

**South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership (SPRUWP)
 Quarterly Meeting
 February 28, 2017
 12:30 - 3:30 PM
 Volunteer for Outdoor Colorado
 600 S. Marion Parkway, Denver, CO 80209**

ATTENDANCE

Participants: Bill Battaglia, Dana Coelho, Amy Conklin, Rachel Crouch, Stacey Eriksen, Bob Finch, Elaine Hassinger, Chris Hawkins, Joy Heaviland, Chloe Lewis, Jayla Poppleton, Donny Roush, Catherine Schloegel, Chris Story, Alison Witheridge.

Facilitation: Katie Waller, Sam Haas

ACTION ITEMS

Katie Waller/Sam Haas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include information about the public school performances in the monthly newsletter. • Include findings from a recent research initiative that elevates metro Denver as an area for urban ecological research in the monthly newsletter. • Organize a meeting with the Advisory Team to update the 2018 work plan.
Amy Conklin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the watershed tour and the storm drain marketing application.
Jayla Poppleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail Katie Waller and Sam Haas the information about the rain barrel workshop and the urban waters bike tour.
Any SPRUWP partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If interested in being a speaker at the Bluff Lake Nature Center’s summer camps, contact Rachel Crouch. • If interested in presenting at the youth water festival organized by the Middle South Platte River Alliance, please contact Chloe Lewis. • Send feedback/ideas on the <i>Headwaters Magazine</i> issue on streamwater management to Jayla Poppleton. • If interested in the Environmental Law Institute’s training on the “my waterways” application, contact Stacey Eriksen.
Donny Roush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the needed volunteer roles for the Cherry Creek State Park field experience.
Bob Finch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the Platte River regulation of use project.
Dana Coelho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the National Get Outdoors Day at Sloans Lake on June 9.

Chris Hawkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the Metro Denver Nature Alliance's committees and their meeting schedule.
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PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Participants provided updates about current and upcoming events/efforts of their organizations and opportunities for partnership collaboration. A monthly SPRUWP newsletter will be sent out to all the partners with project updates and information about upcoming events. Action items are indicated in italics

Bluff Lake Nature Center:

- For the past two years, Bluff Lake Nature Center has been working to get a state grant to fix the dam levy. There was a lake built in 1865 and the dam has become very porous. Since the lake was fed by storm water, it would fill up after a large storm then empty out three weeks later. The grant will fix this problem. The next goal is to determine how best to manage the lake now that it is semi-full, and figure out a way to ensure the habitat thrives. The construction will have a large impact on the environment surrounding the lake.
- Bluff Lake Nature Center may contact SPRUWP partners to get volunteers to plant trees or conduct water quality assessment.
- Bluff Lake Nature Center organizes summer camps, and there is still space left. *Any member of SPRUWP who is interested in being a guest speaker at the summer camp (ages 6-11), contact Rachel Crouch.*

Middle South Platte River Alliance

Bluff Lake Nature Center is organizing a youth water festival in Julesburg, Colorado. *If any SPRUWP partner is interested in presenting at the youth water festival, please contact Chloe Lewis (middlesouthplatte@gmail.com).*

Tri-County Health Department

- The Tri-County Health Department is partnering with Adams County to conduct a one-year pilot project to sample private wells that are located within a half-mile radius of oil and gas operations.
- This is funded by county commissioners. The first sample was taken on February 27.

Water Education Colorado

- Water Education Colorado is organizing an urban waters bike tour up the Poudre River watershed on May 24 and 25. This tour will be free and open to the public. This has been well-received by the public in the past, with 35 to 40 people participating during the two consecutive half-day rides.
- Water Education Colorado is hosting a rain barrel workshop to engage members of the public who have only a baseline understanding of water conservation. Participants learn to make their own rain barrels.
- Water Education Colorado is working on the next *Headwaters Magazine* issue, which will focus on stream management planning. *If any SPRUWP partners have*

ideas or feedback about what the Headwaters Magazine issue on stream management planning should include, please reach out to Jayla Poppleton (jayla@yourwatercolorado.org).

- SPRUWP partners suggested that the issue include information about the Greenway Foundation or Westerly Creek, where it goes through the new Freedom Park. The issue could also cover the work that Donny Roush is doing with school children.
- *Jayla will e-mail Katie Waller and Sam Haas the information about the two events.*

Barr Milton Watershed Association

- Barr Milton Watershed Association is collaborating with Water Education Colorado and Colorado Stormwater Council to plan a bike tour that will hopefully begin at the Bluff Lake Nature Center and go down Sand Creek.
- Barr Milton Watershed Association is going to hold a watershed tour on June 26. *Amy Conklin will send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about this tour.*
- Lake appreciation day is on March 14, and Barr Milton is coordinating an event. *Amy Conklin will send information about this to Katie Waller and Sam Haas.*
- Barr Milton worked with a software developer who built a storm drain marking application. There is an event at a middle school on April 6, and they are still piloting this application for the developer. The website to access this application is www.drain-marker.com. *Amy Conklin will send information about the storm drain marketing application to Katie Waller and Sam Haas.*

Denver Public Works

- Donny Roush has worked with a number of schools with students who are implementing action projects and applying their learning in a visible way. *The SPRUWP newsletter should include the information about the public school performances.*
- On May 15 and 16, Donny Roush will be taking students on a field experience to Cherry Creek State Park. 480 7th graders are attending. There will be eight learning stations with three facilitators per station. *Donny Roush will send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the needed volunteer roles.*

City and County of Denver

- Denver Mountain Parks is engaged in several efforts on the South Platte River. For example, the city is building a new park and closing part of Arkins court.
- The ranger program has also become involved in working on the Platte River in Cherry Creek to address recreational and human use along the corridors. The Greenway Ordinance allows the City of Denver's parks to work with other agencies to designate corridors. The Platte River was not a greenway until last year when Denver Mountain Parks signed a memorandum of understanding with the Public Works Department to allow Denver Mountain Parks to regulate use (e.g., homelessness, recreation) along the Platte River. If anyone sees areas where they believe there is a use issue, please report it to the City of Denver. *Bob Finch will send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about this project.*

- Denver Mountain Parks is also involved with a Bear Creek water quality group that is doing fuel management.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- USGS recently finished working on the water quality assessment tool and need to do more advertising and demonstrations. There may be potential funding for USGS to do additional monitoring. USGS is still in the pilot stage, but is looking for partners to match funding.
- The water quality assessment tool is online and live. *USGS could do a demonstration of the tool at an upcoming SPRUWP meeting. USGS should consider bringing the water quality assessment tool to the Sustaining Colorado's Watershed conference.*

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

- The USFS just hired an education and outreach coordinator.
- The USFS is planning an event for National Get Outdoors Day at Sloans Lake on June 9. *Dana Coelho will send information about sponsorship opportunities.*
- *The SPRUWP newsletter will include findings from a recent research initiative that elevates metro Denver as an area for urban ecological research.*

Denver Water

- Denver Water is creating a watershed program and will be focusing on the Upper South Platte.
- Denver Water is shifting roles and responsibilities for their water quality lab.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

- TNC is working to get funding to do tree planting and tree canopy enhancement. There will hopefully be a pilot project in the fall to do community-led block-scale greening to saturate a few blocks.
- Metro Denver Nature Alliance, which is essentially a group made up of 12-14 different entities, is hiring an alliance director. SPRUWP partners are encouraged to get engaged in this group. The group's first project is called "Nature Narratives," and the goal is to help tell the stories of how each organization involved is contributing to the Metro Denver Nature Alliance's vision. The partnership will meet two times per year. *Chris Hawkins can send Katie Waller and Sam Haas information about the Metro Denver Nature Alliance's committees and their meeting schedule.*
- TNC is involved in promoting a nature challenge between Denver and Los Angeles' Museum of Science and the California Academy of Science. These entities challenged each other to download the "naturalist" application and get as many unique observations of nature as possible. The challenge is from April 27-30.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be receiving approximately \$6.1 million to do water quality improvement projects. They would like to work with SPRUWP partners to help engage the communities.

- The Environmental Law Institute is doing a nationwide training on the “my waterways” application. The application is not static and is continually retrieving new data. *If any SPRUWP partner is interested in this training, please reach out to Stacey Eriksen.*
- Stacey Eriksen is working on a proposal to get internal EPA funding for pre and post monitoring of the impact of green infrastructure on human health in the Sun Valley area. The proposal includes funding to do air sampling in old housing and new housing and to put pollution monitors outdoors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION REVIEW

Peak Facilitation provided a brief overview of the SMART goal concept and a summary of past South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership goals.

- SPRUWP partners are going to start writing goals and begin action planning for the partnership. To do this, it is important to understand the concept of SMART goals. The goal for today is to walk away with actionable goals that the partners feel can be accomplished.
- SMART goals are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. Specific, measurable goals will help the implementers track progress over time. Measurable goals provide accountability to constituents, managers, members, funders, etc.
- When writing measurable goals, consider using absolute amounts, percentages, and words such as “all” or “nothing.”

SOUTH PLATTE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACTION PLANNING

Participants engaged in small group, World Café style discussions to develop new goals for the partnership to pursue regarding education/outreach, science/data, and policy/planning. For each topic, the groups determined several goals that could be accomplished within the next five years and outlined specific actions that should be taken to accomplish those goals.

TOPIC: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH		
5-YEAR GOAL: Broaden the use of SPRUWP tools (WQAT, Nat Cap, Geo Map) by engaging audiences such as schools, educators, consultants, neighborhood/citizen groups, decision makers		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK: Success will be measured by percent positive rating and the number of times the tools have been used in schools, public meetings, etc.		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK: Success will be measured by the number of hits to websites and the number of training programs (who, where, when).		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Create a unique URL for Nat Cap project, co-brand, co-host with WQAT, increase self-reporting use (e.g., collect emails if someone downloads the user guide or the event host kit)	6 months	Dana and Stacey
Host demos and presentations (schedule with Audobon within three months), and create a tracking spreadsheet	3 months; 1 year	Stacey (spreadsheet)

Survey users: how are tools being used, how are they helping, how could they be improved?	1 year	A non-federal partner
Find funding for project updates	Always!	Everyone!
Engage youth and schools in water quality education and measure impact		Donny and CAEE
Bridge the nexus between urban water use and agriculture		Chloe
Look at the key messages that have been developed (e.g., on the Colorado stormwater website) and combine the messages into one location.		Jayla and Amy (get the password for the Stormwater Council)
Plan a subgroup meeting	March/April	Peak Facilitation Group
Contribute to Water Education Colorado's blog		Anyone!
Develop and provide the tools for free teacher trainings on water quality		Donny has a teacher training that he can contribute
Put a "call for membership" in the monthly newsletter	March	Peak Facilitation Group

TOPIC: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH		
5-YEAR GOAL:		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK: Identify three to five behaviors that affect residential water quality		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Conduct outreach and engage with the public around issues such as run-off from lawns/gardens		

TOPIC: SCIENCE AND DATA		
5-YEAR GOAL: Keep tools up to date and relevant		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK: Refresh data—at least one update with QAQC		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK: Have a plan		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Create maintenance focus plans for existing tools (frequency, who, how, costs, etc.),	1 year	
Consider other contaminants (what is most important? What is missing? Data?), and ask members/partners	1 year	
Revisit the leadership on all committees		
Explore the impact of urban forestry on stormwater	1 year	Denver Forestry, Parks and Rec

TOPIC: SCIENCE AND DATA		
5-YEAR GOAL		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK: Research a framework and partnerships (get it funded!)		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK: Identify questions that SPRUWP needs/wants to answer regarding science/data		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Connect the water quality assessment tool to the data-sharing network	1 month	Amy call Rachel
Research garbage/trash TMDLs	6 months	Donny, Elaine, Mary, Dawson
Generate knowledge (based on existing and new data) to inform the management of urban waters	5 years	
Identify opportunities for citizen science that utilizes and engages volunteers in data collection	1 year	
Facilitate the release of groundwater quality data among TCHD, CDPHE, and COGCC	2 years	Elaine
Create a map/layer of who is monitoring where—this might be in the water quality assessment tool or existing documented tool (maybe Geomapper, or STEW-MAP)	1 year (at least)	Stacey
Establish a baseline regarding behavior affecting water quality		
Secure USGS funding for GI monitoring	October	Bill B.
Secure EPA ORD RESUS funding for Sun Valley and incorporate Nat Cap tool and i-tree	October	Stacey

TOPIC: POLICY AND PLANNING		
5-YEAR GOAL: Determine how we can influence local water providers and municipalities to develop ordinances to no longer allow phosphorous in fertilizers for homes		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK:		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK:		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Address the fact that there is phosphorous in the water system (raises the issue of corrosion control, and surface water)—contact congressional representatives and governors		Amy will get information from Steve and talk to Alison, then Alison and Amy will discuss the issue with Jayla who could write a news article

Regarding the issue of p-fertilizer, provide letters of support, provide resources, and testify in front of legislative committees (keeping in mind that government agencies cannot lobby)	By the next SPRUWP meeting	Amy will get information from Steve and send it to Peak Facilitation Group
Regarding the green roof initiative, invite a panel of developers to speak at an upcoming SPRUWP meeting about how the implementation is similar/different from expectations—this could be an educational public event	Invite Jennifer Bousellot to next SPRUWP meeting	Jennifer Bousellot, Jayla, Alison, Stacey (lead), John Novak(?)
Address the issue of slash piles and the ability to burn fuels		
Conduct source identification for stormwater		
Submit articles to Water Education Colorado's community blog		Anyone

TOPIC: POLICY AND PLANNING		
5-YEAR GOAL: Engage in the greenways and greening ordinance development and implementation—consider other entities (Sustainability Council, Colorado Water Plan, Basin Roundtables); engage in Metro DNA/DRCOG regional conservation vision		
YEAR 3 BENCHMARK		
YEAR 1 BENCHMARK: Water quality is a key component of the ordinance/plan (the data = change over time)		
ACTION ITEMS	DEADLINE	WHO
Represent SPRUWP on MDNA committee/s	March	Dana/Chris – send invitation
Subscribe to regular green roof initiative updates	March	Peak Facilitation Group, others as desired
Represent SPRUWP on basin roundtables and similar entities		Amy/Casey

NEXT STEPS

- Peak Facilitation Group will send out a monthly update next week.
- All partners should send information about their projects to Katie Waller and Sam Haas as soon as possible.
- Advisory Team will meet and use the group's outlined goals to update the 2018 work plan.