

MEMO

To: Ben Wade, CWCB

From: Amelia Nuding, Western Resource Advocates

RE: 50% Completion Report regarding the "Tap Fee Workshop Series in Colorado"

Date: September 26, 2016

This memo provides a 50% completion report on WRA's progress to date for the Tap Fee Workshop Series in Colorado project (PO#: POGGI PDAA 20170000000000000044). As stated in our proposal, this report includes an update on: I.) The final logistics for each workshop including dates, locations, and agendas (including identified speakers); and II.) A record of contacts and outreach conducted to date.

I. The dates and locations for all workshops have been confirmed in the three regions proposed - the West Slope (Garfield County), Northern Colorado (Larimer County), and South Metro (Douglas County) - and in the time frame proposed (October and November). The workshop dates and locations are:

- **October 19, West Slope (Garfield County)**
Glenwood Hot Springs
415 E. 6th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Iron Mountain Room
- **October 28, Northern Colorado (Larimer County)**
The Ranch
Larimer County Fairground and Events Complex
5280 Arena Circle
Loveland, CO 80538
Thomas McKee Building
Room: Berthoud and Loveland Rooms
- **November 4, South Metro (Douglas County)**
175 Kellogg Court
Castle Rock, CO 80109
Building 183 (enter through Gate C)
Room: Utilities Ops Center Meeting Room (second floor)

The agendas for each of the workshops are still under development, speakers listed in *italics* have been invited or identified but not yet confirmed. The following is the draft agenda for all three workshops.

Tap Fee Workshop Agenda (working draft)

1. Registration & Networking **8:30 – 9:00**
2. Welcome and Introductions **9:00 – 9:20**
 - a. Introduction

- b. Goals for the day
- c. Ice breaker – meet and greet
- 3. Tap fees in your Community **9:20 – 10:30**
 - a. Small groups – share tap fee issues of interest and highest priority
 - b. Report out to group
- 4. Break **10:30 – 10:45**
- 5. Presentations about Tap Fee Structures – **10:45 – 12:00**

Italics indicate the speaker is not yet confirmed.

Glenwood Springs	Loveland	Castle Rock
Jason Cowles–Eagle RiverWSD	Brad Wind – Northern Water	Mark Marlowe – Castle Rock
Amelia Nuding - WRA	Stu Feinglas - Westminster	Lyle Whitney - Aurora
<i>Joe Burtard – Ute Water CD</i>	<i>Nancy Koch - Little Thompson</i>	<i>Curtis Mitchell - Fountain</i>

- 6. Lunch & Networking **12:00 – 1:00**
- 7. Developer Builder Panel **1:00 – 1:45**
 - a. Amelia Nuding reports on recent developer survey

Italics indicate the speaker is not yet confirmed.

Glenwood Springs	Loveland	Castle Rock
<i>Scott Smith - CO HBA</i>	<i>Greg Miedema - NoCO HBA or Scott Smith - CO HBA</i>	Joe Stifter – DR Horton (or he can do Loveland panel, but not both)
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Gino Campana – Bellissimo Inc.</i>	<i>Gene Myers – Thrive Homebuilders</i>
<i>TBD</i>		<i>Castle Rock’s Lanterns developer</i>

- 8. Breakout group & Discussion **1:45-3:00**
- 9. Networking Hour (optional) **3:00 – 4:00**

- II. The complete record of outreach conducted to date is included as an excel file, and is summarized below. Targeted outreach will continue up until the workshop dates to increase attendance, and to provide a good balance of participants (utilities, builders, developers, and consultants).

	West Slope	Northern Colorado	South Metro
# Persons – reached out to	46	28	29
# Persons– successfully contacted	20	22	5
Total RSVPs	12	27	10

“Reached out to” means an email was sent, or phone call placed. “Successfully contacted” means a conversation was had in person, by phone or (rarely) by email.

Successes and Obstacles

It is clear from conversations with utility staff and builders in Northern Colorado that this issue is extremely important. Reasons include: the high cost of Colorado-Big Thompson water in relation to the drive to provide affordable housing; the requirement that developers obtain water rights independently, rather than purchasing from the utility; the shift from single-family residences to attached units and multi-family housing options; and a growing interest in providing reduced tap fees in proportion to reduced water usage in new developments. For these reasons, registration at the Northern Colorado workshop is the strongest (currently 27).

Conversations with stakeholders in South Metro have revealed a strong interest as well. Reasons for this include: an interest in conservation-oriented tap fees that have been adopted by neighboring communities already (such as Aurora, Castle Rock and Fountain); recognition of limited water supplies and a desire for continued growth; and the high cost of tap fees in many communities. Registration for this event (currently 10), is currently trending quite a bit lower than Northern Colorado however, I believe this is more of a reflection of less outreach effort performed to date, than a lack of interest. Conveniently, it is the last workshop scheduled, which allows for more time to continue outreach and boost attendance.

Through conversations with stakeholders on the West Slope, it is clear that this topic is significantly less pressing than in the other regions of the state. The topic of most interest to communities interviewed is how best to structure tap fees to pay for significant infrastructure investments, such as treatment plant expansions. Reasons for reduced interest in this topic may include: typically lower fees on the West Slope than on the Front Range; a short summer irrigation season which makes the issue around water for landscaping less pressing; and a higher sophistication of tap fee structures that are already demand based. 12 people are currently registered for this event.

Importantly, these events are still on average one month away, so it is expected that as the date gets closer registrations numbers will increase. Promotion efforts will continue over the next month, with an effort to reach stakeholders through other associations and list-serves. For example, we have recently promoted these workshops through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado Municipal League, the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (water Quality/Quantity committee), and the Colorado Basin Roundtable.