

Colorado's Water Plan – Funding Strategy
Talking Points and FAQs
June 14, 2018

The following are general talking points and FAQs for corresponding with constituents, and other interested parties, about Colorado's Water Plan – Funding Strategy process and group.

Talking Points

Issue: Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) was completed in 2015 and created a blueprint for better water management in Colorado, but implementation of the plan requires sustainable funding and currently the plan has only been partially funded through a portion of the Severance Tax. The estimated funding gap is around \$100 Million per year over a 20-year period.

About the Group: Colorado's Water Plan - funding strategy group is an informal group that brings together a diverse set of leaders and perspectives from across Colorado to help identify a viable strategy to secure funding and implement the CWP.

Objectives: The group hopes to reach consensus in the following areas related to a funding strategy:

- What is needed to implement the priorities in the Colorado Water Plan;
- Proposed governance structure for distributing funds and making funding decisions;
- Proposed mechanism to provide funding.

Timeline: The group will meet four times over the summer. Once a strategy has been identified the group will discuss additional engagement strategies and the groups best suited to carry the work forward.

Funding Source: The proposed mechanism for funding the Water Plan has not been identified but may include: private funds, public funds, tax revenue, fees, or other sources of revenue.

Getting Involved: The group is not currently looking to expand the number of participants, however, there are other avenues for interested parties to engage and stay informed on the process. Please contact Keystone Policy Center with any questions.

FAQs

Where can I find more information about the process?

Any questions related to the Funding Strategy process can be directed to Keystone Policy Center –Matt Mulica, mmulica@keystone.org; or Cally King, cking@keystone.org

Who is involved in the group?

This group is meant to generally be representative, but not all-inclusive, of water interests in the State of Colorado. Participants within the group include state government, municipalities and water providers, agriculture interests, conservation and recreation organizations, and businesses. Please see below for a list of involved organizations.

Are participants bound to outcomes?

The group is informal and non-binding and participants are striving for consensus but certainly can walk away from the table at any time.

Convening Organizations:

Gates Family Foundation
Walton Family Foundation

Involved Organizations:

Terry Fankhauser, Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Bob Randall, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Gail Klapper, Colorado Forum
Carrie Besnette Hauser, Colorado Mountain College
Sam Mamet, Colorado Municipal League
Luis Benitez, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
Andy Mueller, Colorado River District
Becky Mitchell, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Kelly Brough, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Jim Lochhead, Denver Water
Dan Grossman, Environmental Defense Fund
Johnny LeCoq, Fishpond
Paul Bruchez, Grand County Rancher and Outfitter
John Stulp, Interbasin Compact Committee
Joe Frank, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
Brad Wind, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Carlos Fernandez, The Nature Conservancy
John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Jon Goldin-Dubois, Western Resources Advocates

Third Party Facilitator:

Keystone Policy Center

About Keystone Policy Center:

Keystone Policy Center is a trusted non-profit organization founded in 1975 to drive actionable, shared solutions to contentious agriculture, environment, energy, education, and public health issues.