

South Platte Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan

Revised – February 10, 2015

Background Information:

The 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 05-1177), is based upon the premise that Coloradans must work together to address the water needs within the state. The legislation created a framework to encourage dialogue on water, broadened the range of stakeholders actively participating in water decisions, and created a locally driven process where the decision-making power rests with those living in the state's river basins. The statewide structure, the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), and the local structures, the nine basin roundtables, bring over 300 diverse citizens into water supply planning discussions across the state.

As each basin roundtable carries out its charge to develop basin-wide water needs assessments, they are also required to advance the understanding of future water needs through educational programs and processes. In the statutes of HB 05-1177, each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) ... Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Moreover, the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislatively created committee of the IBCC. This group is tasked with: creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and the progress of the interbasin compact negotiations; creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators; and educating IBCC and roundtable members on water issues.

The PEPO Workgroup's membership consists of the Education Liaisons, a volunteer position on each basin roundtable, members of the IBCC, statewide water education experts, staff of the Water Supply Planning section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and a consultant firm that facilitates the PEPO Workgroup. The members of this committee work to identify the best approaches for education and outreach at the statewide and basin-specific levels. The PEPO Workgroup and roundtable members are

collectively defining the most helpful and meaningful ways in which the public can participate in the work of their basin roundtable.

In 2015, the PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities. By the end of 2015, each roundtable is expected to have a functioning Education & Outreach Committee tasked with creating an Education Action Plan (EAP). 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.

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 approved EAP will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,000 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

In 2015, the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) will work with the South Platte Basin Roundtable by providing assistance in strengthening the efforts of its Education & Outreach Committee and implementing its Education Action Plan (EAP).

I. Governance

A) Names and affiliations of Education & Outreach Committee: The South Platte Basin Roundtable will submit a complete list of 2015 committee members after its February 10, 2015 meeting. The Co-Chairs of the Education & Outreach Committee are:

1. Joel Schneekloth – Colorado State University
2. Lisa McVicker – Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District

B) Annual meeting plan for Committee:

- a. Meetings prior to regularly scheduled roundtable meetings
- b. Purpose is to discuss development and implementation of the EAP, especially as it relates to the Basin Implementation Plan and the State Water Plan

II. Educational Priorities & Implementation: Overall goals of the Education and Outreach Committee of the South Platte Basin Roundtable include a focus on educating and engaging the public, decision-makers and elected officials on the scope and purpose of the BIP and the State Water Plan, with an overarching theme of focusing on solutions-oriented water supply planning.

2015			
OBJECTIVES	TASKS	LEAD(S)	TIMELINE
<p>Integrate into statewide outreach activities</p> <p>Review of outcomes of previous WSRA grants</p> <p>Work with HDR/West Sage/CFWE to prepare presentation on BIP info as it pertains to the SPBRT for use at public events by Roundtable members.</p> <p>Set up speakers' bureau of people who are willing to make presentations.</p>	Have a roundtable presence at the March Statewide Summit	Roudtable and Ed. members	1st Quarter
	Request summaries of outcomes from previous WSRA grants; present review to Roundtable. Present summary and suggestions to roundtable.	Education Members SPBRT and Ed Committee	1st & 2 nd Quarters
	Coordinate efforts of willing speakers, venues, and public outreach; use powerpoint/presentation materials/etc as produced in conjunction with HDR/West Sage/CFWE		
	Identify local venues and events to host presentations.		1st Quarter
<p>SPBRT</p> <p>Brochure/Flyer/Media information for general public / Build upon materials produced as referenced above</p> <p>Submit WSRA grant application for staff assistance or education coordinator to assist Education Committee</p> <p>Review all committees and subcommittees of the</p>	Identify topics/content	Ed committee	2nd Quarter
	Recruit writers	Ed committee	2 nd Quarter
	Write WSRA application for coordinator/staff assistance for education committee.	Ed committee SPBRT	2nd and 3 rd quarters
	Compose written materials documenting work of committees and accomplishments;		
	Begin soliciting new committee members for new scope of	Phreatophyte Committee and SPBRT	

SPBRT for structure, effectiveness, diversity.	work for 2015-2016 and beyond.		
Assist Phreatophyte Committee in education-outreach to Basin Landowners re: phreatophyte control	Create materials and assist Phreatophyte committee in education outreach to Basin Landowners		
Work with CWCB and CFWE to ensure SPBRT information is up to date (bylaws, membership information, etc..)	Continue update content for member notebook	CWCB/CFWE/SPBRT	Ongoing
Social Media communications	Coordinate with CFWE and CWCB outreach use of social media and identify potential tools and common messages for roundtable communications vis a vis BIP	SPBRT/CFWE/SPBRT	Ongoing
Host a public meeting for elected officials, water suppliers, M&I, educators and public	Identify venue	SPBRT	3 rd or 4 th Quarter
	Invite elected officials, water providers and public	SPBRT	3 rd or 4 th Quarter
	Present BIP and State Water Supply plans and effect on Basin; solicit input	SPBRT	3 rd or 4 th Quarter
Submit periodic articles to basin news agencies on BIP and State water plan	Setup meetings with editorial board of major newspapers within the basin. Obtain commitment for articles in 2015	Ed Committee/SPRT/CFWE	2nd Quarter
Orientation for New Roundtable Members	Update content for member notebook	SPBRT/ED committee	2nd Quarter

	Conduct at least once a year informational meeting with new and existing members	SPBRT/ED committee	2 nd /3 rd Quarter & Beyond
	Produce simple message for roundtable members to take back to their communities	Ed committee/CFWE	2nd Quarter

Long Term – 2015 and Beyond			
BIP & State Plan Outreach	Follow up with the participants of the 2013-2014-2015 public meetings on their informational needs	TBD	TBD
	Develop content, venue, speakers, etc.	TBD	TBD
	Market to appropriate audiences	TBD	TBD
	Record the event for a future speaker's bureau	TBD	TBD
Submit periodic articles to basin news agencies on BIP and State Plan	Recruit roundtable members to write articles	TBD	Throughout
Work with 3rd party/universities to develop online survey to gauge public's support and knowledge of the BIP and State Water Plan	Beyond 2015	TBD	TBD

The Education Committee will work on the specific details for developing and implementing each of these objectives and tasks as they occur.

Budget

The Education Committee will use the \$2,000 in state funds upon approval by Basin Roundtable in the following manner:

- A) Brochure/Flyer printing and other educational outreach materials including presentation.
- B) Travel dollars for SP Basin Roundtable members and other speakers to present educational programs within and outside the South Platte River Basin.
- C) Food & beverage

III. Partnerships

Groups existing in the South Platte Basin as potential outreach and education partners include but are not limited to:

- CSU: Colorado Climate Center and Colorado Water Institute
- Clear Creek Watershed Foundation
- Poudre Learning Center
- Big Thompson Watershed Forum
- Boulder Keep It Clean Partnership
- Municipal members of the SPBRT
- Metro State College - One World, One Water Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship
- Conservancy District members of the SPBRT
- Conservation and other Organizations

Specific partnership opportunities and tasks will be developed in the first and second quarters in conjunction with the detail for implementing the objectives and tasks.

IV. Assessment

- A) Robust participation by committee members in planning and implementation
- B) Review of committees and subcommittees; report on accomplishments and suggestions for renewal
- C) Review of WSRA grants and summary of accomplishments presented to the Roundtable
- D) At least two identified partnerships pursued and maintained
- E) Production and distribution of more than 300 informational flyers to public
- F) Use of Headwaters Magazine on State Water Plan in at least three planned events
- G) Production of presentation materials in conjunction with HDR/West Sage/CFWE
- H) At last three meetings throughout basin delivered and attended by 25% of targeted public officials

- I) Display of roundtable content and BIP/State Water Plan efforts at a minimum of three events or venues
- J) Collection of at least 20 comments (cards or general feedback) at roundtable outreach events on BIP and State Plan
- K) Member notebook information updated and each new member is oriented by the Chairperson
- L) By end of 2015, at least ten new stakeholders attend a South Platte roundtable meeting or contact the Chairperson for more information
- M) Improve the reporting of WSRA grants impacts and outcomes