



## South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

Meeting Notes | February 25, 2014 | 1:30 – 4:00 PM | Mile High United Way, Denver

**Summary:** Meeting participants discussed and agreed to adopt a “Summary Document” outlining the basic goals and components of the UWP. They discussed benefits and values of engaging, future UWP structure and sustainable funding, work group status and membership, and upcoming events. They decided to move forward with an interim Leadership Team that can make progress on UWP business and free up quarterly meeting time for more meaningful dialog among partners.

**Action Items:** Participants identified a number of short-term action items, including:

- Adapt the Summary Document into UWP web content and print materials. (Devon)
- For the rest of this quarter, the UWP coordinator may issue letters of support for any partners requesting this to supplement grant applications. Future letters of support will be issued based on TBD Leadership Team guidance. (Devon)
- Craft a summary paragraph of what it means to be a UWP partner organization for use in grant applications, websites, and for other purposes. (Devon)
- Share Leadership Team development documents with Devon. (Steve Sherwood)
- Create a South Platte UWP section on the Colorado Watershed Assembly website/blog. Opportunity to organize information geographically. Enhance, don't duplicate efforts. <http://www.coloradowater.org/> (Casey Davenhill)
- Share ideas with Economic Benefits (Accomplishment Report) work group on potential university/student resources. (Dana)
- Send an email to the UWP summarizing the meeting and identifying all current (accepted and nominated) working group members. (Devon)
- Schedule next meeting in May. (Devon)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Members introduced themselves with name and organization. Many participants were new to the partnership. Organizations represented included CSU Extension, HUD, Groundwork Denver, Earth Force, Denver Water, USGS, Greenway Foundation, City of Englewood, Tri County Health Dept., ATSDR, CUSP, Sand Creek Regional Greenway, EPA, USFS, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health, Denver Mayor's Office, Bluff Lake Nature Center, Clear Creek Watershed Foundation, Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, Jefferson Conservation District, and Adams County. (Attendance list at end)

**Priorities and Value of Partnership:** Participants provided feedback on the Strategies and Actions presented in the UWP Summary Document. It was agreed that the document is ready for sharing and provides a good general background of what the UWP is about. The current Summary will support:

- Content for the web ([www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov))
- Printed documents, short “leave behind” for visits with potential partners and funders



Some suggestions for updating and building on the Summary Document included:

- Provide geographic context with a thumbnail map and/or link to Google Map
- Add a case study/example for each strategy – make it more real, less abstract
- Clarify what is meant by “water security” – it is about sustaining the area’s drinking water supply. (In consultation with Denver Water, this has been changed to “Water Protection”.
- Identify measures of success (draft list from the systems thinking dialog)
- Map strategies and actions to specific goals
- Refine goals to be “SMART” (Would need to be done in strategic planning with UWP Partners)
- Incorporate into an internal/external communications strategy that includes branding

UWP communications could include a more regular newsletter/digest with partner updates, upcoming events, funding opportunities, etc. (build on Devon’s current updates). This could be accomplished with a section on the Colorado Watershed Assembly’s blog (see action items).

The UWP offers members many benefits including:

- Support letters – Additional dialog is needed to determine which projects receive support from UWP and at what level (e.g., general letter for all individual projects, feature projects only, selection process for feature projects – keep it simple, effects on collaboration and members support, transparency, unintended consequences)
- Leg up in funding requests through demonstrated participation in Partnership.
- More exposure to water quality events and policy/planning information (e.g., state-wide water plan, source water protection)
- Access to funding opportunities and a central point of contact for more information.
- Transparency and opportunities for collaboration regarding grant applications and potential projects – The geomapping tool can be used to collect and keep project information up to date and help facilitate connections, list of unfunded projects
- Access to a Technical Advisory Board – More dialog is needed to flesh out the details (e.g., available to any project or just feature projects, compensation for time, use board time as match on grants, pool of consulting experts), but members are willing to advise on UWP projects in some capacity.
- Another way to think about member “benefits” is the “value” of the partnership – As a member what do you need out of this group? What are your desired outcomes? What is here that is of value to you and your organization? What would keep you coming back? What is missing? Current participants characterized the value of the UWP as:
  - Mutual learning
  - Opportunity to influence water policy and conversation in the region with a common message – don’t underestimate the potential of this group!
  - Awareness of partner activities, current events, and legislation – smaller group interactions would help facilitate this, like breakouts or round table discussions



**Function and Form:** The conversation then moved in the direction of what the long-term goals are for the UWP in terms of desired outcomes, structure (network, non-profit, quasi-governmental, etc.), and funding. It was suggested that we could become a membership organization. Currently, there are barriers to securing and managing funds. The group agreed that creating a Leadership Team makes sense at this point in order to:

- Discuss options for future structure and operation of UWP
- Convene Funders – Introduce UWP
- Seek funding for UWP projects and UWP capacity
- Identify and Implement Sustainable Funding Strategy
- Continue developing and connecting the group’s goals, strategies, and actions
- Open up communication/dialog between the quarterly meetings to conduct UWP business.
- Discuss and pursue establishing a Technical Advisory Board.
- Focus quarterly meetings on content sharing, which is of more interest and value to members.
- Clarify the role of federal partners if the structure of the UWP changes (e.g., seeks non-profit status)
- Explore the UWP’s role in policy development (e.g., who, how, info sharing about events)
- Serve as the “voice” of the partnership
- Develop policy and process for UWP support letters for Partner grant applications.
- Clarify “feature project” or other selection criteria and process for (single or multiple) partner projects that receive UWP support in soliciting funding.

Leadership Team was established and Workgroup membership was reviewed and updated. **See attached for membership lists.**

**Work Group Updates:** Work group leads provided updates on current work and needs, including:

1. **Geomapping:** Tool is being moved over to the DOI. Need partner commitments to add project information and keep it up to date. Some contract help may be available to pull information from partner websites and add to the database. (Stacey Eriksen) Current link is - <http://174.129.206.198/urbanwaters/index.html>.
2. **Education and Urban Engagement:** Partners committed to a March 31 event at Overland Pond Park where urban youth will learn about urban water and do service projects. (Mary Palumbo)
3. **Water Quality:** Need additional information from the data sharing network in order to provide a technical and publicly-available assessment. Need more people who collect this data engaged in the process. Assessment is underway with participation from CDPHE, EPA, SPCURE, DEH, and Groundwork Denver. (Jon Novick)
4. **Funding Work Group:** No report since they have not met recently. Plan is to wrap interested members into the new Leadership Team. (Devon)

**Partner Updates:** Participants shared current work and upcoming events in a round-robin, including:



- State water plan meeting on March 3 at the Tivoli Turn Hall, UWP members are encouraged to engage, more info online at <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- HUD/DRCOG sustainable communities consortium meeting on March 13 related to rail projects, need water at the table
- Clear Creek Watershed Foundation has a project underway at Empire Creek.
- Bluff Lake – Fundraising Run April 13
- CUSP is sponsoring a March 14 source water planning meeting, more info online at <http://www.uppersouthplatte.org/sourcewater.html>
- Greenway Foundation CH2M HILL Fall RiverSweep volunteer days April 26 and September 27, more info online at <http://thegreenwayfoundation.org/web/riverside/>
- Get Outdoors Day and Go Play 5K at City Park June 14, more info online at <http://www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/>
- Sand Creek 5K/10K/Half Marathon through Bluff Lake Nature Center on July 12, more info online at <https://www.runningguru.com/EventInformation.asp?eID=9925>
- Groundwork Denver is nearing completion of the Lower Bear Creek watershed plan, more info online at <http://groundworkcolorado.org/projects/bear-creek-watershed/>
- City of Denver and Adams County are working on sustainability visions that incorporate water quantity and quality metrics. Adams County is working on a net zero water toolkit.
- Westerly Creek bridge at Montview – 30% design. Public comments are being collected. Construction set for this fall.
- USGS – replacing gauges damaged by floods.
- CDC Foundation project ideas are being reviewed currently at the headquarters level; there is an Acting Director in place, which could slow down response time.



## URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM AND WORKGROUPS

<u>Water Quality</u>	<u>Mapping</u>	<u>Education + Engagement</u>	<u>Economic Benefits Report</u>	<u>Water Center</u>	<u>Leadership Team</u>
Rachel Hansgen	Stacey Eriksen	Donny Rousch	Dana Coelho	Hope Dalton	Amy Conklin
Aimee Konowal	Dana Coelho	Jolon Clark	Shayne Brady	Mel Toering	Jon Novick
Erika Shioya	Mel Toering	Susan Alden Weingardt	David Howlett	Chris Poulet	Dave Wilmoth
John Dorsch		Casey Davenhill	David Wilmoth	Mickey Zeppelin	David Howlett
John Duggan		Carol Ekarius		Tom Cech	Marge Price
Jon Novick		Kate Jerman		Phil Russell	Rachel Hansgen
Karl Hermann				Rusty Collins	Mel Toering
Phil Russel				Joy Burns	Chris Poulet
Sarah Wheeler					Casey Davenhill
Sarah Dominick					Hope Dalton
Bill Battaglin					
Chris Poulet					
Stacey Eriksen					
Hope Dalton					

**Steering Committee:** Keith Wood, Dana Coelho, Stacey Eriksen, Chris Poulet



## Urban Waters Partnership Meeting Attendance 2-25-14

Greenway Foundation, Capitol Representatives	Marge Price
Greenway Foundation	Mary Palumbo
Groundwork Denver	Rachel Hansgen
Coalition for the Upper S Platte	Amy Jacobi
Earth Force	Donny Roush
South Platte CURE	Phil Russell
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership	Katie Lampe
Clear Creek Watershed Foundation	Diane Kielty
Bluff Lake Nature Center	Chris Story
Adams County	Adrienne Dorsey
City and County of Denver, Mayor's Office of Sustainability	Sonrisa Lucero
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Dave Wilmoth
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Jon Novick
City of Englewood	John Voboril
City of Englewood	Chris Neubecker
City of Aurora, Water Department	Melissa Toering
Denver Water	Dana Strongin
Denver Water	Sarah Dominick
Tri County Health Department	Hope Dalton
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	John Duggan
Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry	Chris Poulet
US Geological Survey	Bill Battaglin
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Garrett Hanks
Housing and Urban Development	Guadalupe Herrera
Housing and Urban Development	Shayne Brady
US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region Urban & Community Forestry	Dana Coelho
US Forest Service, Pike & San Isabel National Forests	Evan J. Burks
US Forest Service, Region 2, External Affairs	Kate Jerman
US Forest Service, Region 2, External Affairs	Susan Alden
Former US Forest Service	Steve Sherwood
US Environmental Protection Agency, Watersheds, Brownfields	Stacey Eriksen
US Environmental Protection Agency, Aquifer Protection	Darcy Campbell