



**South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership
Quarterly Partnership Meeting**

Tuesday, October 18, 12:30 – 4:00 PM

Army Corps of Engineers, 12596 W Bayaud Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228,
Suite 400 - Peck Conference Room

Agenda

Networking Lunch, Provided (12:30 – 1:30 pm)

Partners are encouraged to bring updates of relevant projects to share in an open house format. We will have lunch catered by Qdoba.

Meeting Outline

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review (20 min)

Advisory Committee Status Update (5 min)

Natural Capital Resource Assessment Update (20 min)

Lance Davison, Ecosystem Sciences Foundation, will provide an overview of the project, expected outcomes, and current status. The group will discuss any questions. Current project information is available online at: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/south-platte-watershed-headwaters-denver-metropolitan-area-colorado>

Water Quality Assessment Tool Update (10 min)

Rachel Hansgen, Groundwork Denver, will provide an update on current efforts. The tool can be viewed online at: http://thewaterconnection.org/wq_tool/

Break (10 min)

Information Exchange on Watershed Restoration Approaches in Colombia (40 min)

Overview from a visiting natural resource delegation from Bogota, Colombia on watershed conservation and restoration approaches, challenges faced, partnerships, funding sources, etc. Opportunity for cross-cultural learning and exchange (simultaneous translation provided by USFS International Programs).

Partnership Updates (40 min)

Partners will provide brief action-oriented updates on new and ongoing relevant activities, including any support needed/desired from other organizations and where to go for more information.

Review Next Steps (5 min)



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Tuesday, October 18, 1:30-4:00 PM

Meeting Summary (As of 11/2/16)

Agenda

- Advisory Committee Status Update
- Natural Capital Resource Assessment Update
- Water Quality Assessment Update
- Information Exchange on Watershed Restoration Approaches in Colombia
- Partnership Updates
- Review Next Steps

Updates

- The Denver Metro Nature Alliance has an RFQ out to support a strategic planning process to implement their vision for every person in the metro area to be connected to nature within a generation. They are also undergoing a mapping effort and expect to share in December 2016. Contact Emily Patterson for more information.
- Groundwork Denver received a UWP Small Grant to investigate septic systems in Sheridan. They are hiring high school students to help and Metro State University is helping to mentor them. More volunteers are appreciated – especially people with relevant knowledge. Contact Rachel Hansgen for more information.
- Earth Force was awarded an UWP Small Grant in order to further its education opportunities. Earth Force develops toolkits for teachers that are focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) knowledge, civic responsibility and environmental interest. In Albuquerque they have a 5-year agreement for an educator. Contact Donny Roush for more information.
- The City of Denver Parks and Recreation Department received an UWP Small Grant to work on restoration and public access at Heron Pond. Contact Cincere Eades for more information.
- The Rocky Mountain Land Library had a recent event to discuss its overall plans to develop a network of land-study centers stretching from the headwaters of the South Platte River to the metro-Denver plains. Contact Gene Reetz or Jeff Lee for more information.
- The Barr Lake Milton Watershed has an event going on in which people can take a photo at their kiosk at DIA East baggage claim #9 and win a parks pass. Contact Amy Conklin for more information.
- The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Conference is scheduled for November 2; more information is available at: <http://www.cherry-creek.org/events/>.

- There will be a bike tour along the South Platte River in June 2016, hosted by the Colorado Stormwater Council and Barr Lake Milton Watershed. Funding and volunteers are requested. Contact Amy Conklin for more information.
- There will be a Healthy Headwaters convening in March 2017.

Advisory Committee Status Update

The Advisory Committee (Stacey Eriksen, Dana Coelho and Keith Wood) provided a brief update. They are looking for funding to support a coordinator. Until that time, Laura Sneeringer from CDR Associates will facilitate quarterly partnership meetings and help compile information for e-mail updates. Related, there is an effort to freshen the website so people should send any information that should be added or updated to Stacey and Dana. There was good representation at the recent Urban Waters Program Conference, including a demonstration of the Water Quality Assessment.

Natural Capital Resource Assessment Update

Lance Davison, Keystone Concepts, provided an overview on the purpose and expected outcomes, approach and current status. The primary objectives of this effort are to develop: 1) a natural asset map of the regional network of green infrastructure and 2) a prioritization tool that helps determine how to focus investment to overcome risks based on the economic value of the benefits people obtain from the natural systems. This effort is being coordinated with a parallel effort being led by the Trust for Public Land, as part of the Metro Denver Nature Alliance. More information is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/south-platte-natural-capital-project>.

Water Quality Assessment Update

Rachel Hansgen, Groundwork Denver, provided an update. The Water Quality Assessment is meant to share basic information in an understandable format with links for more detailed information. It can be used by the public to understand the safety of nearby water bodies, by educators to demonstrate the benefits and impacts of restoration projects in order to obtain more funding, and serve as a resource for the state legislature. The tool includes data from 2009-2014 and draws from a range of data sources, such as EPA, USGS, Denver Environmental Health, Groundwork Denver, and other contributors to the Colorado Data Sharing Network. It is just beginning to be shared with external audiences; it was shared at the recent Urban Waters Partnership training workshop and Natural Monitoring conferences. The next phase is doing more outreach about this resource. One idea was to add a link from the Denver Water Source Water Protection Plan. More information is available at: http://thewaterconnection.org/wq_tool/.

Information Exchange on Watershed Restoration Approaches in Colombia

A delegation from Colombia shared some of the projects/programs they are implementing, and challenges they are facing, and the group provided some ideas. Some of the challenges included and initial ideas included the following. If partners would like to continue communication they can contact Dana Coelho.

- How to encourage residents to conserve?
- How to pay for environmental services in order to draft policy at the national level and pay for water services at the local level? Some of the resources in Colombia include municipality funds from property taxes and land that the municipality owns, public utilities funding, and funding received from international organizations to reduce emissions, which serves as a grant pool in which programs compete for funding. They try to have water bills, but there is a significant cultural issue in that people don't pay on time and the law guarantees service so it's difficult to implement consequences. It was noted that informal coordination such as the Urban Waters Partnership enables partners to share funding.

- How to prioritize actions (e.g., forest, water resources, risk management, soil conservation and community strengthening)? In Colombia, there are often regional Watershed Councils that prioritize actions.
- How to engage citizens and build trust?
- How to bring various plans together?
- How to do monitoring to demonstrate impact and determine if/how to change approach?
- How to consult with indigenous people? One example of where this is being done is as part of a Watershed Management Plan in an area where there has been a significant reduction in flow.
- How to improve communication among national, regional, local, private and non-profit entities? Some feedback included the importance of having leadership set the model and using technology to share information and save it for when there is staff turnover.

Topic Ideas for Future Partnership Meetings

- Discuss if/what education efforts could look like.
- New partner presentation – e.g., Rocky Mountain Land Library.
- Presentation of efforts in other areas – partners especially appreciated the opportunity to hear about efforts in another country.

Participants

Audubon Society of Greater Denver	Karl Brummert
Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association	Amy Conklin
US EPA, Retired; Volunteer Rocky Mountain Land Library and Audubon	Gene R. Reetz, Ph.D
City and County of Denver, Public Works	Ashlee Grace
City and County of Denver, Public Works	Selena Klosowki
City of Aurora	Mike McHugh
Colorado State Forest Service	Keith Wood
CDR Associates	Laura Sneeringer
Denver Water	Christina Bum
Ecosystem Services	Tim McGuire
Earth Economics	Zachary Christin
Greenway Foundation, Capitol Representatives	Marge Price
Groundwork Denver	Rachel Hansgen
Keystone Concept	Lance Davisson
LLG International LLC	Jeff Lakey
National Parks Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program	Alan Ragins
Plan-It Geo	Ian Hanou
Trust for Public Land	Chandi Aldena
Trust for Public Land	Emily Patterson
University of Denver	Pranietha Mudliar
US EPA	Peter Ismert
US EPA	Stacey Eriksen

USFS	Dana Coelho
USFWS	Delissa Padilla
USFWS	Krystal Phillips
Middle South Platte River Alliance	Chloe Lewis

Colombia Delegation

Camille McCarthy, USFS International

Mitch Roberts, USFS International

Fredy Anturi Vidarte, CAM-Huila-Colombia

David Bello Blanco, EAB-ESP Colombia

Odacir Camargo, Alceldia Valledupr

Alberto Hinolosa, Valleovar Water Utility

Beatriz Magollon, USAID Low Carbon Resilient Development Program

Juan Carols Ortiz Cveillar, CAM – Huila-Colombia

Javier Roascale, National Planning Department

Edisnay Slilva Oryote, CAM – Huila-Colombia

Diana Marcela Bermes, CAM – Huila-Colombia

Organization	Contact Name
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Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry	Chris Poulet
Arapahoe County	Julio Iturreria
Arapahoe County	Megan Deffner
Audubon Society of Greater Denver	Emily Hertz
Audubon Society of Greater Denver	Karl Brummert
Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association	Amy Conklin
Bluff Lake Nature Center	Tom Seagroves
Buirgy Consulting, Inc	Rob Buirgy
CFWE	Nicole Seltzer
CH2MHill	Kyle Hamilton, PE
Chatfield Area Network for Outreach and Education (CANOE)	Gene R. Reetz, Ph.D
Chatfield Watershed Authority	Kevin Urie
Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority and Upper Clear Creek Watershed Assn.	Katie Fendel
Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners/Colorado Watershed Assembly	Casey Davenhill
City and County of Denver	Joe Lovell
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Alan Polonsky
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Dave Wilmoth
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Gene Hook
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Jon Novick
City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health	Meghan Hughes
City and County of Denver, Mayor's Office	Diane Barrett
City and County of Denver, Mayor's Office of Sustainability	Sonrisa Lucero
City and County of Denver, Office of Economic Development	Michael Miera
City and County of Denver, Parks & Recreation	Cincere Eads
City and County of Denver, Parks & Recreation	Kelly Uhing
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City and County of Denver, Parks & Recreation	Mike Bouchard
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City of Englewood	Stewart Fonda
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City of Lakewood	Kit Botkins
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City of Sheridan	Jennifer Henninger
City of Sheridan	Randy Mourning
City of Westminster	John Burke, P.E., CFM
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Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Carol Ekarius
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Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	Sarah Wheeler
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	Susan Newton
Colorado Department of Transportation	Amber Williams
Colorado Department of Transportation	Sonya Erickson
Colorado Office of the Attorney General	David Banas
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Jim Guthrie
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Lauren Truitt
Colorado State Forest Service	Allen Gallamore
Colorado State Forest Service	Joe Duda
Colorado State Forest Service	Keith Wood
Colorado State Forest Service	Rich Edwards
Colorado State Forest Service	Ryan Lockwood
Colorado State Forest Service	Susan Matthews
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Colorado Water Conservation Board	Chris Sturm
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Denver Botanic Gardens - Chatfield	Larry Vickerman
Denver Health	Mark Anderson

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Earth Force	Donny Roush
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Ecosystem Sciences	Tim McGuire
Front Range Community College	Bernadette Kuhn
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Natural Resources Conservation Service	Boyd Byelich
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Jonas Feinstein
Plan-It Geo	Ian Hanou
REI	Jon Frankel
Rocky Mountain Land Library	Jeff Lee
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership	Katherine Kramer
Sierra Club	Kirk Cunningham
South Platte Coalition for Urban River Education	Phil Russell

Organization	Contact Name
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The Greenway Foundation	Autumn Bjugstad
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US EPA	Roy Simon
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US EPA	Sandra Spence
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US EPA, Retired	Darcy Campbell
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USFS	Alicia San Gil
USFS	Amanda Egan
USFS	Beth Larry
USFS	Brian Banks
USFS	Claire Harper
USFS	Dana Coelho
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USFS	Julie Mawhorter
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USFS	Polly Hays
USFS	Sara Mayben
USFS	Sarah Low

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USFS	Tom McClure
USFS, Contractor	Tracy Stanton
USFWS	Delissa Padilla
USFWS	Krystal Phillips
USFWS	Natalie Sexton
USFWS	Pam Sponholtz
USGS	Bill Battaglin
Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado	Dean Winstanley
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Zeppelin Development	Mickey Zeppelin

To make updates to this list, please contact Stacey Eriksen (Eriksen.Stacey@epa.gov) or Dana Coelho (dcoelho@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your partnership!