DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

Dan Gibbs
COLORADO RIVER

Updates

Amy Ostdiek
Colorado River Updates

Amy Ostdiek
Section Chief
Federal, Interstate, and Water Information
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Drought Contingency Plan Implementation

Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA)

- Mechanism to move water from Upper Basin Initial Units with requirements for recovery, consistent with authorities, permits, contracts, etc.
- Imminent need releases: 161,000 acre-feet already released.
- Planning process currently underway.

Demand Management Storage Agreement (DMSA)

- Feasibility investigation ongoing in Upper Basin States.

Weather Modification

- Expanded use and funding for Weather Modification program in the Upper Basin.
Post-2026 Interim Reservoir Operations

Colorado’s Goals:

- Additional water supply security and certainty
- Avoid risk of curtailment in the Upper Basin
- Improve operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- Address overuse in Lower Basin
- Support coordination with Mexico
- Maintain compliance with established federal environmental law
Thank You

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COLORADO

Water Plan

Russ Sands
Climate Change is water change ... and there's hope.

- Brad Udall
COLLABORATIVE. ITERATIVE. INTERCONNECTED.

WATER PLAN UPDATE

JUNE 30 – SEPT 30
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BIP UPDATES

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

ROBUST AGRICULTURE

THRIVING WATERSHEDS

RESILIENT PLANNING

• Environment
• Recreation
• Watershed Health
• Forest Health

• Climate Adaptation
• Public Awareness
• Smart Government
• Inclusivity & Diversity
2,000 PAGES INTO 200 PAGES
FOREST HEALTH
Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Chris Sturm
Mission
The CWCB will assess the susceptibility of Colorado’s water resources, communities and critical infrastructure to post-wildfire impacts and advance a framework for communities to plan and implement mitigation strategies to minimize these impacts — before the wildfire occurs.

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
TWO PARTS

STATEWIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY

FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITIES
PART 1: IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES/ASSETS

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
  BUILT WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
  NATURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
  HABITAT AND CONSERVATION AREAS

LIFE & PROPERTY
  BUILDINGS
  CRITICAL FACILITIES
  TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC & RECREATION
  AGRICULTURE
  RECREATION

Legend
- Primary Evaluation (Ongoing Analysis)
- Enhanced Evaluation (Still Evaluating Data)
PART 2: IDENTIFICATION OF POST FIRE HAZARDS

- WATER QUANTITY
- SEDIMENT
  - MUD & DEBRIS FLOW
  - FLUVIAL HAZARDS (EROSSION/DEPOSITION)
  - HILLSLOPE EROSION
- WATER QUALITY
  - ASH/ORGANICS
  - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
  - NUTRIENTS

Legend:
- New Analysis or Existing Data Set
- Implied Hazard (No New Analysis)
A comprehensive guide for local watershed advocacy groups and agencies that can be followed to produce local-level post-fire susceptibility evaluations on a watershed scale to direct pre-fire and post-fire mitigation actions. #wildfireactionplan101

**WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK**

**WILDFIRE READY WATERSHEDS FRAMEWORK**

**PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS**

Who are the federal, state, local, and NGO partners that I can work with? What funding mechanisms are available?

**PERMITTING FOR PRE AND POST FIRE ACTIONS**

What are the permit requirements for my mitigation projects? Agencies, schedule, budget implications.

**GIS PREPAREDNESS**

What data do I need to perform a susceptibility analysis? What data do I need for recovery after a fire?

**HAZARD EVALUATIONS**

What hazard evaluations need to be performed? What expertise do I need? What are the best practices?

**SUSCEPTIBILITY ANALYSIS**

How do I determine the post-fire impacts to my community?

**PRE AND POST FIRE ACTIONS**

What actions can I take before and after a fire to protect my community?

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Stimulus Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Stimulus</th>
<th>American Rescue Plan</th>
<th>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</th>
<th>Build Back Better</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One time General Fund investments</td>
<td>DNR is pursuing two ARPA appropriations from the Recovery and Relief Task Force, including:</td>
<td>Direct federal spending and grants to state agencies, local governments, and other entities, including:</td>
<td>Direct federal spending, tax adjustments, and grants to state agencies, local governments, and other entities</td>
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<td>Six bills and three divisions currently impacted:</td>
<td>-$15M for Republican and Rio Grande Basin Groundwater Recovery</td>
<td>-Water resources and drought resiliency</td>
<td>Significant uncertainty, but unlikely to include significant additional water funding.</td>
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<td>-EDO, CWCB, &amp; CPW</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Forest health &amp; watershed resiliency</td>
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American Rescue Plan Act Funding

- ARPA includes funding for Colorado through Treasury’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The total amount of SLFRF money granted to the state is $3.8B.

- DNR is pursuing $15 million for Groundwater Sustainability and Compact Compliance in the Rio Grande and Republican River basins
  - This funding will leverage existing federal programs to address the imminent threat of mandatory, uncompensated, permanent agricultural dry-up in the Republican and Rio Grande River Basins
  - It will also help sustain economic productivity, enhance resilience to drought and other natural hazards, encourage positive environmental outcomes, and conserve water for future generations.
The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- $1.2 trillion total in the bill
  - Of which $550 billion is entirely new spending (shown right)

- The bill generally gives Federal agencies broad leeway to determine distribution formulas, program requirements, and timelines.

- Federal agencies are working now to establish many new programs.
  - Now is the time to engage with relevant Federal partners to advocate for Colorado priorities and projects in the initial formulation of programs.

- A significant portion of the funds will flow directly to local governments, districts, and other entities.
  - The Department is ready to support these entities and guide implementation.
Types of Water Investments

- Aging Infrastructure
- Rural Water Supply
- Dam Safety & Repair
- Water Storage
- Water & Wastewater Reuse/Recycling
- Water & Wastewater Efficiency
- Watershed Health & Management
- Aquatic Ecosystem Health
- Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery
- Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan
- Clean Water & Drinking Water
- Groundwater and Aquifer Recharge
- Flood Risk Management
- Emergency Watershed Protection
- Post-fire Restoration
- Invasive Species Eradication
IIJA Relevant Federal Agencies

Colorado agencies, including DNR, CDPHE, CDA, and DOLA, are expecting to be impacted by IIJA water investments in the following federal agencies:

- **Department of Agriculture**
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - US Forest Service

- **Department of Interior**
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Environmental Protection Agency

- **Department of Defense**
  - Army Corps of Engineers
Funding opportunities can generally be considered in three buckets:

1) **Direct federal spending on federally-owned assets**
   - Example: BOR Aging Infrastructure

2) **Formula grants to states**
   - Example: Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

3) **Competitive grants to states, tribes, locals, and other entities**
   - Example: Small Surface/Groundwater Storage Project Grants
IIJA Next Steps

- DNR will continue to engage with stakeholders, federal partners, the Governor’s Office, the General Assembly, and other state agencies to build a structure and network that best positions Colorado to execute on funding opportunities.

- Department staff are considering values, priorities, and specific projects that we would like to see reflected in existing and newly established federal programs.

- We want to hear from stakeholders about your priorities as well!
Charting a Path Forward
Foundation and Future for the IBCC

Dan Gibbs
17 YEARS OF THE IBCC

5 MAJOR OUTPUTS

2 KEY THEMES
2005-2006 Assembled and created the IBCC Charter.
2006-2013 Developed basin needs, water portfolios and “No and Low Regrets Strategies”

Led to IBCC and roundtables working with the CWCB Board to include scenarios in the Water Plan.
Ensure agricultural and non-consumptive (recreational and environmental) resilience that focuses on partnerships and considers impacts in and beyond Colorado.

Inherent risk and a lack of firm yield from the new TMD should be accepted.

Adaptable triggers for TMD diversions and curtailment are needed.

Voluntary partnerships can help protect existing water systems; not the new TMD.

TMD contingency plans, diverse portfolios and firm yield absent of the TMD should be developed.

Adaptable triggers for TMD diversions and curtailment are needed.

Voluntary partnerships can help protect existing water systems; not the new TMD.

Ensure agricultural and non-consumptive (recreational and environmental) resilience that focuses on partnerships and considers impacts in and beyond Colorado.

TMD provisions should support and accommodate future west slope water needs (including growth).

2013-2015 IBCC and roundtables work with the CWCB to put the framework in the Water Plan.
- **2018-2019** Coordinated on funding buckets that need to be explored if additional funding comes in.
- A precursor to Proposition DD discussion and the added funding for CWCB Water Plan Grants.
2020 -2021 Highlighted inherent complexities of equity/proportionality and broad areas to explore.

Delivered to the CWCB Board for consideration as the board evaluates if DM is feasible/advisable.
OTHER RECENT IBCC CONTRIBUTIONS

2018
- **Letter to candidates** highlighting IBCC and water challenges

2019
- **Presenting** to the Water Resources Review Committee

ONGOING (LAST IN 2021)
- Working with CWCB on **Water Supply Reserve Fund criteria** changes

ONGOING (REVIVED IN 2021)
- Public Education, Outreach and Education (PEPO) leadership

ONGOING (LAST IN 2022)
- Regular **report outs** to the CWCB Board

2017 - 2022
- Input on SWSI/Technical Update, BIPs and the **Basin Implementation Working Group**
KEY THEME FOR SUCCESS #1

• IBCC has a close relationship with the CWCB Board, IBCC outputs have been supported by the board and those outputs have been strengthened when the board incorporates them into policy.

“The IBCC serves a critical role as a brain trust and think tank to discuss statewide water issues and provide recommendations to the CWCB.”

– John Stulp
Former IBCC Chair
IBCC has a close relationship with the roundtables, helps elevate roundtable discussions and finds common ground on thinking that can inform the CWCB board and other decision makers.

“Consensus can move mountains.”

– Russ George
Former IBCC Chair
WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Anything to add?

Anything to highlight?

Anything that might have been missed?
2020 ROUNDTABLE SURVEY RESULTS

- **Question 1:** What do you want to learn more about?
- **Question 2:** What do you want IBCC to discuss next?
FINAL Thoughts

Dan Gibbs