

POGG1 PDAA 201800000202
Metro and South Platte Roundtables
Education Coordinator Position
Final Report to CWCB
June 25, 2019

Background on the South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables

In 2005 nine Basin Roundtables were established to facilitate discussions on water issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions. The nine basin roundtables represent the eight major river basins of Colorado with one exception: the South Platte Basin, which includes two roundtables, the Metro Roundtable (Denver) and the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Given the integrated water needs of the two designated “basins,” however, the South Platte Roundtable and Metro Roundtable decided to develop a single Basin Implementation Plan for the South Platte River Basin.

The South Platte Basin’s urban areas collectively account for over half of the state’s economic activity, it is home to seven of the top ten food producing counties in the state, and contains the state’s most-visited state parks where water is the main attraction. To successfully meet the growing municipal water needs of Colorado’s Front Range while maintaining a vibrant agricultural economy and protecting and enhancing environmental and recreational water uses, coordination and cooperation among a diverse group of water users and decision-makers will be needed.

The **Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA)** is working with the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables to engage and support an individual to serve as Education Coordinator to oversee internal roundtable and external stakeholder educational activities as the Roundtables proceed to implement their Education Action Plan (EAP), South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and Colorado’s Water Plan (CWP) using the Roundtables Strategic Communication Plan (SCP).

The South Platte PEPO Committee currently consists of: Bruce Gerk, Joe Frank, Sean Cronin, Morgan Lynch, Kelsea Holloway, Garrett Varra and Casey Davenhill.
As a group, we have identified priority objectives to be:

- provide professional, informative educational activities in the region;
- promote increased understanding of South Platte Basin Implementation Plan;
- provide information on regional water projects, studies and related issues;
- engage with community members and regional stakeholders;
- encourage community participation in solution based discussions of issues and recommendations;
- explain the water supply gap.

For more information on the Roundtables, visit the website at: <http://www.southplattebasin.com>.
For more information on CWA, visit the website at: <http://www.coloradowater.org/>.

Reporting Requirements: Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues. Applicants are required to submit Progress

Reports to their respective Roundtable (s) and the CWCB. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

Education Coordinator Position

In August of 2017 CWA developed and published a Request for Qualifications for the position of Education Coordinator for the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. Lacey Williams was hired to execute the Scope of Work set forth in the WSRF Grant Scope of Work.

Since January of 2018 Lacey Williams has provided the following articles for publication:

1. 1-page Summary of the South Platte Storage Study, written and distributed to RT members and LRE Consultants Jan/Feb 2018 (reviewed but not finalized or published)
2. Attend Public Meeting April 3, at the Longmont Library, to learn about Grant Funding Available to Help Colorado's Front Range Address Water Shortage, Press Release March 2018
3. A Question of Balance, RMW May 2018, p. 18-21.
4. Investing in the Future of Farming
5. South Platte Learning Expeditions, RMW June 2018, p. 14-18
6. Using Theatre to Teach Kids About Water, Works!, RMW September, p. 35-37
7. South Platte Storage Study recap, unpublished
8. New Educational Resource Simplifies Colorado Hydrology, Water Education Colorado, Mar. 2019
9. Where does our water come from?, Colorado Foundation for Agriculture, Spring 2019
10. New Educational Resource Simplifies Colorado's Water Story, RMW, Spring 2019

Casey Davenport helped to coordinate and spoke at the Society for Range Management Grass Tour 'The Shape of Water and distributed literature to over 50 participants. Casey has attended West Greeley, Southeast Weld and Upper South Platte Watershed Association meetings (which is really more like middle South Platte made up of Agate, Big Thompson, Boulder Valley, Deer Trail, Douglas County, East Adams, Jefferson, Ft. Collins, Kiowa, Longmont, Platte Valley, Southeast Weld, West Adams, West Arapahoe and West Greeley Conservation Districts) to provide informational handouts and inform the groups about the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. Casey also hosted a booth at the Colorado Association of Conservation District's Annual Meeting, November 18-20, 2019

Lacey Williams continued conversations with Denver Water, Denver Public Works, Aurora Water, Northern Water, Colorado Water Congress, Water Education Colorado, Peak, One World One Water, Colorado State University Extension, Poudre Learning Center, Outdoor Recreation Trade Show and the Alliance Center to develop annual calendar of events and to form the basis for evaluating potential partnerships and collaboration.

The first outreach effort under this contract was to participate in the the Outdoor Recreation Show, Colorado Convention Center in Denver in July 23 – 26, 2018. This was an opportunity to create an inventory of display materials including finding, updating and utilizing a WATER 2012 display and to create simple maps and banners. This was also the first major volunteer staffed effort. Eight Metro and South Platte Roundtable members staffed the booth which was shared with Water Education Colorado. The PEPO Committee will evaluate the effort. Samples of display materials developed are attached to this report.

Additional outreach included developing a 4-hour Water Workshop and participation in the Colorado Farm Show in January 29 – 31, 2019 in Greeley and the Poudre Runs Through it, February 1, 2019. This audience includes municipal and industrial water users, recreation and environmental interests as well as the agricultural community. Program excerpts are included in this report.

Working with Colorado Watershed Assembly staff, Lacey has also begun a review of the website www.southplattebasin.com and has started to develop a 'fact sheet' infographic similar to the handout used in the Arkansas Basin. The Colorado Watershed Assembly has created a bandanna graphic and completed the 'fact sheet' infographic in its first form. Examples of both have been provided in previous reports.

Colorado Watershed Assembly staff completed updates to the website including coordination with the Open Water Foundation to develop a 'home' for the South Platte Data Platform. Three 'story maps' can be found at www.southplattebasin.com. Colorado Watershed Assembly staff monitors the site and the associated e-mail southplattebasin@coloradowater.org. Analytics for the website through the date of this report are included.

The South Platte PEPO Committee consists of: Bruce Gerk, Joe Frank, Sean Cronin, Julio Iturreria, Laura Kroeger, Scott Schreiber, Jeffrey Boring, Garrett Varra and Casey Davenport. As a group, we have identified priority objectives to be:

- provide professional, informative educational activities in the region;
- promote increased understanding of South Platte Basin Implementation Plan;
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- encourage community participation in solution based discussions of issues and recommendations;
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After seeing videos created by the Arkansas Roundtable, the South Platte and Metro Roundtable members voiced some enthusiasm for videos highlighting topics found in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

During recent general RT meetings and Education Committee meetings, the development of a video series focused on South Platte Basin related topics and audiences has been identified as a communications priority.

Discussions with Roundtable members, other Basin Roundtable members who have completed or are in the process of video production, and video/communications experts have provided some basic budget and planning guidelines which will be further developed in 2019.

The Colorado Watershed Assembly, with the support of the South Platte and Metro Roundtable leadership, developed a new WSRF grant application which was approved in January. In that application we anticipated some significant new developments with respect to education and outreach in the South Platte Basin. Specifically, the Colorado Water Conservation Board

(CWCB) has engaged Water Education Colorado (WECO) to develop a Statewide Education Action Plan (SWEAP). Colorado Watershed Assembly staff is participating on the SWEAP process to develop consistent and locally relevant messaging reflecting the diversity of interests in the northern front range and northeastern Colorado. We plan to use materials developed with this WSRF grant as we defer to the statewide planning process for any new information, messaging or formats. We do emphasize the desirability of locally appropriate messaging options that promote the unique 'personality' of the South Platte Basin.

The Roundtables have begun work with the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) to commence the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study (now known as the South Platte River Water Opportunity Group - SPROWG). This effort will include significant outreach which includes "...development of an Education Action Plan to guide efforts to engage stakeholders from throughout the Basin and solicit their ideas and perspectives. Development of the Plan will entail coordination with...the **Task Force**, the Roundtables (including, especially, PEPO representatives)..."¹ Our Education Committee will work closely with SPROWG Task Force and contractor to leverage outreach and education efforts and resources, such as www.southplattebasin.com, to "...promote well-informed community discourse and decision making regarding balanced water solutions."¹

The Colorado Watershed Assembly chose to utilize our own staff to perform the duties we had completed under this grant going forward into 2019. We learned that our own website management capacity was needed to maintain and update southplattebasin.com and that other technical expertise could be called upon as needed, for example to further explore the feasibility of a South Platte Basin themed video. Lacey Williams is no longer engaged as 'Education Coordinator' by Colorado Watershed Assembly, that contract being successfully completed in April, 2019. We plan to engage and expand the Education Committees of both Roundtables and focus our efforts in anticipation of Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plan updates.

The Colorado Watershed Assembly hosted four Education Committee meetings to evaluate progress toward deliverables under this grant. The attached PowerPoint presentation is a recap to the Roundtables reiterating our guiding documents, priorities and includes website analytics.

Invoices were reviewed and paid; request for reimbursement was requested and received for disbursements through June, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, Section 1)h.