
Colorado's Water Plan – Status Update December 5, 2013

This status update was prepared by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in order to update stakeholders statewide on recent developments related to Colorado's Water Plan. Please check the Colorado's Water Plan website (www.coloradowaterplan.com) often for additional updates and email cowaterplan@state.co.us with any questions.

Recent Developments on Colorado's Water Plan

- Colorado's Water Plan is moving from a phase focused on introducing Colorado's Water Plan across the state to communicating more on the evolving substance of the plan. As more people begin to engage in this process, their input can therefore be based more on the actual substance of the plan as it is developed.
 - For example, the Colorado's Water Plan Annotated Framework is posted online on the new website at www.coloradowaterplan.com and will continue to provide a good basis for how the plan itself is developing and what sections will be ultimately be included in the plan.
 - For consideration at the November, 2013 CWCB Board meeting and based on a combination of CWCB Board member and general public input received, a natural disasters management section was added to the Annotated Framework, the conservation section was supplemented with the addition of reuse, and a new water quality section was added. Significant thinking has also gone into the timing of each section. While most sections of the Annotated Framework are reliant on the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) to be complete in July, 2014, there are several sections that can be drafted prior to then. For this reason, the Basin Roundtables are already off and running on production of their BIPs across the state. A status update on the BIP scope of work documents was released in December, 2013. Find it online.
- The CWCB is planning to share the Basin Roundtable consultant scopes of work as they are finalized, and other documents produced by the basins and IBCC as a result of their planning processes. CWCB staff members are working closely with the Basin Roundtable chairs, the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Education Liaisons, the selected consultants, and other Basin Roundtable members to coordinate this work and post all of the related documentation online at www.coloradowaterplan.com. In December, 2013 a meeting of the BRT consultants will be held to assist with coordinating work statewide on the Basin Implementation Plans.

- Within the Annotated Framework, the CWCB is also making progress on Section 5.9 Framework on More Efficient Water Project Permitting Processes, meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency and Water Quality Control Division within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to date. Mapping out the permitting processes and finding efficiencies is a critical undertaking.
- There has also been progress with regard to the state's water rights, and the CWCB is working with other state agencies to inventory the water rights.
- Colorado's Water Plan is a great place to incorporate not just SWSI, but also other critical reports from CWCB and other state agencies. For instance, the water plan will incorporate:
 - The Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan and State Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan in the new Natural Disaster Management section,
 - The Statewide Water Quality Management Plan from 2011 for the new water quality section, and
 - The Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment for the watershed health section. This last report maps the watershed critical for the protection of drinking water.
- The CWCB continues to formalize the process for providing public input and as a result, many people have submitted input through designated formal channels including the new website at www.coloradowaterplan.com. Public input will be considered at each CWCB Board meeting, and is already being worked into plan elements such as the Annotated Framework. While CWCB still encourages stakeholders to primarily work through the Basin Roundtables since the BIPs will comprise a significant portion of Colorado's Water Plan, the public can submit general input by emailing cowaterplan@state.co.us or via the new website at www.coloradowaterplan.com.
- Stay up to date on other recent developments at www.coloradowaterplan.com.