the CWCB.</p>	Funding	1. Amendment to expand CWCB basin authority	<p>Amendment: The amendment was included in the 2016 projects bill and was passed by the legislature. It expands the CWCB's loan authority to finance regional, domestic water treatment distribution systems including treatment facilities.</p>			
Conservation	2. Colorado River Collaborative Management	<p>WSRF program funding - Colorado River Development and Catchment Risk Study: CWCB awarded the grant at the March Board meeting to the Western Slope basin roundtable, CWCB, and SWCD. This mostly educational study of risk to Lake Powell created a technical committee of basin roundtables and western slope participants who have been holding webinars to stay updated on the evolving study as progress is made by the consultants. The first round of webinars had around 60 participants. CWCB and consultants have been presenting the study to basin roundtables and stakeholder groups statewide.</p> <p>Upper Colorado River Basin Contingency Planning: This planning effort consists of drought response operations of CRP reservoirs, weather modification, and demand management with CWCB as a participant, spearheaded by the Upper Colorado River Commission and the other basin states.</p>	Agriculture	2. Encouragement of ditch-side and regional planning	<p>Education and Assistance program for farmers/ranchers</p> <p>WSRF program funding: Distributed over \$5M in WSRF funds from statewide and basin accounts since the beginning of November 2015. This \$5m has been successfully leveraged against over \$25M in matching contributions. Project examples addressing Agricultural Education and Assistance for farmers and ranchers include: the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance Agricultural Water Workshop.</p> <p>Long-term, regional infrastructure assessment: WSRF funding is being approved and requested in pursuit of regional studies, often leveraging multiple funding sources to complete these projects and methods. One example is the Cuchara Basin Collaborative Study led by the Arkansas Basin, approved by the CWCB Board in September of 2015. On the Upper Gunnison Basin Water Supply Protection and Enhancement Project led by the Gunnison roundtable and approved by the CWCB in September of 2015. These efforts seek to maximize use of existing infrastructure, identify necessary improvements, and plan for the future of these facilities.</p>	Education, Outreach, and Innovation	3. LEAN events	<p>LEAN event - Farming: The LEAN process encourages efficiency and the permitting LEAN event was held this past spring and summer to discuss how to make the process more efficient and how to front-load and get all the players and stakeholders involved early on to identify challenges and opportunities. It included leadership in the permitting process, EPA, ARCB, CWCB, local regulations such as WCCOD. These efforts are now in the reporting stage, as participants complete the tasks assigned in the initial LEAN process. The LEAN process led to two major outcomes and implementation tasks that participants and stakeholders are working on now.</p>			
Conservation	1. Integrated water resource planning in critical for state support and financial assistance	<p>Colorado Water Loss Initiative: CWCB working to provide training over the next few years - these trainings will bring water managers through a long term, intensive water loss training based on the AWWA industry standard for water loss reporting and accounting. CWCB submitting a non-reimbursable application to the Board for funding these trainings. Several NWLW trainings have been held in the past. The NWLW section of the AWWA and the AWWA National Water Loss Control Committee as participants to bring in new information to the training. The NWLW training members are from municipal water providers and other groups are being invited at present time.</p> <p>1551 reporting: underway, and the Board has heard updates on this process and the associated work. At present, staff has collected three years of data which will be incorporated into the 1551 update.</p> <p>SWR update: will include best management practices for conservation and land use</p> <p>Water efficiency grant program: CWCB Board will see a creative funding package from the Arkansas Basin in September for a project to support the water efficiency grant fund in upcoming meetings - moving beyond simple retrofitting projects to more systematic methods of encouraging regional and statewide efficiency.</p> <p>Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE): CWCB partnering to host workshops on building better water use structures for a more sustainable future future - one west slope and one east slope workshop next spring and to invite a large number of water utilities. AWE is fully funded for these workshops.</p> <p>WSRF Urban Demand Roundtable: The CWCB is serving on the steering committee and presenting at the Water Research Foundation's Urban Demand Roundtable coming to Denver on September 22-23. This Roundtable brings together demand management projects and discuss implications and application of the concepts. CWCB is funding a small portion of the workshops and will benefit from different perspectives and will be able to apply lessons learned to Colorado's Water Plan implementation.</p> <p>Urban Water Innovation Network: The CWCB is on the Front Range Advisory Committee for UWRI. UWRI is a national science foundation funded sustainability research network. It is a consortium of 16 academic institutions and key partners across the nation. It addresses challenges that threaten urban water systems. The vision of UWRI is to create an enduring research network for integrated water systems and to transform champions of innovation for water sensitive urban design and resilient cities. This has direct connection to Colorado's Water Plan implementation in that this consortium should generate many research projects and partnerships that will have a direct bearing on issues identified in Colorado's Water Plan. The first meeting took place on August 2, 2016 where issues and research areas and next steps were identified.</p> <p>WSRF program funding: Distributed over \$5M in WSRF funds from statewide and basin accounts since the beginning of November 2015. This \$5m has been successfully leveraged against over \$25M in matching contributions. Project examples addressing Conservation include: Advancing Direct Potable Reuse to Optimize Water Supplies and Meet Future Needs, Montezuma Water Improvement Project, and McInnis Water Delivery Improvement Project.</p>	6. Expanded grant funding for ATM, agriculture viability	2. Watersense for outdoors	<p>Indoor Reuse Bill: CWCB staff has been working with plumbing manufacturers in preparation for the implementation of the indoor reuse bill from two legislative sessions ago. The CWCB has posted FAQs on the CWCB website and will also post a link to the reporting form on the site starting Dec. 11, 2016. The legislation starts September 1, 2016 and the reporting of high efficiency fixtures sold in 2015 is due by March 17, 2017. No bill has been introduced as of yet which would extend Watersense specifications to outdoor fixtures.</p>	Additional Critical Goals and Actions	1. Colorado Resiliency Framework	<p>Resiliency Office: The CWCB is partnering with the Resiliency Office to incorporate climate change more comprehensively into all their actions.</p>			
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