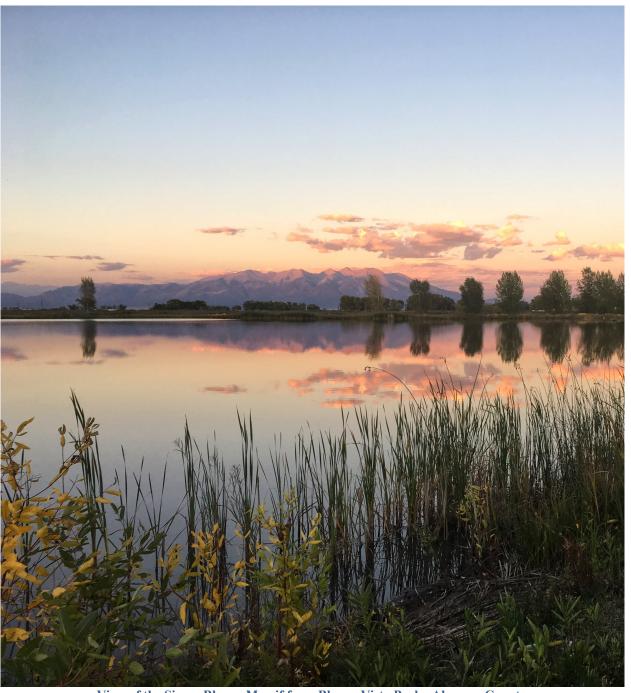


Colorado's Water Supply Future

Interbasin Compact Committee Annual Report

October 31, 2018



View of the Sierra Blanca Massif from Blanca Vista Park, Alamosa County

To the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy





From John Stulp

Special Policy Advisor to the Governor for Water Director of Compact Negotiations Interbasin Compact Committee

ear General Assembly, Basin Roundtable and Interbasin Compact Committee Members,

Another year past and a flurry of activity behind us. The Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and several task groups have been especially hard at work since November 2017.

Since being created by the 2005 "Colorado" Water for the 21st Century Act" the IBCC has provided an important, diverse, and wellbalanced forum for policy input. Built on the vision of Russ George,

Diane Hoppe, and Jim Isgar, the IBCC has given shape to numerous planning initiatives while setting the course for roundtable work. Coming at a critical time, the IBCC helped to rise above polarization in an attempt to simultaneously address statewide and local issues in a cooperative, transbasin manor.

The IBCC's statewide perspective and ability to operate freely as a "think tank" has generated critical feedback to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), basin roundtables, and broader water community. As such, the work of the IBCC has largely contributed to the success of those roundtables, the creation and implementation of Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plans, and many other notable efforts. Some past examples of this important work include:

- Creating carefully articulated By-laws and Charter documents
- Providing preliminary input on broad water supply portfolios and tradeoffs
- Drafting the 2010 letter report to Governors' Ritter and Hickenlooper (including recommendations, a timeline of major accomplishments, Vision Goals, Subcommittee Reports, and IBCC Work Plan)
- Compiling the No and Low Regrets Action Plan
- Initiating the scenario planning framework that was documented in the Water Plan and now serves as a foundation to the current Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update
- Carefully negotiating the Conceptual

- Framework
- Supporting important education and outreach efforts of PEPO (Public Education, Participation, and Outreach group)
- Providing critical feedback on the Water Plan

Looking back to 2005 reveals a diverse history of accomplishments. This year, I am pleased to share great progress was forged on a renewed work plan developed by the IBCC at the November 30th, 2017 meeting. Each effort following was selected as an area of priority for 2018:

- Created the Funding Concepts Task Group which produced a working document to help inform multiple, ongoing statewide funding efforts (see "Funding the Future: Financing the Implementation of Colorado's Water Plan")
- Created the Candidate Letter Task Group which coordinated the drafting of a concise letter to 181 candidates for statewide office to inform and direct future elected officials to the Water Plan
- Created the Conceptual Framework Task Group which revisited the process and critical elements of the framework and contributed to an uptick in statewide education on Colorado River Issues
- Project of Statewide Significance: Discussed critical elements of a potential statewide project in which to apply the Conceptual Framework
- Colorado River Risk Study: Received regular updates on progress of Risk Study

From its inception, the IBCC has had a difficult and often ambiguous assignment, but accomplishments so far indicate this consortium of statewide representatives has largely succeeded in its original goal to facilitate conversations among Colorado's diverse river basins and to address challenging water management issues.

Thank you all for your tremendous daily efforts and cumulative contributions.

John Stulp

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Resource Quick Links:

Colorado Water Conservation Board Website

Colorado Water Plan Website

Water Plan Fact Sheet







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Colorado Water **Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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Governor DNR Executive Director **CWCB** Director

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