



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Colorado's Water Plan sets forth the measurable objectives, goals, and critical actions needed to ensure that Colorado can maintain our state's values into the future. This is an update on implementation progress.

SUPPLY DEMAND GAP

- Reducing the supply and demand gap is ultimately tied to actions in conservation, storage, land use, and ATMs. **Updating the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)** to provide accurate and current technical information for many of these efforts is fundamental to success. The SWSI update process kicked off July 2016.
- The CWCB and the IBCC are working to revise the **Water Supply Reserve Fund criteria and guidelines** to explicitly link funding requests to the goals and measureable outcomes identified in the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan. This will ensure that our funding decisions are congruent with the goals of Colorado's Water Plan. Draft criteria and guidelines were presented to the CWCB Board in July and the IBCC in August. Final criteria and guidelines will be presented to the CWCB Board for approval in November.

STORAGE

- The CWCB is financially supporting a variety of **storage efforts and innovations**, including a study of storage options in the South Platte (required under HB 16-1256), exploring groundwater storage technology, and conducting a spillway analysis to identify existing storage that could be expanded.
- Earlier this year, state and federal partners, as well as community stakeholders, completed a **Lean event** on the water project permitting process. The Lean team is focused on implementing its recommendations to streamline the permitting process while maintaining rigorous environmental protection.

CONSERVATION AND LAND USE

- The CWCB is developing a variety of **trainings** that will be held over the next couple of years for local governments, utilities, and land use planners to increase water-saving actions and the integration of land use and water planning. The first of the trainings focused on "*Breaking Down Silos: Integrating Water into Land Use Planning Webinar Series*" was held on September 13th. There were over 100 participants in the webinar. There will be two other webinars and a train-the-trainer session over the next few months.

- For the **Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue**, the second exploratory scenario planning workshop was held in July 2016. The Keystone Policy center is working with Denver Water, Aurora Water, and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) to model the data to quantify the future scenarios.
- The CWCB is looking at **lessons learned from the legislation on indoor watersense** fixtures to inform the legislation on outdoor watersense requirements called for in the plan.

AGRICULTURE

- The CWCB and IBCC are hosting an **Ag Viability Summit** in partnership with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) on November 29. The agenda will include discussions about how to encourage regional planning for system-wide conservation and fleshing out the needs for an ag viability grant program.
- The CWCB is participating in a **workshop at CU** on meeting the Alternative Ag Transfer Mechanisms (ATM) goal in Colorado's Water Plan on October 7th. Discussions will include creative ways to support and facilitate ATM projects. CAWA, the Ditch & Reservoir Company Association, and Colorado Cattlemen's Association have also been working on ATM education and development.
- The Arkansas Basin pilot water sharing project with **Catlin Canal** is in its second year with favorable results that suggest statutory changes aimed at incenting alternatives to buy-and-dry transactions.

WATERSHED HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

- We are looking at providing an **additional \$5 million** (through the CWCB funding plan) to the Watershed Restoration Program to work with roundtables and stakeholder groups to develop watershed restoration and stream management plans and projects for the priority streams identified in Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and other watershed planning documents.
- The CWCB helped put on workshops at the Colorado Water Congress summer conference in August 2016 on **Stream Management Plans**: what they are and how to develop one. Another workshop will be hosted on Tuesday, October 11th at the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds conference.
- The CWCB will be including **climate change impacts** in the SWSI update.

EDUCATION

- The CWCB is working with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and the One World One Water Center at Metro State University of Denver to develop a proposal for a **Water Education Assessment** to improve long-term water education program evaluation, identify gaps in water education, and develop case studies of successful programs and best practices to share statewide. The assessment will help align funding with educational priorities statewide.
- The CWCB created an **e-newsletter** to update stakeholders on Colorado's Water Plan implementation and the work of the CWCB Board and staff, IBCC, basin roundtables, and local communities. The next issue will go out the first week of October.

INNOVATION

- The CWCB is working to connect with and create partnerships with the innovation community, including the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN) and Something Independent, to create pathways for the private sector and the water community to work together to tackle the state's water challenges and focus on innovating with **water data**.

FUNDING

- Funding is critical to many of our implementation efforts. The CWCB will continue to align funding decisions with Colorado's Water Plan. We are developing a **3-5 year funding plan** that will create a repayment guarantee fund, bolster the WSRF program, and support several education, conservation, reuse, and agricultural viability actions called for in the plan. The following funding plan is being developed by the CWCB staff, which will seek approvals from the CWCB Board and the legislature through the annual project's bill, to kick-start water funding for plan implementation:
 - a one-time investment of up to \$50 million (as available) into a repayment guarantee fund;
 - an annual transfer of \$10 million for the Water Supply Reserve Fund;
 - an annual transfer of \$5 million for the Watershed Restoration Program;
 - and an annual transfer of \$10 million for additional non-reimbursable CWCB programming to implement Colorado's Water Plan.

USE OF \$5 MILLION FROM 2016 PROJECTS BILL

Of the \$5 million transferred in the 2016 Projects Bill to assist in the implementation of Colorado's Water Plan, staff is recommending the following approximate amounts to the Board for appropriation in 2017:

- \$1 million will support efforts with watershed-level flood and drought planning and response;
- \$.5 million for grants to provide technical assistance to irrigators for assistance with federal cost-sharing improvement programs;
- \$1.2 million for water forecasting and measuring efforts;
- \$1.3 million to update reuse regulations as well as to fund a training program for local water providers to better understand AWWA's methodology for water loss control; and
- \$1 million to support the Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program.

