



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**

Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Remote Zoom Meeting

Agenda

Welcome

- Technical Troubleshooting
 - Zoom controls and virtual meeting etiquette reminder.
 - Thank you to the Sonoran Institute for sharing their Zoom account for this second ever virtual Alliance meeting. The meeting is being recorded (primarily for note taking purposes).
- DOLA Position News
 - Christy Wiseman – **CO Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**
 - This water and land use integration work has been progressing for almost ten years in Colorado. From the charge to create a state Water Plan, to the CO Water and Growth Dialog, to SB 15-008, to the creation of the Alliance in 2017. Since the formation of the Alliance, all of your organizations have come together to create and share resources, assist communities, and elevate the conversation around water. It may seem like slow progress at times. But we are moving the needle. Multiple Alliance partners have conducted excellent work thus far in 2020. This spring, after multiple years' attempts, the Governor signed HB 20-1095, setting a policy priority and directing DOLA to support Colorado's communities in meeting this target of including water in comprehensive plans. That law has already spurred change in DOLA's grant making criteria; comprehensive plans receiving [Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grants](#) will now have to address water. For the past few months, many people have been working diligently behind the scenes to wrangle budgets and creatively figure out how to continue supporting this work. I am so happy to announce that beginning in 2021, this position, the Land Use and Water Planner tasked with leading the Alliance and providing technical assistance to CO communities, will become full-time and permanently funded. I want to thank all of you for believing in this work and making it easy to make the case for why this work needs to continue to state leadership. I want to give a special note of appreciation and thank

you to the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy and to Jim Holway for his strategic leadership in shaping and funding this position. It's really a culmination of all of your work over the last several years.

- Congratulatory remarks from Susan Wood, Kevin Reidy, Jim Holway, and Flo Raitano.

Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans Update by CWCB

- Sam Stein is a Program Manager in the Water Supply Planning Section of CWCB. Kat Weismiller is the Deputy Section Chief of the Water Supply Planning Section.
- See attached slides for presentation.
- Discussion:
 - Where might the integrated water and land use goal go with the Water Plan update and how can the Alliance be a part of that?
 - The current goal timeline is 2025; we need to figure out how to calculate our progress on the current goal.
 - CWCB does like quantitative metrics but the new goal will probably look different.
 - There's an opportunity to look at the new goal under a more holistic "one water" lens.
 - CWCB and partners need to have some level of influence/control over the goal to ensure it is met; we need to think critically about how to frame the new goals and policies.
 - Getting involved with the Roundtables' Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) updates: Are projects being developed that include long range planning and code updates for local jurisdictions?
 - Planning processes can fall into IPP (identified projects and processes) database, though they may not necessarily rank highly in CWCB's tiering matrix.
 - How HB 20-1095 ties into local governments' master planning.
 - There is need for rural examples of successful water and land use integration efforts. Monte Vista is doing good work in the Rio Grande Basin.
 - Rio de la Vista is on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and can help with coordinating presentations to that Roundtable.
 - Roundtables do fund planning processes, though they tend to be environmental projects (e.g., stream restoration plans) or water supply plans.
 - There may be opportunity for Alliance members to get involved with the Roundtables' BIP updates and give them more education on the importance of water and land use integration.
 - Traditionally Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grants (which the Roundtables use to fund projects) have been infrastructure-heavy, but this is changing in recent years.

- All Roundtable meetings are open to the public and listed on the [online CWCB calendar](#).
- What is the timeline is for Roundtables to submit projects? It seems like the policy and education work as discussed may take some lead time to discuss with Roundtables.
 - BIPs updates are well underway; each Roundtable’s “local expert” consultant team has been collecting projects and will begin tiering projects in the next couple months. The BIPs will be presented in mid-2021. You’d want to move quickly but there will likely be more updates in the future.
 - CWCB is trying to make the project database a living thing so there’s not just one opportunity to add things.
- The Alliance has vast networks of contacts; would it be appropriate to encourage local governments to check to see if their water and land use implementation projects are on their respective Roundtable’s list?
 - It would be useful to start those conversations to improve communications between local planners and the Roundtables.
 - Roundtable member interests and levels of expertise vary. There’s also member turnover so ongoing education is needed.
 - Each county (and one municipality from each county) has a voting seat on their respective Roundtable. However, those are usually held by people on the water resources side or elected officials who may not be aware of their jurisdiction’s land use planning efforts.
 - Christy can help Alliance members coordinate on when they would like to approach Roundtables to give presentations.
 - Even if specific language about land use doesn’t make it into BIPs, there is still value in educating Roundtables about the importance of water and land use integration; it will inform the way they look at and fund projects.
 - The Colorado River Basin’s BIP does address water and land use as a priority. Torie can coordinate on future presentations to that Roundtable with other Alliance organizations.
 - Many local government planners are not aware of the Roundtables or how to provide input. Perhaps there’s a need to educate planners about the role the Roundtables play (this could be an APA conference session).

Colorado Resiliency Framework (CRF) Update by CRO

- Rob Pressly is a Resiliency Program Manager with the Colorado Resiliency Office.

- See attached slides for presentation.
- Discussion:
 - The Alliance’s work cuts across a variety of the CRF working draft priorities, especially Climate and Natural Hazard Resiliency as well as Building and Infrastructure Sustainability. Are all of the implementation actions going to be housed under the six priorities or categorized by sector?
 - This Framework will be organized slightly differently than the 2015 one. Instead of actions being listed under each sector, they will be listed under the six priorities. This will hopefully lead to cross-sector work and engagement.
 - The content in the Water Plan relates to multiple CRF priorities. The conceptual framework is similar to the “one water” view, in that the plan is looking at intersections and equity is woven throughout. Denver is working on a one water plan to create more resilience within their various agencies. Kevin and Rob will connect further on this.
 - Great to see the emphasis on equity and affordable housing woven throughout.
 - The Roundtables would benefit from a presentation on the CRF.
 - [CDPHE’s Office of Health Equity](#) is a great resource on data and best practices related to equity. They can provide presentations.
 - [Colorado Water Congress](#) formed a committee on equity. RMLUI is also hosting an [Ideas RoundUP](#) discussions series on planning, COVID, and equity.
 - Another connection point is the scenarios in the [Technical Update](#) to the Water Plan. For example, under different climate change and population growth scenarios, we could have a massive or minimal loss of irrigated agriculture.
 - The water and land use integration perspective has been well represented in the CRF update because multiple Alliance members have been involved.
 - You can think of the CRF as a roadmap for state departments and allied agencies to work together towards a more resilient future, knowing we face many of the same hazards and risks.

Break

Alliance Member Updates (Beginning with New Member Updates)

- Upon entering the Zoom meeting, everyone will be muted. Christy will unmute individual attendees to report one at a time based on the attendee list. People who are calling in via phone will have time to report after those identified in the attendee list.
- Rio de la Vista – **Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University**
 - Rio is the Director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University. She is also a longtime member of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable as the environmental representative. She works to grow the next generation of conservation leaders and practitioners. The Salazar Rio

Grande Del Norte Center has free educational videos on their [YouTube channel](#).

- Allyson Shellhorn – **Town of Palisade**
 - Allyson is the Community Development Director for the Town of Palisade. Palisade is getting ready to update their comprehensive plan; staff hopes to integrate water conservation and sustainability.
- Mary Ann Dickinson – **Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)**
 - Mary Ann could not attend the Alliance meeting. AWE hosted a [two-hour water conservation planning course](#) during the same time. The course was recorded and Mary Ann encourages Alliance members to watch it.
- Scott Williamson – **Water Education Colorado (WEco)**
 - WEco just finished the [Water Fluency program](#) for 2020.
 - Please give feedback on the [Statewide Water Education Action Plan](#). Use the online survey (to be emailed out) or contact Scott directly.
 - The next [Headwaters Magazine](#) issue will be on land and water trusts. WEco staff are also planning a few fall webinars on aging infrastructure and agricultural infrastructure.
 - Registration is open for the virtual [Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference](#) October 6 - October 8.
- Waverly Klaw – **Sonoran Institute**
 - The fifth (and first ever virtual) [Colorado Growing Water Smart \(GWS\) Workshop](#) is finishing up. Waverly has lessons learned on how to transition a complex multi-day workshop to a virtual platform if anyone is interested. This cohort included six teams: Platteville, Arvada, Berthoud, Longmont, Northglenn, and the Uncompahgre Valley. At this point, GWS Workshops have reached jurisdictions representing about 55% of Colorado's population. It's a big undertaking. Thanks to all the facilitators for their work.
 - An RFP for GWS Technical Assistance will be released in the next couple months. The most recent cohort as well as previous teams (who have not yet received follow-up technical assistance) will be allowed to apply.
 - The next GWS Workshop will be in May 2021; applications will open in the next couple months. Please spread the word to communities you're working with.
 - Sonoran Institute is looking to launch a peer-to-peer network for local government practitioners. If you're aware of similar networks, let Waverly know. Sonoran Institute wants to complement existing efforts and avoid duplication.
 - Sonoran Institute is partnering with Northern Water and NWCCOG QQ on a "bridging the gap" project. They will hold dialogues about best practices related to water transfers.
 - Sonoran will pilot projects in a couple select communities (or a region) to implement the [Growing Water Smart Metrics Report](#).

- Sonoran Institute is researching best practices for adequate water supply regulation.
- The [Colorado Planning Conference](#) will feature five water-themed virtual sessions as part of the Growing Water Smart track from October 19 - October 23.
- Amy Volckens – **Brendle Group**
 - Waverly and Rob covered key project updates for Brendle Group.
- Anne Castle – **University of Colorado, Getches-Wilkinson Center**
 - Anne is working on a project that is exploring how to provide clean drinking water to every resident on Native American reservations in the CO River Basin. COVID has highlighted existing inequities in water access on reservations. The [Water and Tribes Initiative](#) is a coalition bringing attention to and developing solutions for this issue.
- Austin Troy – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - The collaborative research project forecasting future irrigation demand in Aurora (based on various scenarios) with the Babbitt Center and Water Research Foundation is coming to a close in the next month or so.
 - CU will be hiring a new professor focused on environmental planning. There is a good chance that person will have water planning expertise. Troy will tie the new professor in with this group.
- Rocky Piro – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Rocky sent the latest results from the Colorado Water and Land Use Planning survey via email last week. The survey asks about plans, policies, programs, and projects. The survey recognizes the framework of local control and the fact that there is great diversity in comprehensive plans throughout the state. So far, jurisdictions representing about 75% of the state’s population have responded.
 - The project team is now working on a compendium to accompany the survey report. The team is curating community profiles (i.e., case studies and examples), highlighting land use and water successes that other local governments can learn from. Rocky invites Alliance members to contribute to the compendium via a template he will share. The goal is to have this project be a baseline resource for everyone to use.
 - Thank you to Flo and Torie, who helped increase the number of survey responses.
- Gretel Follingstad – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - The water demand forecasting portion of the project that Austin mentioned is one chapter of Gretel’s dissertation. The project team will publish a methods paper on that. Another chapter deals with collaborative agreements. Gretel is almost done with the document coding and should have results by the next Alliance meeting. The final portion of Gretel’s dissertation is the HOA piece (analysis of HOA outdoor water use among

various jurisdictions on the Front Range). Gretel is excited to be coming towards the end of this research.

- Courtney Black – **Intera**
 - Courtney is a Senior Water Resources Engineer at Intera, a consulting firm. Courtney is relatively new to the Alliance but has many years of experience working with water and water conservation projects. Courtney worked with Steamboat Springs on their Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) last year and greatly appreciated the [guidance document](#) on water and land use integration that Alliance members helped write for CWCB. Currently, Courtney is working with the Town of Erie on their WEP.
- Drew Beckwith – **City of Westminster**
 - Westminster doesn't have real updates on the water and land use front. Many projects are being stalled due to COVID; in addition, budgets have been an issue.
- Frank Kinder – **Northern Water**
 - Frank's main focus right now is supporting the Growing Water Smart Workshop. Northern will continue to promote the GWS Workshop to their allottees.
 - Frank is also working with Annie Barrow in support of Northern Water's grants and consultations to provide models to some cities for less water intensive development of common areas and corridors.
- Annie Barrow – **Denver Botanic Gardens**
 - Annie is the Manager of Horticulture Outreach for Denver Botanic Gardens. She works with the public and private sector to help people achieve water-wise landscapes. She's currently working with Northern Water. Her goal is to connect to a broad audience and make a difference in the way we use water while maintaining beautiful landscapes.
 - View a free half-hour [water-wise landscaping training video](#) from Annie Barrow.
- Jeff Tejral – **Denver Water**
 - No updates.
- Jessica Thrasher – **Headwater Institute**
 - Jessica has been working to improve equitable access to information. Headwaters Institute is making their [educational classes](#) on demand so people can watch the webinars on their own time. They are also trying to convert content into Spanish. Headwaters is working with Northern Water and [GreenLatinos](#) on a [rain barrel workshop](#). Northern Water sponsored scholarships so fifteen low-income families will be able to attend and receive a rain barrel for free. They will have a live Spanish translator via Zoom. GreenLatinos has been a great partner and has enabled Jessica to better reach diverse community members.
- Faith Sternlieb – **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**

- The Babbitt Center has published their [CO River StoryMap: The Hardest Working River in the West](#). Many Alliance members were integral in reviewing it, so thank you. Please use it as a resource for education and outreach. The Babbitt Center is curious on how it will be utilized.
- The Babbitt Center now has its own [Growing Water Smart webpage](#). It features an in-house [video](#) that tells the story about what Growing Water Smart is. The video is of the Arizona Growing Water Smart Workshop held earlier this year.
- Reminder to save the date for the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2021 [Land and Water Policy Specialty Conference](#) “Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities” July 19 - 21, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center in Denver. At this point, plans are moving forward for an in-person conference but there will likely be virtual components as well. Jim Holway, Director of the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and Sharon Megdal, Director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRRC), are chairing the conference. Hopefully the Alliance will contribute to the conference in a variety of ways, from contributing [IMPACT magazine](#) articles, to proposing sessions, to submitting manuscripts to the [JAWRA journal](#).
- Faith would like to connect with [GreenLatinos](#) to talk about an equity-focused session or plenary. Reach out to Faith with other equity-oriented organizations who could contribute to the conference.
- John Berggren – **Western Resource Advocates (WRA)**
 - John has been working with Lindsay Rogers to help Golden develop a greywater ordinance. The ordinance is going before their city council soon. If adopted, Golden will be the fourth community in Colorado to have a greywater ordinance.
 - WRA and WaterNow Alliance are also wrapping up a few other projects that received [Project Accelerator](#) grants, working in Summit County, Greeley, and Utah.
 - John has been co-facilitating Team Longmont for the Growing Water Smart Workshop.
- Lindsay Rogers – **WaterNow Alliance**
 - WaterNow Alliance will open the next [Project Accelerator](#) round before the end of the year.
 - WaterNow Alliance provides hands-on support to help communities apply to multiple [Bureau of Reclamation](#) grants (e.g., [Small Scale Water Efficiency Program](#), [Water Conservation Field Services Program](#)). These grants are typically under-utilized and not very competitive so they are a great resource.
- Karen Hancock – **City of Aurora**
 - Aurora doesn’t have real updates on the water and land use front. Alliance members may be interested in a recent [Denver Post article](#) about Aurora Water. We need to keep working on water conservation.

- Gretel's dissertation will help provide valuable Aurora-specific forecasted water demand data that incorporates scenarios with varied housing typologies.
- **Kevin Reidy – Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)**
 - Kevin is helping facilitate the Growing Water Smart Workshop, working with Faith and Platteville.
 - CWCB is helping to fund the next phase of the Growing Water Smart Workshops.
 - Kevin was able to get a position for another water efficiency staff person (a new FTE) approved through the legislature, though the hiring timeline is unclear because CWCB is in a hiring freeze.
 - The [Water Plan Grant](#) deadline has been changed to a one-time December 1st deadline. Funding will be stretched to cover two to three years.
 - A second phase of the [Colorado Water Loss Initiative \(CWLI\)](#) has been funded. The second phase will allow for more water providers to take part in the program for the first time as well as offer more advanced programming for water providers that participated in phase one.
- **Liesel Hans – City of Fort Collins**
 - Fort Collins has been inquiring about water metering in mobile home parks; this relates to equity.
 - The 1041 for the [Northern Integrated Supply Project \(NISP\)](#) was approved by Larimer County, though Fort Collins formally opposed the project.
 - Fort Collins is working on a strategic housing plan. Water will be a piece of that but Liesel is not sure what that will look like.
 - Fort Collins is updating water supply requirements to be better tied to land use type (similar to Westminster). Outreach will begin this fall.
 - Fort Collins Utilities' water conservation group is applying for a Bureau of Reclamation [Water and Energy Efficiency Grant \(WEEG\)](#) grant to continue the large-scale xeriscape program amidst city budget challenges.
 - There is a project to update the outlet on Horsetooth Reservoir so Fort Collins Utilities will rely solely on Poudre River water for about 45 days. However, there may be fire impacts so the city will likely implement mandatory water use restrictions. It will be interesting to see how the community will respond to managing this risk that's not related to drought.
- **Loretta Daniel – Arapahoe County**
 - Loretta is the Long Range Planning Manager for Arapahoe County. She is relatively new to the Alliance. Arapahoe is hoping to update their 2000 water supply study. The county's comprehensive plan was updated in 2018 and included a few water policies. The water supply study will take a look at growth in the unincorporated county, especially the eastern part of the county, with a focus on ground water. Arapahoe County will look to examples from El Paso and Elbert County, which both have completed recent ground water supply studies.

- Arapahoe County is also planning a small area plan for a 42-square mile area between Watkins and Bennett, thinking about the carrying capacity related to water.
- Arapahoe County updated their land development code in 2019. As part of that, Loretta is updating the county's landscaping requirements.
- **Ruth Quade – City of Greeley**
 - Ruth is working with Greeley planners on their landscaping codes. It's a relatively new partnership. The team plans to survey water customers. That partnership is a direct result of the Growing Water Smart Workshop.
 - Greeley's new raw water requirements have passed.
 - Annie Burrow is designing street medians and streetscapes for Greeley's city-owned properties. The hope is that once established, these landscapes will need very little ongoing irrigation (other than trees).
 - Ruth is working to implement Greeley's Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant related to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). New construction is getting AMI meters; the city is also replacing failing meters with new AMI meters. There is a lot of need for public outreach and explaining to customers what is going on with their water bills.
- **Susan Wood – American Planning Association Colorado (APA CO) Legislative Committee / RTD**
 - RTD is also having a tough time with budgets and staff impacts.
 - Water touches on so many aspects of planning; you can't really separate these concepts (e.g., housing, transit).
 - Reminder about the virtual [APA conference](#) coming up in October.
 - Congratulations on the permanent Land Use and Water Planner Position.
- **Torie Jarvis – Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Water Quality/Quantity (QQ) Committee**
 - Torie and Marjo Curgus are hosting a mini online workshop to introduce QQ members to the new [resource guide](#) for water savings.
 - Torie is helping the Growing Water Smart Workshop as a facilitator.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Announcements
- CU [Capstone](#) Project – Call for Ideas
- Next Alliance Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 17th, 2020
- DOLA [Small Communities Workshop](#) water and land use session on September 17th