

**2016/2017/2018**  
**Southwest Basin Roundtable**  
**Public Education, Outreach, and Participation**  
**Education Action Plan**

Prepared and Presented by:

Southwest Basin Roundtable Public Education Participation and Outreach Committee

March 2017

## ***Introduction***

This presents the Southwest Basin Roundtable's (Roundtable) updated Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Education Action Plan. The original plan was approved by the Roundtable in 2011 and updated in 2012 and 2015. This version focuses on current priorities of the Roundtable as they relate to the Colorado Water Plan implementation. Specifically, this education plan seeks to address the following taken from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) *Basin Implementation Plan Draft Guidance* (CWCB, 2013) document:

It [the plan] will let the decision makers in the basin understand how they are represented, the status of the basin's consumptive and non-consumptive needs, planned projects, current river operation, and opportunities and constraints associated with different hydrologic cycles. Where appropriate, this effort can also help roundtables' outreach to potential project proponents for the new projects and methods needed to meet future water needs to determine if they are interested in being partners or the lead entity (p. 7).

Additional reporting requirements for this education plan includes: roundtable involvement in development of this plan; educational priorities; strategies to achieve educational priority goals (including budget and schedule); partnerships; and periodic reporting. To set the context for this education plan, however, it was determined that background information may be helpful, especially for those who may be unfamiliar with the history of the roundtable process.

## ***Background<sup>1</sup>***

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 within the state's nine river basins. The statewide structure, the Inter-basin Compact Committee (IBCC), the local structures, and 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

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<sup>1</sup> This section draws heavily from the Colorado Foundation for Water Education Basin Roundtables Final Education Survey Report (2010).

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 inter-basin 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 CWCB, and a consultant firm that facilitates the PEPO Workgroup. The members of this 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 May 2013 Governor Hickenlooper issued an Executive Order directing the CWCB to develop a Colorado Water Plan. Creation of this plan was a grassroots effort drawing upon eight years of unprecedented work, dialogue, and consensus-building that water leaders from across the state have engaged in through the IBCC and basin roundtable process discussed above. Colorado's Water Plan was developed to be aligned with the state's water values: vibrant and sustainable cities; viable and productive agriculture; a robust skiing, recreation and tourism industry; and a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife.

In December 2015 the Final Colorado Water Plan was delivered to Governor Hickenlooper. The Colorado Water Plan, written by the CWCB, reflects efforts to confront challenges including a 163 billion-gallon projected water supply shortfall, as well as sustain a growing economy and population expected to double to 10 million by 2050. The Plan draws on river basin discussions held around the state, as well as each Basin's Draft Implementation Plans.

### ***Roundtable involvement in development of this plan***

Although the Roundtable membership has left the development of this EAP primarily to the PEPO representative, numerous members were involved in the planning efforts to

varying degrees. As an example, the Roundtable Chair, BIP consultants, members of the Education and Outreach Committee were involved by providing direction, input, recommendations, and review. Moreover, when the EAP was in draft form various members of the Roundtable were invited to provide review and comments. All input has been incorporated and the updated EAP will be presented to the Roundtable membership at their April 2017 meeting.

### ***Educational priorities***

The Roundtable's overall goals and priorities for education, participation, and outreach including target audiences are basically laid out in Section 1 of the Basin Implementation Plan—Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes. Below is a summary of the education, participation, and outreach goals for this EAP:

- Develop a Fact Booklet which describes the different organizations in southwest Colorado involved with water and the different uses of water, both consumptive and non-consumptive (2016 & 2017).
- Develop and present three workshops based on the subjects of 1) Developing Stream Management Plans; 2) Agricultural Efficiencies; and 3) the Land Use Planning & Water (2017 & 2018).
- Provide copies of the Colorado Water Plan and the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan to interested entities and public libraries within the Southwest Basin (2016 & 2017).
- Provide educational material as necessary to support the Roundtable.

### ***Strategies to achieve educational priority goals***

The Roundtable recently contracted with consultants to begin developing a strategy for implementing the Basin Implementation Plan. As part of that, the consultants will also help to implement the EAP in coordination with the PEPO committee. The consultants will be responsible for the majority of the tasks involving the EAP including writing the Fact Booklet and developing & coordinating the workshops.

The Fact Booklet is envisioned to provide the average citizen with information concerning the hydrologic cycle, the hydrology of the basin, the uses of water in the basin, organizations that are involved in water in the basin (both consumptive and non-consumptive), basic water rights information, and other information that will help the average citizen have a better understanding of water in the west.

The consultants will write the first draft of the Fact Booklet and then submit it to the roundtable and identified entities for review. Once the Fact Booklet has been reviewed and accepted by the Roundtable, price quotes from local printers and the state printing office will be solicited. A printer will be then be selected and the Booklet will be

submitted for printing. The booklet will be printed on newspaper media to reduce costs. Distribution of the Booklet will be through local water oriented organizations, libraries, cities and towns.

The consultants will also be responsible for developing and presenting the three workshops. The Developing Stream Management Plans will be designed for entities that want to develop stream management plans. It will provide the necessary information and identify available resources for that entity to develop a successful stream management plan.

The Agricultural Efficiencies workshop will identify methods for farmers to become more efficient in the irrigation practices. The workshop will be coordinated with the CSU Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Besides identifying efficiency practices the workshop will also identify grants that may be available to help offset the costs of implementing the projects.

The Land Use Planning and Water workshop will delve into the nexus between how the availability of water must be considered when developing land use plans. This workshop will be geared towards bringing county and municipality planning staff together with local water agencies so that they both get a better understanding of the issues that can affect the planning process, especially water availability. The workshop will also be used to educate planning staff on how water conservation can be folded into the planning process.

Providing copies for the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plan to local libraries will allow the average citizen to become more familiar with the complexity of water in Colorado. This activity will be coordinated by the PEPO committee.

***Budgets***

	Objective/Task	Lead	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
1	Workshop #1 - Stream Management Plans: coordinate and implement workshop focused on developing plans and examples from around the State	RT Contractors		\$2,100	
2	Workshop #2 - Agricultural Efficiencies: coordinate and implement workshop(s) focused on on-farm efficiencies and improvements	RT Contractors		\$2,500	\$1,850
3	Workshop #3 - Land Use Planning & Water: duplicate past workshop in La Plata County in Archuleta County; coordinate and implement workshop	RT Contractors			\$1,800
4	Materials - Southwest Basin Fact Booklet: support and implement distribution of fact booklet	RT Contractors	\$5,500	\$650	\$1,500
5	Materials - Colorado Water Plan: provide copies of the plan to local entities and libraries	PEPO Committee	\$500		
6	Materials - Basin Implementation Plan: provide copies of the plan to local entities, libraries, and individuals	PEPO Committee		\$500	
7	Materials - Roundtable specific needs	PEPO Committee	\$500	\$750	\$1,350
		Totals	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500