

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan (2015-2018)

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 2015-2018, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable will strengthen its Education & Outreach efforts through the creation of their Education Action Plan (EAP). To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) has created an education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to receive up to \$6,500.00 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

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

1. Nathan Coombs, Conejos Water Conservancy, Rio Grande Basin RT Chairman
2. Heather Dutton, *Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Vice-Chair, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy.*
3. Judy Lopez. Ed Liason – Member, *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, PEPO Coordinator; Colorado Open Lands SLV Conservation Project Manager.*
4. Helen Smith, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Outreach Specialist
5. Rio de la Vista. *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Member RIGHT.*
6. Kevin Terry, *Trout Unlimited and Basin RT Member*
7. Cindy Medina, *Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Member*
8. Emma Reiger, *Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, Executive Director; Basin Roundtable Member*

9. Travis Smith, *CWCB and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Appointee*
10. Ron Brink, *RG Basin Roundtable Member.*
11. Charlie Speilman, *RG Basin Roundtable Member. RG Basin Roundtable Member.*
12. Cleave Simpso, *Rio Grande Water Conservation District, General Manager; RG Basin Roundtable Member.*

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.			
OBJECTIVE	TASKS	LEAD(S)	TIMELINE
TOPIC 1: Outreach. Participate in Outreach and Education Efforts for the State and Rio Grande Basin Water Plan. To include monthly articles to the newspaper, monthly radio shows and production of Video Vignettes regarding: Colorado Water Law, RG Basin Compact and Well Rules and Regulations	Article Writing, Radio Interviews	Judy Lopez, Helen Smith, Travis Smith, and Various RT Members	July 2015 through June 2018

<p>TOPIC 2: Watershed Education for RG Basin to include outreach meetings and attendance at a variety of organizational meetings where Video Vignettes will be used and input from audience used to drive RT process</p>	<p>Sponsor Specific Outreach Meetings</p> <p>Use the video vignettes to educate</p> <p>Attend at a variety of organizational meetings to promote Basin and State Water Plan objectives and get input regarding Basin processes.</p>	<p>Travis, Judy, and all RT members</p>	<p>July 2015 through June 2018</p>
	<p>Oversight and Subcommittee meetings for State and Basin Plan</p>	<p>All RT members</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>TOPIC 3: Provide a medium for all residents, civic groups, water entities and local governments to be able to speak and understand water.</p>	<p>Provide Tours of Roundtable Projects</p> <p>Use Video Vignettes to educate all valley residents, water groups, civic organizations and local government entities.</p>	<p>Judy, Helen, Travis and RT Board</p>	<p>July 2015 through June 2018</p>

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
11. Conejos Water Conservancy
12. Trinchera Water Conservancy

Budget. Resources needed to complete each task, detailed in an overall budget, assuming and \$6500 annual cap in state funds. The budget listed below is for FY 2015-2016.

<u>TOPIC 1:</u>	<i>Outreach Materials</i>	<i>FY 2015-2016</i>	<i>\$3500</i>
<u>TOPIC 2:</u>	<i>Groups and committee presentations and tours</i>		
		<i>FY 2015-2016</i>	<i>\$2000</i>
<u>TOPIC 3:</u>	<i>Rio Grande Basin Water 101 Booklet more printing</i>		
		<i>FY 2015-2016</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>
	<u>Total of all expenditures:</u>		<u>\$6500.00</u>

Assessment.

Topic 1 and 2: 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 water activities, and; b) attendees felt the event was worth their time. (*This assessment will be conducted using a written survey*) C.) participants will be motivated to participate in Round table meetings and Events.

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 Roundtable meetings.

Sustainability Framework. It is recommended that the PEPO Liaison, Education Subcommittee and Executive Committee develop a strategy that ensures to a reasonable degree that educational activities are beneficial and useful to participants and get adjusted to meet participant needs in the 2016-2017 and 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.