



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board

FROM: Anna Mauss, Deputy Director
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DATE: May 15 - 16, 2024 Board Meeting

ITEM: 10. Operational Planning Update

This is an informational item to update the Board on the status of work outlined in the operational planning effort. No Board action requested. Water Supply Planning Section staff will provide an update on the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Guide, which integrates elements of the operational plan work completed by the board.

Background

Strategic Operational Planning

Over the last nine months the CWCB has been working with the CWCB board to consider annual operational needs in keeping with Agency Action 5.10 in the 2023 Colorado Water Plan (Water Plan) to “develop annual operational plans that identify targeted work for CWCB.” This included a retreat, facilitated discussion and creation of at least two work products: 1) the CWCB calendar, and 2) the CWCB Board onboarding checklist. Additionally, CWCB staff worked to integrate CWCB Board input into planning of the now annual Colorado Nine Roundtables Summit (C9 Summit) and worked to create a soon-to-be released CWCB Guide which will include links to the two aforementioned items.

CWCB Guide

For years, the CWCB has maintained a CWCB Handbook that was used to onboard new CWCB Board members. The Water Plan Agency Action 4.2 called for a “universal handbook” to help similarly onboard roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) members and provide answers to common stakeholder questions. During the CWCB’s Operational Planning process, the two converged to form a CWCB Guide (Guide) that could combine information in ways that serve all these purposes.

The Guide recognizes that the CWCB Board, IBCC, and roundtables often have similar questions, especially as it relates to open meetings laws, the way the Water Supply Reserve Fund works, and other funding and process questions. Providing one reference document for all interested parties will create greater alignment between these groups



and support the original vision of the Water for the 21st Century Act where grassroots input works up to the CWCB Board who can codify policy in grant criteria, the Colorado Water Plan and similar efforts.

The Guide Guide orients CWCB board members, stakeholders and other interested parties on how the CWCB functions broadly, how it interacts with key constituents and the function of both CWCB and those constituents. The Guide is designed to be complementary to roundtable and IBCC bylaws, the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Policy Handbook for Boards and Commissions, and be a reference document for CWCB stakeholders. The Guide will be edited annually as needed as part of ongoing strategic operation planning. CWCB Staff will suggest any edits annually in September to the CWCB Board based on input or questions it has received from stakeholders and the board.