

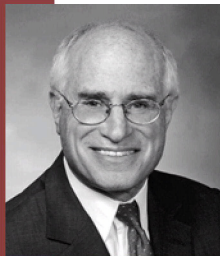


Colorado's Water Supply Future

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Interbasin Compact Process *Quarterly Newsletter - 2nd Quarter 2008*



From Harris Sherman Executive Director of DNR and Director of Compact Negotiations

In our March newsletter I wrote about the importance of developing a vision for Colorado's water future that reflects what we want our state to

look like, not what it will look like if we let water development continue down the current path. Whether it is concern about drying up agriculture, or challenges in meeting municipal needs, or protecting our environment, the status quo vision is one that concerns the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and water stakeholders across Colorado.

Colorado is transitioning from an era of developing an undeveloped resource to one where we are managing a fully developed resource. Future water decisions will therefore increasingly involve reallocating water between uses and less on finding ways to develop new supplies. This is a fundamental shift that will forever impact our use and development of this precious resource. It is my hope that this visioning process and the strategies that come out of it will provide a roadmap for Colorado to follow as we move into these uncharted waters.

We are now several months into this visioning process and I am pleased to report that we are making progress on several fronts.

The IBCC agreed at our May meeting that we need to move forward in two areas. First, we need to develop a more detailed vision for Colorado's water supply future. Over the coming months, the IBCC will be working on a draft

document to see if we can reach agreement on a vision. Second, the IBCC believes we must also come up with specific strategies to achieve that vision. The IBCC, the Basin Roundtables (BRTs), and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will use information from previous studies and begin evaluating broad water supply strategies. Developing a vision and evaluating strategies simultaneously will not only keep us on a timely course, but more importantly, the information we gather from evaluating strategies will better inform the development of our vision. We are therefore pursuing both objectives on parallel paths. The IBCC is identifying demand, supply, and regional strategies and this newsletter describes those efforts.

We need to incorporate input from the broadest cross-section of Coloradans possible. In order to raise awareness and solicit input, I am having discussions with stakeholder groups such as the Colorado Concern, Colorado Cooperation Conference, and other civic, business, and community groups across Colorado. We are also going to be increasing our outreach through the press.

The BRTs are particularly well suited to solicit input from the public in their basins and I again encourage them to do so. Ask community leaders to testify at your Roundtable meetings. Send periodic e-mails to keep residents of your basins informed. Use your own networks to inform and engage the public.

I look forward to hearing any thoughts you have and on keeping you up to date on our continued progress.



Interbasin Compact Committee Vision Exercise

If we let Colorado's water supply continue to evolve the way it is now, what will our state look like in 50 years? Is that what we want it to look like? If not, what can and should we do about it? Those are questions the IBCC is addressing through their visioning exercise.

After two rounds of discussions, the IBCC generally agrees that:

1. The status quo approach to water supply will not lead to the Colorado the IBCC members want to see. Members had different ideas about the extent to which our current approach could or should be changed, but all agreed we should explore different approaches.
2. Colorado is transitioning from an era of developing an undeveloped resource to an era of managing a developed resource. Future water decisions will increasingly involve reallocating water between uses.
3. A range of strategies are needed to help meet our state's consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs. These include a combination of demand side strategies, supply side strategies, and regional coordination strategies (described below).
4. The IBCC should work with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to examine the trade-offs, risks, and uncertainties associated with different strategies and combination of strategies.
5. A statewide vision should be developed in combination with an evaluation of water supply strategies.

A statewide vision for Colorado's water supply future consists of three parts: 1) a vision statement; 2) water supply values; and 3) strategies to help meet the vision. The vision statement and water supply values provide broad guidance for addressing Colorado's Water Supply Future. They provide the goals we hope to achieve as we address our state's water challenges. The strategies are the implementable actions to help achieve the vision and protect the water supply values. These terms are specifically defined as:

- **Vision Statement** - Broad conclusions about Colorado's water supply future that provide guidance for addressing the state's water challenges.
- **Water Supply Values** - Principles or ideals that are important to protect as Colorado implements solutions to its water challenges. The agreed upon values will be used to evaluate the tradeoffs between strategies and combinations of strategies.
- **Strategies** - Broad solutions that can be implemented to help achieve the vision, meet our water challenges, and protect the values.

Strategies to be Evaluated

The following strategies may help meet our state's consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs. The IBCC is not endorsing these strategies, but agrees that they should be further evaluated by examining the opportunities, challenges, and trade-offs associated with each strategy or combination of strategies.

Demand Side Strategies

- Municipal and industrial conservation
- Agricultural conservation, efficiency, and alternative cropping patterns
- Density of urban development
- Energy: level of development and water use

Supply Side Strategies

- Reuse, recycling, and desalination
- Agricultural transfers: traditional permanent transfers and alternatives to permanent transfers
- Optimizing existing storage and delivery systems
- New in-basin storage that can meet multiple uses and is sensitive to our environmental and recreational needs
- Optimum use of groundwater supplies
- The benefits and risks associated with additional compact development

Regional Coordination Strategies

- Coordinated infrastructure development and opportunities for shared infrastructure
- Timing of flows to meet multiple consumptive and nonconsumptive needs
- Opportunities and challenges for managing our compact obligations in a way that benefits the river corridors
- Integrated management of groundwater and surface water
- Managing risk and uncertainty

Roles and Next Steps in Developing a Vision and Evaluating Strategies

The IBCC, BRTs, CWCB, and CWCB Staff all have important roles to play in developing a shared vision for Colorado's water supply future and examining strategies for achieving it.

IBCC – The IBCC undertakes initial visioning to help develop a draft vision statement, a set of water supply values, and a conceptual approach to evaluating water supply strategies. The IBCC then works with the CWCB staff as described below. The IBCC also provides input on various work products as they are developed and identifies opportunities for interbasin cooperation and negotiations.

Basin Roundtables – The Basin Roundtables provide input to the IBCC. They complete work on their updated needs assessment and provide input on various work products associated with the evaluation of strategies. CWCB staff and technical consultants will visit each BRT on a quarterly basis to work on their needs assessments and the evaluation of strategies.

CWCB – CWCB provides input into the visioning process and directs the implementation of staff work elements as described below. CWCB staff implements the necessary technical work to evaluate strategies. They will primarily do this by completing and integrating work through the nonconsumptive needs assessments, the consumptive needs assessments, the technical team for the water availability study, and the BRTs' updated needs assessments. As work products are developed they will be vetted to the BRTs, the IBCC, and the CWCB for input and comment.

Next Steps

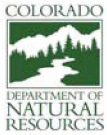
The strategies outlined above will be evaluated in a way that achieves the following objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive vision for each sector – agriculture, municipal and industrial, and the environment
- Examine the interconnections between these sectors
- Execute the technical work needed to develop each strategy
- Examine each strategy's ability to meet the vision of Colorado 2050 water supply needs
- Examine the tradeoffs between different strategies
- Examine ways to integrate consumptive and nonconsumptive needs
- Examine the risks associated with different strategies and who bears those risks
- Evaluate the performance of each strategy with the vision and associated values



Approved Water Supply Reserve Account Applications by the CWCB Board

Name of Water Activity	Basin Account	Statewide Account	Total Request
Arkansas Basin Total Request	\$583,781	\$1,507,954	\$2,091,735
Arkansas Valley Conduit		\$200,000	\$200,000
Tamarisk		\$50,000	\$50,000
Upper Black Squirrel Creek Aquifer Recharge Investigation	\$45,200		\$45,200
Ground Water Conference	\$24,721		\$24,721
Fountain Creek Vision Task Force	\$75,000		\$75,000
Round Mountain Water & Sanitation District Water System Improvements Project	\$120,000		\$120,000
Rotational Land Fallowing-Water Leasing Program-Lower Arkansas Superditch Company	\$150,000		\$150,000
Upper Big Sandy Water Balance	\$45,000		\$45,000
Model Transfers-Agriculture to Urban, Arkansas Basin	\$23,860		\$23,860
Arkansas Headwaters Diversion Structure Improvement Project Arkansas River Basin		\$57,954	\$57,954
City of Las Animas Sewer System Improvements	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Colorado State Parks - Zebra Mussels Pueblo Reservoir		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Colorado Basin Total Request	\$415,000	\$2,227,900	\$2,642,900
Energy Development Water Needs Assessment (300,000 Joint Application see Yampa)		\$150,000	\$150,000
Enlargement of Eagle Park Reservoir		\$250,000	\$250,000
Roaring Fork Watershed Assessment	\$40,000		\$40,000
Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Alternatives Analysis (10,825 Study)		\$200,000	\$200,000
Vail Ditch Project		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Bull Creek Reservoir No. 5 Spillway Adequacy Analysis	\$50,000		\$50,000
Missouri Heights Monitoring	\$25,000		\$25,000
Grand County Streamflow Management Plan	\$100,000		\$100,000
Old Dillon Reservoir	\$100,000		\$100,000
Fraser Sedimentation Basin	\$60,000	\$127,900	\$187,900
Roaring Fork Watershed Assessment - Phase 2	\$40,000		\$40,000
Gunnison Basin Total Request	\$338,700	\$840,700	\$1,179,400
Lake San Cristobal Controlled Outlet Structure	\$35,000		\$35,000
Safety and Serviceability Needs Inventory for Reservoirs in the Lerou Creek Drainage Basin	\$60,000		\$60,000
Orchard City Water Reservoir Project (Task 1-3)	\$60,000		\$60,000
Orchard City Water Reservoir Project (Remaining Tasks)		\$480,000	\$480,000
Off-System Raw Water Storage Project 7 Water Authority/Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	\$56,700		\$56,700
Paonia-Feldman Diversion Reconstruction; North Fork of the Gunnison River (Part 1 of 2)	\$48,000	\$62,700	\$110,700
Sedimentation Management Study for Paonia Reservoir - North Fork of the Gunnison	\$79,000	\$230,000	\$309,000
Overland Reservoir Dam Expansion/Restoration		\$68,000	\$68,000



Approved Water Supply Reserve Account Applications by the CWCB Board

Name of Water Activity	Basin Account	Statewide Account	Total Request
Metro Basin Total Request	\$496,580	\$200,000	\$696,580
Chatfield Reallocation EIS/FR (South Platte BRT contributing \$27,000)	\$103,000		\$103,000
Zero Liquid Discharge Pilot Study	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
Parker Water and Sanitation and Colorado State University Joint Project on a Rural/Urban Farm Model	\$150,000		\$150,000
Upper Mountain Counties Water Needs Assessment (South Platte contributing)	\$43,580		\$43,580
North Platte Basin Total Request	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000
New Pioneer Ditch Diversion Reconstruction Project	\$116,000		\$116,000
Rio Grande Basin Total Request	\$384,950	\$1,692,000	\$2,076,950
Alamosa River Instream Flow Project	\$64,500		\$64,500
Preliminary Design Multi-use Rio Grande Reservoir Rehabilitation and Enlargement		\$288,000	\$288,000
Rio Grande Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	\$36,750		\$36,750
Alamosa River Watershed Restoration Project		\$104,000	\$104,000
Romero-Guadalupe Channel Rectification Project	\$83,700		\$83,700
Rio Grande Initiative	\$200,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,500,000
South Platte Basin Total Request	\$434,563	\$278,476	\$713,039
Chatfield Reallocation EIS/FR (Metro BRT contributing \$103,000)	\$27,000		\$27,000
Clear Creek Water Banking/High Altitude Storage	\$52,000		\$52,000
Ovid Reservoir Comprehensive Feasibility Study	\$176,000		\$176,000
Lower South Platte Wetland Initiative Phase I South Platte River, CO		\$278,476	\$278,476
Stage Discharge Data Loggers and Telemetry	\$48,800		\$48,800
Upper Mountain Counties Water Needs Assessment (Metro contributing)	\$130,763		\$130,763
Southwest Basin Total Request	\$272,700	\$2,260,000	\$2,532,700
Dry Gulch Reservoir/San Juan Reservoir Land Acquisition		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Goodman Point Water Association Pipeline Environmental Assessment	\$7,700		\$7,700
Goodman Point Phase 2	\$20,000	\$240,000	\$240,000
Jackson Gulch Reservoir Expansion Project	\$80,000		\$80,000
Lake Mancos Dam (Jackson Gulch Reservoir Expansion Project)		\$20,000	\$20,000
Bauer Lakes	\$40,000		\$40,000
La Plata West Rural Water Supply System	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,100,000
Town of Sawpit - Engineering/Planning for Domestic Water System; Southwest Basin	\$25,000		\$25,000
Yampa/White/Green Basin Total Request	\$357,510	\$150,000	\$507,510
Energy Development Water Needs Assessment (300,000 Joint Application see Colorado)		\$150,000	\$150,000
Morrison Creek Reservoir Feasibility Study	\$49,500		\$49,500
Agricultural Water Needs Assessment	\$201,410		\$201,410
Common Data Repository	\$106,600		\$106,600

Further information regarding the Interbasin Compact Process accomplishments and support provided to the basin roundtables to further their basinwide needs assessments can be found at:

<http://ibcc.state.co.us>.

Information on the Water Supply Reserve Account and continuing SWSI activities is located on CWCB's webpage:

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/>.

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