



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



COLORADO

Department of Local Affairs

Division of Local Government

Colorado Land and Water Planning Alliance
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 1:30-4:30 PM
University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Room 412
2255 E Evans Ave, Denver, CO 80210

Agenda

In attendance:

Drew Beckwith, City of Westminster

John Berggren, Western Resource Advocates

Anne Castle, Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment

Caitlin Coleman, Water Education Colorado

Andre Dozier, Colorado State University and Razix Solutions

Gretel Follingstad- Babbitt Fellow and CU Denver PhD Student

Andy Hill, Department of Local Affairs

Jim Holway, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

Julio Iturreria, South Platte Roundtables, retired planner

Torie Jarvis, NWCCOG QQ

Waverly Klaw, Department of Local Affairs

Cindy Lehr, Colorado State Conservation Board, Department of Agriculture

KC McFerson, Department of Local Affairs

Amelia Nuding, Western Resource Advocates

Rocky Piro, CU Denver Center for Sustainable Urbanism

Flo Raitano, DRCOG

Kevin Reidy, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Lindsay Rogers, Water NOW Alliance

Erin Rugland, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

John Shepard, Sonoran Institute

Lacy Smith, Alliance for Water Efficiency

Jeremy Stapleton, Sonoran Institute

Faith Sternlieb, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

Austin Troy, CU Denver, Chair of the Department of Planning & Design (MURP)

Amy Volkens, Brendle Group

Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado

Susan Wood, Colorado American Planning Association

1:30 pm Welcome

1:45 pm October Meeting Summary & Subgroup Updates

- Data & Modeling Working Group

Goal: Further develop decision support tool(s) that allow local governments to better understand the tradeoffs of growth and development and water use.

Andre- Working with Keystone Policy to update list of 17 different tools for linking Land Use and Water. Will share spreadsheet with KC.

Jeremy- Hears often about challenges. Potential for remote sensing data with LU info. Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue- need something between this level of data and Andre's level. Alternatively we could focus efforts to help communities find and access data- one stop shop or guidance.

Faith- Asked if part of the data was open source and part proprietary? Regional info sharing; cities are in control of their own data (they use a portal) and can share across cities.

- Tools & Resources Working Group

Goal: Compile the resources that are available and identify resources that need to be developed.

Referenced the spreadsheet. KC will review and find gaps with Alliance members to update it and make it more robust.

- Training, Outreach & Technical Assistance Working Group

Goal: Coordinate and further develop training opportunities to make progress and put tools and resources to work.

Overall discussion: Are these still the right subgroups? Groups 2 and 3 could be combined. To what extent do folks want to get involved in policy? Use the Water Plan goal to focus our work. How does the work this group does/orgs do inform key policy forums- drought contingency plan and the updates to the state water plan (amendments, fine tuning, funding)?

KC reviewed work plan goals. The State is updating the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI, or now called a technical update to the Water Plan), to be completed in June-July this year (then basin roundtable updates will begin). Parallel work will be going on so we should create some intersections. Basin roundtables create their own implementation plan specific to their basin, using the technical update data to create a more cohesive projects/initiatives list. Opportunity here. CWCB dedicated staff as liaisons in roundtable meetings, so it's possible those staff could work with the roundtables to consider some of the principles we're promoting. Some aren't focused on these issues but instead on ag/ranching.

2:00 pm Alliance Member Updates (2-3 min updates with focus on support/input needed from Alliance)

- *Torie Jarvis, NWCCOG QQ: Received grant from CWCB Water Plan to assess all their local govts on how well integrated water is into their land use codes, policies, and plans. This will roll into BMPs and other research into rural resort region. Marjo Curgus, Del Corazon, is the consultant. Should be finalized by April.*

Sonoran doing first Growing Water Smart training for a specific region in their region. Hoping to combine their assessment work just in time for use in the Growing Water Smart training.

- *Lacy Smith, Alliance for Water Efficiency (rep CEO Mary Ann Dickinson). Promote water efficiency. [Scorecard project](#) analyzes water conservation and efficiency in Colorado River Basin. Released end of last year on their webpage. [Net Blue tool-model ordinance](#) to help develop water neutral development ordinances.*
- *Erin Rugland, Babbitt Center: Partnered with Anne Castle from Getches-Wilkinson on a CWCB grant-funded project. Created an addendum to update the State's guidance on water efficiency plans to include land use, which was adopted by CWCB in February. Emailed to the group and online. Babbitt Center is doing follow up education workshops for water providers and consultants that write water efficiency plans. Looking for Colo partner to roll those out. Finally, rethinking evaluation system for the [comp plan review](#) report. This summer will expand the scope and work to get more representative sample, and will update guidance document to complement that research.*
- *Jim Holway- Babbitt Center- Supporting a number of efforts in this Alliance. Hoping to think strategically long term how to maximize our impact. In house: [Land Lines](#) magazine. Annual [journalist forum](#) end of March, this time in Phoenix, on water conservation. Gates and Walton Foundations are also supporting. Looking to take this work and share it broadly to other states.*
- *Faith Sternlieb, Babbitt- Research project- look at indicators for land use and water integration for Colorado River basin. Hoping to have session next year at RMLUI. Looking to determine which indicators make the most sense to track and possibly adding new ones as we see what communities and states are tracking. One category- governance. Want feedback. Ex- water adequacy rule. Groups are using collaboratives to look at the watershed scale – how are they working with the cities and communities working at that level? How do we connect them and better understand the connectivity? Community based collaborative conservation- land and water trusts. Early stage research. CSU and University of MT partnering on this.*
- *Rocky Piro, UCD Center for Sustainable Urbanism. Negotiating supplementing the work on comp plans and water provider plans (phased – additional survey work to look deeper at what jurisdictions are actually doing with projects and programs (state of practice), starting with metro area, then front range, then out to rest of state). Produce compendium. 9-12 months.*
- *Susan Wood, APA Colorado – In 2016 and 2017 APA found sponsor for bills to enable water conservation element to master plan in statute, which were not successful. Thinking this year they could use a coalition to support the bill through the process. Hoping to use mandatory language this time in the bill language. Jim suggested they look through Erin's work for examples of approaches used in other states and Colorado communities.*

- *Julio Iturreria (retired planner)- has been involved with South Platte Roundtables. Also wants mandatory comp plan language for water element. This group needs local elected officials. We need urgency for implementation!*
- *Amelia Nuding, WRA- [LU guidebook](#) is out! Outgrowth of LULA workshops. Partnering with John and Lindsay with Water Now, supported by Babbitt to help communities implement LU integration policy. Have approached a select few communities, including Greeley, Fountain, Erie, Lochbuie, and others. Lastly, creating state policy database available online to highlight exemplary state policies on LU/W integration, water conservation, and water recycling. Rough beta version ready in about a month or so.*
- *John Berggren WRA - let us know if there are any other communities we should add to the TA list. Let us know if you want to review the beta database. Lindsay Rogers- started in Colo Basin but nationwide- Water Now- working with WRA to move communities to integration implementation. Anne and John will be coming out end of March at annual summit about this work and why it's often siloed (gap). Water Now also has a project accelerator- reverse RFP process- any community in US can apply for 250-300 hours of Water Now assistance to get a sustainable water project off the ground. This round- City of Thornton Outdoor Water Efficient... (gap). Looking for another community for this year/next round.*
- *Amy Volkens, Brendle Group- work with water providers on water efficiency plans and with communities on comp plans. Working with Town of Eagle now and with Town of Elizabeth on a comp plan. On Board of WaterWise so they can disseminate to that group.*
- *Drew Beckwith, City Westminster - In January, started scalable indoor/outdoor portions of tap fees (incentivizing conservation). Eventually going to water budgets for residential. Still working on getting out all the kinks. Looking to do water use analysis once it's in play. Rate structure for commercial users- currently charge businesses based on categories of use. Will be connecting budgets- water rates with water quantity purchase. Also- in process of updating development codes to uniform development codes. Especially water efficient landscaping codes. In tandem with water plan, updating comp plan. Using every water account to update how much water each land use type uses. Also thinking about how they can live within the city's current water supply budget, and not actively seek more water (without essentially vesting the property with water rights).*
- *Austin Troy, Chair of Planning and Design at CU Denver. Babbitt and Water Research Foundation grant to study (with DRCOG) to pilot different approaches to simulate different water uses in front range. Denver and Aurora – use DRCOG urban sim model outputs to model what water use might look like in horizon year (2040 or 50). MOU with Denver water to share customer data- have been analyzing- coming up with different user profiles. Detailed LIDAR of yards- granular household characteristics to water use (amount of lawn, well irrigated v. desiccated lawn v. lawn subject to bldg. and tree shade, etc). Interesting results- coming up with ideal palette for good yard on front range. Yards w/ just grass use more water than grass+trees. This can inform landscaping palettes. Talking*

Monday with Mark Marlowe at Castle Rock Water and with Aurora- informs growth modeling research. Each landscape type gets water coefficient- model with urban sim results and project into future. Also, part of the USFS national assessment for WUI – will be here in Denver. 2 chapters: planning, water in the WUI. Interest in getting local experts to write this report to congress. Late June- in person process.

- Jeremy Stapleton, Sonoran Institute- completed 2 rounds of Growing Water Smart workshops and first round of TA for the communities that applied (Pagosa and Archuleta Co institutionalized ongoing collaboration with each other and water providers, including using a common data set for water and growth). Westminster- audited landscape code. Ft Collins- WaterSmart to their water providers to align water efficiency programs and get the provider support for programs the city may want to adopt in future. Round 3 will be April 24-26 and include members of NWCCOG – Grand, Garfield Co, Blue River Watershed in Summit, Gunnison, and Town of Eagle. Will see some regional collaborative efforts. Summit Co- wants to develop regional landscape code that municipalities can adopt. Round 4 conversations starting- coming in Sept and will target the front range. Work with ULI and engage developers building in communities in NWCCOG region to facilitate discussions re: barriers (e.g., min lot sizes, tap fees and required taps, not being able to cross a road with a meter, landscape ordinance prohibiting xeriscaping, etc). Also, kickstarting metrics and indicators project for how communities can track integration of water and land use.
- John Shepard- Sonoran Institute- input on metrics communities are using, including impact metrics and on thought leaders working on this. CWCB funding this effort.
- Cindy Lehr, Colorado State Conservation Board in Department of Agriculture- work with 76 conservation districts on sustainability issues, soil health, water.
- Waverly Klaw- DOLA funds comprehensive plans and land use codes and we strongly encourage integration of water and LU in that work. [Planning for Hazards](#) pilot community-Milliken- identified drought and issues of future water supply as a risk, are updating land use code landscaping ordinance to include water efficiency measures. Monthly e-newsletter can continue to be used for disseminating the work of Alliance members.
- Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado (and Caitlin, for Jayla Poppleton) – statewide nonprofit with water lens. Educational materials and training and tours. One program that engages local leaders is Water Fluency course (water issue bootcamp). This year's program will be in metro area July-Sept. March-April registration. Also, Babbitt Center- partner with Anne Castle and CWCB to host webinars/workshops across Colorado on new best practices doc produced- will have answer next week if they can do that.
- Caitlin Coleman- [Headwaters Magazine](#) back from printer! Stories from climate smart communities. Plan a webinar with each magazine. Planning something late April for LU/W integration. Fresh Water News initiative – weekly news digest. Also have a newsletter that can be used for dissemination.

- *Gretel Follingstad- Babbitt Fellow- Studying HOAs – do they have a larger water footprint. Water security and resilience (e.g. Wise agreement). Also- working with Marjo Curgus on QQ project- found correlation- water efficiency plan comms didn't always have water addressed in comp plans. Maybe the legislation could be linked to the water efficiency plans. Could the water efficiency plan be a chapter in the comprehensive plan? This wouldn't address counties or special districts, only municipalities.*
- *Anne Castle, Getches Wilkinson Center, Erin's guidance document is aimed at water suppliers. One recommendation- ask water suppliers to request the land use authority to include an element in their comprehensive plan. Also, the guide provides a lot of info that communities can pick and choose from. Hundreds of examples from Colorado! Helpful with messaging and advocating for change.*
- *Flo Raitano, DRCOG, - have wrapped water and LU planning into their Smart Region Initiative. Have incorporated a lot of environmental and growth aspects into this. Air quality, water, protecting natural environment and resources, etc. will be included. Will want to collect BPs. Looking at some kind of checklist for communities (like Boomer Bond). Have been using transportation funding to steer behavior. Used to serve as water quality but lost money on it so sent it back to CDPHE.*
- *Drew- asked Kevin Reidy- water grant funds – consider changing criteria to incentivize behavior? Possibility- must have water in comp plan to get grant for water efficiency plan? Scorecard approach.*
- *Andre Dozier, CSU and Razix Solutions – started a company working with 4 utilities, including Westminster, on a software system to help them streamline their process from LU zoning and water use and forecasting. (gap) regional sharing platform... Also estimate short and long term demand and get auto generated reports on water use stats and maps. Will be linked with integrated urban water model. Want to work with DRCOG to link urban sim with IUWM to quickly generate water use.*
- *Flo commented that several engineering schools are working on smart mobility issues. We should create similar collaborative with same schools in terms of water. CWCB DOLA DRCOG and universities, plus NWCCOG and Babbitt. Troy has started reaching out to academics as part of urban waters partnership.*

2:50 pm Break

3:00 pm Work Plan Discussion

3:45 pm Input Solicitation

“Big, Bold Ideas”(break the mold ideas):

- *Get backing to get the laws on the books enforced.*
- *Urban water planning: what agricultural lands can we preserve and where can we develop. Integrating ag, land, water – use KC's language. Lower Ark Water*

Conservancy is the leader- taking water from marginal land and bringing it to prime ag land.

- *Watershed dams created 1950s-70s- they have value and are functional- implications for land use because a low risk dam to protect rangeland can be turned into a high risk dam once development occurs below those dams. Integrate these in LU plans (in light of climate change).*
- *Next drought contingency plan- what do we want to see in this plan related to urban LU/W nexus- water conservation, water storage, etc?*
- *Envision Utah- need for this? Unified way to approach this work. Or Vision North Texas? Troy- working with DRCOG Imagine a Great Region now. Just had kick-off meeting last week with Garner. Water will be part of this. Tied in w Metro Exchange events. Will have different themes.*

RMLUI 2020 LU&W Track:

- *Water track at RMLUI next year? Need ideas- topics and proposals. Send an email in the next week. One idea: get water attorneys to talk about these issues and also land use attorneys (then planners will listen). Similar to AZ issue that state preempts locals- is this an issue? Water rights in terms of water budgeting (Santa Fe example).*

4:15 pm Announcements

4:25 pm Wrap-up and Next Steps

Schedule meetings/calendar them for a year.