



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



COLORADO

Department of Local Affairs

Division of Local Government

Colorado Water and Land Use Planning Alliance

Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 1:00-4:00 PM

Colorado Municipal League

1144 Sherman Street

Denver, CO 80203

Welcome

- Last meeting was June 5th, 2019
- New Members Welcome
 - Mary Ann Dickenson, **Alliance for Water Efficiency**
 - Heather Stauffer, **CML**
 - Remembrance and recognition of the great loss of Andre Dozier

Alliance Member Updates

- KC McFerson – **DOLA**
 - Alliance meeting summaries and projects map are live on [CO Water Plan webpage](#)
 - Several recent presentations to describe Alliance and member work, including DOLA Small Communities Workshop and Water Congress
 - Save the date for State Demography Office's [annual summit](#) on November 1st. To register for in-person attendance or live streaming, click [here](#).
 - On behalf of Rocky Piro, the statewide survey project got the green light to move forward. The Colorado Center for Sustainable Urbanism is recruiting graduate student assistants for the project. A “working version” of the tool is underway. Once it reaches a good point it will be piloted with Alliance members who offered to review. Once assistants are on board, the Alliance will be contacted to help with updating the list of local jurisdiction contacts.
- Mary Ann Dickinson – **Alliance for Water Efficiency**
 - The Alliance for Water Efficiency has developed [Net Blue](#), which is a collaborative initiative and a multi-part project and includes a free water efficiency packet. Contact Mary Ann if you'd like one.
 - Co-chair of [APA Water and Planning Network](#), which is a new network but has already had a conference September 2018 in Kansas City called [Water and Planning Connect](#) geared toward better connecting water and land use moving forward.
- Greg Fisher – **Denver Water**
 - Working with Jim Holway and others on the land use and water RMLUI track.
 - Working on issues around analyzing how economics fits into the picture.
 - Finally, digging in on landscape needs as city changes in density.

- **Kevin Reidy – CWCB**
 - Just had grant deadline for Colorado Water Plan grants and anticipating funding 5 strong projects.
 - Next deadline is February 1, 2020. There is still a significant amount of money left.
 - Andre's project will be continued and taken over by Mazadak Arabi (CSU) and modified for timelines. This is a good project and will keep moving forward.
- **Jeremy Stapleton – Sonoran Institute**
 - Next round of Growing Water Smart is this week. After this round, the program will have served over 50% of Colorado's residents. The hope is that all will take action.
 - Currently reviewing Round 3 technical assistance requests and refining the scopes of work.
 - Held the metrics project meeting #2 this morning and Brendle Group will provide that update later in the agenda.
 - Ancillary to Colorado, will be hosting the first [Growing Water Smart in Arizona](#) in February. There were 10 applications with 7 to be accepted.
- **Heather Stauffer – CML**
 - Heather is on board as CML's new legislative advocate.
 - Focus is on water issues.
- **Amy Volkens – Brendle Group**
 - Will update on metrics later in the agenda.
 - One key challenge to consider and that is discussed in guidance documents: water providers have staff turnover so how do you codify and institutionalize given that turnover?
- **Anne Castle – CU Getches-Wilkinson Center**
 - Erin/Scott will update about education and outreach regarding the new guidance document for water providers integrating land use techniques into water efficiency plans.
 - Did a webinar in conjunction with SDA to provide an overview of the guidance document.
 - Hoping to do another webinar with CML as a heads up to membership and then participants can follow up with more in depth workshop.
- **Fiath Sternleib – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - Supporting a number of projects with Alliance members, such as Growing Water Smart, Water Efficiency Plan outreach and education, etc.
 - Working diligently on the RMLUI land and water track particularly with Jim, Greg, Kevin, Susan, and others.
 - Austin Troy and Gretel Follingstad's project update: project will model future yard irrigation in the Front Range. While there has been progress and obstacles (such as data acquisition), the project is funded by the [Water Research Foundation](#) and the work is in conjunction with Aurora, Denver, and Castle Rock. Denver Water assessed data sharing management plans which has evolved and sharing will happen soon. Data should

emerge soon from Aurora and Castle Rock. The project will look at future housing types, for example diversity of housing types in municipalities and across region to understand future yard water use.

- Indicators project update: this project is led by the Babbitt Center and supported by partners such as John from WRA and Ashley Hullinger at the University of Arizona [Water Research Center](#). The project is supported by an intern and will help figure out what kind of indicators we can measure to track land and water integration in the larger Colorado River basin. In other words, the metrics project is for the local level and the indicators project is the larger scale. There will be a story map in time for RMLUI and some baseline data. Rocky Piro's results will be used, if applicable, and working with ASU will result in a basin wide survey.
- **Karen Hancock – City of Aurora**
 - Working on a [new zoning code](#) with a conservation landscaping section and a smaller standard lot side on the eastern plains. It was approved by council and will effect on appx. 9/20.
 - For the future, there are some applications for developments in the city that are all small lots and some coming up are a mixture of small and previous standard sized lots. The hope is to look at those as development patterns to see if we can get some data from that and seize the opportunity to compare old vs. new standards. This will be the first time we have the ability to look at square miles of development rather than small infill projects. Stay tuned for a request for Alliance group input.
- **Erin Rugland – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - The webinar regarding Water Efficiency Plans done in conjunction with SDA is on [WEco's website](#) and on the [Colorado Water Plan site](#). You can also ask Erin for a Youtube link.
 - The [comprehensive plans project](#) has been ongoing and just wrapped a summer project phase with interns. Currently looking at what was all collected.
 - Faith: there will be a specialty conference for AWRA in Denver in 2021 – this group will be asked for thoughts on the plan.
- **Jeff Tejral – Denver Water**
 - There are 2 projects working to get new development to be as efficient as possible, incentivized through development credit. Denver Water has been working with developers and that will wrap in March.
 - Finalizing green codes with City of Denver.
 - Reviewing Chapter 6, which is the water deficiency portion.
 - Pending CWCB funding, planning to do a greywater pilot project for 40 SF units somewhere in Denver (because that is where it is allowed).
 - Participating in One Water Plan, which is integrating all water within the city. The timeline will kick off by the end of September and it is using a stakeholder process. This is likely the first one water plan in Colorado so there will be time spent nailing down the process.
- **Waverly Klaw – Sonoran Institute**

- In a new position with Sonoran Institute, transitioned from DOLA.
- Looking ahead to spring GWS, currently zeroing in on dates and hoping for April or maybe early May so please reach out with any conflicts.
- Also engaging with the development community and working with Amelia and John on a joint RMLUI session for that.
- Finally, talking with Urban Land Institute for targeted engagement to tell stories of what developers are doing or want to do. Please reach out if you have any ideas along the lines of infill or examples from the plains or other areas to create a healthy cross-section.
- **Amelia Nuding – Western Resource Advocates**
 - Note: John is on the phone but his mic is broken.
 - John secured small grant for WRA to continue water and land use training in Utah, which is in beginning stages and they're hoping to do something in conjunction with Utah's CML-equivalent organization next year in the first quarter.
 - Continuing to do outreach and work with local communities to understand needs and challenges around water and LU planning. This is a partnership with Babbitt Center and the WaterNow Alliance. This is also an opportunity to identify resources that might meet the needs of locals in a strategic way where WRA is doing direct technical assistance and in that space also has the opportunity to talk about resources/services of other Alliance members. The hope is that in one year a good number of Colorado communities have been assisted and we'll be able to develop lessons learned and insights to inform future work.
 - Working with Golden on a laundry to landscape greywater ordinance that should be completed by the end of the year.
 - Reminder: the [state policy database](#) is up and running and is old news but has been informing how to supplement community level work.
 - Finally, currently in an exploration phase looking at other issues such as landscape management, 1041 regulations, and other local issues.
- **Susan Wood – APA Colorado**
 - Part of the water and land use committee and will talk later in the agenda about legislation.
- **Scott Williamson – Water Education Colorado**
 - Will have 4 [workshops](#) for water efficiency plans. These start next week in Longmont (that still has 6-8 open spots), then Durango, Pueblo, and Grand Junction. Durango and GJ are associated with existing events, like the [Upper Colorado River Basin Forum](#), so the hope is for a good turnout from that timing.
 - Wrapping up [water fluency program](#) (Sept 24th at Sterling Ranch). Participants include elected officials, nonprofits, water providers, professor from Metro, etc. So, participants are people who intersect with water but aren't water professionals.
 - For next year, hoping to get more early interest and also legislators participating.

- Also, working on finding balance between education and guidance to work toward providing knowledge for informed decision making and discourse. The goal is not to dictate what the endpoint should be, but to encourage that water is incorporated into policy decisions. There may be a statewide education plan around this. A final draft will go to the board on October 4th.
- [Sustaining Colorado Watersheds conference](#) is October 8-10th in Avon.
- Currently planning the annual river basin tour in the Arkansas (in June 2020) as well as a Fort Collins [Pedaling the Poudre](#) September 20-21, which is sold out.
- **Drew Beckwith – City of Westminster**
 - Update on planning – lots of plans. Working with Brendle on a sustainability plan with a target on future water use, a target on health of infrastructure, and other targets on sustainability related items.
 - Updating landscape code to be more water efficient -- looking at reducing setbacks, reducing landscaping, water budgets for each site down to 10g/sq ft total across a site.
 - Drew will update the water conservation plan (not hiring out) so using the guidance document will be very helpful.
 - Kevin: note that you can get a grant to plan the plan but not do the plan.
 - Currently updating the [comprehensive plan](#), which involves a determination of which land use types will happen where and where development will focus. A [water supply plan](#) will be tied to this with a directive that a comprehensive plan cannot be produced that doesn't fit with the water supply plan. As a note, having a budget has been useful for framing conversations around what development should happen where because water is limited and we can't keep going out to get it somewhere else.
 - As a recent data-intensive project, have recently had a 9 month process looking at every parcel in the city to assign a land use code type and extract billing data from the parcel for past 5 years to produce average water use for that parcel. This resulted in about 30 land use types. Now we're in process of trying to figure out where on the exceedance curve they want to be for predicting future water use. A challenge moving forward is that prior analysis didn't project future water use based on land use water use values because in the past representative samples were used rather than the average from a complete census. There is a current issue with finding the appropriate way to estimate future demand because the current projections have a variance that equate to about \$1 billion difference in water demand. So, figuring that out will be a next step.
- **Torie Jarvis – NWCCOG QQ**
 - For those who are new: the NWCCOG covers the headwaters region in the center of the state.
 - Biggest ongoing project is not yet done but there is a water plan grant and support from the roundtable to do an assessment of how well local governments are integrating land use and water. The assessment was the first phase and the second is narrowing in on the most useful land use and water integration tools for resort mountain region and writing guidance for members. The guidance is mostly finished and chapters are being reviewed now by 5-6 planners. The main chapter is about adequate water supply and

how members can beef up reviewing water supply when development apps come through. A model code will accompany the guidance. There will also be recommendations for integrating water into the comprehensive plan. In the region, all members talk about water quality but almost none talk about quantity and almost none have a breakout of supply and demand and an overview of where they are now or in the future. A unique aspect is the opportunity to look at commercial indoor water efficiency which will be helpful for that region for hotels, restaurants, golf, and other water intensive uses are related to resorts. The document also educated and recommends that counties, even though they're not a water provider, understand water sources and demands in their region. This is not a tough sell but education is still necessary.

- Upcoming work: a panel at APA with Marjo and Gretel talking about water & land use integration and guidance. Also, joining KC at half-day planning commissioner training where land use and water will be covered for the first time as a direct result of KC's position.
- NWCCOG is the only COG with a separate water committee. This exists because of the diversion but the hope is that other COGs see the QQ as a model.
- **Shelby Sommer – Brendle Group**
 - Will talk about metrics later in the agenda.
 - Interest is growing at APA CO around water and land use and next year we may reach a critical mass and need a formal presence.
 - Torie: we could host a happy hour.
 - Jeremy: note this Alliance is a forum for putting together presentations. There are audiences we can tap into if we're prepared. Mary Ann will be good to connect with on this.
 - Susan: regarding APA CO, maybe we can do a 2020 something and partner with AWRA when they come to town.
 - Faith: there is lots of interest at the national APA level. Kansas City was a starting point and it will be good to have more activity on these topics farther in the west.
- Anne Castle: as an update on interesting and cutting edge land use planning techniques with water implications, the City of Minneapolis banned single family residential zoning (Drew: the State of Oregon did as well). They didn't do this for water but has implications for water. Their goal was housing affordability and combating racial segregation. But there are water implications because water cost is a part of affordability. (Jeremy: co-benefits like affordability keep coming up).
- Scott: thinking of Torie's comments about trans-basin diversions and water budgets, we should acknowledge state processes that play into avoiding Lake Powell triggering a compact call. One issue for the Front Range is that a lot of rights are junior to the compact so depending on how the call played out, it could have big implications for Front Range water users.
- Susan: a few years ago several people did a session at APA CO about regional planning and regionalism and focused on items without boundaries like water, which crosses jurisdictional

lines. Sometimes you have to join with others (groups/efforts) to come to a good solution and water will help us foster regionalism here.

Metrics for Measuring Water & Land Use Integration

- This morning held workshop 2 of 3 to guide the project process.
- The outcome will be a guidebook of recommended progress and impact metrics (to be drafted December/January).
- Findings will be shared at a number of conferences/events.
- We have a compiled inventory that's being vetted. For this group, the question is what actions are you taking to integrate water and land use and what would you be interested in measuring based on your actions? How do you measure the benefit of what you're doing right now?
- Scott: one lens is social marketing and behavior change strategies. The question is what do social marketing campaigns, for those who do it well, get you? This would be like Denver Water's visible public campaign to use what you need.
- Torie: local government members also feel that's a gap. They don't have time or support to engage that way.
- Amy: we can also discuss co-benefits. We may not measure co-benefits but at least identify them because they're motivators for why you care. Does this group have any to add to the list? (Examples: enhancing eco system services, robust economies, public health, affordability.)
- Anne: this can be a proxy for a lot of goals, like reducing buy and dry, keeping up stream flows, resiliency in the face of climate change, etc.
- Jeremy: the idea is to talk effectively about the goals because the Alliance will be positioned to provide input on the water plan update.
- Susan: the urban and rural divide calls to mind that this is a way to look at benefits for both
- Waverly: another benefit is flood risk mitigation
- Torie: other hazards as well like water quality impacts of forest fires
- John: note that we will be piloting with communities so that's tied to whatever communities are concerned about and not just focusing on meeting the state water plan goal
- Shelby: energy efficiency and more predictability for developers
- Amelia: better plans and processes
- Other ideas: it would be helpful if the [Governor's dashboard](#) included a water connection and if there were a dedicated water person in the administration.

Alliance Progress & Vision for the Future

- Solicited ideas for building out the map of membership work
 - Map should include all of who is doing what where
 - Possible additional layers:
 - GPCD data
 - Water providers with water efficiency plans
 - Comprehensive plans that include water conservation elements
 - Case studies

- Communities that have adopted updates to land use codes with water efficiency generally, then with pop up information with more detail (e.g. limiting turf grass)
 - Boundary lines for all water providers
 - DOLA regional managers
 - River basins
 - Basin roundtables
 - APA regional representatives
 - Note: this map is really a tool for Alliance members in a peer-to-peer context but once we inventory the comparison aspects, it could be relevant to government and consultants
 - There is an ESRI story map training, ask Faith if you're interested
- Alliance Next Steps: where are we going?
 - As we're working toward meeting the water plan goal, we acknowledge the plan will be updated and the Alliance will be a helpful venue to inform recent progress as well as appropriate next goal(s).
 - Faith: the question is how can we leverage our different activities to make progress on the water plan and other progress as well.
 - Jeremy: we're well on our way to achieving awareness of integration among communities, but there's more awareness to be built and resources to be developed. We're not seeing the level of action yet that we need to get to the goal. Some of the findings show us that we need to incentivize action and we need to encourage the capacity to take action. This is the main barrier in communities – not lack of desire or awareness, but lack of ability. What are the resources that are needed next in order to build that capacity?
 - Susan: today we learned a lot about efforts unknown and what we need is to see a list of all efforts going on. What areas are groups targeting and what areas are being missed?
 - Heather: what level are we at now?
 - Jeremy: it's been argued that we've met the goal.
 - John: but how do we measure Alliance impact?
 - Karen: we do need something on the Governor's dashboard and it could help to change the statute to require water in comprehensive plans since everything is voluntary and it could be impactful to make a change at the top.
 - Susan: we need a communications plan. How do we use the work that's been done to move to certain ends?
 - Waverly: we've done a lot of coordination internally and we need to leave no gaps. We're at a point where the Alliance should start facing externally to make the connections for the public, local governments, utilities, planners, etc. This would be helpful in a way that individually we couldn't achieve.
 - Faith: what are members' specific goals?
 - John: 3 goal areas are to build on networking to foster more collaboration and success on the ground, informing state level policy to help direct funding, and celebrate successes and recognize impacts. The goal is to get communities

taking more action and we're doing that by being the resource providers, technical experts and sharing information.

- Heather: before facing externally, we need a firmer idea of where we are – metrics and other projects.
- Anne: We need to update our centralized information. Also, different communities have different goals. We can discuss the benefits and provide resources but nothing succeeds like a statutory mandate, like the one in 2017 to amend local government adequacy statute with a checklist of things local governments need to look at when making water adequacy determination. That had bipartisan sponsorship but didn't pass. That could be a goal.
- Heather: in 2017 CML worked closely with the partners on that and appreciated the negotiation and agreement and is hoping to have a similar process moving forward.
- John: we need 3-4 goal areas with subgroups to bring ideas to the next meeting.
- Faith: we need to update the tools sheet before and at the next meeting.
- Jeremy: we also need to update the map before the next meeting. We also could use a Google calendar of events, grant applications, deadlines for CWCB, conferences, abstract submissions, etc.

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute (RMLUI) 2020 Land Use & Water Track

- Babbitt Center has worked with Susan and Lisa to send a proposal that the board is vetting. Suggestions and recommendations are expected.
- The metrics session isn't listed in the document. It was recommended as a session but isn't included specifically in the 7-slot track. Hopefully the recommendations will be selected.
- Kevin: discussion regarding the utility leader roundtable, which would be a discussion before the conference among high-level utility leadership (and/or staff that does the day-to-day?) with a report out session at RMLUI.
 - Shelby: maybe they could report in pairs (leader + staffer) and also discuss how to handle turnover.
 - Jeremy: this is a good model and the report out is generally well attended. There needs to be a clear connection between water and land use. Only water managers might not work. Also, a report out from a dialogue of a mixed group would be more advantageous. Fort Collins is a good example because Sonoran Institute did workshops with the City land use planners and water providers, so they've had this conversation.
 - Faith: remember the audience is concerned with policy and law and to speak to that audience.
 - Karen: at CML they paired large, medium, and small cities with elected officials and staff and it was very well attended and received. They talked about water and land use. This might not need elected officials but having a director and someone from the trenches worked well for the audience.

Legislation Discussion – Susan Wood

- This was generally a discussion regarding APA working on running water legislation and will be looking to this group for feedback.

- There has been on-and-off discussion about the legislature in 2020 and the idea is to add a water conservation element that links to the state water plan and comprehensive plans for municipalities and counties. The link to the water plan would help implement that plan.
- The last iteration included a water conservation element that was permissive.
- At this point, it is expected to go forward as it was proposed previously.
- Over the next couple of months, language will be updated and eventually feedback will be requested from Alliance members. It's important to have support and partnerships and working previously with CML and CCI was helpful. We don't want to undercut local control because that doesn't work. The plan is to work with all stakeholders and to do something that doesn't just check the box but adds some meat that we don't have right now. Having said that, at the end of the day the only route to success is if local level elected officials are in support of it. Outreach efforts have started to build local support. We know communities are doing water planning already and it's different across the board. We're scheduled to go before the water resources committee this week Thursday but it's snow scheduled for October 24th. The idea is not to show proposed legislation but rather to show how the water plan links to land use and how a difference can be made so that when legislation comes before them, they'll support it.
- For the past two runs, Jeni Arndt has been one of the sponsors and she will be again but it's unclear who the senate sponsor will be.
- APA CO is giving Jeni the 2019 legislator of the year award and in October/early November there will be a celebration for her in her district.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Next meeting – January 8th, 2020
 - Note: there will be a strong emphasis on reviewing where we are now with member work and strategic thinking of where we are going and how we get there.
- Expect communication around an end of year survey/reporting