



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

COLLABORATING ON COLORADO'S WATER FUTURE

MAY 2017



Colorado's Water Plan is our state's framework for solutions to our water challenges. It guides future decision-making and sets forth the measurable objectives, goals, and critical actions needed to ensure the state's most valuable resource is protected and available for generations to come. Implementation at the state and local level is critical to Colorado moving forward.

Supply and Demand Gap

Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)

The SWSI technical team (CWCB staff and consultants) is developing initial draft methodologies and related documentation. Most of the technical team workshops for each of the related subject matter areas are completed, with final workshops scheduled to occur by the end of May. Once refined, these methodologies will be distributed to the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). Participation in the TAGs is still being finalized, but a tentative list of TAG participants was distributed to roundtables and the IBCC. The scheduling process for TAG meetings will occur in late May with the meetings likely being scheduled in July to give participants time to review the documentation and compile feedback. As a representative peer review process, TAG participants are encouraged to compile technical feedback on the methodologies from other roundtable members and constituents.

This updated SWSI analysis will focus on examining hydrologic gaps (i.e. water availability) under different future scenarios using available hydrologic modeling tools, such as Colorado's Decision Support Systems. The analysis will enable more consistency (geographically and across sectors) while quantifying a scenario planning approach. Due to data gaps, consistency issues, and roundtable feedback about planned projects (Identified Projects and Processes, or "IPPs") the analysis will not interpret or include IPPs in the modeling analysis, but may add some available data to modeling tools for potential future analysis at a basin level.

Conservation & Land Use

Integrating Water into Land Use Planning

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the CWCB, Pace University Land Use Law Center, and DOLA's Community Development Office hosted five webinars focused on integrating water into land use planning with over 300 participants. Topics included setting the stage, comprehensive planning, zoning codes, water efficiency and landscape requirements, and Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). The CWCB and DOLA are planning to convene a small working group to strategize next steps for the training.

Water Efficiency Planning

Since January 2016, 18 water providers have submitted Water Efficiency Plans to the CWCB. Of those, 15 have been approved and 3 are in review. All covered entities - retail water providers who sell 2,000 acre-feet or more of water annually - are required to have a water efficiency plan on file with the CWCB in order to access state funding. These plans help water providers set actions and goals at the local level that help to implement Colorado's Water Plan's measurable objective to achieve 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and

industrial water conservation by 2050. The water efficiency plans include indoor and outdoor conservation activities including incentives, regulations, education, and pricing mechanisms. They also include ways to integrate water into land use planning.

Agriculture

Where now with Alternative Transfer Methods in CO?

This special report, released by the Colorado Water Institute, summarizes the discussions, conclusions, and recommendations from three meetings held in the fall of 2016 to address Colorado's Water Plan's measurable objective to provide at least 50,000 acre-feet of agricultural water to municipal water providers through voluntary, compensated Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs) by 2030. These meetings convened water stakeholders from across the state, representing the interests of diverse sectors of the water community - agricultural, urban, and environmental. The report is intended to provide a foundation on which further progress toward meeting Colorado's Water Plan's ATM goal can be built. The report was co-authored by Anne Castle, MaryLou Smith, John Stulp, Brad Udall, and Reagan Waskom and is available on [Colorado's Water Plan website](#) under Implementation.

Storage

Upper Beaver Brook Dam Project

The Lookout Mountain Water District received a \$3,099,690 loan from the CWCB in November 2015 to perform repairs and improvements to its Upper Beaver Brook Dam spillway. The project includes improvements to the existing rock-cut spillway with a new concrete labyrinth weir spillway, constructed to a level such that reservoir volume will increase by 134 acre-feet for a total storage of 391 acre-feet. Additional components include relocation of the access road due to the higher water level, installation of a new measurement flume, removal of trees in the inundation zone, replacement of the outlet works gate valve stem and staff gauge, and associated grading, monumentation, armoring, and record documentation. Engineering is provided by GEI Consultants and construction by SEMA Construction.

These improvements will allow the District to continue to provide a reliable supply of drinking water to current customers, with increased reliability for future demand and times of drought. Since January, the stored water has increased by approximately 27 acre-feet and may fill to the pre-construction high level sometime in May. The project, on schedule and under budget, met a substantial completion milestone for its labyrinth weir spillway structure in April 2017. In addition, the final walk-through is scheduled for mid-May with the State Engineer's Office.

Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation

Stream Management Planning

The CWCB has approved six Stream Management Plan grants in 2016 and 2017 totaling \$491,788. Two plans are in the initial watershed assessment phase that will identify streams for protection. The other plans are developing protection recommendations for 88 total stream miles.

Funding

CWCB 2017 Projects Bill

The CWCB Projects Bill was approved by the Legislature, and needs to be signed by Governor Hickenlooper. The Projects Bill included \$164 million in funding, including: \$130M for Loans; \$9M for CWCB Operations and Program Funding; and \$25M for Water Plan Implementation Funding. The Water Plan Implementation Funding is divided into \$10M for WSRF supplemental funding; \$5M for the Watershed Restoration Grant Program; and \$10M for Water Plan Implementation Grants/Funding. The Water Plan Implementation Grants/Funding includes:

- \$2M - Addressing the supply/demand gap
- \$3M - New Storage
- \$1M - Implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning
- \$1M - Education, outreach, and innovation
- \$1M - Technical assistance & grants for Agriculture
- \$1M - Non-consumptive (environment & recreation)
- \$1M - Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update

Education & Outreach

Grant Projects

In March, the CWCB Board approved two grants to help achieve the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective in Colorado's Water Plan. The One World One Water Center at MSU Denver will head the Education Asset Mapping project. The project will provide information about the education and outreach strengths, resources, needs, and gaps (geographically and topically) in each basin roundtable region. It will include an analysis of the types of target audiences for education and outreach that need to be reached to achieve each measurable objective in Colorado's Water Plan.

The OMNI Institute will lead the CWP Outreach, Education, and Public Engagement Baseline Survey. This is the baseline survey to gather and analyze the necessary information to determine progress, successes, and areas of priority and improvement to meet the plan's objective. It will include questions about public knowledge, awareness, attitudes, and willingness to act. This survey will utilize and build upon past awareness surveys in Colorado and will continue this work in order to collect and analyze consistent data so Coloradans can target efforts to meet the objective, and the other measurable objectives in the plan.

Innovation

TAP-IN

The CWCB, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Denver Water, Colorado State University, and Open Water Foundation partnered with other organizations statewide to launch TAP-IN, a platform to support water innovation in Colorado. The mission of TAP-IN is to create the space for Coloradans to "tap in" to the creative current that flows through our state to solve our greatest water challenges. The goal is to build connections across communities to unleash the power of Coloradans collaborating.

Throughout 2017, TAP-IN is hosting a series of community dialogue events and three reverse pitch events in different locations around the state. The first community dialogue event, *Water Entrepreneurs: How They Did It & What They Learned*, was held on May 11 in Denver. The first reverse pitch event will be held on June 21 at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and focuses on *Source & Cycle*, which includes rainwater, stormwater, potable water, groundwater, reclaimed and reused water, wastewater, and sustainable/green infrastructure. To learn more and get involved, visit www.tapinco.org.

Additional Information

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC)

The IBCC met on April 20th in Keystone. IBCC members debriefed from their Ag Water Summit held in conjunction with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance last November and discussed related next steps to foster the implementation of successful alternative ATMs. A number of recommendations for implementing ATMs that grew out of the Ag Water Summit are included in the [Colorado Water Institute](#) report. The meeting also included updates on the Colorado River Risk Study, the Statewide Water Supply Initiative Update, and the CWCB Projects Bill.

In addition, IBCC members continued to examine various options for funding the implementation of Colorado's Water Plan and the appropriate role of the IBCC in this process. Members were encouraged to discuss further involvement related to funding options with their roundtables.

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