

**Yampa White Green Roundtable Education Action Plan**  
2015 Plan

**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:

- "(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."

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.

The PEPO Workgroup will assist the basin roundtables in strengthening their education and outreach activities.

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) will work with the Yampa White Green (YWG) Basin Roundtable by providing assistance in forming or strengthening an Education & Outreach Committee and creating their Education Action Plan (EAP).

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 \$2000 in state funds per year for action plan implementation.

Community Agriculture Alliance (CAA) will implement and facilitate education and outreach activities for the YWG Basin Roundtable. Grant funds totaling \$30,000 have been secured from CWCB for 2014 and 2015.

**YWG Education 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. Mary Brown: Agriculture Representative
3. Jeff Devere: Non-Voting At-Large Representative
4. Doug Monger: Routt County Commissioner Representative
5. Kevin McBride: Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Representative
6. Kelly Heaney: Non Voting At-Large Representative

**Meeting Plan for Sub-Committee**

Marsha Daughenbaugh, CAA Executive Director, will convene meetings of the YWG Education Sub Committee. Every effort will be made to honor the busy schedules of the sub-committee members utilizing face-to-face meetings, teleconferences and emails.

**Overall goals of the Education Sub-committee**

- 1. Develop and implement an EAP that facilitates educational opportunities about Colorado and YWG Basin water challenges.
- 2. Forward the HB-1177 process by facilitating discussions on water issues
- 3. Encourage locally driven collaborative solutions

**EAP Short Term – During 2015**

- 1. Increase collaborations and partnerships with other YWG basin organizations that wish to promote water education
- 2. Raise public awareness of YWG Roundtable activities
  - a. CAA will assure that regional news agencies are notified of Round Table meeting dates, time and location
  - b. Education Sub-committee will identify writers and topics, CAA will submit these articles to regional news agencies
- 3. Plan, implement and facilitate a series of Water Education Forums in Meeker, Rangely and Craig
  - a. Water Law 101, the State Water Plan and the YWG Water Plan
  - b. Water Delivery Systems and Efficiency Improvement Methods
- 4. Identify and advertise other Water Educational opportunities available for the general public
- 5. YWG PEPO representative Ren Martyn will participate in CWCB and CFWE education-related meetings
- 6. CAA Executive Director Marsha Daughenbaugh will participate in CWCB and CFWE education-related training

**EAP Long Term – 2015 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

**2015 Budget**

The Education Sub-committee will utilize the \$2,000 in state funds for the following:

- 1. CAA participation in the OMNI Water Education Program as recommended by CFWE and CWCB
- 2. Media costs of advertising Round Table meeting dates, time and location
- 3. Administrative costs incurred by the Education Sub-committee in performing its duties

**Partnerships**

Existing partners for the 2015 plan include:

Community Agriculture Alliance	White River Conservation District
Douglas Creek Conservation District	Colorado First Conservation District
Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	Rio Blanco County CSU Extension
National Park Service at Dinosaur	Water Center at Mesa University
Colorado Division of Water	Colorado For Water Education

Potential partners include:

All organizations, business and agencies represented on the YWG Roundtable

Regional media contacts are established with:

Steamboat Pilot/Today	Craig Daily Press
Rio Blanco Herald Times	Valley Voice
KRAI Radio	KBCR Radio

**Assessment**

- 1. Active participation by sub-committee members in the planning, implementation and facilitation of forums and workshops
- 2. YWG Round Table members attendance and acceptance of forums and workshops
- 3. Stakeholder participation and evaluation at forums and workshops
- 4. Stakeholder requests for additional forums and workshops

