

Yampa White Green Roundtable Education Action Plan

April 2012

Background Information:

The 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 05-1177), is based upon the premise that Coloradans must work together to address the water needs within the state.

The legislation created a framework to encourage dialogue on water, broadened the range of stakeholders actively participating in water decisions, and created a locally driven process where the decision-making power rests with those living in the state's river basins.

The statewide structure, the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), and the local structures, the nine basin roundtables, bring over 300 diverse citizens into water supply planning discussions across the state.

As each basin roundtable carries out its charge to develop basin-wide water needs assessments, they are also required to advance the understanding of future water needs through educational programs and processes. In the statutes of HB 05-1177, each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) ... Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Moreover, the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislatively created committee of the IBCC. This group is tasked with: creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and the progress of the interbasin compact negotiations; creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators; and educating IBCC and roundtable members on water issues. The PEPO Workgroup's membership consists of the Education Liaisons, a volunteer position on each basin roundtable, members of the IBCC, statewide water education experts, staff of the Water Supply Planning section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and a consultant firm (currently CFWE) that facilitates the PEPO Workgroup.

The members of this sub-committee work to identify the best approaches for education and outreach at the statewide and basin-specific levels. The PEPO Workgroup and roundtable members are collectively defining the most helpful and meaningful ways in which the public can participate in the work of their basin roundtable.

In 2012, the PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities. By the end of 2012, each roundtable is expected to have a functioning Education & Outreach Committee tasked with creating an Education Action Plan (EAP). The EAP will detail the educational goals and tasks most effective for the basin roundtable. It will identify roundtable member education activities that promote a well-informed and high-functioning basin roundtable. It will also define public participation objectives and appropriate implementation methods.

In 2012, the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) will work with the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable by providing assistance in forming or strengthening an Education

& Outreach Committee and creating their Education Action Plan (EAP). To assist the basin roundtables in implementing their completed EAPs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has created an application-based education fund. All basin roundtables with a completed EAP will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$1,800 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

Sub-Committee Members

All YWG Roundtable members are encouraged to provide input and suggestions to the sub-committee. The sub-committee seeks to represent fully the agriculture, municipal and industrial interests of the basin. The names and affiliations of the current YWG Roundtable Education Sub-committee are:

1. Ren Martyn (Education Liaison): Routt County at- large member
2. Jeff Devere: Rio Blanco At-Large Representative
3. Mary Brown: Agriculture At-Large Representative
4. Kent Vertrees: Routt County At-Large Representative
5. Doug Monger: Routt County Commissioner Representative
6. Kevin McBride: Non Voting At-Large Representative

Annual Meeting Plan for Committee

- a. Meetings may be scheduled prior to regularly scheduled roundtable meetings.
- b. Purpose is to discuss development and implementation of the EAP.

Overall goal(s) of the Education Sub-committee

Develop and implement an EAP that facilitates educational opportunities about Colorado and YWG Basin water challenges. Educational priorities will forward the HB 1177 process by facilitating discussions on water management issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions.

EAP Short Term – During 2012

1. Collaborative effort: Identify and engage with other YWG basin organizations that wish to promote water education.
2. Water Forums: In collaboration with the Community Agriculture Alliance (Marsha Daughenbaugh) and The Upper Yampa Stakeholders Group (Kelly Heaney) plan to offer three Water Forums
 - i. May 4, 2012: Water Forum at Bud Werner Memorial Library: “Call on the River”. Open to the general public and agenda to include Prior Appropriation Doctrine, Water 2012, Water Rights, Water and Users Update. List of speakers to include: Nicole Seltzer, David Robbins, Kevin McBride
 - ii. July 26, 2012: Water Tour: “Two Rules of Water: What the Law Says & What Nature Does” Open to general public and Yampa River bus tour from Stagecoach Reservoir, Chuck Lewis State Park, City of Steamboat Springs Water Infiltration Gallery, Hayden Xcel Pump Station, Carpenter Ranch. Focus on Agriculture, Municipal, Energy and Recreational Water Uses. List of speakers is to be announced.
 - iii. October 4, 2012: YWG Roundtable Basin update and focus on “The Gap: The Distance between Now and The Future” Open to the general public. Water Forum to be held in Craig. Agenda to include Roundtable activities, the Gap, in addition a Water Users forum including a focus on Oil and Gas activities.
3. Identify other Water Educational opportunities for the general public.
 - i. Rio Blanco County: Water forum discussing the Oil and Gas industry and water rights. Open to the general public. Date and speaker list is to be determined.
 - ii. Yampatika: Develop a water education program for youth utilizing Water 2012 and video “A Day Without Water”.
4. Promote Water 2012 program in the YWG Basin.
 - i. April 3, 2012: Meeting of the Upper Yampa Stakeholders Group at Bud Werner Memorial Library. The Water 2012 poster and Kevin McBride will be present to discuss the program.
5. YWG PEPO representative Ren Martyn to attend the Statewide Roundtable Summit and IBCC meeting February 29 & March 1, 2012 in Broomfield.
6. Identify possible educational opportunities for YWG Roundtable members. Short educational updates added to the Roundtable meeting agendas regarding water activities in the basin. Examples may include:
 - i. Creation of The Upper Yampa Watershed Group, Kelly Heaney

- ii. City of Steamboat Springs, Water Conservation Efforts, Lyn Halliday from Environmental Solutions, LLC.
 - iii. Upper Yampa Water District, Master Plan Efforts, Kevin McBride
7. Identify Writers and Topics for submittal to basin news agencies on Roundtable activities and water related issues.
 8. Roundtable meetings: Prior to YWG Roundtable meetings, the date, time and location to be published in basin news agencies.

EAP Long Term – 2013 and Beyond

1. Annual review of EAP including sub-committee members.
2. Annual review of prior water education initiatives and success/failure evaluation.
3. Annual review of collaborative efforts and identify individuals and/or organizations who can assist with the YWG EAP mission.

Budget

The Education Committee will use the \$1,800 in state funds and potential use of YWG basin funds in the following manner:

- A) 2012 Water Forum budget of \$8000.00
- B) Travel dollars for YWG Basin Roundtable members and other speakers to present educational programs within and outside the Yampa White Green River Basin.
- C) Food & beverage for educational events.

Partnerships

Groups existing in the Yampa White Green Basin as potential partners:

- . Community Agriculture Alliance
- . Upper Yampa River Stakeholders Group
- . Upper Yampa Water District
- . Friends of the Yampa
- . Yampatika
- . Trout Unlimited: Yampa River Chapter
- . Municipal members of the YWGRT

. Local educational institutions

. Conservancy District members of the YWGRT

Specific partnership opportunities and tasks will be developed in the first quarter of 2012 in conjunction with the detail for implementing the objectives and tasks.

Assessment

A) Robust participation by committee members in planning and implementation.

B) At least two identified partnerships/collaboration efforts pursued and maintained.

C) Display of roundtable content on Water 2012 exhibits at a minimum of three events or venues.

D) Collection of at least 20 comments (cards or general feedback) at 2012 Water Forums for other water education activities and feedback of forums.

E) Member notebook information updated and each new member is oriented by the Chairperson.

F) By end of 2012, at least five new stakeholders attend a YWG roundtable meeting or contact the Chairperson for more information.