

# South Platte Basin Roundtable and Metro Roundtable Education Action Plan

2016-2018

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## ***Background Information:***

The 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 05-1177), is based upon the premise that Coloradans must work together to address the water needs within the state. The legislation created a framework to encourage dialogue on water, broadened the range of stakeholders actively participating in water decisions, and created a locally driven process where the decision-making power rests with those living in the state's river basins. The statewide structure, the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), and the local structures, the nine basin roundtables, bring over 300 diverse citizens into water supply planning discussions across the state.

As each basin roundtable carries out its charge to develop basin-wide water needs assessments, they are also required to advance the understanding of future water needs through educational programs and processes. In the statutes of HB 05-1177, each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) ... Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Moreover, the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislatively created committee of the IBCC. This group is tasked with: creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's 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 position on each basin roundtable, members of the IBCC, statewide water education experts, staff of the Water Supply Planning section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC), and a consultant firm that facilitates the PEPO Workgroup. The members of

this 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 the most helpful and meaningful ways in which the public can participate in the work of their basin roundtable.

To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has created an application-based education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$6,500 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

***South Platte Basin Roundtable Education & Outreach Committee:***

The South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O Committee joined forces with the Metro Basin E&O Committee in 2014-2015 to draw on member resources from both Roundtables and to combine educational outreach activities with great success. Therefore, the South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O and Membership endorse going forward with the Metro Basin Roundtable E&O to achieve our goals and objectives with double our resources.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable, therefore, plans to draw from its member resources and those of the Metro Basin Roundtable, to continue the committee's work, building on the past successes and momentum established with assistance from the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE). In order to accomplish the E&O Committee goals, objectives, and tasks, the E&O Committee will actively engage with PEPO and other basin round tables to find common ground and discuss differences.

In the past, the E&O Committee had focused its efforts on educating local, county, and state elected officials. The Metro Basin Roundtable Reception reported on a reception held in the spring of 2011 and 2012 that was successful and, likewise, the South Platte Basin Roundtable reported on the very successful outreach events in past years to elected officials. When the E&O Committees evaluated these events, they determined that the effort was worthwhile. The South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O Committee will likewise continue to schedule this event.

The E&O Committees, believing that a well-educated public can engage productively with their elected officials, propose an ongoing program that brings taxpayers, ratepayers and elected decision makers together in a forum that addresses the educational needs identified in the 2010 [Basin Roundtable Education Survey](#).

This update to the South Platte Basin Roundtable Basin EAP presents those themes and a program plan to implement additional enhanced public outreach. The anticipated outcome is to create widespread public support for SPBRT goals, and in this way engage the public, decision-makers and elected officials to support solution-oriented water supply planning efforts of the South Platte Basin Roundtable and its member organizations reflecting statewide efforts.

**I. Governance**

A) Names and affiliations of Education & Outreach Committee: The South Platte Basin Roundtable continually solicits additional members for its E&O Committee. As of October 1, 2015 the members and Co-Chairs of the Education & Outreach Committee are:

1. Joel Schneekloth – Colorado State University
2. Lisa McVicker – Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
3. Joe Frank—President, SPBRT (Member); Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
4. Sean Cronin—Past President, SPBRT (Member); St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District

B) Annual meeting plan for Committee:

- a. Meetings prior to regularly scheduled roundtable meetings
- b. Purpose is to discuss development and implementation of the EAP, especially as it relates to the Basin Implementation Plan and the State Water Plan

**II. Educational Priorities & Implementation: Overall goals of the Education and Outreach Committee of the South Platte Basin Roundtable include a focus on educating and engaging the public, decision-makers and elected officials on the scope and purpose of the BIP and the State Water Plan, with an overarching theme of focusing on solutions-oriented water supply planning.**

Overall goal(s) of the E&O Committee: To educate and engage the public, decision-makers, and elected officials on solutions-oriented water supply planning			
OBJECTIVES	TASKS	LEAD(S)	TIMELINE
Integrate into statewide outreach initiatives	Meet with Metro BRT Ed. Com. to coordinate activities	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com.	Ongoing
	Have a roundtable presence at the future Statewide Roundtable Summits	Roundtable members	March 2016
Develop and communicate criteria for Basin RT approval of grant requests Review of outcomes	Identify priorities within the South Platte BIP/Metro BIP	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	July 2015
	Review CWCB WSRA criteria, communicate to Metro BRT and evaluate need for Metro BRT specific criteria.	WSRA Needs Committee and E&O Committee	December 2015
	Review of outcomes of previous	Ed. Liaison	December 2015

of previous WSRA	WSRA grants	/Ed.Com. *	
	Review and update surveys for SPBRT members and general public that help direct future outreach planning.	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	As needed
Provide consistency and commonality of water education outreach messaging	Compile lists (map) of other groups that have background and interest in water issues.	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	December 2015
	Develop simple message for RT members to take back to their communities	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	July 2015
Coordinate Social Media Communications	Coordinate with existing programs and outreach	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	December 2015
Submit articles to news agencies on BIP and State Water Plan	Setup meetings with editorial board of local newspapers/newsletters within the South Platte Basin Area. Obtain commitment for articles in 2015	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	December 2015
Solicit input from affected stakeholders	Revise 'Fact Sheet' to be informative and shared with constituent groups	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	December 2015
	Compile input to inform development of outreach events and workshops	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	December 2015
Assist Phreatophyte Committee in education-outreach to Basin Landowners re: phreatophyte control	Recruit new SPBRT members and committee members to enhance effectiveness, diversity and participation.	All	December 2015
	Recommend other committee formation? <hr/> Create materials and assist Phreatophyte committee in education outreach to Basin Landowners	All	December 2015 <hr/> Ongoing

Provide orientation for RT Members	Update content for member notebook	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	Ongoing
Promote integrity of the process	Work with CWCB and CFWE to ensure SPBRT information is up to date (bylaws, membership information, etc.)	All	Ongoing
Submit WSRA grant application for staff assistance or education coordinator to assist Ed. Com.		Ed. Liaison	Spring 2016
Work with Metro Basin RT to host a public meeting for elected officials	Develop meeting agenda based on compiled input, current issues and roundtable's portfolio of solutions	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	Spring 2016
	Secure venue	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	Winter 2015
	Find appropriate speakers and meeting facilitator—Work on setting up speakers' bureau of people and organizations whose presentations would be beneficial to the meetings.	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	Fall – Winter 2015
	Identify and outreach to elected officials and decision-makers	All	Ongoing
	Develop and print attendee packet of speaker/educational materials	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com. *	February-March 2016
	Host the reception in March-April 2016, including day-of logistics	All (CWCB, BRT, CFWE, CWA)	March –April 2016
	Review the attendee evaluation forms and revise future activities to reflect the results.	Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com /PEPO	December 2015
<b>Long Term – 2016 and Beyond</b>			
BIP & State Plan	Follow up with the participants	TBD	TBD

Outreach	of the 2013-2014-2015 public meetings on their informational needs		
	Develop content, venue, speakers, etc.	TBD	TBD
	Market to appropriate audiences	TBD	TBD
	Record the event for a future speaker's bureau	TBD	TBD
Submit periodic articles to basin news agencies on BIP and State Plan	Recruit roundtable members to write articles	TBD	Throughout
Work with 3rd party/universities to develop online survey to gauge public's support and knowledge of the BIP and State Water Plan	Beyond 2015	TBD	TBD

Note: "Ed. Liaison /Ed.Com \*" refers to tasks that require hired technical, research and writing assistance.

## I. Budget

The South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O Committee proposes to use \$6,500 in state funds, immediately, to hire assistance in research and writing for the Education and Outreach Committee. The Committee also proposes to use state funds in July, 2015 to hire a facilitator to conduct a joint South Platte/Metro Education & Outreach session with the goal of identifying Education & Outreach priorities and strategies to implement those priorities.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O Committee proposes pooling financial resources with the Metro Basin Roundtable E&O Committee to develop strategic plan to enhance our digital presence via the website: [www.southplattebasin.com](http://www.southplattebasin.com) and other appropriate social media.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable E&O Committee has been encouraged to develop grant proposals and anticipates applying for a WSRA grant; and to partner with other organizations to fund the efforts described above over the next several years.

Below is a conceptual list of proposed programs currently under consideration.

Outreach to DARCA (Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance), S. Platte Roundtable, Arkansas Roundtable and various watershed groups.

Outreach to metropolitan area institutions of higher education to develop programming specifically targeted to young professionals.

Outreach to the business community.

Outreach to recreation and environmental interests via existing channels.

Outreach with conservation message via existing programs such as Live Like You Love It!

Outreach with storage message to develop broad constituency for collaboration.

Details of the grant proposals and budgets are in the process of being developed for later presentation to and approval by the South Platte Basin Roundtable. The E&O Committee and partners will articulate how each task seeking WSRA funding relates to the South Platte and Metro Roundtable activities, Basin Implementation Plan and the WSRA Needs Committee.

The Education Committee will work on the specific details for developing and implementing each of these objectives and tasks as they occur.

### **III. Partnerships**

Groups existing in the South Platte Basin as potential outreach and education partners include but are not limited to:

- CSU: Colorado Climate Center and Colorado Water Institute
- Clear Creek Watershed Foundation
- Poudre Learning Center
- Big Thompson Watershed Forum
- Boulder Keep It Clean Partnership
- Municipal members of the SPBRT
- Metro State College - One World, One Water Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship
- Conservancy District members of the SPBRT
- Conservation and other Organizations

The South Platte Basin Roundtable also anticipates reaching out to the Metro Basin Roundtable's Partners as well which include, but are not limited to those educational groups and efforts already existing in the Metro area as potential partners:

- Colorado Foundation for Water Education
- Metro State College of Denver – OWOW
- Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
- Denver Water
- Aurora Water
- City of Thornton-Utilities
- other water providers
- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- EPA
- South Platte Greenway Foundation
- Colorado WaterWise Council
- Colorado Watershed Assembly
- American Public Works Association
- America Water Works Association
- Urban Waters Partnership
- CSU Water Center
- Colorado Water Quality Control Division
- Colorado Stormwater Council
- Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance
- CSU Extension Offices
- Special Districts
- Colorado Counties, Inc.
- Chambers of Commerce
- Other Round Tables

Specific partnership opportunities and tasks will be developed in 2015 and early 2016 in conjunction with the detail for implementing the objectives and tasks.

#### **IV. Assessment**

- A) Robust participation by committee members in planning and implementation
- B) Review of committees and subcommittees; report on accomplishments and suggestions for renewal
- C) Review of WSRA grants and summary of accomplishments presented to the Roundtable
- D) At least two identified partnerships pursued and maintained
- E) Contributions to work on our digital presence
- F) Use of Headwaters Magazine on State Water Plan in at least three planned events
- G) Production of presentation materials for planned events
- H) At last three meetings throughout basin delivered and attended by 25% of targeted public officials



- I) Display of roundtable content and BIP/State Water Plan efforts at a minimum of three events or venues
- J) Member notebook information updated and each new member is oriented by the Chairperson