

## June 2020 Colorado Water Plan Update Listening Sessions: Public Comments and CWCB Staff Responses

Item Number	Date	Input provided by	Event	Sub Category	Method	Summary of Comment	Staff Response
1	6/3/2020	Gene Reetz	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Project "yield" is critical, and "firm" or "safe" yield should be the metric used for evaluating/comparing all potential projects.	We appreciate your input. We will take this under consideration.
2	6/3/2020	John I. Clark	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Sorry, but I won't be able to stay on for the entire presentation. Will the plan include a carrying capacity analysis for each region, especially taking into account climate change impacts going forward?	Carrying capacity analysis for each region was not included and will not be a part of future updates. The creation of a Flow Tool and the output in the Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan (Tech Update) looks at the impacts to environment and recreation under a range of climate futures. Of the five scenarios in the Colorado Water Plan/Tech Update, three have a warmer future.
3	6/3/2020	Kevin Lusk	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Barbara, Thank you for calling attention to the need to preserve a "Reasonable Residential Experience" for the folks who can't live in the mountains.	Thank you for your feedback.
4	6/3/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	I appreciate to discussion on the need to establish conservation goals. Do any of the panelist have suggestions around how BIP updates can support the advancement and greater adoption of reuse, which can be a key tool to help meet the supply demand gap.	Addressed in Listening Session
5	6/3/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Will the update include a plan to acquire water rights from retiring coal power plants so they can be used for compact compliance. These are important to the basins directly impacted, the state and Upper Basin as a whole.	We appreciate your input. We will take this under consideration.
6	6/3/2020	Meredith Lee Brown	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	With the vast majority of residential water use in outdoor irrigation, is the state actively pushing outdoor water efficiency improvements such as native landscaping and xeriscaping practices?	The water plan has objective measures around Water Conservation and Land Use. Outdoor water conservation, including xeriscape, is mentioned in the Water Plan and would be one of many possible tools to meeting those objective measures. At present urban irrigation is actually about 40-45% of total water use while indoor use is about 55-60%, depending where you are in the state. There is still a lot of ground to cover with this sector of water use but it has decreased significantly in the last 20 years as a % of the whole. With this iteration of the plan, we hope to increase the focus on urban irrigation efficiency, particularly in the context of land use planning.

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7	6/3/2020	Brett G	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	In the spirit of the present conversation thread and acknowledging this is a statewide listening session moving toward the CWP Update, the wisdom of the Basin Roundtable process including the BIPs and updates, is that the diverse geographies, resources, needs, and constraints unique to each basin can be recognized, studied, planned and designed within broad, statewide guidelines, but without uniform specifications applied everywhere.	Just as the original Water Plan was informed by the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs), the Water Plan update is preceded by the updates to the BIPs. While those updated documents may have a more uniform layout (allowing for easier comparisons and contrasts of topical areas), the information in the BIPs is driven by and created by the basin in order to best represent each basins' unique challenges and needs.
8	6/3/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Is there a document which lists all projects in BIP IPP's which have been or are being built to gauge how well this process is actually working	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
9	6/3/2020	Brett G	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Hello Ed. CWCB staff and B&C can also address this, but your Basin Roundtable leadership and their Local Expert consultant for the BIP update have the list for your basin.	Attendee chat response to comment #8
10	6/3/2020	Julia Gallucci	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Where does the CWCB feel it is possible and appropriate to establish firmer guidelines or even regulation related to the goals of the water plan in its next iteration and how will you solicit input related to those firmer guidelines?	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
11	6/3/2020	Peter Mayer	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Should we protect Colorado's water from speculation? NPR had a troubling story on this topic today.	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
12	6/3/2020	Brett G	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Thank you all for putting your thought and effort into this session.	Thank you for your feedback.
13	6/3/2020	Susan Wood	Listening Session	M&I	GotoMeeting Chat	Can I add to Julia's comment that HB20-1095 was passed this session to link Master Plans (land use) to the State Water Plan. Not mandatory, but a start.	Attendee chat response to comment #10
14	6/3/2020	Doug Davis	Listening Session	M&I	Email	I would like to hear some thoughts regarding Pumped Hydro Storage.( PHS ) With a desire to have more renewables a limiting factor is battery storage. PHS is not new around the world including the U.S. There are many projects that are 20 years old and older. Not only could it allow for more wind and solar capacity but has some other potential benefits as well. Storage water for late season releases for endangered fish. Late season releases for recreation. Upper basin water banking versus sending it to lower basin. Potential for recreation and irrigation. I think it's time to begin this conversation. Thank you very much for your time and attention.	Thank you for your feedback. We appreciate opportunities to maximize all beneficial uses of water in the state. The State has long-standing partnerships with hydropower facilities and supports continued collaboration among entities.
15	6/3/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	M&I	Email	As municipal conservation and efficiency improvements progress, will those efforts translate to benefit environmental goals such as increased flows benefiting river health?	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here). This is a topic area that has been explored in Arizona and I think can be explored more in this next iteration of the plan. CWCB is working with City and County of Denver on a One Water plan that could highlight this connection.</a>

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16	6/3/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	M&I	Email	<p>Colorado's Water Plan sets a measurable objective of 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial conservation by 2050. What steps are being taken to meet this goal, and can you help the public better understand how state dollars are being used to accomplish this goal via a public scorecard reporting on progress, actions and achievements?</p>	<p>The 2017 Ripple Effects document sought to provide a progress report on the Colorado Water Plan. A similar status report is set to be completed in 2020 as part of the Basin Implementation Plan and Water Plan update process. Some metrics are also tracked on the Governor's dashboard.</p> <p>Through our Water Plan Grant program we have funded a good number of projects that support the attainment of the conservation goal, the land use goal as well as advancing direct potable reuse regulations. Additionally, CWCB has conducted the Colorado Water Loss Initiative over the last 2 years to improve the water loss control and management for water providers across the state. Phase II of the CWLI is fully funded and will kick off possibly in early 2021 with more advanced management techniques as well as drawing in more providers for basic training.</p>
17	6/3/2020	Carol Ekarius	Listening Session	M&I	Email	<p>How does CWCB plan to monitor the trends in outcomes from the last plan, to this update, and on into future updates in order to really provide adaptive management?</p>	<p>The 2017 Ripple Effects document sought to provide a progress report on the Colorado Water Plan. A similar status report is set to be completed in 2020 as part of the Basin Implementation Plan and Water Plan update process. Some metrics are also tracked on the Governor's dashboard.</p>

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18	6/4/2020	Eric Janes	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	Email	Can the panel highlight one specific example in one of the 9 basins where the US Forest Service actions through their Forest Plan implementation has been especially effective in supporting a basin implementation objective or project?	<p>The State has a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to cooperate on the development and implementation of Forest Plans. A Memorandum of Understanding was established in 2015 between the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service to cooperatively work together. The Colorado Water Conservation Board routinely participates in Forest Plan revision processes as a cooperating agency to provide comments during the public process.</p> <p>For example, the Colorado Water Conservation Board's most recent cooperation on revision of Forest Plans includes ongoing collaboration with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests and the Rio Grande National Forest, where the Colorado Water Conservation Board recommended review and reference of Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plans, or working directly with the Roundtables. The Colorado Water Conservation Board is also a stakeholder and supported in the development of the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Alternative Management Plan.</p>
19	6/4/2020	Thomas Timberlake	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Where's the cover photo from?	Hey Thomas - that cover photo is from near Crested Butte. Thanks for asking!
20	6/4/2020	Bethany Howell	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Hi Sam, I just realized looking at the overview of listening sessions that there isn't anything for Education & Outreach. Is something planned for that area at some point? Didn't really feel like this should go to the entire group, but wondering if the PEPO work/SWEAP is going to be addressed at a state level like the rest of these focuses?	Thank you so much. I really appreciate your question. We will address your question here, and would really like to follow up with you after with next steps.
21	6/4/2020	Jackie Corday	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Can you please talk more about how the public can engage - folks who are not on a BRT, a water board, etc. Thanks	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
22	6/4/2020	Shelley	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Forest management techniques such as thinning can be quite expensive. If the West hopes to make progress at large scale, what are the funding options? Do you see a market based option as feasible	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
23	6/4/2020	chris treese	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Does CWCB anticipate entering into forest health/restoration partnerships a priority through the Water Plan or through other DNR initiatives? If through the Water Plan, is it incumbent on individual roundtables to ID and prioritize partnerships and priority forest-watersheds?	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>

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24	6/4/2020	Barbara Vasquez	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	If CWCB is funding beetle killed tree harvesting, will they ensure that the best practices demonstrated by the State Forest scientists to minimize impacts to water quality be required?	The CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Program does not fund tree harvesting.
25	6/4/2020	Abby Burk	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	With the critical ecological services and functions that our watersheds provide - for people and wildlife, in this round of CWP/BIP updates how is the state forwarding natural infrastructure and protection of headwaters and source waters in watershed health plans?	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
26	6/4/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Increasing forest density and rising temperatures are a key contributor to declining river flows, yet forest management for water yield is often off limits for discussion. Is water yield a valid goal in the water plan and for RMRI.	The research on managing forests to alter water yields suggests different outcomes depending on forest type, and the time period over which water quantity benefits may occur can be uncertain. This <a href="#">CSFS Synthesis Report</a> reviews relevant studies on this issue on pages 10-11. Enhanced water yield could be a desirable co-benefit of fuels treatments for wildfire risk mitigation and forest health improvement in certain areas, but more research is needed before it becomes a primary goal.
27	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Several folks on this session have been working together on these issues since 2007, as the Watershed Wildfire Protection Workgroup. When Angela spoke about the USFS following the State Forest Plan, we are concerned. The CSFS methodology didn't match the data that our group had developed, it has been improved, but still needs some tweaking. The Forest Atlas project will be a way to cross walk the data. The condition of the front range forests area mess, overused and remain very vulnerable to large scale fires.	Thank you for this feedback.
28	6/4/2020	Alden Vanden Brink	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Are there county, state, and federal plans already in place that perhaps need "dusted off" and updated that could help implement/facilitate forest health restoration?	Yes, definitely. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is currently updating their 10-year Forest Action Plan (FAP), which will prioritize forest management in the state using watershed characteristics as a key input. The state is also engaging with USFS Region 2 to coordinate state and federal forest restoration priorities through a Shared Stewardship agreement, and watershed characteristics will play a critical role in this process as well. This Shared Stewardship effort aims to institute regular coordination between Colorado and USFS, including on Forest Management Plans.

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29	6/4/2020	Ian Roche	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	I have two questions, first to add to Alden Vanden Brink, how is the state coordinating with Federal Agencies on Forest Management Plans? Second, How do abandoned mines, and the risks they pose to humans and the environment, play into watershed management plans and how is the Plan addressing those issues.	Part 1: Addressed by comment #28 and #18. Part 2: The Water Plan supports watershed groups in identifying concerns associated with abandoned mines, and facilitates their engagement with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) and the <a href="#">Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)</a> who jointly address impacts of mining on water quality.
30	6/4/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	What steps is the state taking to coordinate and influence the various Forest Service planning efforts? It seems these planning efforts shouldn't occur in silos.	Addressed by comment #33
31	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	We need more funding, more collaboration. As far as RMRI, what is the projection for acres treated this year?	<u>There is currently not a single number summarizing projected acres treated for 2020 on public and private ownerships within the three RMRI landscapes. Each landscape is currently at the stage of determining the specific outcomes they would like to measure, and how.</u> Information regarding RMRI can be found at: <a href="https://restoringtherockies.org/">https://restoringtherockies.org/</a>
32	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	There are many topics brought up so far, but the individual roundtables are going to need some real help and support wading through the issues	Thank you for your feedback.
33	6/4/2020	Garrison,Kristin	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Josh-The Colorado State Forest Service is engaged with the USFS through the Good Neighbor Authority planning and implementing cross-boundary projects. In addition we have various MOUs with Water Providers, the USFS, and CSFS to plan and implement targeted projects.	Attendee response to comment #30
34	6/4/2020	Amy Sanchez Raaz	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	I missed the first part of the session but have the roundtables been established and are they operating now?	<a href="#">Addressed in the Listening Session (audio linked here)</a>
35	6/4/2020	LC Ekarius	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Great answer, Kevin Houck!	Thank you for your feedback.

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36	6/4/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks for this discussion! Would like to refer back to Heather Dutton's intro and identification of various ecological zones, all of which are part of the overall watershed, or as I would like to see them called and viewed: water catchments. As we know, there is often a mix of open, unforested areas mixed in with the high elevation forests. In addition, the rangelands at mid elevations are likewise vast areas that while they tend to be drier, they also shed (or capture, to varying degrees) moisture from rain and snow. The condition of these landscapes, largely in terms of vegetative cover, is a big determinant in whether the water runs off (often transporting sediment in possibly detrimental ways) or soaks in-- thus allowing for more and healthier vegetation, supporting wildlife and livestock grazing, and all the other benefits of healthy range. Since there are about 23 million acres of rangeland in Colorado, if the water holding capacity of those were increased by 1" per year, that translates to 2 million acre-feet of water, an invaluable resource to Colorado. So the point of this is that I hope that we will be sure to address the role of, condition of, and opportunities for enhanced management of rangelands in our planning.	Thank you for your feedback. CWCB is currently working with Colorado Department of Agriculture, and other stakeholders to support the adoption of land management practices such as soil health, rotational grazing, and riparian restoration on watershed/regional scales to further multiple natural resource management goals such as carbon sequestration and increased soil organic matter, which may increase water retention in soils. Recognition of these critical ecosystem services is important and will be considered throughout the update process.
37	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	the forest health issues need to be addressed as soon as possible, not waiting for the Water Plan to be finalized. However the Water Plan does need to point out the successes.	Thank you for your feedback.
38	6/4/2020	Angela Boag	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	<a href="https://collaborativeconservation.org/program/discover/atlas-of-collaborative-conservation/">https://collaborativeconservation.org/program/discover/atlas-of-collaborative-conservation/</a>	No response needed.
39	6/4/2020	Eric Howell	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	There have been substantial wildfire risk assessments completed across the state in coordination with various water providers, the USFS, CSFS and other stakeholders driving priority watershed protection work; how will such efforts be considered and coordinated within each basin implementation plan?	There are many conversations surrounding forest health that link not only health and risks but also water supply and impacts from floods. The CWCB has invested in tools like FACE Hazards so that BRTs and others can use them to make decisions and CWCB is actively exploring how we could look at forest health and plan for future risks across the five scenarios in the Water Plan that extend through 2050. This comment raises an important concern and we will work on ensuring BRTs have access to relevant assessments from other agencies to support their decision-making.

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40	6/4/2020	Amanda West Fordham	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	The Colorado State Forest Service has coordinated with the Forest Health Advisory Council and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment on the 2020 Forest Action Plan. We have developed priority subwatershed maps using data from CDPHE to be consistent in data sources for priority mapping efforts. We went through four iterations of the priority subwatershed mapping efforts following external stakeholder meetings held across the state and advice from the Forest Health Advisory Council. The USFS participated in external meetings and provided feedback on our Forest Action Plan mapping and narrative, along with BLM, CFRI, WNCR/CSU, TNC, Water Providers, and more. I am leading the 2020 Forest Action Plan effort at CSFS and am happy to discuss more.	Thank you for this feedback.
41	6/4/2020	Sims Fard, Deborah	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Please let share information about water roundtable's in Denver that youth voice would be included and welcome to participate.	The Metro Roundtable represents the Denver area - link included here: <a href="https://southplattebasin.com/">https://southplattebasin.com/</a>
42	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	To sum up, we as Coloradans need to focus on forest health where there is a threat to water supply and water quality. We need to identify those projects and get them funded.	Thank you for this feedback.
43	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	The scale issue is important, there is going to be a steep slope demonstration project, hopefully late this summer or fall.	Thank you for this feedback.
44	6/4/2020	Shelley	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Where in our state is the demonstration project Mike?	See answer in comment #45
45	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	It is planned for the Monarch pass area.	Attendee chat response to comment #44
46	6/4/2020	Shelley	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks	No response needed.
47	6/4/2020	Barbara Vasquez	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Is there a sufficient market for biochar as a soil amendment that would provide a 'sink' for low quality forest materials?	Biochar is a nascent but growing market in Colorado. CWCB, in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado Department of Agriculture, are exploring the potential for biochar and other natural and working lands climate solutions including cover crops and avoided land conversion to meet state GHG emissions objectives while generating important water resource co-benefits.
48	6/4/2020	Laura Quattrini	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Restore Colorado grant is administered through National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	No response needed.
49	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Is the CSFS involved in this session?	The Colorado State Forest Service is not directly involved with this listening session, but present at the session in the audience.



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50	6/4/2020	Kimberly Mihelich	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Do all roundtables have a dedicated seat for a forest health/watershed person?	No. While the Roundtables include seats for environmental representatives, for the forest service liaison, and other types of expertise that relates tor forest and watershed health, they do not have a seat dedicated specifically to forest and watershed health.
51	6/4/2020	Amanda West Fordham	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Yes - CSFS is here.	Attendee response to comment # 49
52	6/4/2020	Ryan Gilliom	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Biochar can play a big role in water treatment (e.g. stormwater infrastructure geomedia), and local sustainable sources are one of the challenges--maybe a great opportunity to further link the efforts and close the loop!	Attendee response to comment # 47
53	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Great!	No response needed.
54	6/4/2020	Corrina Marshall	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	How can we better utilize prescribed fire as a cost effective way to maintain forest health and promote healthy and resilient ecosystems to wildfire risks? With smoke issues and other policy hurdles, would CWCB be able to assist with this water plan update to speak on some of those issues? This could be a great help to implementers!	We will be working through a staff-led stakeholder process to flesh out details on this in the Water Plan Update. Details will be forthcoming as that process gets underway.
55	6/4/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	As long as the list isn't the end all. Need to be flexible.	Thank you for this feedback.
56	6/4/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Kimberly, Each Roundtable has an Environmental Representative, and at least here in the Rio Grande, we have a rich resource of expertise in our membership and community about forest and watershed health.	Attendee chat response to comment #50
57	6/4/2020	Nancy Fishing	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Michael McHugh mentioned an iue at 10:57 and I learned from Amanda that dollars are needed to fund a bigger emphasis on reservoirs and water storage areas, would CWCB have \$'s to further refine the Atlas and Forest Action Plan?	CWCB works across DNR and other partner organizations regularly. This includes work that helped support the Forest Atlas. Funding available to support various updates and efforts, including in-kind support, are things that must be evaluated on a case by case basis especially in light of the current economic conditions.
58	6/4/2020	Kimberly Mihelich	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks!	Attendee chat response to comment #56
59	6/4/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	Forest Health and Watershed Health	GotoMeeting Chat	Thank you!!!	No response needed.
60	6/10/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Good morning! I was wondering if there is a set of minutes for these meetings? and if yes, when will they be available?	Hi Michael - we haven't been taking minutes but we are recording the meetings and also taking down the chat as a record and will be working to address these and respond to comments, as Russ said.

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61	6/10/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Is CWCB saying that roundtables are not allowed to discuss Demand Management and Compact Compliance in our BIP? Compact compliance is in our existing BIP. These are some of the most important issues there are on the Colorado. Basin roundtables, especially water rights holders on them, may have views different from CWCB's. I am concerned if CWCB is placing these topics off limits.	Addressed in the session starting at 1:11:30 by Russ Sands.  DRAFT: The issue of Demand Management is being addressed through other CWCB efforts and while the BIPs may have projects related to it, the issue is currently within the purview of the Board to address rather than individual basins.
62	6/10/2020	Richard Gytenbeek	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	One of the key goals of the original water plan was the development of SMPs for 80% of high priority reaches of rivers and streams across the state by 2030. SMPs (and IWMPs) seem to function best when all stakeholders, including conservation interests and agricultural interests, are at the table. What has the CWCB learned about how to bring agricultural interest into the SMP process, and do you have good examples of SMPs where agricultural and conservation interests have worked together to find common goals?	As part of a Colorado Water Plan Grant, the CWCB is working with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to develop SMP training materials and resources to assist agricultural producers in becoming more engaged in SMP development and share the benefits of SMP for agriculture. As part of this project, a survey of agricultural producers was completed. The survey provides important insights to SMP practitioners in how to engage ag producers on SMP development, including best times of the year to engage ag producers. Multiple SMPs demonstrate the value of agricultural and conservation stakeholders working together including the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan.
63	6/10/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Russ, my question is about Matt's presentation, it's a key question about what we can and can't do in our BIP process, please address it!	This references comment #61
64	6/10/2020	Juan Roberto Madrid	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	How will the Water Plan update be coordinated with the ongoing demand management feasibility analysis? What is the timeline comparison between a possible demand management program decision and the CWP/BIP update process?	Addressed in the session starting at 1:11:30 by Russ Sands.  DRAFT: The issue of Demand Management is being addressed through other CWCB efforts and while the BIPs may have projects related to it, the issue is currently within the purview of the Board to address rather than individual basins.
65	6/10/2020	Nancy Fishing	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Good points from Cindy and echoes some of the same sentiments in the forest health section and the reliance on healthy forests in the upper watersheds. Hopefully both issues need attention in the updates	Thank you for this feedback.

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66	6/10/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Irrigation districts have been involved in many SMPs. What are lessons learned from this engagement? Are these SMPs proposing good multi-purpose projects that benefit rivers and respect Ag that have been developed? Are the SMPs helping answer questions about how to solve E&R gap in addition to the ag & muni gaps that are well documented?	Thank you for this feedback. CWCB is working with agricultural partners, including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, to develop educational and training materials to encourage ag producers to participate in SMP development and better understand the potential benefits. Some lessons learned include taking time early in the SMP process to develop relationships and trust between stakeholders providing multiple avenues for producer engagement, and sharing success stories. Multiple SMPs, if not all, focus on the identification of multi-benefit agriculture projects such as improved conveyance systems which can subsequently be used by Basin Roundtables and other stakeholders to address identified gaps.
67	6/10/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Appreciating the presenters perspectives and recommendations! Also, re engaging ag interests and people, would like to be sure that there's targeted outreach to the younger generations of farmers and ranchers. Naturally, this has an educational aspect, but is something to include throughout the planning process and implementation.	Thank you for this feedback. CWCB is currently with several partners including the National Young Farmers Coalition and Water Education Colorado to encourage water leader development with young and beginning farmers in ranchers in Colorado. CWCB hopes to continue supporting these engagement opportunities.
68	6/10/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	The Office of the State Engineer (SEO) has recently mentioned the need to improve water measurement statewide. How will improved diversion and water use data be used to inform the Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) update?	Diversion and water use data are critical inputs for the State's consumptive use and water allocation modeling using StateCU and StateMod. Increased resolution of these data will increase certainty in modeling results which informs the quantification of gaps. Particularly on the West Slope, improved diversion and water use data will also improve Colorado's position on Compact issues and allow the Division of Water Resources to better administer water.
69	6/10/2020	Robert Sakata	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	A question for Greg: I am actually trying to listen to this session while out in the field and luckily I have GPS on the tractor and a good 4g connection but many in rural Colorado don't have the connectivity I am fortunate enough to have here on the front range! With regards to your remarks about the challenge of farmers and ranchers having the time and the resources to participate in Water Plan conversations especially now with all of the additional workload that COVID-19 has been placed on us, with your experience traveling the state on behalf of CAWA what insight and suggestions do you have to get agricultural input into the CWP.	Thank you for this feedback. CWCB values input from the agricultural sector on the CWP and aware of the unique engagement challenges presented by COVID-19. CWCB is open to additional feedback from the agricultural community on best practices for alternative methods to in person engagement that work for agricultural producers. Some recent successes include timing listening sessions following harvest season, the use of surveys, and working with local partners such as conservation districts to solicit feedback from agricultural stakeholders. Agricultural organizations and producers are also welcome to submit comment letters via mail to CWCB with additional input.

## June 2020 Colorado Water Plan Update Listening Sessions: Public Comments and CWCB Staff Responses

70	6/10/2020	Willow Cozzens	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	How will the CWP update interact with Acequia Recognition and possibly help with the creation of bylaws for acequias?	Thank you for this feedback. CWCB is currently in the process of setting up listening sessions with the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association and other local partners to address acequia issues as part of the update process. Acequias are also represented at the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.
71	6/10/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Follow up to my earlier Q: For example, upgrading aging ag infrastructure can save growers costs in the long run and benefit rivers. How will CWCB help BIPs to consider or fund such projects?	<a href="https://cwcb.colorado.gov/grants">The CWCB has developed a Tiering Matrix for the BIPs that can be used to consider, review, and rank projects like this. Funding for these projects is available, in part, through grants funded by CWCB (https://cwcb.colorado.gov/grants)</a>
72	6/10/2020	Robert Sakata	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	A question for Cindy: You are really involved on behalf of the state on a healthy soil initiative, do you think one of the CWP Ag objectives should focus on soil health?	Cindy spoke about soil health during the Listening Session at 1:20:55 and discussed using Water Plan grants for soil health with conservation districts. She emphasized that soil improvements can "get more crop per drop."
73	6/10/2020	Meredith Lee Brown	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	How does Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) incorporate the need for agricultural infrastructure improvements, which can reduce costs for producers and may reduce consumptive use or reduce transit losses to benefit localized river or aquifer conditions?	The Colorado Water Plan identifies several critical actions pertaining to agricultural infrastructure improvements including support for watershed/ditch-level infrastructure planning and providing financial support for multi-benefit ag infrastructure projects. This work is ongoing.
74	6/10/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks for the responses re next generation engagement! One idea to throw out there is for water and irrigation districts, roundtables, etc. to plan specific meeting(s) -- with that meeting's agenda developed accordingly -- where Board members bring at least one of their kids to a meeting(s). And to dedicate at least a portion of the meeting to a listening session/dialogue with the younger generation. Also need to actively recruit younger (and more diverse) people to serve on such Boards. As John Stulp said, profitability is key to getting their interest in ag. And I would add that giving them decision making authority and opportunities, as well as the information and tools they need to contribute to sound decisions and the encouragement to develop, test and implement innovative solutions.	Thank you for this feedback.
75	6/10/2020	Bob Peters	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Recognizing the benefits of maintaining food production in CO, how do we further promote and make easier water sharing among Ag and M&I users to make progress in moving away from buy and dry?	<a href="#">This was addressed during the Listening Session. (audio linked here)</a>
76	6/10/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	This is not just DM, it's compact compliance too, West slope roundtables have funded compact compliance studies for years...	Thank you for this feedback.

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77	6/10/2020	Julie McCaleb	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	We still need to educate young farmers/rancher-reminder that average age is 55. We need to not schedule meetings during the day, they are most likely to be more engaged in the evening or at 6am in the morning. Especially this time of year we are all out in the field. I am working from home right now and I only have 3G on my phone where I live.	Thank you for this feedback.
78	6/10/2020	Juan Roberto Madrid	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Ed, Good point on compact compliance studies	Response to comment #76.
79	6/10/2020	Ed Millard	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	zoom is better for rural than GoToMeeting, it's seamless to use dial in audio, gotomeeting audio is consistently worse than zoom	Thank you for this feedback.
80	6/10/2020	Gigi Richard	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Following up on Rio's suggestions... Engaging college students in water/ag meetings and exposing them to water & ag related issues and opportunities is critical to developing our next generation of informed leaders. For example, CWCB's scholarships for students to attend the C9 summit. More like this would be welcome!	Thank you for this feedback.
81	6/10/2020	Gregory Peterson	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Hi Kathryn. I wanted to address this just in case we don't get to it. The CWCB is running an entire other process related to water leasing. However, in my opinion there will be only modest gains on this issue because most municipal water providers have little to no interest in leasing water. One group I was involved with at CSU was trying to get more cities to entertain the idea and we were thrown out of every meeting	No response needed.
82	6/10/2020	Vanessa McCracken	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks Cindy for your voice regarding Conservation Districts and water planning and soil health.	No response needed.
83	6/10/2020	Meredith Lee Brown	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	The agricultural community has had greater engagement in stream management planning. What are lessons learned from this engagement that could be applicable to the greater agriculture and environmental river health nexus? How do we work toward more multi-benefit agriculture-environmental projects?	Thank you for this feedback. CWCB is working with agricultural partners, including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, to develop educational and training materials to encourage ag producers to participate in SMP development and better understand the potential benefits. Some lessons learned include taking time early in the SMP process to develop relationships and trust between stakeholders providing multiple avenues for producer engagement, and sharing success stories. As for next steps, it's important that SMP leadership work on implementing priority projects identified in plans.
84	6/10/2020	Juan Roberto Madrid	Listening Session	Agriculture	GotoMeeting Chat	Well said John! I think the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) can help educate those in the metro areas as well as newcomers to the state on the importance of Ag and the CWP	No response needed.

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85	6/10/2020	Deborah Sims Fard	Listening Session	Agriculture	Email	Water impacts everyone. What is being done or how can the conversation about Colorado water begin to be more inclusive and equitable? How and when will youth, diverse communities be included in this very important topic?	<a href="#">This was addressed during the Listening Session. (audio linked here)</a>
86	6/10/2020	Josh Boissevain	Listening Session	Agriculture	Email	In what ways will the update to the water plan identify and address issues of water justice in Colorado? And for the panelists, what issues would you like to see the state start thinking about related to water justice issues over the coming years.	The Colorado Water Plan acts as a foundation for Colorado to honor the State's core water values including supporting a productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry; efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife. These values has guided the implementation of projects and methods that take into account potential multiple beneficiaries, potential multiple uses, and the effects on river systems. This has also allowed for efficient and effective water sharing.  In 2005, Colorado leaders recognized the need to depoliticize water issues for the good of the entire state. The creation of the Interbasin Compact Committee and basin roundtables and these 27 members represent every basin and take into account nearly every water perspective in Colorado.
87	6/10/2020	Mike Weber	Listening Session	Agriculture	Email	In listening to the Youtube webinar for the ag tech update information I hear Russ state that there was 100% consensus on the path forward for the tech update. I just was wondering if the 100% consensus stakeholders, cwcb staff, swsi group, or who had that consensus?	Addressed in the Listening Session.
88	6/10/2020	Bob Peters	Listening Session	Agriculture	Email	Recognizing all the benefits of maintaining food production in Colorado, how do we further promote and make easier water sharing among Ag and M&I users to make progress in moving away from buy and dry?	<a href="#">This was addressed during the Listening Session. (audio linked here)</a>
89	6/11/2020	Rena Griggs	Listening Session	E&R	Email	My concern is that Envi-Rec will be put to the back-burner for funding distribution. Due to covid19 and budget cuts, the State will have to prioritize. The CWP was written to be inclusive and "fair" to all the sectors (Ag, Muni, Forest Health, Envi) but now what? Will funding priorities change?	Funding priorities have not changed, and Env-Rec has not been put on the back burner for funding.

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90	6/11/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Isn't this webinar attendance of sufficient interest to quantify the gap? IMO, the CWCB must do that work to update the BIPs and CWP. One 2015 CWP objective is to have SMPs for 80% of priority reaches. Today, we still do not have a set of priority reaches. To agree on that set we need not just the local knowledge that went into developing the E&R value maps in the 2015 Plan, we must also use science to quantify the E&R gap.	We are actively working with stakeholders to better understand the needs of E&R, and find ways to address them. We are actively working to evaluate this issue through the BIP Update process.
91	6/11/2020	Ken Neubecker	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	If there is an interest in an environmental and rec flow "gap"? What do you mean? We've been asking about that for 10 years or longer. E&R flow needs are every bit as important as Ag and M&I. We have "gap" analysis for that, but there doesn't seem to be any interest in a "gap" analysis for E&R needs at the state level.	We agree that E&R needs are just as important as M&I and Ag. We are actively working with stakeholders to better understand the needs of E&R, and find ways to address them. We are actively working to evaluate this issue through the BIP Update process.
92	6/11/2020	Molly Mugglestone	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	We agree at Business for Water Stewardship with the above comments. We are hearing from the business community, particularly the recreation business sector that we absolutely need to quantify the E&R gap. We hope that the CWCB will see that many diverse groups with many stakeholders feel this way as well. Thanks for hosting these webinars and providing this space to have a conversation!	No response needed.
93	6/11/2020	Holli Riebel	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	I would be interested in doing gap analysis. This seems to be a real issue.	Thank you for this feedback.
94	6/11/2020	Molly Mugglestone	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks Abby for highlighting the new study from Business for Water Stewardship! That study will be officially released June 22nd- we can provide the full report then!	No response needed.
95	6/11/2020	Richard Strauss	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Will there be a glossary in the Plan that provides definitions for such terms as "gap", "prior appropriations", "navigational servitude", etc. so that stakeholders may better understand it?	There is a glossary of key terms in the Technical Update to the Water Plan: <a href="https://dnrftp.state.co.us/CWCB/Technical Update to Water Plan/1. Technical Update Documentation/Volume 1-Cover TOC and Key Terms.pdf">https://dnrftp.state.co.us/CWCB/Technical Update to Water Plan/1. Technical Update Documentation/Volume 1-Cover TOC and Key Terms.pdf</a>
96	6/11/2020	Josh Kuhn	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Sometimes it's suggested that municipal conservation efforts that allow more water to remain in rivers doesn't benefit rate payers, do you all agree with this statement?	The CWCB can't speak on behalf of ratepayers - whether a rate payer "benefits" from water remaining in rivers due to municipal conservation efforts is a subjective question.
97	6/11/2020	Rio de la Vista	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	As Aaron just noted, I'm very glad for the environmental/recreation component of the Water Plan. AND would like to evaluate, educate and implement ways to sustain the environmental foundation of our water supply, including the role of land health in that, and the many ways that a healthy environment sustains our economy and life overall, from ag to industry to recreation, water quality, water abundance and patterns of runoff, wildlife, scenic beauty, and more.	Thank you for this feedback.

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98	6/11/2020	Juan Roberto Madrid	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Water assessments being done for other purposes can generate data that may be useful to improve our understanding of flow needs-or could be tweaked to gather better information. Has the CWCB incorporated the idea of doing water assessments that satisfy multiple needs into the update contract, and if so, how?	These water assessments are the types of things being considered at the Basin level though the ongoing BIP Updates. As we gain information from the BIP work plans we can identify strategies to address additional water assessment needs in the Water Plan update.
99	6/11/2020	Betty Jean Neuenschwander	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Will there be a limit of some sort of how much municipalities can take out of waterways? How can they be monitored better to insure that limits are really met?	Municipalities, like all other water users in Colorado, are subject to legal restrictions imposed by Colorado Water law, and generally to the prior appropriation doctrine, which places restrictions on the time and quantity of water they can divert from waterways in accordance with the water rights they hold. Administration of water rights is the purview of the Division of Water Resources and the State Engineer's office.
100	6/11/2020	Mely Whiting	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Thank you Abby for highlighting need to ease up on matching requirements for SMPs. SMPs are a place where consensus and buy in on the E&R needs and connections to facilitate solutions happen. Having a lot of information about E&R water shortages would be very helpful, but it is not in itself a solution as most of the water needed to address those needs likely already belongs to someone.	Thank you for this feedback.
101	6/11/2020	Chris Sturm	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Coloradosmp.org for info on Colorado's Stream and Integrated Watershed Management Plans	
102	6/11/2020	Barbara Dobbs	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Does anyone know how much water is used for domestic lawns throughout Colorado?	The Analysis and Technical update used state reporting through HB 1051 and other methodologies to estimate statewide that Outdoor Residential Baseline Demand for 2015 was 210,301 acre-feet per year.
103	6/11/2020	Ken Neubecker	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Abby and Nicole, spot on! we need detailed reach level analysis of E&R flow needs and conditions.	Thank you for this feedback.
104	6/11/2020	Ian Roche	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Can you explain how the CWCB will help Basin Roundtables determine their E&R water needs or their priority reaches for the update? And what funding has the CWCB allocated for this purpose?	The Local Experts and the General Contractor will be working with Basins up to determine E&R needs and priority reaches as guided by their BRTs. As we gain information from the BIP work plans we can identify strategies to address additional needs in the Water Plan update. The CWCB Board and Legislature provided funding for the BIP and CWP Update process.
105	6/11/2020	Richard Gytenbeek	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Like the Co. Water Plan, I think it is important to think about SMPs and IWMPs as an ongoing process that communities can continue to develop for the benefit of their water resources in the future. They are not static, they are ongoing.	Thank you for this feedback.



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106	6/11/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Richard, Yes, and planning must pivot to implementation, which will mean projects, including water sharing and other creative solutions.	Will additional gauging be a project in the BIP update? NP to decide this, right?
107	6/11/2020	Hilary Cooper	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Is there an opportunity to quantify the amount of natural water storage that is often times a result of watershed restoration projects and include and encourage that type of water storage as "storage" projects in the update?	There are opportunities to study a water balance associated with stream restoration projects. This can be supported through various CWCB grant programs including the Water Supply Reserve Fund and the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Alluvial aquifer water storage is likely to require an associated water right.
108	6/11/2020	Chris Sturm	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	More local support (public and private) for collaborative watershed groups would be helpful to match the 75% threshold that CWCB is providing for many of the SMPs and Watershed Plans.	More local support (public and private) for collaborative watershed groups would be helpful to match the 75% threshold that CWCB is providing for many of the SMPs and Watershed Plans.
109	6/11/2020	Barbara Vasquez	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	The NP Basin has very limited gauging. The argument that's been made against adding spending the money to add additional gauges because at least a decade or two of data is needed to be of value because of interannual variation. But without this data, modeling is not anchored to physical fact. Will CWCB support adding gauging as a project in the BIP update?	Better data is a key focus in the BIP and CWP Update process. This is a decision that needs to be made at the the Basin level during the BIP Update.
110	6/11/2020	Nicole Seltzer	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	thumbs up, Barbara!	Response to comment #109
111	6/11/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Russ, it may not have been something you heard in an earlier stakeholder process, but it was clear from the 2015 plan we needed to quantify the E&R gap. I think many of us involved back then assumed CWCB would have been working on this for the last five years.	We are actively working with stakeholders to better understand the needs of E&R, and find ways to address them. . We have accomplished a lot in the last 5 years including providing funding for over a dozen SMPs and development of tools to better understand the needs of E&R. We are actively working to evaluate this issue though the BIP Update process.
112	6/11/2020	Abby Burk	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Yes, Barbara. SEO is looking at possibility of expanding measurement abilities.	Response to comment #109
113	6/11/2020	Melinda Kassen	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Hillary, great point! There's a report we gave CWCB for the 2015 Plan called "From Storage to Retention." Many of the national NGOs on this call are working hard to get funding for natural water infrastructure from Congressional efforts to provide additional money for water storage.	Response to comment #107
114	6/11/2020	Barbara Dobbs	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Thanks Nicole and Abby. As a landscape ecologist I know the importance of looking and the whole picture.	No response needed.
115	6/11/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	I think some of The water providers will be looking for areas of cooperation. COFWA has been talking about how to involve recreation for some time	No response needed.

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116	6/11/2020	Michael McHugh	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	the problem is that the interests are so diffuse ...	No response needed.
117	6/11/2020	Steve Child	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	All the Ag, M and I, and environmental and rec water come from the same bucket, and there is not enough to go around. Env and Rec must necessarily use someone else's water most of the time while it is in storage or transport to other locations	No response needed.
118	6/11/2020	Cary Denison	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Steve, you are right. Which is why it is so important to make the best and most efficient use of the limited water resources at all times and realize the multiple benefits.	Response to comment #117
119	6/11/2020	Steve Child	Listening Session	E&R	GotoMeeting Chat	Agreed!	No response needed.