

## Urban Waters Meeting

EarthForce Offices, 12/09/11

Participant list provided separately, agenda at end of this document.

### 1. Review and validate National and Denver Pilot Goals/Mission/Vision

#### Emerging Goals

The first five goals were developed prior to the meeting, with items 6 through 12 added at the meeting.

1. Reconnect people to their waterways and nature in general by providing opportunities for people to safely and easily access and enjoy waterways and nature close to home.
2. Promote clean urban waters that are safe for recreation, drinking water and aquatic life.
3. Through education, help people understand where their water comes from and where it goes and their role in protecting it.
4. Protect source water and help to ensure a reliable water supply and maintain the health of our forested source water areas.
5. Work to restore and revitalize the river environment.
  
6. Look at this as a collective urban ecosystem. Interconnected network of waterways and trails. (America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Landscape).
7. Green Jobs – adults and youth.
8. Sustainable environmental agreements and business processes. Put it on paper.
9. Give a voice to under-represented populations.
10. Through education, help people understand the value of the river in our lives and the role that it serves.
11. Create opportunities for people to participate in a meaningful way.
12. (Vibrant Cities)

### Next steps: How to proceed as a partnership, collaborate and implement priority projects

1. Coordinator for Urban Waters projects
  - A. Information/education—understand and communicate what's going on, opportunities for funding
  - B. Cat-herder, champion, meeting and logistics organizer
  - C. Joint proposals
  - D. Fundraising

2. Map/Vision

Communicate to the public what's being done, why it makes a difference, how they can engage. Rec. decisions.

Host templates/architecture that everyone can contribute to. (e.g., Children's Forest).

Linked network of youth engagement sites and programs.

Publicly accessible website that shows what projects have been done and are going on now, and the status of those projects.

Possibilities: EPA Enviromapper, TPL

(Not just geographic location but systems mapping too)

Possible Work Group:

- A. Kaitlin Fischer, USGS
  - B. Alan Ragins, NPS
  - C. Kim Langmaid, NFF – will coordinate a call
  - D. Tim Wohlgenant, TPL – will delegate within his organization
  - E. Tim Watkins, Denver
  - F. Rob Buirgy
  - G. Wendy Neuman
3. 5 River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP) Projects and Bear Creek:
- A. Kimberly Watanabe, City of Denver
  - B. Wendy Hawthorne, Groundwork Denver
  - C. David Howlett & Marge Price , Capitol Representatives-Greenway Foundation
4. Work on Headwaters issues (Identified in Items "I and J" in notes)
- A. Polly Hays, USFS and others in Headwaters group
5. Coordinate Water Quality efforts/Data gap analysis
- A. Karl Hermann, EPA
  - B. John Novick, Denver Dept. of Health
  - C. Create water quality status report
6. Quarterly meetings of this group

**Top Ideas from Breakout Sessions based on Multi-Voting:**

- A. (3 votes) SPONSOR EVENT – "Urban Waters Day," River Festival from Headwaters to Metro area, many locations

Education

- 1. Riverwatch sampling
- 2. Cleanups
- 3. Earth Day?
- 4. BioBlitz idea
- 5. Could do one day, one weekend, one week, one month
- 6. Do what we're already doing – but do at same time – same message

- B. (17 votes) DEVELOP AND SPREAD COMMON MESSAGE – e.g., Forest to Faucet
  - 1. We all deliver this message
  - 2. Connect Headwater to Metro area
  - 3. Put together packet of information
    - a. Message
    - b. Poster
    - c. Background Info
    - d. Behavior Change
      - 1. e.g., “Poop-Free Platte”
    - e. Lots of locations, tour with sampling (look at changes along river), use boats, canoes, kayaks, bikes
  
- C. (22 votes) 5 RIVER VISION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROJECTS AND BEAR CREEK WATERSHED PROJECTS
  - 1. How do we all plug our common goals into them?
  
- D. (9.5 votes) PLANNING AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENT
  - 1. Environmental justice
  
- E. (Re-identified as need #1)
  
- F. (1 vote) KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITIES
  - 1. Identify key on-the-ground projects – Metro Collaborative Projects
    - Riverside Cemetery/Park
    - Triple Creek Greenway (Aurora)
    - Highline Canal Trail/Recreation
    - Northeast Greenway
    - RVIP (River Vision Implementation Plan)
    - Keystone opportunity should be:
      - a. Multi Purpose – planning and fundraising
      - b. Bridging jurisdictions
      - c. Programming (Education/Recreation)
      - d. Stewardship/Maintenance
  - 2. Proposals to – CSFS (Colorado State Forest Service), Urban Waters RFP
    - a. GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado)
    - b. EPA
  
- G. (Re-identified and combined) MAP/VISION
  - 1. Communicate to public
    - a. Report results
    - b. What’s being done
    - c. Why it makes a difference
    - d. How they can engage
    - e. Rec. Decisions
    - f. Host Templates/Arch. That everyone can contribute to (Children’s Forest).

- H. (11 votes) LINKED NETWORK OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SITES AND PROGRAMS
  - 1. Metro and Headwaters
  
- I. (19 votes) HEADWATERS INFORMATION GATHERING AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS
  - 1. Synthesize what is going on
  - 2. Identify who else needs to be at the table (Public Land/Private Land)
  - 3. Identify current and future funding streams/opportunities
  - 4. Consider the following:
    - Water Quality – (Source Water Protection)
    - Education – (where your water comes from)
    - Land management (e.g. road maintenance, keep stuff in good shape)
    - Restoration – (Fix legacy problems)
  
- J. PLAN A HEADWATERS MEETING TO IDENTIFY NEXT STEPS/OPPORTUNITIES  
(Combined with I above)
  
- K. (31.5 VOTES) COORDINATE URBAN WATERS PROJECTS
  - Connect projects.
  - Communicate what’s going on.
  - Communicate what funding/resources are out there.

**SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS –BRAINSTORMING RESULTS**

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH BRAINSTORMING**

- 1. River Festival Day
  - a. Headwaters and metro
  - b. High level -- things for kids
    - i. Fishing
    - ii. Sampling
- 2. World Water Monitoring Day
- 3. World Water Day
- 4. Colorado Water 2012
- 5. Keep it Clean Metro Denver
  - a. Westerly Creek
  - b. Mutual recognition
- 6. Like Colorado Gives Day
- 7. Career Training
- 8. Project Wet
  - a. Weak in Colorado
- 9. Project Learning Tree
- 10. Auraria New Water Program
  - a. Undergrad major in water
    - i. Tom Cech leading

11. Combine PLT and Project Wet
  - a. Forest
  - b. Treatment Plant
12. Include Agriculture
  - a. CFA
13. Columbia River Ceremony
  - a. Bring waters in from all locations in vials
  - b. Mix
  - c. Take home vial of water from all locations mixed
14. Behavior change based on knowledge
15. Scoop your Poop Campaign
16. Common Message to support all programs – What message do we agree with?
  - a. Forest To Faucet?
17. Targeted Training – e.g., Summit County
18. Water 2012 – Calendar of Events
  - a. Environmental Film Festival
  - b. CAEE Conference – will focus on water
  - c. National Green Schools Visit (in Feb), Youth Summit – water track
  - d. How can we keep Water 2012 sustainable?
  - e. Colorado History Museum (April exhibit)
    - i. Water & Forests
  - f. Denver Water supports Keystone Science School
  - g. Bailey – Facility on River – Training (per Shawna Crocker)
  - h. Deckers – Demonstration area
  - i. Ski Train to Fraser/Winter Park
  - j. State Nonpoint Source projects all have an education and outreach component
19. System To Brand
  - a. So much going on – need to coordinate, organize
    - i. Central calendar
    - ii. One stop shopping
    - iii. CAEE Database
20. Develop brand and have big event
  - a. Common message, curriculum
  - b. Figure out what's happening
  - c. Piggy back on water Festivals
  - d. Meet at Confluence Park?
  - e. Party
  - f. Videos from the Upper South Platte?
  - g. This group has connections with Channel 7, Channel 4 (Paul Day)
21. Demonstration Forest
  - a. Block of ice/snow to Confluence Park
22. Forests to Faucets.org. – Shawna Crocker has this url
23. Include agriculture
  - a. Urban ag – lawns
  - b. Rural ag
24. Get USGS to print South Platte watershed poster?
  - a. USGS used to do, very nice piece of outreach, print more?

## 25. River of Words Poetry Contest--

### METRO – COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

1. Triple Creek Greenway (Aurora)
2. Highline Canal Trail/Recreation
3. NE Greenway
4. RVIP-River Vision Implementation Plan
5. Coordinator for Urban Water Projects
  - a. Opportunities for funding
  - b. “Cat Herder”
  - c. Champion – Fund Raising – Joint Proposals

### HEADWATERS BRAINSTORMING RESULTS

1. Denver Water – people want clean water
  - a. Investigate water quality issues in watershed for drinking water protection
  - b. Interested in issues affecting treatment plants
    1. More than sediment – mine, pesticides, USTs
  - c. Coordinate on water quality monitoring – all types (Bio, Macro, etc.)
  - d. What projects are going on, and what are the goals of the project?
    1. Who is doing what?
    2. What are the gaps?
  - e. Bring in watershed groups – Headquarters – connect with Urban
  - f. More projects than just fuels projects
  - g. Find education partners
  - h. Train CDOT, Counties, etc, on importance of proper techniques (e.g., road maintenance)
  - i. Generate a list of who should be involved – then have a meeting
2. USFS
  - a. Phase II – Hayman water quality Imp. on Horse Creek – once Treasured Landscape ends
  - b. Other funding mechanisms?
  - c. Development – **PUT effects** – long term subdivision management (???)
  - d. Land use planning
3. CDPHE – AIM (Awareness - Information - Management)
  - a. NFF – Connect people – make them aware of Headwaters – Children’s Forest
  - b. Field Trips
    1. Hayman
    2. Failing Septic Tank
  - c. Aware of cumulative effects
    1. What they do affects someone downstream
    2. Affects what’s in their water bottle

### Metro Brainstorming Results:

The group agreed that the 5 city master plan areas (plus 1) should be the priority areas:

The 5 City of Denver Focus Areas....

1. Grant Frontier Park, S. of Evans (Habitat restoration)
2. Overland Park (habitat, fishing)
3. Vanderbilt Johnson Habitat Park (trail, habitat)
4. Sun Valley Bear Gulch
5. RINO (31<sup>st</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup>)
6. Lower Bear Creek (Denver, Lakewood, Sheridan)

Also, data sharing, youth and school involvement, environmental justice, stakeholder engagement should be over laid

#### Possible Projects Discussion

(Wendy) Watershed Plan for urban area of Bear Creek

Would be a good demo

Bring partners

Use earth force

Needs – modeling, GIS/model, stakeholder engagement

(Karl Hermann, EPA) Urban ex. – pesticides, Pharmaceuticals, personal care products, waste indicators

March – Nov sampling 2011 and will extend into 2012

20 samples/month in Colorado

2012, possibility of adding E.Coli and source ID (ORD)

(Jeff) Add volunteer sampling aspect

(Kim) would like data sharing network

How to share between agencies?

Want a standard template for reporting data so easy to compare

Also if data is known, gaps can more easily be identified

(Cathy) Add the Co WQ Monitoring Council or CDSN to this group

(Rob) school and youth groups have a Harvard Gulch focus. Alameda and I25.

Developing a protocol and expertise at this site then moving out to other sites.

Developing an interactive map –

(Tim) South Platte area wide Brownfield grant Pilot – looking at area wide assessment to id sites. Water quality is a piece ....how to fit it in?

(John Novick, City of Denver) City wide master plan – ID sites in area Would like to use as a model for interagency cooperation .

(Gordon. City of Denver ) Need to restructure the river through Denver.

Need to purchase/remove/roads/banks.

Need \$ to do so. Will put resources toward the 5 city projects and look for partners. Look for more projects to restore the banks.

(Dave, Denver Greenway) Look to take advantage of economic development

Have developers incorporate water/river into their plans and open to public

Trashcan campaign....public led.

Need to build on public/private partnerships

Have community input....Make sure EJ communities have a voice

Sun valley ex.

Make river accessible – 5 areas identified are mostly industrial.

Earth Force can help bridge the gap between community and project. Youth led. Build into the model the idea of safety.

Still a concern to invite people to the river when there are areas that are still unsafe...mixed message since don't want people in these areas.

Denver – 5 projects How to involve the parties? Not only about bringing money to the table

Still need the expertise .... Wetland development etc.

If anyone at the table wants to be part of the stakeholder community, please attend the bi-monthly meetings. Please join?

Guide market development to complement public projects.

The 5 City of Denver Focus Areas are...

7. Grant Frontier Park, S. of Evans (Habitat restoration)
8. Overland Park (habitat, fishing)
9. Vanderbilt Johnson Habitat Park (trail, habitat)
10. Sun Valley Bear Gulch
11. RINO (31<sup>st</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup>)
12. Lower Bear Creek (Denver, Lakewood, Sheridan)

When looking at the areas of developer interest, get ahead by looking at city planning efforts and consider EJ component – do not exclude those already living there.



## Agenda

**Location:** Earth Force, Inc. **Offices**

135 Park Avenue West

Denver, CO 80205

**Date:** Friday December 9, 2011

**Time:** 8:00 – 12:00

**Purpose:** Provide an opportunity for federal agency representatives and state, local, private, and non-profit partners to:

- Understand the national context and purpose of the UWFP and the Denver Pilot;
- Identify priority projects for a federal/local partnership
- Share information about resources and opportunities;
- Develop strategies and next steps to advance identified priorities and needs;
- Meet each other and network;

8:00 – 8:15 Coffee and networking,

8:15 – 8:30 Introductions, Urban Waters Federal Partnership review and update

8:30 – 8:45 Review and validate National and Denver Pilot goals/mission/vision

8:45 – 9:15 Overview of existing South Platte related programs, projects and resources

9:15 – 10:00 Small group break-out groups to brainstorm ideas and desired results for collaboration

10:00 – 10:20 Break and networking

10:20 -11:30 Review and prioritize projects, identify resources and gaps

11:30 – 12:00 Next steps: How to proceed as a partnership, collaborate and implement priority projects

12:00 – 1:00 Optional Brown Bag lunch and further networking