

South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

Facilitated Workshop – Future Direction

January 8, 2015; 1 – 4 pm

Daniels Fund Building, 101 Monroe Street, Denver



Desired Outcomes

- * Clarify value of and opportunities for working together.
- * Introduce The Water Connection as a way to address common issues and attract public and private investment around water, water quality, and watershed health.
- * Identify a shared vision for our continued work together.



Ground Rules

- * Participate actively, in good faith, and in an effort to promote joint problem-solving. Take ownership in and be open to the outcomes.
- * Be mindful of comment length and the importance of encouraging participation from everyone in the group. Agree briefly.
- * Be honest, open-minded, and respectful when offering and listening to differing points of view. Disagree judiciously and respectfully.
- * Respect time commitments in the agenda; maintain focus on the issues and objectives at hand.
- * No interruptions or side conversations. Be respectful regarding use of smart phones and other technologies.



Agenda

- * 1:00 Introductions
- * 1:15 UWP – Current status and value
- * 1:45 UWP – Future direction
- * 2:00 The Water Connection – One way forward
- * 2:30 Discussion – Clarifying and refining The Water Connection concept
- * 3:45 Recap and next steps
- * 4:00 Adjourn



Introductions

- * Name
- * Affiliation
- * What is your favorite spot in the South Platte River watershed?



Current status and value

- * Where have we been and what have we accomplished?
- * What is working well, here and at other pilot sites?
- * What is the state of federal agency interest in the UWP locally and nationally?
- * How and why are state and local agencies and organizations invested in the watershed?



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- Partner-led collaborative projects throughout

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- Created Mission, Goals, Priorities, Workgroups
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- CDPHE funded Systems Mapping - priorities
- Developed concepts for CDC Foundation. Outcomes:
 - Regional Water Center concept (evolved into The Water Connection)
 - Water Quality Assessment
 - Green Infrastructure
- Models for regional collaboratives and water centers

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- Adopted Charter calling for transition
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UW **Federal** Partnership Mission Statement

The “Urban Waters Federal Partnership” will help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them. This federal partnership will put communities first. We will work to break down government program silos and to ensure that our collective efforts will reverse past neglect, energize existing programs, and engage new partners. We will listen to, engage and serve the communities where we work, ensuring they are full partners in restoring and protecting the water that surrounds them. We will establish strong partnerships with effective community-based organizations and local government officials to make the most effective use of economic incentives and other beneficial actions. With the right set of federal, state, and local tools and the local commitment of political will, the partnership will leverage existing neighborhood assets. These actions will be geared to promote early and visible victories to fuel long-term action. Success will advance the missions of our partnership, our agencies, and the federal government as a whole.

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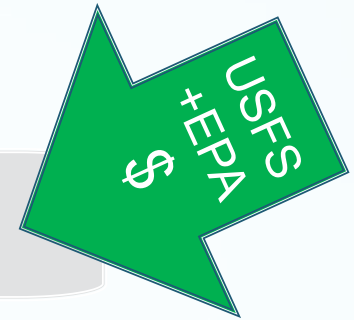
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Current Structure



CSU

Warner College of Natural Resources

Colorado State Forest Service

Forest Management

Outreach

Urban & Community Forestry

Technical Assistance

Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Tree City USA

Urban Waters Partnership

Front Range Urban Forestry Council

Colorado Tree Coalition

Watershed Wildfire Protection Partnership

Forest Legacy

Bark Beetle

Emerald Ash Borer

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Our Mission

The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities, and to protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed.

Our Goals

- Collaborate, educate and engage
- Connect people with water
- Protect and restore through leveraging resources
- Communicate achievements and share technical information



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UWP Priorities

- Partner Support
- Feature Projects
- Stormwater
- Map and Analyze Water Quality Data
- Water Supply / State Water Planning

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Team Charter

Leadership Team, Urban Waters Partnership

- 1) Represent the Partnership in the Community / Image and Marketing
- 2) Facilitate the transition of the organization from a federal pilot to a locally-driven regional collaborative with federal support.**
- 3) Help to set the strategic direction for the Partnership. Engage in strategic planning in order to align goals and establish metrics.
- 4) Evaluate projects for Urban Waters Partnership support.



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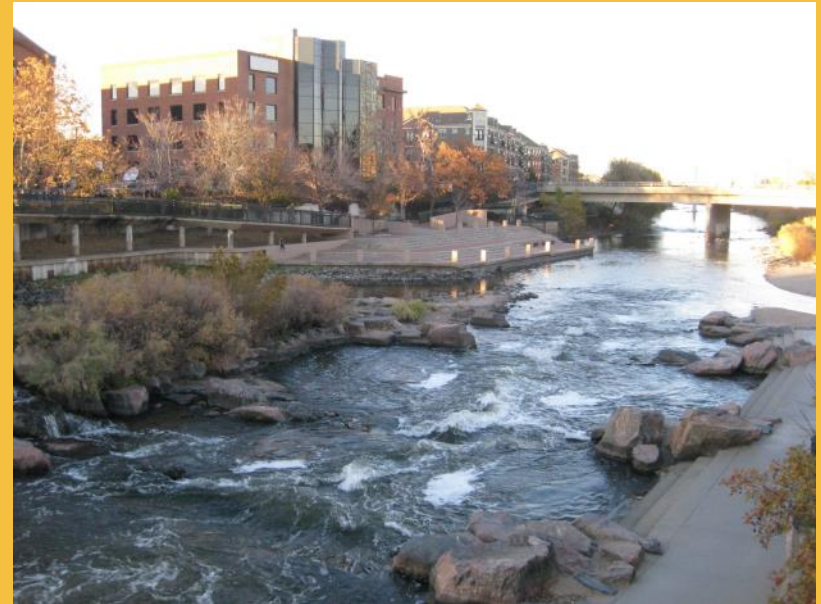
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What is working well?

Focus – Accomplishments – Expertise – Communication – Presence



Right here – headwaters to downtown

What is working well?

Support – Close ties – Focused funding – Priorities



At other pilot sites

Federal agency interest?

Localize	Revitalization
Integrate	Livability
Be helpful	Restoration
Mobilize	Climate resilience
Align resources	Water quality
Institutionalize	Public health

Focus on outcomes!

State and local interest?

Networking

Sharing information and data

Building relationships

Collaborating on projects

Removing barriers, connecting people to nature

Finding new sources of funding

Celebrating and sharing success



Future Direction

“Facilitate the transition of the organization from a federal pilot to a locally-driven regional collaborative with federal support.”

(SPRUWP Leadership Team)



Future Direction

- * How do we continue to attract investment and achieve outcomes locally and regionally?
- * What options might we consider for structuring our work together?



A Few Options

Colorado Tree Coalition

Watershed Wildfire Protection Partnership

Baltimore, Philadelphia, Seattle UWP

NW Indiana UWP

Atlanta UWP

Get Outdoors Colorado

CUSP – COCO

The Water Connection

Context: 2-year funding only for UWP pilot

- ✓ Outreach- private sector and funders
- ✓ Feedback – UWP as a federal initiative as currently structured and focused is not attractive to private sector participants or funders
- ✓ UWP water center idea + Zeppelin idea
- ✓ Expanded avenues for receiving funds:
Partner offered 501 c3
- ✓ Created opportunity for UWP to engage in priority projects to build portfolio
- ✓ Established physical presence in community on river

Why?

- Share responsibility for action, and offer avenue for participation by private sector partners.
- Strengthen the UWP by adding voices and disciplines not currently at the table.
- Open doors to areas of funding not within the reach of the current UWP -- Grow the pie.
- Fill a gap in urban water coordination and communication.
- Maximize visibility of and access to existing programs and services.
- Present as a locally driven organization with broad cross-sector appeal.
- Hedge against uncertainty.

Who? The Urban Waters Partnership, expanded to include private sector businesses, start up technology companies, corporations, water-related industries, higher education institutions, funders and others.

What?

The Water Connection facilitates public-private-academic partnerships, community engagement, entrepreneurialism and innovation to:

- Help the South Platte River meet Clean Water Act standards and become fishable and swimmable.
- Engage a broad cross-section of the community, not just the usual suspects, in implementing the Colorado Water Plan.
- Advance cutting-edge projects and practices for resiliency and restoration of the South Platte Basin.

Menu of Potential Components:

Facilitating measurable, impactful on-the ground projects.

Raising awareness of the strong tie between the health of the forested watershed and the health of urban water and waterways.

Serving as a hub for water and watershed expertise, raising visibility for programs and existing organizations, with an emphasis on urban issues and South Platte River issues.

Supporting data-driven tracking of change over time and providing tools to support informed and sustainable decision-making

Menu of Potential Components:

Catalyzing change in water resource management by serving as a think tank, hosting thought leaders and issue summits.

Spurring innovation by engaging the business sector and supporting business incubation, mentorship, and an educational testing ground for new technologies and professional practices.

Making the business case for sustainable actions that serve as catalysts for recurring job creation and ongoing public and private capital investment in ecosystem service protection.

How?

- Build the UWP and TWC in parallel
The UWP is the “Who”, The Water Connection is the “What”
- Continue building a portfolio of projects.
- Continue running the UWP through quarterly meetings, networking, learning.
- Continue outreach to engage new economic development, business, academic, and funder partners.
- Conduct market analysis and create business plan.

Engage with the National Western Center Partners to implement projects that are directly in line with UWP goals and priorities.



Key Site Elements

- 1 Water Resources Center and South Platte Riverfront
- 2 Stockyards/Event Pavilion
- 3 CSU Equine Sports Medicine Clinic
- 4 Equestrian Center
- 5 Livestock Center
- 6 NWC Transit Station
- 7 Shared Use/TOD Parking Structure
- 8 Livestock Exchange Building/Flex Space
- 9 Trade Show/Exhibition Hall
- 10 New Arena
- 11 CSU Center
- 12 Colorado Commons
- 13 Stadium Arena Market
- 14 Coliseum Redevelopment
- 15 Forney Transportation Museum

Illustrative Master Plan

Examples (from NWC master plan): Create WQ baselines and monitor over time; Inform educational program; provide UWP expertise in WQ monitoring strategies and in stormwater master plan; assign ecosystem services values; inform NWC river plan.

The Water Connection



A word cloud featuring various terms related to water, economics, and innovation. The most prominent words are 'Water' and 'Economics', both in large, dark brown, bold fonts. Other significant words include 'Local Water' (written vertically), 'Entrepreneur', 'Innovation', 'Partnership', 'Business', 'Technology', 'Problem-solving', 'Economic', 'Multi-sector', 'Advancement', 'Urban', 'Demonstration', 'Projects', 'Cutting-edge', 'Mentoring', 'Industries', 'Visibility', 'Chamber-Commerce', 'Entrepreneurial', 'Think-tank', 'Partner', 'Start-up', 'Organizations', 'Internships', 'Data-driven', 'Forum', 'Change', 'Small-business', 'Awareness', 'NREL', 'Tracking', 'Summits', 'Environmental', 'Companies', 'Dialog', and 'Partnership'. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster, with colors ranging from dark brown to light tan.

Change Forum
Data-driven
Internships
Organizations
Start-up
Small-business
Awareness
NREL
tracking
Summits
Innovation
Water
Local Water
Economics
Entrepreneur
Partnership
Think-tank
Partner
Problem-solving
Technological
Business
Multi-sector
Advancement
Urban
Demonstration
Projects
Cutting-edge
Mentoring
Industries
Visibility
Chamber-Commerce
Entrepreneurial

*We Can't Direct The Wind
but
We Can Adjust Our Sails*

Group Discussion

- * Is the Water Connection:
 - * A – A program that helps achieve the goals of the UWP and attract new partners? Or
 - * B – A way to facilitate a successful transition to a new organizational structure?
- * How do we best address common needs around water, water quality, and watershed health?
- * How do we attract public and private investment to meet those needs?
- * What does the transition from a federal pilot to a locally-driven regional collaborative with federal support look like, and over what time frame might it take shape?



Recap and Next Steps

