



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Elizabeth Schoder, Water Supply Planning

DATE: July 16, 2025 CWCB Board Meeting

ITEM: Agenda Item #10 Water Plan Agency Action 4.1 Education Hub Partnership

This is an informational item with no Board action required.

Water Supply Planning staff will present on the partnership between the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Colorado State University's Colorado Water Center (CoWC) to create an online Water Education and Workforce Resource Hub. Following a short presentation, staff will provide an opportunity for the Board to provide feedback in the early stage of the creation of the pilot hub.

Background & Timeline

Water Plan Agency Action 4.1 calls for the creation of a capacity-building hub to provide accessible educational opportunities. In early 2025, staff partnered with Colorado State University's Colorado Water Center (CoWC) to collaborate in building a new Colorado Water Education and Workforce Resource Hub. The need for a centralized, online water education and workforce resource hub was also identified by CoWC through discussions from the 2024 Colorado Water Workforce Summit, an event led by the CoWC and supported by CWCB. CWCB and CoWC opted to partner to avoid duplication of efforts and to expand capacity and work towards similar goals. CoWC, as an educational institution, is well-positioned to host and maintain the online interface of the hub through their Office of Engagement and Extension.

Beginning in April 2025, CWCB and CoWC conducted an assessment of existing water education and workforce resources and gaps through an online survey and conversations with educational partners. The survey was sent to higher educational partners, university water centers, community college systems, K-12 educators, water utilities, partner agencies, professional associations and nonprofits to scope existing resources and identify gaps in the water education & workforce resources in Colorado.

In July, CWCB and CoWC staff will begin to build the pilot online hub, with the goal of the hub serving as a one-stop shop for Colorado's vast array of water-related education, workforce, and professional development resources, making it easier for students, emerging and established water professionals, educators, and all Colorado residents to access the knowledge and tools they need. The hub will link directly to existing resources, helping to amplify the impact and access of all of Colorado's water educational partners.

CWCB and CoWC will continue to engage with partners across the state through scoping existing resources, user testing and future expansion efforts. This phased, iterative process will ensure the online hub stays updated, comprehensive, and easily navigable; engaging more Coloradans in understanding water issues and solutions, and supporting the next generation of the water sector.

This Agency Action is aligned with one of CWCB's Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for FY 2025-2026. Progress on this action will be tracked both internally by staff as well as through the WIG reporting tools available online.