



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, January 13th, 2021 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Remote Zoom Meeting

Welcome

- Technical Troubleshooting
 - Apologies for the Google Meet/Zoom link confusion.
 - The meeting is being recorded (primarily for note taking purposes).
- Welcome remarks from Christy Wiseman
 - As of January 1, 2021, the Land Use and Water Planner position is permanent and full-time with DOLA. Thanks to Alliance members for demonstrating that this work is important and worth funding. Thanks to the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy for providing critical grant funding for this position the past two years.

2020 Summary of Activities Brainstorm

- The purpose of the Summary of Activities is to document when the Alliance met, what was discussed/ presented on at meetings, and major collaborative accomplishments for the year.
- Activities to add to the draft 2020 Summary:
 - Amanda Smith – Growing Water Smart technical assistance projects
 - Mary Ann Dickinson – APA Water and Planning Network newsletter article from May
 - Drew Beckwith – Presence of us all together, building a network, building a community, being a forum of support where we talk about these things; an accomplishment in itself
 - Karen Hancock – Gretel Follingstad’s dissertation research in Aurora (preliminary report)
 - Scott Williamson – Final report to CWCB for incorporating land use into water efficiency plans in March 2020
 - Faith Sternlieb, Lindsay Rogers – Western Resource Advocates and WaterNow Alliance’s work with communities (e.g., Golden, Severance) via the Project Accelerator Program

Polling: Alliance Meeting Past Successes, Wish List for 2021, Topics of Interest

1. Which aspects of Alliance activities did you most enjoy/get value from in 2020?
2. What are you most hoping to get out of Alliance activities in 2021?

3. Are there any topic areas you wish the Alliance would spend more time discussing or exploring?
4. Do you feel that you have a good understanding of what each Alliance member/organization works on?
5. Do you feel comfortable utilizing the Alliance network to find experts/collaborators for certain topic areas?
6. Do you feel that the Alliance is missing any representation from certain groups or disciplines?
7. Do you feel that you have a better understanding of and/or connection to state resources and policy work because of your involvement with the Alliance?

Polling Questions Discussion

- Potential to include funding strategy discussions in 2021 Alliance meetings
 - Knowing what funding resources are available from DOLA and other state agencies would be helpful.
 - The Colorado Watershed Assembly's [Inflow newsletter](#) is a great resource for available funding.
 - There is need to leverage other funding in order to amplify what can be done with available CWCB grants.
 - This group could help create a clearinghouse for funding resources (both state, federal, and private).
 - We could have a funding subcommittee.
 - Educators are always looking to connect PhD students with research funding that matches their dissertation or classwork interests.
- Potential for the Land Use and Water Planner to send state legislative update emails as part of regular Alliance communications
 - There is interest from Alliance members.
 - Emails would be purely informational (e.g., links to bill summaries, what's been introduced) and not include any commentary.
 - Dick Brown writes legislative updates about water-related bills for the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority.
 - Explanation of how CWCB reviews bills for fiscal impact.
 - [APA CO Legislative Committee](#) reviews bills that relate to planning, land use, and water. APA CO has a lobbyist who helps with these efforts.
 - Colorado Municipal League (CML) follows and [summarizes legislation](#) for their members every week throughout the legislative session.
 - The Colorado River District also [tracks](#) water bills.
 - Discussion of pro-turf lobbying efforts.
- Emerging topics to focus on in 2021 (potentially to be explored in dedicated workshops outside of quarterly meetings)
 - It would be better to partner with organizations who have plans to host educational events and workshops rather than organize our own Alliance events. It's important that there is an end result to the workshop (i.e., a deliverable or project) aside from just the event itself.

- An example would be to plug into planned events/discussions that ULI CO will be having with developers in the next few months.
- There are many Alliance members with expertise who could teach workshops or gather content for a specific topic area.
- Polling can help narrow down topics of interest for presentations at quarterly Alliance meetings. If no one in the Alliance has the necessary expertise, we can invite someone to come speak at a meeting.
- Topics of interest
 - Water equity
 - There is not a universal definition for water equity and what it entails; it can mean access to clean water, cost of water, water quality, etc.
 - Water/land use/NGO positions in CO are disproportionately held by white and more affluent people.
 - There was a water equity session at the RMLUI conference in March 2020. There's still a lot of work to be done to unpack what exactly water equity means. The Alliance could be a helpful part of that.
 - There is a lot of attention on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) by many organizations.
 - One of the outcomes of the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) is about representation in water decision making.
 - What historical land use and water decisions have been made in Colorado that have created inequities and injustices today?
 - The AWRA Conference organizers are working to bring in a diversity trainer/consultant for the upcoming AWRA Specialty Conference in July.
 - There is a small committee of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable working on this too.
 - How to deal with denial of climate change
 - More community case studies
 - Water and land use impacts from fracking
 - Water neutral development
 - More case studies/data linking water and housing costs to address affordability
 - Better ways to communicate our work online (some type of online clearinghouse)
 - Low impact development and green infrastructure
 - Watershed protection and fire mitigation/response
 - Source water protection is relevant. Lots of CWCB staff are dealing with watershed health issues.

- Growth and development is pushing more into the wildland urban interface (WUI), especially in rural areas. It also impacts wildlife.
 - Future of agriculture in CO and the interrelationship between water/land use decisions and impact on viability of agriculture
 - Alex Funk of CWCB is working on this topic for the Water Plan update.
 - The Babbitt Center is working with Gates Family Foundation and Scott Campbell of Innovation Conservation Solutions on the Bessemer Ditch project in and around Pueblo.
 - Dr. Susan Melzer at Colorado State University (CSU) can address the topic as she studies sustainable agriculture and roles food systems have on urban city growth and water use.
 - Erik Glenn, Executive Director of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, is a strong presenter and has a lot of knowledge about water in agriculture and the transfer of water from agricultural to municipal uses.
 - Demand Management and broader Colorado River issues
 - The Alliance should follow and seek to influence the proposed Demand Management program to ensure it is effective and equitable.
 - How to engage diverse community members
- Do you feel that you have a good understanding of what each Alliance member/organization works on?
 - Ways to improve:
 - Add links to organizations' websites in the Alliance member contact list.
 - A suggestion from Marianne Eppig from ULI is to create a document with members' photos, names, titles, organizations, etc. and their brief updates in written form; this can be filled out and distributed before the meeting so the member updates section is limited to time-sensitive updates, the most important updates, or members who want peer feedback. This will leave more time for deeper discussion at quarterly meetings. Not everyone will need to give a verbal update every time but those who want to can have the opportunity.
 - There could also be a top 5 of standing topics that multiple groups can provide updates on.
 - It's helpful if people put their full name and organizations in their participant name when joining the Zoom meeting.
 - Schedule in breaks during meetings.
- Do you feel that the Alliance is missing any representation from certain groups or disciplines?

- Representation is improving
- Folks who don't yet have a commitment to water-land use as an important initiative
- Tribal members and other minority groups
- Developers and landscape professionals
- Hispanic speakers and experts who represent the communities they are speaking to
- Water users and those impacted by land use and water planning decisions
- Community representatives
- Students and young people
- Does this group have a definition and goal of why we are trying to increase diversity? What does it mean for this group to be more diverse? How do you create an inclusive environment for a diverse group of people?
 - Can't answer who you should bring in until these questions are addressed.
 - It's important that people feel welcome otherwise they will leave.
 - Can we get help from a consultant on this?
 - Have to be intentional about increasing diversity. Have to specifically invite people to the table. Have to do the outreach and establish those relationships.
 - Important to avoid tokenizing people as well.
 - The Alliance could form a subcommittee to have these discussions.
 - The annual Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference in the fall is always looking for timely presentation topics. The Alliance DEI subcommittee could present at the conference if there are good ideas to share.
 - Helping students attend conferences via scholarships is a good way to improve access.
- Engage with Colorado Water Congress to educate legislators
 - Discussion of Alliance's role in commenting and advocating for legislation (summary of discussion from January 2020 meeting); the Alliance as an entity does not take formal positions on policy proposals. Individual members of the Alliance can work with their organizations to advance relevant policy efforts.
 - APA Colorado does employ a lobbyist. The APA CO Legislative Committee would appreciate input from members of this group when making decisions on what to support and not support.
 - Multiple Alliance members helped HB20-1095 pass by providing testimony.

Water Plan Update Workshop Discussion

- Kevin Reidy provided an update on the Water Plan update process. CWCB staff is currently gathering ideas in advance of drafting new plan sections this summer. The goal is to have the new Water Plan fully complete by the end of 2022. CWCB does

have consultants to help with the update but it's still a heavy staff lift. Kevin plans to use the April 14 Alliance meeting to do a workshop focusing on land use, reuse, and efficiency, which are his topic areas for the Water Plan. Kevin is exploring using a One Water approach to integrate those topics.

- Discussion of the interrelatedness of all these topics.
- The forthcoming report from AWE, the Babbitt Center, and APA about water and land use integration in every state will include policy recommendations that will be useful for the Water Plan update.
- Kevin is working with Alex Funk to integrate urban agriculture into the Water Plan update.
- Kevin is also working more with Megan Holcomb, CWCB's Senior Climate Specialist.
- Discussion of the potential to have a Growing Water Smart Workshop for the San Luis Valley area.
- Discussion of the importance of regional and watershed-scale planning. It would be great to have aspirational language about regional planning in the Water Plan update.

Alliance Member Updates

- Torie Jarvis – **Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Water Quality/Quantity (QQ) Committee**
 - Torie is working with Sonoran Institute and Northern Water on the “bridging the gap” project. The project aims to convene case studies about municipal water transfers from one part of the state to another. There are best practices when it comes to water transfer scenarios; there can be mutually beneficial agreements. The Alliance has helped shape what this looks like by bringing together people with experience and expertise.
- Scott Williamson – **Water Education Colorado (WEco)**
 - WEco's [Water Fluency](#) program is focusing on the Northwest region this year. It will be the seventh year of the program. Tentatively, registration will open in mid-April with sessions in July through September. There will be a session on integrating land use and water. Contact Scott to contribute as a presenter.
 - Applications for WEco's [Water Leaders](#) program are due February 15. It's a competitive application program with only 16 participants selected. The Water Leaders program includes extensive self-assessments, eight days of training, plus individual and group coaching. Sessions will begin in the end of May and run through September. It would be good to have someone from the land use and water community participate.
 - WEco will develop protocols for establishing baselines and measuring progress on the Statewide Water Education Action Plan ([SWEAP](#)) between February and June. To help in developing protocols, WEco plans to convene a relatively small SWEAP task force focused on metrics and equity in evaluation. Contact Scott if interested in the task force. WEco wants to

leverage the work that's already been done on metrics and avoid redundancy.

- Austin Troy – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Austin and Gretel Follingstad submitted a planning grant to the National Science Foundation's Sustainable Regional Systems program. The initial one-year planning grant request is to build a research question and research network around water. The planning grant would fund some of Gretel's time to write a proposal for a larger \$5-10 million grant to study regional water issues.
- Gretel Follingstad – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - The scope of the research idea addresses a lot of elements, from watershed health, fire, regional planning and equity, especially with the Colorado River Demand Management program. Thank you to everyone who supported the proposal. Fingers crossed for the grant.
- Jody Beck – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - No updates.
- Francie Jaffe – **City of Longmont**
 - Francie is the Water Conservation and Sustainability Specialist for the City of Longmont.
 - The City of Longmont attended the Colorado Growing Water Smart Workshop in 2020. The Longmont GWS team is hoping to present their one-year action plan to leadership in February. The city is also keeping an eye on drought conditions.
 - There is a state climate equity advisory committee that Megan Holcomb is part of. Francie can connect that group with the Alliance to see if their greenhouse gas mapping includes water and land use data.
- Courtney Black – **Intera**
 - Courtney is working with the Town of Erie on finalizing their Water Efficiency Plan and Drought Management Plan.
 - Courtney helped update CWCB's Municipal Drought Management Plan Guidance Document; the previous version was from 2010. The new version is available on CWCB's [website](#).
- Mary Ann Dickinson – **Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)**
 - AWE is hosting a free [webinar](#) on source water protection on January 14. [APA's Water and Planning Network](#) is sponsoring the webinar.
- Tony Curcio – **Iron Woman Construction and Environmental Services, LLC**
 - Tony works with Iron Woman Construction and Environmental Services, LLC, which does a lot of stream restoration work. Tony is interested in learning more about water and land use planning in relation to watershed health.
- Katie Helm – **City of Fountain**
 - Katie is the Conservation and Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Fountain. Katie is also on the [Colorado WaterWise](#) Board.

- Fountain is updating their Water Master Plan this year. Katie works to develop programs for Fountain’s water and electric customers to help them save money on their utility bills.
- Casey Davenport – **Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA)**
 - Casey is the Executive Director for the Colorado Watershed Assembly. Casey is a member of the Metro Roundtable and works on the Public Participation, Education, and Outreach (PEPO) Committee for the South Platte Basin and Metro [Roundtables](#).
 - Casey is interested in collaboration on water and water efficiency issues. Casey helps organize the annual Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference.
 - CWA’s [Inflow newsletter](#) is a great resource for available funding, upcoming events, and job opportunities.
- Jessica Thrasher – **Colorado Stormwater Center, Colorado State University (CSU)**
 - Jessica is the new Education and Outreach Manager for the Colorado Stormwater Center at CSU. The Colorado Stormwater Center is part of the One Water Solutions Institute (OWSI).
 - Jessica will conduct a lot of trainings and educational events. She is trying to broaden the Colorado Stormwater Center’s reach to non-technical audiences.
- John Berggren – **Western Resource Advocates (WRA)**
 - John cohosted an APA CO-sponsored two-hour [Northern Colorado Water and Land Use Workshop](#) on January 11. The workshop highlighted four different community case studies. It was well attended with over 85 attendees. There seems to be a lot of demand for informational presentations with examples. John welcomes ideas on other regions to highlight with this workshop format.
 - WRA and the Babbitt Center are creating a strategy memo on how to identify communities on the cutting edge of water and land use integration. John will share that memo with the Alliance for feedback.
 - WRA is working with WaterNow Alliance to interview over ten Front Range community leaders on water and land use integration. John is working with Lindsay Rogers on that effort. The resulting white paper draft will be shared with the Alliance once it’s in a good form.
- Lindsay Rogers – **WaterNow Alliance (WNA)**
 - The [winning projects](#) from the latest round of WNA’s [Project Accelerator](#) program will be announced soon.
 - WNA, WRA, CWCB, and DOLA are [examining](#) water resources benefits of urban agriculture. The project will explore stormwater benefits of urban agriculture as well as potential water conservation benefits. The Alliance can bring expertise to that project.
 - WaterNow Alliance supports the [Bureau of Reclamation](#) WaterSMART program. Fiscal year 2021 appropriations were generous so anyone who applied for grants in the spring of 2020 has a good chance. Nonprofit

organizations are now eligible to receive WaterSmart funding if they're working with a water provider partner. The [Small Scale Water Efficiency Program](#) grant will open in the next few weeks. The grant offers up to \$75,000 for outdoor irrigation efficiency or municipal metering projects. The grant is not super competitive so quality applications should do well. Lindsay can provide support for grant applications.

- Rio de la Vista – **Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University**
 - Rio is developing a water education initiative for Adams State that includes programs and courses for students.
 - Rio is getting ready for the third annual [Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium](#). A date has not been chosen yet; the event will be virtual. The goal is to engage the broader community who care about water but don't have time or capacity to go to many water meetings.
 - Comments from Ean Tomas Tafoya about the scope of the Rio Grande Basin Symposium and how it relates to his work on the Rio Grande.
 - GreenLatinos hosted a virtual meeting "A Climate Crisis on the Rio Grande" on November 19. A [recording](#) is available.
- Ean Tomas Tafoya – **GreenLatinos**
 - Ean gave an overview of relevant federal legislative and policy updates related to the transition to the Biden Administration (e.g., COVID relief, updating the Clean Water Act for its 50th anniversary, water infrastructure, green infrastructure, environmental justice).
 - State legislation is slow to start thus far.
 - GreenLatinos will have another Rio Grande event to dig deeper into international water compacts and oil and gas impacts.
 - It's a good time to have larger, more collaborative events with multiple facets of the water community, especially to focus on environmental justice.
 - Mary Ann Dickinson commented about the coalition of water groups advocating to make green infrastructure and water efficiency rebates tax exempt. Currently, rebates over \$600 are federally taxed. AWE is also appealing the Trump Administration's rollback of showerhead fixture efficiency standards. Mary Ann also reminded Alliance members about [APA's Water and Planning Network](#).
- Drew Beckwith – **City of Westminster**
 - No updates from the City of Westminster.
- Faith Sternlieb – **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - The Lincoln Institute for Land Policy is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year with a [virtual event](#) and film screening on March 11.
 - The Babbitt Center is working with the Lincoln Institute's [Center for Geospatial Solutions](#) to create a new Colorado River Basin map. The map should be published this spring.

- Several Alliance members are working on an initiative to connect with tribal leaders and advance [Universal Access to Clean Water in the Colorado River Basin](#). A [recording](#) of the Water and Tribes Initiative Virtual Luncheon on December 16 is available. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet participated in the webinar. The Babbitt Center is partnering with the University of Utah on a report on this initiative.
- Faith is still working on the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2021 [Land and Water Policy Specialty Conference](#) “Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities” planned for July 19-21. Session and abstract submissions are due February 1.
- A special issue of AWRA’s [IMPACT magazine](#) will come out in March. Many Alliance members contributed articles.
- The Lincoln Institute is starting a new Native American Fellows program to encourage Native American students to pursue training in water professions. Any of the 29 recognized tribes in the Colorado River Basin are eligible.
- The Babbitt Center is partnering with Arizona State University (ASU) to conduct a survey on water and land use integration activity throughout the Colorado River Basin states (including all of California). Ray Quay of ASU is leading the effort. This is the inaugural survey of a longitudinal study; the goal is to deploy the survey every few years to see progress in land use and water integration over time. The survey is currently being sent out to selected water managers and land use planners (in cities and counties with over 40,000 population). Alliance members are helping distribute the survey. Survey results will be compiled beginning in June.
- **Scott Winter – Colorado Springs Utilities**
 - No updates from Colorado Springs.
- **Susan Wood – American Planning Association Colorado (APA CO) Legislative Committee / Regional Transportation District (RTD)**
 - Don't hesitate to share any thoughts or information about water-related legislative efforts at the state level. This is a great way to work together and is an opportunity to engage in collaborative efforts. Contact Susan at susan.wood@rtd-denver.com.
- **Peter Mayer – WaterDM**
 - Peter is a consultant in water demand management. Peter is working with Western Resource Advocates to develop single family residential water budgets for the City of Fort Collins. The water budgets would be primarily used for informational purposes (and potentially for drought restrictions) but will not be tied to rate structures. Water budgets are a great tool regardless of whether they are tied to rates.
 - Peter is helping the California Department of Water Resources study residential indoor water use. The study team utilized a variety of water demand data sources with differing levels of temporal resolution (e.g., up to 5-second intervals with Flume monitoring devices). Ultimately, indoor water

use averages 50 gallons per person per day with some regional differences. So far it looks like 35-40 gallons per person per day is the lowest amount that communities can expect to reasonably achieve. The work is highly political in California; it's not clear when the work will be public yet.

- Discussion of expanding Alliance members' work into California (e.g., the Growing Water Smart Workshops).
- **Ruth Quade – City of Greeley**
 - Greeley is updating landscape codes based on the city's participation in the 2019 Colorado Growing Water Smart Workshop. Greeley is updating their drought plan as well; single family residential water budgets will be incorporated. Greeley is aiming for flexibility so they can adjust the budget amount, the rate, or both if needed.
- **Amanda Smith – Sonoran Institute**
 - Applications for 2021 Growing Water Smart Workshops in Colorado and Arizona are due February 15. The virtual workshops will be held over 3-4 days in May for [Colorado](#) and in June for [Arizona](#).
 - An RFP for the metrics pilot program will be published later this month.
 - Sonoran Institute is developing a peer-to-peer network for local government practitioners. There will be a survey sent out soon about this.
 - Sonoran Institute is opening up Growing Water Smart technical assistance funding later this spring. Usually, GWS technical assistance funds are only available for the most recent GWS cohort; however, the next round of technical assistance funding will be available to all past GWS teams. Any community that has participated in the workshop can apply; communities can even reapply for funding if they have already received it.
 - Waverly is having her baby soon. Amanda is taking over for Waverly while Waverly is out on maternity leave.
- **KC McFerson – CO Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**
 - DOLA has launched its five-year land use survey. This time, the survey will be completed in a two-step approach. Local governments will fill out the survey (distributed through CML and CCI). Then, DOLA will follow up for more in-depth interviews and case studies with targeted communities. This will culminate in a series of best practice reports. Survey responses are due at the end of March.
- **Karen Hancock – City of Aurora**
 - Discussion of artificial turf and green turf alternatives.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Announcements
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 14th, 2021