



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

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 1:30-4:00 PM

Gates Family Foundation

1390 Lawrence Street #400

Denver, CO 80204

Notes

Welcome

- Last meeting was in March 2019
 - Reminder to continue to share big, bold ideas for action with DOLA
- KC will be returning on June 17 – big welcome back to KC!
- Welcome to new members
 - Jeff Tejral, **Denver Water** (also recent MURP graduate to better focus on land use and water planning).
 - Stu Feinglas, **Retired** from the City of Westminster
 - Shelby Sommer, **Brendle Group**
 - Sarah Martin, **Brendle Group**
 - Karl Barton, **Sanderson Stewart**

Alliance Member Updates

- Rocky Piro – **Colorado Center for Sustainable Urbanism**
 - Launched work on [creating healthy communities](#) (including water)
 - Working with Kevin Reidy and others at the Babbitt Center on a survey project to set a baseline of what's happening with land use and water planning across 360 cities and 64 counties of Colorado
- Lindsay Rogers - **Water Now Alliance**
 - [Waternow Project Accelerator](#) Program
 - 3rd round of technical support to communities to help them adopt a sustainable water program
 - 30 great applicants this round
 - 1/4 had a clear synergy with land use
 - Announcing selections this week; in CO it will be Golden as they are looking at adopting a greywater ordinance – a “laundry to landscape” system
 - Another round of applications this fall
 - [Tap into Resilience](#) Program

- Focusing on scaling up distributed infrastructure
- Amelia Nuding – **Western Resource Advocates**
 - John & Amelia are developing a state policy database; beta version released and refinements underway
 - Online and searchable database of state policies from across the nation related to water conservation, water/land use integration and water reuse
- Anne Castle – **CU Getches-Wilkinson Center**
 - Working with Erin at Babbitt and Water Education Colorado on a water conservation and outreach campaign focused on the [guidance document to water providers](#) - will include workshops across the state and webinars targeted at different groups (e.g., CML, Special District Association)
 - Working with Colorado Water Conservation Board on a strategic plan for alternative transfer methods (ATMs) for agricultural water rights - support the goal of minimizing buy and dry transactions
- Caitlin Coleman, **Water Education Colorado**
 - Submitting a grant to CWCB this week to support efficiency trainings
 - [Water fluency program](#) - registration is closing and *a few open spots remain* for community decisionmakers
- Karen Hancock - **City of Aurora**
 - Updating entire zoning code
 - [Aurora Places](#) comprehensive plan adopted last year; references One Water
 - Not using the term "tree lawns" and instead using "curbside landscaping"
 - Co-presenting at CML about water and land use
- Stu Feinglas
 - Continue to spread the gospel of integrating water/land use planning
- Jeremy Stapleton, **Sonoran Institute**
 - Wrapped up Growing Water Smart workshops round 3 a few weeks ago
 - [GWS workshop RFP](#) for round 4 communities - to be held in September, applications due June 28; *Alliance members are encouraged to share this information with potential communities*
 - Also launching water metrics project
 - Will include ways to measure progress to the Water Plan Goal (more details are included later in the notes)
- Kevin Reidy, **Colorado Water Conservation Board**
 - City and County of Denver approved for a OneWater Plan for Denver (in coordination with Urban Drainage & Flood Control District) - will expand this work beyond the Denver footprint
 - Special Districts Association (SDA) panel presentation in September
- Drew Beckwith, **City of Westminster**
 - City of Westminster is nearing completion of a full GIS evaluation of full service area - matching land use to water use – as part of the Comprehensive Plan process
 - Working with Andre Dozier and will likely share macro level data and observations with others
 - Also working on the Sustainability Plan with the City of Westminster - potential connections to water (City operations and communitywide)
 - Working on zero water landscape irrigation zone
 - Lost staffing for irrigation plan review

- John Shepard, **Sonoran Institute**
 - See update above from Jeremy Stapleton
- Susan Wood, **APA Colorado**
 - Legislative Committee working on legislation to support the CO Water Plan
 - Working on a water element in the comprehensive plan – this legislative session more challenging than anticipated
 - Intend to work over the summer/fall with a plan to revisit approach in January 2020
 - Will continue to work with this group on the approach
- Torie Jarvis, **NWCCOG Water Quality & Quantity Committee**
 - [NWCCOG](#) comprised of Grand, Summit, Gunnison, Pitkin and Eagle Counties
 - Want to be good stewards in adopting water saving measures in addition to focus on water quality
 - Reduced flow issues in streams/rivers and see conservation as a solution
 - Sonoran Institute GWS workshops targeted headwaters communities in April 2019
 - Resulted in some very clear leaders in the region working on water and land use integration
 - Getting close to wrapping up a policy scan of membership
- Matt Mulica, **Keystone Policy Center**
 - [CO Water & Growth Dialogue](#) facilitator
 - Still an advocate for integrating water and land use planning
 - Exploring sports betting as a potential way to fill funding gaps to implement CO Water Plan
- Brandy DeLange, **Colorado Municipal League**
 - Annual conference in 2 weeks
 - Panel on best practices on water and water conservation
 - Aurora
 - Castle Rock
 - Woodland Park
 - Sports betting legislation - board will likely take a position on this referred measure
- Erin Rugland, **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - Educational efforts related to the Water Efficiency Plan addendum
 - Looking for letters of support for grant application
 - [Comp Plan Review](#) effort
 - 5 interns working with her this summer
 - Goal to review 500 plans this summer (~120 from CO)
- Jim Holway, **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**
 - *Looking for some volunteer testers of Rocky's survey; in-kind contributions of time as a match; let Jim and Rocky know if willing*
 - Working on indicators that they'll be tracking over time - related to the metrics project
 - Recently completed a [Journalist Forum](#) - CO drought contingency plan and integrated land/water issues
- Julio Iturreria, no updates
- Question about [CWCB Demand Management Work Groups](#)
 - Long article in the [Aspen Journal](#) - additional details limited
 - 9 work groups plus a series of public workshops
 - Details unknown but think it's predominantly focused on ag
 - Memo on [CWCB website](#) - orientation in July
 - Anticipating the next round of Drought Contingency Plan
 - Might roll up into a state or upper/lower basin demand management plan

- Creating an "insurance program" - i.e., a bucket of conserved water
- Investigating the feasibility of a voluntary, compensation-based conservation program that would result in water being stored in Lake Powell until it is needed
- Focus on equitable distribution

Metrics for Measuring Water & Land Use Integration

- Kick-off Growing Water Smart Metrics project, aligned around Colorado Water Plan Goal that “by 2025, 75 percent of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning.”
- Effort to define “water-saving actions” and “land-use planning”
- Focus of project is to develop metrics to measure progress toward that goal and beyond
- Target users: communities and state officials
- Final deliverable: easy to follow guidebook for users to guide how to acquire, use, and share data
- Stakeholders: planners, water utility providers, non-profits, state agencies
- Today's objective: setting a shared foundation, defining, and developing common vocabulary
 - Progress metrics: intended to measure water-saving actions
 - Impact metrics: how to measure the outcomes of actions (conservation, economic, etc.)
- Ideas shared:
 - Striving towards a continuum of metrics
 - Progress: measure level of participation, implementation of a plan
 - Impacts: measure demand side (gallons per capita per day, by types of sectors or land use; source of water meeting demand; conservation efficiency programs cost savings and participation)
 - Not just evaluating performance, catalyzing action and serving as educational component
 - Need metrics that speak to economics (consumer or community savings)
 - Discussed potential of recommending targets or perhaps this is too political; alternatively, can just point to best practices and identify the continuum
 - Scale is important: project level, community, state level
 - Mandates (regulations) vs. voluntary programs will be a significant portion of the discussion; mandates may move needle more; important to consider political will (i.e., what if the State requires water element in comp plan)
 - Need for detail (what specific thresholds required to say "yes, we met the requirement for including water element in comp plan")
 - One size fits all approach will not work; front range different than mountain and eastern plain communities
 - CML would not support statewide mandates
 - Statewide mandate does not need to be one size fits all; mandatory but with local discretion and implementation with variation between rural and urban counties
 - Mandates can produce much quicker results (difference between 20 years and 40 years)
 - Need to consider substance of mandate; mandate could be "may" vs "shall"
 - Mandates are a broader conversation beyond developing metrics to measure progress/impact
 - Metrics serve as fodder for policy (if metrics point to one action item that all should be doing and the legislature agrees, it can move forward)
 - 400,000 AF conservation goal served as the foundation for the integrating land use and water planning goal in Colorado Water Plan

- 400,000 AF is impact goal, 75% integration is progress goal
 - Difference between efficiency and savings; savings implies using for something else
 - Conservation to what end?
 - Statewide goal, but locally implemented; up to locals to decide what to do with it (use it to grow, use it for drought reserve, use it for ecology)
 - State identified water need gap, based in real data, into future for build out; conservation to fill a part of that goal for growth
 - Don't let perfect get in the way of good; need to identify a few metrics to move us forward, and ok if we have some diversity
- What is important moving forward in metric selection?
 - Many sizes fits all is important
 - Important to ID metrics everyone can report on; even if we must go to lowest common denominator
 - Example: total water use by account
 - 1051 or data similar is often an apples to oranges comparison with regard to land use mix, age of system, etc.
 - Need to be able to drill down to type of use
 - Under impression 1051 was going to sunset in 2020, but not the case
 - New development, code, policy, education are primary concerns, moves beyond just water providers
 - Easy/convenient and specific with clear direction of how to use/report
 - Clear definitions of what is meant by metric
 - Don't make it a binary yes/no: Utilize points or tiers so that communities can receive a Silver, gold, platinum rating for cumulative steps taken

Meeting the Water Plan Goal: Targeted Outreach to Key Communities

- Managing coordination among Alliance members
- How can the Alliance strategically engage with counties and municipalities to reach the water plan goal of 75% of Coloradans living in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning by 2025?
- [Story map of 5-6 projects/programs underway by Alliance members](#)
 - Greenway foundation project is the One Water project for the City and County of Denver
 - Razix - Andre Dosier is working with Westminster and Ft. Collins area water districts - developing a communications pathway via software; his program might be able to provide some water use metrics for a variety of different land use types across communities
 - They are looking at what level of aggregation might make sense (e.g., 10 accounts versus individual premises)
 - Are there others to add? Who is working where?
 - WRA can provide an updated list
 - Water Plan Grant Projects - showing water and land use projects currently
 - Does the state have information about the fastest growing communities? Yes, would be helpful to overlay on the map (along with population forecast)
 - Northern Front Range
 - Grand Junction/Grand Valley/Mesa County
 - Where are the gaps? What are the criteria for identifying targeted opportunities for engagement? What additional information is needed?

- Additional demographics (beyond population growth) would be valuable to analyze for those interested in density and new urbanism
- Economic base - What are the base industries? What is the future of those industries?
 - Headwaters Economics - community profile
- Comprehensive Plan updates upcoming
 - DOLA has a [survey](#) that they conduct every 5 years or so
 - DOLA is aware of communities that are using DOLA EIAF funds to update their comprehensive plans, but there is no definitive list of comprehensive plans being updated
- What about communities that are experiencing population decline?
 - Resources are limited, drought is present in many of these areas (e.g., SE corner of CO)
 - How to provide resources to municipalities and counties that are facing myriad water issues like water quality, lack of staffing, etc.
 - SE Water Conservancy District - 39 smaller water providers, regional plan focused on foundational efforts to get systems in working order
 - Narrative is very different outside of the metro area
 - Consider opportunities for greatest gain from baseline versus most advanced level achievable
- Look for communities that have ambitious climate action/greenhouse gas emissions goals
- Land use planning is not the same everywhere - water scarce communities might already be advanced
- Communities that are in close proximity to one another could provide economies of scale, peer-to-peer benefits
- Add community capacity to Venn diagram
- Municipalities where the water gap is closer or larger - need to do something sooner
 - We could guess who they are, but would they agree?
- Identifying communities based on extreme water source challenges is huge
 - A lot of communities are motivated by the desire to keep up water levels in streams and avoid drying up nearby ag lands
- What areas are we not addressing?
 - San Luis Valley - a very unique area, geographically separated, Alamosa and Monte Vista already making progress
 - Arapahoe County, Weld County, Adams County, Elbert County, Morgan County - eastern communities
 - Area between Colorado Springs and Pueblo West
 - Different issues in SE CO - poverty, water quality, population decreases, etc.
 - SW CO - high growth
 - Make a "T" across CO - north/south along Front Range and east/west in north
- Make linkages between metrics conversation and outreach conversation
- Is outreach across the state an objective of this Alliance?
 - Not an intent to come up with one objective
 - Opportunity to share ideas related to strategic outreach through these meetings
- Is cataloguing, identifying, and coordinating outreach/assistance efforts a helpful role of the Alliance?

- Yes, a helpful next step would be case study development to share examples and outcomes
- Has some interesting implications for the CCSU survey project - might consider reorganizing around place types (currently Front Range, metro, and rural)
- How does Sonoran Institute approach its outreach?
 - Evolving, but generally learning that broader is better
 - Current application period is Front Range, but may be targeting northern Front Range
 - Look for a local partner (e.g., Northern Water)
 - Use past participants as ambassadors to recruit others
- If there are other questions or ideas similar to this question to work through together, please send them to KC to work into future Alliance agendas

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute (RMLUI) 2020 Land Use & Water Track

- Intent is to have a land use and water track running through whole conference
- Susan Daggett (RMLUI) put out a short description of the focus of the track called "hot, dry, and crowded"
- Planning for an open plenary with a focus on climate change and sub focus on land use and water planning
- RMLUI may run the Carver Lecture concurrently with the conference, typically high-profile legal discussion
- 7 time slots for RMLUI; call for anyone to do presentation or ideas for session (or to propose different ideas) email Jim and cc: KC
- Babbitt is continuing to identify places to have these water and land use integration conversations
- Potential for an [American Water Resources Association](#) 2021 summer conference in Denver
- Aurora sends all of their young planners who came from out of state to RMLUI to get trained on local issues. Having a 101 course on CO water law would be very beneficial
 - Could be pre conference workshop
- Half day retreat with water utility leaders and planning leaders to get folks together
- NWCCOG could provide perspective on what local governments can do to regulate water quality protection, especially with focus on rec/tourism communities
- Equity issues is a priority
- Energy/water nexus could be good topic to explore, including water usage in the oil and gas industry
- Emphasize case studies

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Let Jim Holway and Rocky Piro know if you'd like to test the survey
- [Growing Water Smart application](#) deadline is June 28; please spread the word
- Caitlin is looking for some additional decision-makers to participate in the water fluency course
- Contact Jim Holway if you have suggestions or feedback on the water and land use track at RMLUI 2020
- Talk to KC when she gets back on any ideas for discussion topics for future Alliance meetings
- Sept 10th is the tentative date for the next Alliance meeting; let KC know if this date doesn't work for you