

**2012 Statewide Roundtable Summit**  
**March 1, 2012; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Broomfield, CO**  
**Meeting Summary**

**BACKGROUND**

**Introduction**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Statewide Roundtable Summit was held on March 1, 2012. Participants included 275 people who registered in advance and an additional twelve “walk-ins.” More than 70 staff and volunteers donated their time and effort to help make the day successful. Roles included registration, note-taking, and table moderation. In addition, several sponsors were critical to being able to provide a reception and food. CDM Smith was the title sponsor. Colorado Springs Utilities and SGM Engineering were lunch sponsors. Northern Water Conservancy District, The Nature Conservancy, Hydros Consulting, and Harris Water Engineering were break sponsors.

**Open and Summary of the Portfolio Path**

Eric Hecox, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), opened the meeting by welcoming participants and recognizing the importance of the Basin Roundtable Summit. The Summit is an opportunity for stakeholders from around the state to engage, share, and learn about water issues and efforts, to discuss the broad range of perspectives surrounding water issues, and to identify key issues and concepts to help advance the dialogue and planning processes.

**Summit Goals**

1. Explore roundtable portfolios for several scenarios and their commonalities and differences
2. Brainstorm initial common implementation elements across portfolios to help inform further Basin Roundtable portfolio development
3. Identify implementation elements that need cross-basin dialogue
4. Initiate long- and short-term implementation efforts to meet both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs

Eric also discussed where the portfolio work is heading, as summarized below.

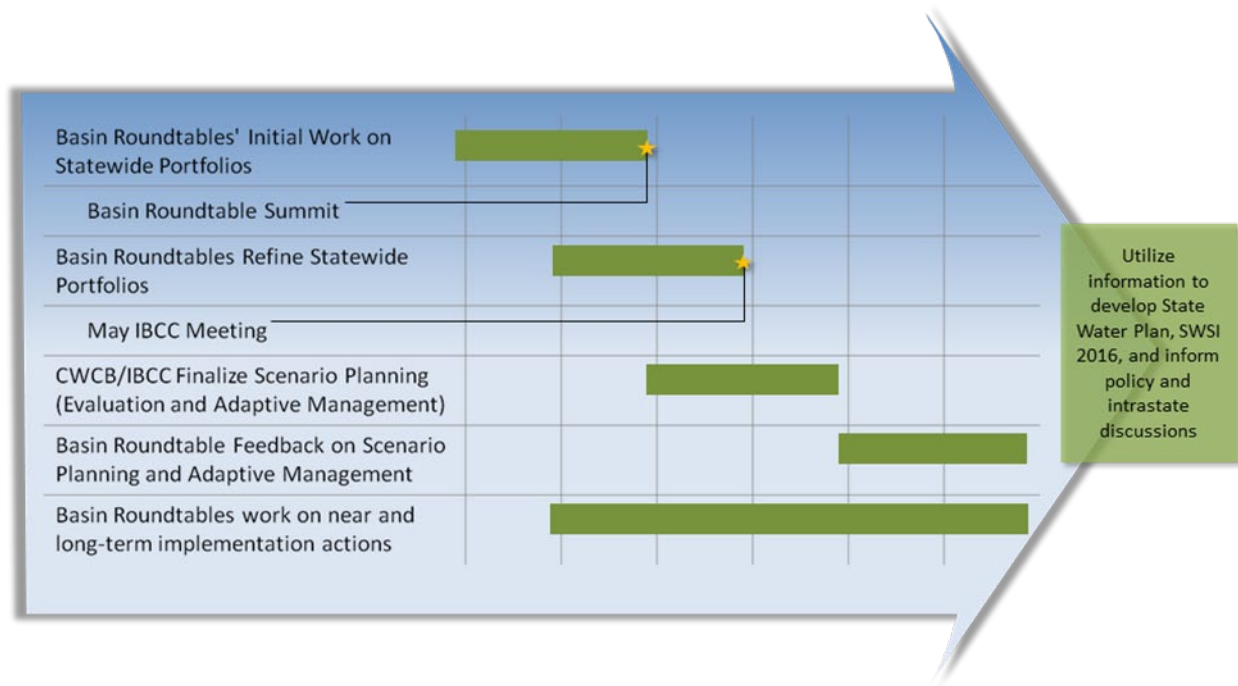
**Portfolios and Future Work**

The basin roundtable (BRT) portfolio and tradeoff analysis exercise is a statewide effort that will help with the development of the Governor’s Water Plan and the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2016. For the last six to nine months, the BRTs have worked with the Portfolio and Tradeoff Analysis Tool to develop various statewide portfolios. The BRTs concluded their early portfolio work in early March in order to share and discuss their portfolio(s) with other BRTs and stakeholders at the Summit. From the information and feedback gained at the Summit, the BRTs will have until the end of April to further refine and finalize their portfolio(s). CWCB staff will then summarize the BRTs’ portfolio work and provide the IBCC with a summary of scenario information to review and discuss at the May IBCC meeting. The IBCC will work to identify commonalities across the portfolios and build several scenarios in order to begin to work through an adaptive management framework for addressing the scenarios. BRTs will have an opportunity to provide feedback during the adaptive management process.

Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of decision making in the face of uncertainty. Its aim is to reduce uncertainty over time through system monitoring, which will indicate which scenario we are entering. The scenario then indicates which portfolios will be needed to address that future. One goal

of the adaptive management framework is to identify common implementation elements for all scenarios and portfolios and their respective impacts and uncertainties as a starting point for an implementation plan that addresses a range of future water supply needs and outcomes. These implementation measures make up a “no regrets” strategy (i.e., implementation of certain identified projects and processes (IPPs), some conservation, minimum agricultural dry-up, pursuit of alternative transfers, and minimum impacts to recreation and the environment).

While the IBCC works through the adaptive management framework, the BRTs will begin to work with CWCB staff to outline nonconsumptive and consumptive implementation needs, priorities, and next steps. The graphic below outlines the portfolio path.



## PART ONE: EXPLORATION OF ROUNDTABLE PORTFOLIOS – COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES

### **Presentation: Understanding the Portfolios**

Jacob Bornstein (CWCB) provided an overview of the 32 portfolios developed over the past six to nine months. Jacob summarized the key commonalities and differences that have emerged from the portfolio work. A write-up of the different portfolios (entitled “Roundtables Portfolio Summary Technical Memo”) is available [here](#).

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **Panel Participants**

Gary Barber, Arkansas BRT  
T. Wright Dickinson, Yampa/White/Green BRT

Melinda Kassen, IBCC Governor Appointee/  
Nonconsumptive Needs Subcommittee

Jim Pokrandt, Colorado BRT  
Mike Preston, Southwest BRT  
Mike Shimmin, South Platte BRT  
Travis Smith, Rio BRT

Bill Trampe, Gunnison BRT  
Barbara Vasquez, North Platte BRT  
Marc Waage, Metro RT

Moderator: Jacob Bornstein (CWCB)

A summary of the moderated discussion is available on the CWCB website as a separate document. The following section highlights portfolio commonalities and themes, and panelists' points of agreement identified by the moderator during the question/answer panel discussion.

#### Values

- There seems to be agreement on three major points:
  1. We have a duty to meet our municipal and industrial needs; however, this needs to be done in a responsible way that balances the tradeoffs.
  2. There will be some agricultural dry-up to meet these needs, but agriculture is interconnected statewide and is a value that should be protected for its economic and food security benefits.
  3. We should minimize impacts to the environment and recreation so that Colorado's image, lifestyle, and economy can be maintained.
- The state's water needs are not going to be met with just one component (i.e., "silver bullet solution"); there is a need for a variety of options and solutions.

#### Demands

- Most roundtables explored a range of demand scenarios and the subsequent tradeoffs as well as the variety of potential impacts from oil shale, groundwater replacement, and climate change.
- As we move forward, there is a need to be prepared for at least medium- and high-demand scenarios.
- We should plan for a range of demand scenarios.

#### IPPs

- IPP success rates outlined in the portfolios range from 71-85%.
- It seems most of the roundtables are interested in each roundtable setting their own reasonable levels of IPP success. However, the North Platte BRT specifically identified low IPP success rates for other basins as a tradeoff to increasing their basin's ability to avoid agricultural transfers and agricultural dry-up. The South Platte BRT did the same for their own basin.
- While the roundtables addressed IPP levels in terms of percentages, the nonconsumptive portfolio addressed IPPs in a project-specific manner.
- Regardless of the mode of analysis used, most portfolios resulted in a fairly similar success rate of 80%.
- There seems to be general agreement that the success of identified projects and processes should be about 80% statewide and that this level can be used to advance planning efforts.

#### Conservation

- All roundtables have stated that conservation is an important part of the solution and that there is a desire to achieve conservation throughout the state. However, there is strong disagreement regarding a reliable amount of conserved water that can be applied to meet new demands (the gap).
- While there is disagreement about whether and how much water saved through conservation can be relied upon to meet future water demands, there is agreement that the 1177 process should

help move Colorado forward with implementation of conservation measures and continued monitoring.

#### New Supply/ Agricultural Transfers

- We need to meet our municipal needs, but we must do so in a way that minimizes the impact to agriculture and nonconsumptive interests.
- There is general agreement regarding the need to plan for a range of water availability scenarios in order to minimize impacts to agriculture and nonconsumptive needs.
- Continued dry-up of agriculture is not in the state's best interest.
- We should plan for a range of water availability scenarios. The 1177 process should support further planning for new supply projects and additional discussion about ways to use alternative agriculture methods to minimize the impact of agriculture dry-up throughout the state.

#### Introduction and Welcome: IBCC Director John Stulp

The Basin Roundtable Summit represents the spirit of the roundtables, how they are contributing to and advising the IBCC and CWCB, and the level of engagement in a ground-up approach being nurtured by the 1177 process. A great deal of progress is being made as we look to the future and try to address the pending water gap, a constant reminder of the urgency for statewide water planning. Sometimes, it takes a specific situation to drive a discussion and motivate progress. Current snow conditions are an example of this in the water arena. However, we cannot wait until there is a crisis at hand to take action. This is why we have the 1177 process and why there are projects currently being developed, so that when we look back we can be proud of the progress we have made and find that rate payers are willing to help with the effort. The discussions regarding what is working are valuable, as is the growing appreciation and understanding of what is happening in other basins. This process has brought about a broadening of perspectives regarding the intricacies and complication of Colorado water issues.

At the end of today's session, the key themes from the day's conversations will be brought together to help guide continued conversations and facilitate implementation efforts. Governor Hickenlooper attended the Summit last year and is a strong supporter of our efforts. He adds value to water conversations and reaches out to cooperate and collaborate throughout the state; water is a high priority for this administration.

#### Governor Hickenlooper's Address

Governor Hickenlooper spoke about the need to continue working collaboratively and highlighted the critical importance of the roundtable process. Notable comments from his speech include:

- Thank you to the CWCB, IBCC, and the basin roundtables. Great work on continuing to move the process forward.
- Only through the collaborative approach can we achieve lasting solutions, but it is hard and time-consuming work. We've seen that through the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, the WISE partnership, and the Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century process we are working within today.
- To make it successful, we need to lay down old prejudices and positions and think about Colorado as a whole. We need to think beyond our own interests. Agriculture, the environment, and a healthy urban economy are all critical for Colorado across both sides of the Divide to maintain and improve our position as a thriving state. Each of these elements is part of Colorado's brand.
- Today you all have the responsibility to identify commonalities and find agreement on what we can move forward, at least in the near term, and to make sure that we have opportunities in the future to adapt to meet the challenges that lie ahead. There is no room for only thinking about one interest or region.

- If successful, we can truly mark 2012 as the Year of Water, the year we coalesced into taking some concrete steps towards our future, when we began using the roundtables to help implement important projects for our cities, our environment, our recreational opportunities, and our food security.
- Let's work together to build Colorado's water future. I know you are up to the challenge. When you feel that you are reverting to positions, I encourage you to take that moment and reflect on the other person's interests. Recognize those interests are important too, and suggest ways in which both values can be met. By doing so, we can craft a balanced way forward in which no tradeoff is too great a burden for one interest or community.
- Together we'll make sure that there is enough water in our rivers and streams to maintain Colorado's healthy environment and recreational opportunities, enough agriculture to sustain us as a state, and enough water to support our growing communities. I know there are viable solutions, and I am relying on all of you to help point the way.
- Last year I announced the need for a state water plan. Your work here today is helping craft a state water plan that is appropriate for Colorado and will be built from the bottom up.

#### Questions to and Responses from the Governor

***Water is a serious problem for the planet, yet we live on a planet that is three-quarters covered by water. How can we address this issue?***

This is why energy and water go hand-in-hand; there is a need to be able to use energy to help with water production.

***What is the energy-water nexus in Colorado, and how do you encourage energy companies in Colorado to use water reliably?***

Water consumption by the oil and gas industry does not have a significant effect on the overall quantity of water consumed statewide, but it is a new issue and we are looking into it. The oil and gas industry is trying to get to develop products that are as harmless and high-quality as possible. In addition, this administration has been working through a facilitated, collaborative process to establish new guidelines for drilling that meet the needs of the state and the oil companies in order to support energy and economic as well as protect the environment, water, and people.

***What is your opinion on the referendum regarding the public trust doctrine that would alter the water adjudication system?*** We are still looking this and will have a formal opinion in a few weeks.

***How can we better communicate to the public water-efficient landscaping alternatives and conservation options in order to help raise awareness of our water issues?*** It is important for people to understand that we are taking water from agriculture in order to support the urban population. There is not an abundance of food worldwide, therefore we need to make sure that our water is kept either instream or used to support agriculture in order to ensure that we do not run short on food production (in addition to water). Protecting agriculture will require that all residential and city planning efforts take into consideration water use and responsible ground cover options that require little to no water. Communication of this will need to filter through social media resources to inform and educate people about the use of water and the more resource-effective options. The State is trying to develop a marketing campaign that addresses these (and other) water issues and how to get people more exposure to the cycle of food production and the importance of water. Information is power.

***How prepared is the Governor's Office to implement the recommendations developed through the 1177 process?*** It is better not to use the Governor's Office to force people into doing things against their will. It is better if the administration is used to encourage and inform people that this is a critical issue and that people need to consider the needs of others and the future of our state. There is value in the use of shuttle diplomacy to help filter out the interests and needs of all parties in order reach a compromise in which

everyone can succeed and stand behind the decisions made; this will take time and require compromise, which is why the State is grateful for the tremendous amount of work that is going into this issue and the development of solutions.

#### **Table Discussions: IPPs, Conservation and Reuse, New Supply, and Agricultural Transfers**

Participants began table discussions, the purpose of which was to explore the reasons different roundtables chose the portfolios they did. Topics included future water demands, agricultural transfers, conservation & reuse, new supply, and identified projects and processes.

See Appendix A for a description of the critical points each table identified during their discussion.

#### **Presentation: Risk Management and How the Colorado River Ties Into It**

Jennifer Gimbel, CWC Director, provided an overview of information regarding risk management and current Colorado River Compact practices. Highlights from this presentation include the following.

- Generally, we hear that there is “no one silver-bullet” in ensuring that we meet future water needs. However, there are several silver bullets used together that can help: IPPs, agriculture, new supply, conservation, and nonconsumptive needs/the environment.
- Before discussing risk management, we must first have a sound basis in fact and law regarding Colorado’s entitlement and obligations under the Colorado River Compact. What needs to be understood is that it is not just the State of Colorado that is affected by the Compact. The Compact speaks about the Upper Basin (not the individual states). Consequently, any conversation about managing risks must include New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
- One of the ways the seven basin states decided to manage risk was with the development of the 2007 Guidelines for operating the Colorado River until 2026. While these guidelines are in place, there is no need for a Compact call. However, while the state is protected from a Compact call, it is possible for water supply shortages to occur. The water level in Lake Powell determines whether or not there is enough water to release into Lake Mead for use by the lower Compact states. If Lake Mead is in a shortage, the lower states have a criterion for sharing the decreased water supply.
- The Upper Basin obligation is to not deplete flows of the Colorado River below 75 million acre-feet over 10 years (rolling average). This ten-year provision provides the upper Compact states with time to determine whether or not a crisis is imminent. This provision provides a buffer that allows the state to see trouble years before there may be problems. There are also storage facilities in place in the Upper Basin states and reservoirs throughout Colorado that help with supply management and protect against a Compact call.
- While Colorado’s water consumption has increased and supply has decreased, it is important to consider water resources in all the basins and basin states. There is time to address our water supply issues, enough time that if we cannot develop a strategy then there is no excuse and the resulting consequences will be our fault.

#### **Current Risk Management Strategies**

- Colorado River Basin Study
- Colorado River Compliance Study
- Colorado River Water Availability Study

- Discussions with other Upper Basin states (having the discussions to ensure that we do not supply the downstream states with less water than necessary)
- Portfolio development
- Alternatives to agricultural transfers
- Water banking work group
- Aspinall Unit-Arkansas River
- Storage, triggers, prior appropriation

### **Presentation: Water 2012**

#### **Kristin Maharg, Colorado Foundation for Water Education**

- The purpose of Water 2012 is to connect Coloradans to their water and engage them in a conversation and celebration about the importance of water and its role throughout the state.
- The goals of Colorado Water 2012 are to:
  - Raise awareness about water as a valuable and limited resource
  - Increase support for management and protection of Colorado's water and waterways
  - Showcase exemplary models of cooperation and collaboration among Colorado water users
  - Connect Coloradans to existing and new opportunities to learn about water
  - Motivate Coloradans to become proactive participants in Colorado's water future
- The basin roundtables are all participating in the celebration as the education liaisons work to help support and advance Water 2012 throughout the state.
- For more information, visit the Water 2012 website at [www.water2012.org](http://www.water2012.org).

### **Presentation: Implementation and Next Segment of the Process**

Todd Doherty (CWCB) provided a brief overview of how the IBCC and BRTs are moving toward implementation and what the next segment of the process will entail. Highlights from this presentation include the following.

- Today's Summit and the May IBCC meeting mark a culmination of a year of portfolio-focused work by the IBCC and BRTs and a significant amount of progress made in the overarching process. The IBCC and BRTs are now moving into an implementation phase in which efforts are aimed at 2016 as a key milestone in the water planning process. The central tasks that lie ahead include:
  - Implementation of the SWSI 2010 recommendations
  - Identification and implementation of consumptive, nonconsumptive, and multi-purpose projects
  - Development of implementation plans
  - Evaluation of SWSI 2016 methodology
  - Development of SWSI 2016 to look at different demands and gaps and expand on current information and approaches
  - Finalize SWSI 2016 and the state water plan
- The next phase of IBCC, BRT, and CWCB work includes portfolio analysis and dialogues to develop scenarios to help facilitate statewide implementation planning. During this phase there will also be an increased focus on two concurrent paths:
  1. **Initiate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Projects:** Determine how to implement selected consumptive and nonconsumptive projects or methods that meet identified needs by the end of 2012

2. **Develop Projects and Methods Implementation Plan:** Suggest and provide advice on projects and methods that can fill consumptive and nonconsumptive gaps in a strategic manner. This will include:
  - Initial cost estimates
  - Promotion of multi-beneficial projects
  - Potential partners and project proponents

This effort will include CWCB staff working with the BRTs to identify next steps and implementation methods for priority projects, complete technical requirements, and increased use of the CWCB grant and loan program. The goal of this effort is to look strategically at each basin's IPPs in order to streamline appropriate and effective implementation and identify multi-purpose projects.

## **PART TWO: TABLE DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION**

After lunch, participants engaged in two additional sets of table discussions. The topics included risk management, nonconsumptive, storage, conservation, alternative agriculture transfer methods, and new supply development.

### **Session 1: Risk Management, New Supply, and Nonconsumptive**

See Appendix A for a summary of the discussion.

### **Session 2: Storage, Conservation and Reuse, ATMs**

See Appendix A for a summary of the discussion.

### **Summary of Group Discussion Key Points: John Stulp**

Director Stulp outlined high-level themes that emerged from the key discussion points identified by the table groups.

#### **Overview**

- The day was productive. Some people come to a water meeting expecting to have to fight, but the Summit facilitated civil discussion.
- Portfolios have served us well, and the roundtables should wrap this up in the next couple months.
- There is interest in raising the profile of nonconsumptive interests.
- Further incorporation of risk management will be important.
- It is time to get more specific. The issue isn't if we are going to implement each of the elements of the portfolio, but rather "how, when, and where."
- Storage is important for every aspect of the portfolio.

#### **New Supply**

- There is a desire to move beyond the Portfolio Tool and the assumptions in order to look at next steps and what needs to be implemented.
- There is a need to look at the how, when, and where, rather than the variables and unknowns.
- There is a need to move toward more discussion regarding risk management as it overlaps with all the key topic areas (legs of the stool).



### IPPs

- There is a need to address all the legs of the stool when considering IPPs; there is a lot of interconnectedness regardless of what the IPP is.
- There is concern that a statewide IPP success rate of 80% might be too high, and there is a need for more consideration of the other legs of the stool.
- There is a need for a detailed conversation with all stakeholders regarding the IPP portfolio before entering into the permitting process.

### Demand

- There is a need to look at how to consider a full range of demand scenarios in order to address future water needs.
- There is a need to look at system losses.

### Conservation

- There is a need for greater focus on outdoor opportunities for savings/conservation.
- There is a need for more statewide, conservation-based education and outreach campaigns.

### Agriculture

- There is a need to continue to develop partnerships and water-sharing strategies.
- There is a shared interest in saving agriculture in all basins.
- There is a need to consider other factors influencing agricultural land use and demand.
- To make alternative agricultural transfers viable, we need to move from theory to practices with all partners at the table to address externalities and legal components.

### Storage

- Storage is needed in all of the basin portfolios in order to meet consumptive and nonconsumptive needs.
- Storage is necessary to meet all legs of the stool.
- There is a need to address current and future storage needs throughout the state.

### Nonconsumptive Needs

- It would be valuable to have the BRTs use the decision tree to identify opportunities for nonconsumptive projects. (The decision tree can be found [here](#).)
- The 1177 process has built trust and a dialogue that needs to be shared with other stakeholders throughout the state.
- There is a need to raise the profile of nonconsumptive needs in statewide discussions and create funding parity for nonconsumptive efforts.

### Risk Management

- There is a need to address triggers--not just on the Colorado River but in all basins--in order to prevent a Compact call.
- There is a need for upper basin states to cooperate to avoid a Compact call.
- Storage is an important risk management tool.
- Risk management strategies should be explored for other basins and issues in addition to the Colorado River Compact.

### **Closing Comments: John Stulp**

Director Stulp offered his gratitude to CWCB staff, the Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO) organization, and the Summit sponsors for making the Summit possible and successful. He also thanked the participants in the Summit for all the work from the BRT members in this process and in support of the IBCC and CWCB.

Director Stulp stated that the Governor's address shows his support and endorsement for this process and the discussions occurring statewide. While SWSI 2010 served as the platform for the work done to date, efforts to update and expand the report are already in motion in order to provide more financial, agricultural, and conservation information to address the expressed needs of stakeholders throughout the state.

Today's conversations and the information gathered from the group discussions will provide the BRTs with the feedback and information needed to make any necessary modifications to their portfolio(s). The IBCC will also review the information gathered today as it moves into the scenario development and adaptive management phases. The overarching theme from the Summit discussions seems to be the readiness to move toward implementation and to start to address what can be done now, how to move projects forward, and the value of implementing multi-purpose projects. 2012 is being celebrated as the Year of Water, and this is a great way to help motivate the work and focus that need to continue. The willingness of all of the participants in today's meeting is deeply appreciated, as is the work and time that have been invested in addressing water issues and planning throughout the state.