

Senate Bill 115 Public Meeting - Small Group Discussion Topics June 18, 2014

Colorado's Water Plan: A Statewide Planning Effort

Colorado's Water Plan: Goals and Objectives from draft Chapter 1, Introduction and Background

Goal: Prepare a water plan that reflects Colorado's values.

1. Colorado's water plan must reflect Colorado's values. These values include the following:
2. A productive economy that supports:
 - a. Vibrant sustainable cities;
 - b. Viable and productive agricultural;
 - c. A robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry;
3. Efficient and effective water infrastructure;
4. Smart, water-wise land use planning;
5. A strong environment, including healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife;

Objectives: Colorado's Water Plan will reflect Colorado Values by taking the following actions:

1. Harnessing the work of the Basin Roundtables (BRTs) and Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC);
2. Integrating water plans/information from all Colorado's water stakeholders;
3. Aligning the state's funding and water supply role with our water values;
4. Analyzing Colorado's roles in permitting processes;
5. Identifying the state's role in supporting projects/proposals that stress conservation, innovation, multiple benefits, water-smart land use, and healthy watersheds;
6. Protecting Colorado's ability to fully use its water within its interstate compacts;
7. Establishing common-sense alternatives mechanisms for transferring water;
8. Providing the mechanism for Colorado to respond and adapt to meet our future water challenges.

Questions:

1. How would you prioritize these state-wide goals and objectives?
2. Are there statewide goals/objectives with which you disagree or believe to be adverse to your basin's interests, goals or objectives?
3. Are there additional statewide goals and objectives that should be added to the above list?

Colorado's Water Plan: A Basin-Specific Effort

Most Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) have not been submitted for public comment. Yet, it is anticipated that common elements between basins will emerge as the BIPs are finalized. These common elements might include the following:

1. Assessments of current water uses within the basin, including consumptive and non-consumptive uses, their economic importance to the basin, and how to protect or enhance them;
2. Plans to address current shortages and long-term protection of agricultural water supplies;
3. Projections for future municipal and industrial demands and how these future demands will be met;
4. Plans for meeting non-consumptive needs, including environmental and recreational flows;
5. Thoughts on addressing water quality and watershed issues within the basin;
6. Prioritized descriptions of proposed water supply projects and how to fund and implement them;
7. Discussion of future potential changes in water uses and transfers of water in or out of the basin.

Basin-specific planning questions:

1. **What are your top priorities for addressing these possible basin-specific issues?**
2. **Do you have priorities that are not included in this list and, if so, what are they?**
3. **What are your thoughts about addressing these potential BIP elements in your basin?**