

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan (2014-2015)

Background Information:

Article VII of the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) by-laws address the formation of workgroups to assist it in its deliberations and functions. The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) workgroup is charged with creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and progress of the interbasin compact negotiations, and create a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators. It is the only workgroup written into the legislation (C.R.S. 37-75-106).

In 2014-2015, the PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities. The EAP will detail the educational goals and tasks most effective for the basin roundtable. It will identify roundtable member education activities that promote a well-informed and high-functioning basin roundtable. It will also define public participation objectives and appropriate implementation methods.

In 2014-2015, the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) will work with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable by providing assistance in forming or strengthening an Education & Outreach Committee and creating their Education Action Plan (EAP). To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has created an application-based education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,000.00 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

Sub-Committee Members. All roundtable members are encouraged to provide input and suggestions to the sub-committee. The sub-committee seeks to represent fully the agricultural, municipal, and industrial interests of the basin. The names and affiliations of current and contributing Rio Grande Basin PEPO Sub-committee members are:

1. Mike Gibson. *Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy.*
2. Judy Lopez. Ed Liason – Member, *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Rio Grande Conservation and Education Initiative.*
3. Rio de la Vista. Vice Chair *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Director RIGHT.*
4. Kevin Terry, *Trout Unlimited and Basin RT Advisor*
5. Paul Tigen, *BLM and Basin RT Advisor*
6. Cindy Medina, *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Member*
7. Eugene Jacquez, *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Member*
8. Travis Smith, *CWCB and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Appointee*

Annual meeting plan for Sub-Committee:

The sub-committee will meet quarterly at a time that is sufficient for members. Members agree to meet more if needed to complete a project. The sub-committee will make efforts to structure its meetings to occur in the month following regularly scheduled IBCC meetings, so as to maximize the transfer of information between the PEPO Workgroup and the Roundtable.

Educational Priorities & Implementation. The ultimate goal of the Rio Grande Basin PEPO Sub-Committee is to have greater participation by all interests in the roundtable process.

Table 1. Specific education and outreach goals of the Rio Grande Basin PEPO Sub-Committee. Focus on “high priority” topics for personal and roundtable education needs (Roundtable Educational Needs Survey (admin. Jan. 14, 2009; presented Sept. 9, 2009).			
OBJECTIVE	TASKS	LEAD(S)	TIMELINE
<u>TOPIC 1: Outreach.</u> Participate in Outreach and Education Efforts for the State and Rio Grande Basin Water Plan. To include bi-weekly articles to the newspaper, monthly radio shows.	Article Writing, Radio Interviews	Judy Lopez, Travis Smith, Mike Gibson, Tom Speeze	Jun 2014 through 2015
<u>TOPIC 2: Watershed Education for RG Basin to include outreach meetings and attendance at a variety of organizational meetings getting input and promoting State and Rio Grande Basin Water Plans.</u>	Sponsor Specific Water Plan Outreach Meetings	Judy Lopez, Tom Speeze	Ongoing
	Attend at a variety of organizational meetings to promote Basin and State Water Plans	Travis, Mike, Judy, Tom, Rio and all RT members	
	Oversight and Subcommittee meetings for State and Basin Plan	All RT members	Ongoing

<u>TOPIC 3:</u> Provide a medium for all residents, civic groups, water entities and local governments to be able to speak and understand water.	Water 101 Booklet to be distributed to all valley residents, water groups and local government entities for distribution.	Judy, RT Board	April 2015
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Partnerships. The following is a list of educational groups and efforts already existing in the Rio Grande Basin to potentially help with Rio Grande Basin PEPO activities.

1. Rio Grande Water Conservation District
2. San Luis Valley Water Conservancy
3. R.I.G.H.T.
4. Bureau Of Reclamation
5. Bureau of Land Management
6. Nature Conservancy
7. Division of Water Resources
8. Natural Resources Conservation Service
9. Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts
10. Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Budget. Resources needed to complete each task, detailed in an overall budget, assuming and \$2000 annual cap in state funds. The budget listed below is for FY 2013-2014.

<u>TOPIC 1:</u>	<i>Outreach Materials</i>	<i>FY 2014-2015</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<u>TOPIC 2:</u>	<i>Groups and committee work for Water Plan</i>	<i>FY 2014-2015</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<u>TOPIC 3:</u>	<i>Rio Grande Basin Water 101 Booklet</i>	<i>FY 2013-2014</i>	<i>\$2000.00</i>
<u>Total of all expenditures:</u>			<u>\$2000.00</u>

Assessment. An assessment of the remaining public events will be conducted briefly following the event to determine if: a) attendees left the event with a greater understanding of the Roundtable's purpose and activities, and; b) attendees felt the event was worth their time. This assessment will be conducted using a written survey.

Regarding TOPIC 2, the Rio Grande Basin PEPO Liaison (Judy Lopez) will conduct a follow-up survey (6-7 months following the event) to determine if and how attendees have made use of the information provided during the event. Since the participants will also be

regularly available at Roundtable meetings, the follow-up survey will be conducted at the convenience of members who are present at ensuing Roundtables.

Sustainability Framework. It is recommended that the PEPO Sub-committee develop a strategy that ensures to a reasonable degree that educational activities continue past 2014.