



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



COLORADO

Department of Local Affairs

Division of Local Government

**Colorado Water and Land Use Planning Alliance
Quarterly Meeting**

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Remote Zoom Meeting

Welcome

- Technical Troubleshooting
 - The meeting is being recorded (primarily for note taking purposes).
- Welcome remarks from Christy Wiseman.
- Four Alliance meetings are scheduled for 2021: January 13, April 14, July 14, and October 13.

Poudre Basin Information and Colorado Agricultural Water Transfer Websites – Steve Malers with Open Water Foundation

- Steve Malers is Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Technology Officer for the [Open Water Foundation \(OWF\)](#). OWF is a nonprofit social enterprise founded in 2013 that is working to provide an open source software platform to help organizations make better decisions about water. There is a need for cross-jurisdictional informational websites.
- Steve demonstrated two of OWF's projects: the [Poudre Basin Information](#) website and the [Colorado Agricultural Water Transfer](#) website. OWF has received CWCB grants for this work.
- Steve can be reached at steve.malers@openwaterfoundation.org.
- Discussion:
 - Rio de la Vista: What is the scope for this project? Is the goal for it to be statewide eventually?
 - Steve Malers: I am using the Poudre Basin as an example right now. Some of the current layers are statewide. Trying to strike a balance between detail and user-friendliness (e.g., loading speed). Roundtable scale might be good too.
 - Kevin Reidy: On the ATM website, is there a way to show where supplies are coming from vs. where they are being used?
 - Steve Malers: That's possible. I also want to show trans-mountain and trans-basin diversions, to show source vs. destination.
 - Steve Malers: How does this group use data? How would you utilize something like this website?
 - Amy Volckens: Didn't KC McFerson create a map? But it was not really utilized.

- Kevin Reidy: Waverly Klaw started that work.
- Christy Wiseman: She worked with CWCB staff to create a simple [StoryMap](#) showing Alliance member projects as of 2018. It's still housed on the CWCB [land use webpage](#). It would make sense to use this idea and send OWF data so Alliance member projects can be viewed in the context of more data, on a more sophisticated platform (instead of updating the existing standalone StoryMap). For example, there could be a layer showcasing every community that has participated in [Growing Water Smart](#).
- Steve Malers: OWF's application goes beyond the capabilities of ESRI's online StoryMaps.
- Waverly Klaw: Sonoran Institute is developing GIS data for the Growing Water Smart program. We'd be happy to talk about how to integrate that data into Steve's work.
- Phil Johnson: This information is very helpful. The visual nature is good at demonstrating what work has been done.

Alliance Member Updates

- Upon entering the Zoom meeting, everyone will be muted. Christy will unmute individual attendees to report one at a time based on the attendee list. People who are calling in via phone will have time to report after those identified in the attendee list.
- Christy Wiseman – **CO Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**
 - Water Equity Alliance
 - The US Water Alliance has created a [Water Equity Network](#). According to the website: "The Network is composed of City Learning Teams, with representatives from local water and wastewater utilities, organizations serving vulnerable communities, environmental groups, philanthropy, and more. It is a nationwide community of practice in which participating water agencies and City Learning Teams collaborate to advance equitable water management practices at the local, state, and national levels. Learning Teams receive coaching and support from the US Water Alliance to guide them through identifying local challenges and developing policies and programs to advance water equity."
 - There are multiple membership tier options.
 - The US Water Alliance is hoping to onboard the next wave of Water Equity Network members in Q1 of 2021.
 - Colorado Main Street Program Heritage Energy Pilot Project
 - DOLA's Main Street team is looking for potential participants for the Heritage Energy Pilot Project. "The Heritage Energy Pilot Project is a new idea for state agencies' collaboration to create new synergy between quality historic preservation and statewide energy goals. Project staff will assist property owners directly with a coordinated

approach to property improvements to maximize available incentives. This will save property owners time and relieve confusion in maximizing both project outcomes and incentive funding.”

- Sites in [Main Street Communities](#) are preferred but the team will explore potential sites outside of Main Street Communities as well.
- **KC McFerson – CO Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**
 - KC is working to update the Growth Management course for [Planning Institute of Colorado \(PIC\)](#), a non-profit organization affiliated with the American Planning Association Colorado Chapter. Reach out to KC at kc.mcferson@state.co.us to contribute content or an editing eye to the course.
- **Rio de la Vista – Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University**
 - Rio is the Director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University. She is developing a water education initiative that includes programs and courses for students. They are developing a new water minor as well as doing outreach to water centers at other universities. They host talks that are posted for free on Adams State’s YouTube channel under the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center [playlist](#).
 - They are getting ready to plan the Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium, which will likely be in February 2021.
 - Rio is interested in having a Growing Water Smart Workshop for the Rio Grande Basin 6-county area.
 - Rio is exploring how to develop a Rio Grande library at Adams State so people can easily find water research and information.
- **Lindsay Rogers – WaterNow Alliance**
 - Lindsay is facilitating a [Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper](#) (QWEL) training with the [City of Aspen](#). Reach out to Lindsay with questions on the QWEL program.
 - The fall 2020 round of WaterNow Alliance's [Project Accelerator](#) program is open. The program offers up to 250 hours of support over 6-9 months to advance a community’s or utility’s sustainable water priority. Reach out to Lindsay Rogers with questions at ler@waternow.org or 415-259-7978.
 - WaterNow Alliance supports the [Bureau of Reclamation](#) WaterSMART program (e.g., Drought Contingency Planning Grant, Water Conservation Field Services Program, Small Scale Water Efficiency Program). These grants are typically under-utilized, though the coverage area is most of the Western U.S. WaterNow can help with grant applications.
- **Scott Williamson – Water Education Colorado (WEco)**
 - Water Education Colorado has [recordings](#) from several recent webinars on their website. Topics include agricultural and municipal infrastructure.
 - The fall 2020 issue of [Headwaters Magazine](#) highlights land and water trusts.

- WEco is glad to have support from those working on the [Statewide Water Education Action Plan](#) (SWEAP). Scott is happy to give a more in-depth talk about SWEAP at a future Alliance meeting.
- Rocky Piro – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Rocky had to leave the meeting early, but noted in the chat that his survey team is still accepting community profiles and other case study information to include in the Planning for Water Report’s compendium. A part of the project expectations is in kind support from Alliance members. Email Rocky at docroc93@gmail.com.
- Susan Wood – **American Planning Association Colorado (APA CO) Legislative Committee / Regional Transportation District (RTD)**
 - Thanks to everyone who contributed to the water track for APA CO’s virtual [2020 Colorado Planning Conference](#) in October. It was a great success.
 - It’s amazing how much has happened with this work since the Alliance meetings first started.
- Drew Beckwith – **City of Westminster**
 - Westminster’s budget issues have delayed several projects (e.g., comprehensive plan and water supply plan updates, landscape code work).
 - Drew presented Westminster’s [draft Water Conservation & Efficiency Plan](#) (WEP) to City Council. It was well received.
- Waverly Klaw – **Sonoran Institute**
 - Thanks to all who helped with the 5-session track for the Colorado Planning Conference in October.
 - Applications for 2021 Growing Water Smart Workshops in Colorado and Arizona are open. The virtual workshops will be held over 3-4 days; mid-May for [Colorado](#) and mid-June for [Arizona](#). Waverly will ask Alliance members for help facilitating the workshop. Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Center are also investigating the potential for a Growing Water Smart Workshop in California.
 - Sonoran Institute is looking for two communities to pilot projects related to their [Growing Water Smart Metrics Report](#). They will release an application in January 2021. The Alliance greatly contributed to honing those metrics. The goal is to operationalize those metrics and work directly with two local governments and their water providers.
 - Sonoran Institute is developing a peer-to-peer network for local government practitioners. Waverly will send out a survey related to this network. Sonoran Institute wants to complement existing efforts and integrate the Alliance.
 - Waverly will be going on maternity leave in the first few months of 2021.
- Amanda Smith – **Sonoran Institute**
 - Amanda works with Waverly in the Growing Water Smart program. She’s based in Tucson, AZ.
- Phil Johnson – **City of Cortez**
 - Phil is the Public Works Director for the City of Cortez. Cortez has been working on items that were kicked off with [Western Water Assessment](#).

Cortez is trying to educate people about the basin and the region's reliance on snowpack. Cortez has a brand new council, so staff is working to bring the new elected officials up to speed.

- **Rich Landreth – City of Cortez**
 - Rich is the Water Plant Superintendent for the City of Cortez.
- **Kevin Reidy – Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)**
 - The next [Water Plan Grant](#) application deadline is December 1, 2020. CWCB has moved grant application deadlines due to budget issues.
 - A second phase of the [Colorado Water Loss Initiative](#) (CWLI) has been funded. The second phase will allow for more water providers to take part in the program for the first time as well as offer more advanced programming for water providers that participated in phase one. Kevin will share more details in early 2021. It is the largest voluntary water loss program in the nation as of now; the program has gotten good response.
 - Kevin will share more details about the Water Plan update in 2021. He is still working on the strategy for the land use, efficiency, and reuse section of the plan and is thinking about a One Water approach with equity integration. Kevin wants to take advantage of the Alliance for feedback in advance of presenting to the CWCB Board in July 2021.
- **Jody Beck – University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Jody directs the [University Technical Assistance](#) (UTA) program for CU-Denver. UTA is a partnership between Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) at CU-Denver and DOLA that provides technical design assistance to rural communities that may not have access to resources needed for public improvement projects. Jody is working to expand the scope of design and planning services that CU can offer through the program. Reach out to Jody at jody.beck@ucdenver.edu to discuss small towns or counties in need of planning or design assistance.
- **Gretel Follingstad – University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Gretel is making good progress on her dissertation. The most technical chapter (scenario planning out to 2050 for Aurora) is complete. She presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) virtual [2020 annual conference](#) in early November; the presentation was well received. Gretel is working with Faith to determine other ways to share the results. Gretel will submit manuscripts for publication based on the research. She has also submitted a proposal for the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2021 [Land and Water Policy Specialty Conference](#) in summer of 2021. The document coding is chugging along with help from Gretel's research assistant. The HOA piece is also going well; Gretel will be digging into Castle Rock's data.
- **John Berggren – Western Resource Advocates (WRA)**
 - John and Gretel are speaking at a webinar about drought on Thursday, November 19.
 - WRA is exploring the idea of what landscape professional certification might look like at the state policy level. WRA helped facilitate a panel discussion on this topic at the Colorado WaterWise's virtual [Annual Water](#)

- [Conservation Symposium](#) in October. There is a lot of interest in this idea. John is hoping to put together a stakeholder coalition; reach out to him at john.berggren@westernresources.org.
- John and Waverly are hosting an APA CO-sponsored water and land use event for the Northern CO region in early January. It will be a 2-hour evening workshop providing CM credits for planners.
 - Faith Sternlieb – **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2021 [Land and Water Policy Specialty Conference](#) “Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities” will be virtual. The call for special session proposals has been extended to February 1, 2021.
 - The Babbitt Center is partnering with Arizona State University (ASU) to conduct a survey on water and land use integration activity throughout the CO River Basin (including all of California). [Ray Quay](#) of ASU is leading the effort. Ray and Babbitt staff will reach out to Alliance members to ask about professional networks and connections to increase the survey’s response rate.
 - Erin Rugland and Jim Holway contributed a planning category for Arizona’s Active Management Areas (AMA) [plan](#).
 - Check out [Swimming Upstream](#), a StoryMap about the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.
 - The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy has a new [Center for Geospatial Solutions](#).
 - The Babbitt Center’s [Dissertation Fellowship Program](#) is opening up soon. Contact Faith for more information. The program offers about \$10,000 for research.
 - Amy Volckens – **Brendle Group**
 - The Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) has released a draft of the 5-year update to the [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) (CRF) for review. The public comment period for the draft closes on November 30.
 - Ean Tomas Tafoya – **GreenLatinos**
 - Ean was recently promoted and is now the Colorado Field Advocate for GreenLatinos. His advocacy portfolio now includes public lands, wildlife, climate, transportation, and water. GreenLatinos is a co-chair for the [Clean Water for All Coalition](#) and Ean is leading that effort.
 - Ean gave an overview of relevant federal and state legislative updates (e.g., WRDA, Appropriations Bill, Clean Water for All Act). Ean would appreciate advocacy help with the Clean Water for All Act.
 - CDPHE released a [report](#) and [interactive map](#) showing results from their PFAS Discharge Permit Survey. Ean is having conversations with CDPHE about PFAS compliance tools.
 - [GreenLatinos](#) will host a virtual meeting "[A Climate Crisis on the Rio Grande](#)" on Thursday, November 19. Reach out to Ean at eaantafoya@greenlatinos.org or 720-621-8985 to get connected with this work.

- Ean is part of a group called Headwaters Protectors, which has been delivering water to unhoused populations around the Denver area. It's important to think about water access in communities' ability to combat the pandemic.
- Jim – **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - Several Alliance members are working on an initiative to connect with Tribal leaders and advance [Universal Access to Clean Water in the Colorado River Basin](#).
- Austin Troy – **University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning**
 - Troy has been working on research for the Babbitt Center and Water Research Foundation focusing on water consumption modeling for irrigation in Aurora. The report should be finalized soon.
- Jessica Thrasher – **Headwater Institute**
 - Thanks to Frank Kinder and Ean Tomas Tafoya for their help with organizing Headwaters Institute's first bilingual rain barrel [webinar](#). Northern Water's sponsorship helped fifteen families attend at a lower cost. Jessica put together thoughts on lessons learned for how to effectively engage with Latinx community members, which she can share. The webinar was very well received. Headwaters Institute hopes to translate more content into Spanish in the future. Water Education Colorado helped connect Jessica with a fantastic Spanish translator.
 - Ean and Frank: Thanks to Jessica for her work on this event.
- Frank Kinder – **Northern Water**
 - Frank gave a presentation on Growing Water Smart to Northern Water's Board earlier in November. The presentation was well received. Northern Water staff put together a video telling the Growing Water Smart story and highlight participant allottees.
- Ruth Quade – **City of Greeley**
 - No update from Greeley. Ruth is preparing programs for next year.
- Marianne Eppig – **Urban Land Use Institute Colorado (ULI Colorado)**
 - ULI Colorado recently won a national grant to help developers engage in more water smart development. Hopefully this will serve as a kind of sister program to Growing Water Smart for the private sector.
- Karen Hancock – **City of Aurora**
 - Aurora is excited about Gretel's research.
 - Aurora adopted a new landscape code last year; staff is working on another round of updates to tweak that based on recommendations from the city's landscape architect. For example, there is a need to be more specific about allowed plant types. Karen can provide an overview of Aurora's landscape code to the Alliance if there's interest.
- Jeff Tejral – **Denver Water**
 - Jeff presented on alternative water uses at Colorado WaterWise's virtual [Annual Water Conservation Symposium](#) in October. Denver Water is installing submetered graywater systems in new residential development in the Central Park (formerly Stapleton) neighborhood.
 - Jeff will present about incentives for primarily commercial and multifamily new development projects to Denver Water's Board. The goal is to make

the tap fee tied to amount of water used and institute AMI metering for new development. WRA's [Guide To Designing Conservation-Oriented Water System Development Charges](#) has been helpful.

- Liesel Hans – **City Of Fort Collins**
 - Liesel gave an update on wildfires in the watersheds above Fort Collins. There is a lot of collaboration around the fires and anticipating runoff effects. Fort Collins Utilities is bracing for impacts to water quality, though funding will be a challenge. The 2012 fire season provided lessons learned.
 - The Horsetooth Outlet project is complete in record time. Community demand stayed below the necessary targets. It was a good exercise in working with the community on water use reduction.
 - Housing discussions continue in Fort Collins. Housing is tied to the cost of water. Liesel is interested in stories from other communities around managing strategic goals around affordable housing in the context of the cost of water.
 - Frank: Northern Water plans to work with affordable housing agencies in 2021 and implement retrofits to fixtures as well as complete irrigation audits.
 - Jeff: Denver Water has found that multifamily housing can actually be overcharged for water based on people per unit using certain tap fee structures.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Announcements
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 13th, 2021