

Basin Education Action Plan Colorado BRT 2021-2022

Final to be posted on:

<https://www.coloradobasinroundtable.org/about/pepo/>

Background:

The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislatively created committee of the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC). It is the only workgroup written into the legislation (C.R.S. 37-75-106). This group is charged with: creating a process to inform, engage, and educate the public on the IBCC's and Roundtables activities and the progress of the interbasin compact negotiations; creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators; and educating IBCC and roundtable members on water issues.

The PEPO Workgroup's membership consists of the Education Liaisons, a volunteer liaison position on each basin roundtable, members of the IBCC, statewide water education experts, other volunteers from the Roundtables and staff of the Water Supply Planning section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The members of this sub-committee work to identify the best approaches for education and outreach at the statewide and basin-specific levels. The PEPO Workgroup and roundtable members are collectively defining inclusive, forward looking, and meaningful ways in which the public can participate in the work of their basin roundtable.

In 2021-22, the PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities. The Colorado Basin Roundtable (CBRT) will bolster its Education & Outreach efforts through the creation of their Education Action Plan (EAP). The EAP will detail the educational and public engagement goals most effective for the basin roundtable.

To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has created an education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to receive up to \$6,500.00 in state funds per year for EAP implementation activities.

PEPO goals of the CBRT are to promote a well-informed and high-functioning basin roundtable and to support water awareness and broad scale participation of diverse water-dependent communities.

1. Colorado Basin Roundtable PEPO Vision/Goals:

All Colorado Basin Roundtable members are encouraged to provide input and suggestions to the PEPO sub-committee. The sub-committee seeks to represent fully the hydrologic, agriculture, municipal, industrial, recreational, and environmental interests in the basin.

Vision:

1. Develop and implement an EAP that facilitates awareness, educational and diverse public engagement opportunities about Colorado and Colorado Basin water subjects.
2. Encourage awareness and development of holistic locally driven collaborative solutions supported by best available hydrologic and watershed data.

3. Increase collaborations and partnerships with other Colorado basin organizations that wish to promote water awareness, education and engagement.
4. Encourage CBRT members to actively participate with the PEPO sub-committee and recruit new participants.

Goals:

1. Raise public awareness of CBRT activities:
 - a. Work with regional news outlets on notification of CBRT meeting dates, time, location, how to participate and of CBRT vacancies.
 - b. Update CBRT website with current educational information for the public while serving as an effective resource for CBRT members.
 - c. Plan and facilitate a Colorado Basin specific short film illustrating environments and water stakeholders from headwaters to Stateline. Film to be used by CBRT, partners and for water outreach events.
 - d. Use social media to promote CBRT communications and education on water issues in the basin.
2. Elevate awareness of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (CO-BIP) and Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) knowledge and engagement opportunities.
 - a. Engage media outlets with timely opportunities to promote public engagement on CO-BIP and CWP updates.
 - b. Promote CBRT membership understanding of strategies and actions contained within the updated CO-BIP.
 - c. Reference Statewide Water Education Action Plan ([SWEAP](#)) and use where applicable.
3. Support CBRT watershed data/knowledge gap assessment and information gathering efforts in the basin.
 - a. Provide educational opportunities on river condition / freshwater assessments, Stream Management Plans/Integrated Water Management Plans.
4. PEPO Sub-committee will collaborate in a timely and relevant manner to identify writers and CBRT topics to be submitted to regional / state news outlets at least two-times per year.
5. Other identified water education opportunities and events as identified by CBRT members and partners.
6. CBRT PEPO liaison, Abby Burk, will participate in CWCB education, and related meetings.

2. How is the Basin structure to implement the EAP? (List of Individuals/organizations Implementing EAP):

All Colorado Roundtable members are encouraged to provide input and suggestions to the PEPO Sub-committee. The sub-committee seeks to represent fully the hydrologic, agriculture, municipal, industrial, recreational, and environmental aspects of the basin.

The names and affiliations of the current CBRT Education Sub-committee are:

1. Abby Burk, CBRT PEPO Liaison
2. Ken Neubecker, Former CBRT PEPO Liaison & Environmental Representative
3. Hannah Holm, Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University
4. Senator Gail Schwartz, Colorado Water Conservation Board Member
5. Kendra Fuller, Executive Director, Blue River Watershed Group
6. *Others are welcome*

Meetings of the PEPO sub-committee. The sub-committee will meet quarterly to review progress on the EAP and to provide guidance and feedback on PEPO efforts at a time that is sufficient for members. Members agree to meet more if needed to complete a project. The sub-committee will make best efforts to structure its meetings to occur in the month following regularly scheduled IBCC meetings to maximize the transfer of information between the PEPO Workgroup and the Roundtable.

Existing partners for the EAP include:

Colorado River Water Conservation District
Colorado Mesa University Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center
Colorado State University Extension
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Ag Water Alliance
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Grand Valley Water Users Association
American Rivers
Audubon Rockies
Colorado Trout Unlimited

National Trout Unlimited
Blue River Watershed Group
Eagle River Watershed Council
Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Roaring Fork Conservancy
Grand County Water Info Network
Ute Water Conservancy District
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District

Potential partners include:

All organizations, business and agencies represented on the CBRT

Regional media contacts are established with:

Aspen Journalism
Aspen Times
Grand Junction Sentinel
Post Independent

Colorado Public Radio:

Vail, Aspen, Glenwood, Grand Junction.

KUNC Public Radio (Minturn, Steamboat Springs, Greeley)

KDNK Public Radio (Carbondale and RF Valley)

KAJX (Aspen and RF Valley)

Reviews performed by the CBRT PEPO Sub-committee:

1. Annual review of EAP including sub-committee members
 - a. Number of initiatives done for the year
 - b. Annual review of collaborative efforts
2. Annual review of previous year's water awareness/education initiatives and success/failure evaluation.
3. Review of media and website metrics on usefulness of the website.

3. Critical issues currently in the basin that need to be addressed over the EAP planning period?

1. Colorado River Basin Issues

- a. Hydrology – local, state and Big River
- b. Compact compliance / 2007 Interim Guidelines renegotiation
- c. Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan processes – e.g. Demand Management
- d. Transmountain diversions
- e. Agricultural issues
- f. Recreational Issues
- g. Environmental Issues
- h. Water Conservation

2. BIP update

3. CWP update

4. Identify the audience the EAP will be targeting:

The CBRT EAP will focus on in basin constituents both water stakeholders and the general public. This includes Colorado Basin stakeholders interested in State and other funding and grant opportunities.

5. Budget: How will \$6,500 be spent? If possible, please include if your basin is using other funding sources to implement the EAP.

For parties interested in supporting the CBRT EAP goals:

- Submit an email to Jason Turner and Abby Burk outlining planned activity alignment with CBRT EAP, scope of work, and proposed budget.
- Respond to CBRT RFP for project work.