



GROWING WATER SMART IN THE HEADWATERS:

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND WATERSHEDS

Spring 2019

Brandon Ruiz

Integrated Water and Land Use Planning Workshop

When:

April 24 - 26, 2019

Where:

Keystone, CO

Who Can Apply:

Colorado headwaters
communities in the Water
Quality/Quantity Committee

Application Deadline:

January 11, 2019



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Why Integrate Land Use and Water Resource Planning?

The Growing Water Smart program helps communities bridge the gap between water management and land use planning to build a more resilient future. This is especially important for Colorado as its population continues to rapidly grow. From 1 million people in 1930 to over 5 million today, projections now anticipate that Colorado's population could nearly double by 2060. To sustain this growth, Colorado will need to better manage its water supply. Although Colorado is a headwater state, the state's water supply faces increasing uncertainty with over-appropriated river basins, longer droughts, and more frequent fires. The Colorado Water Plan predicts that by 2050 the state could have a supply gap of up to 560,000 acre-feet.

How will Colorado address this gap in a way that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and sustains Colorado's high quality of life in urban, rural and agricultural communities? It is imperative that Colorado's communities learn to manage their water resources more sustainably. Historically, planning for water resources and planning for land use development have been conducted separately. Yet land use decisions have profound impacts on the quantity of water people and buildings consume and the quantity and quality of the water that enters our ecosystems and replenishes our supplies. Going forward, communities will need to be more deliberate in integrating decisions about how and where they build with decisions about how much water development uses and how to best steward our resources.

"Colorado Growing Water Smart helped Fort Collins better collaborate with all of our water providers to plan for growth so that we consider cost and availability of water."

Donnie Dustin | City of Fort Collins



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton

How We Can Help

The **Sonoran Institute** and **Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy**'s Growing Water Smart program introduces communities to the full range of communications, public engagement, planning, and policy implementation tools to realize their watershed health and community resiliency goals.

Through Growing Water Smart, Colorado communities can learn how they can integrate land use and water planning. Participants in this program will gain:

- An understanding of demographic and climatic trends and impacts on water supply and demand at the state and local level.
- Knowledge of the strategies and tools for integrating water efficiency and conservation into land use planning.
- A commitment to improved collaboration among multiple disciplines, agencies, and decision makers involved in water and land use planning.
- The ability to communicate to the community the need for aligning land use decisions with water supply.
- An action plan to help communities become more water smart.

Workshop at a Glance

Combining topical sessions with team-based action planning, Growing Water Smart offers an opportunity to learn from peers and experts about the challenges and opportunities of realizing a secure, prosperous water future.

Day 1 focuses on setting the context for why linking water and land use matters.

Day 2 introduces a strategic planning framework for leading your community through a process to become more water smart, followed by a deep exploration of the nexus between water supply, demand and land use.

Day 3 prepares your team to return ready to build the political will to become a water smart community.

The workshop will begin mid-afternoon on the first day and ends mid-afternoon on the third day.



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton

“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Following the workshop, our local governments and service providers are seeking to use a common set of data and growth projections in our planning efforts. We expect this collaboration will expand to other issues in our community.”

James Dickoff | Town of Pagosa Springs

Who Can Apply

Only communities in the *Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ)* of the **Northwest Colorado Council of Governments** are welcomed to apply this round. This includes QQ counties, municipalities and special districts. Future workshop rounds will be open to other Colorado regions.

This workshop is designed to build a collaborative team committed to taking local action. Applicants are encouraged to build a team of 5 to 7 that includes a diversity of knowledge, skills, and perspectives such as:

- Water utility and water resource managers
- Land use planners
- Elected officials
- Planning Board members
- Public works staff
- Town and/or County staff
- Regional planning organizations
- Developers

More competitive applications will be teams that include one elected official, a staff person from the planning department, and a representative from the water management agency or utility serving their community. If this is a multi-jurisdictional proposal, then an elected official or staff person from the other communities should be represented on the team.

Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

1. Team composition.
2. Ability to demonstrate local commitment toward addressing water sustainability.
3. Understanding of projected growth and uncertainties associated with meeting future water demands.
4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

How to Apply

Write a Community Challenge Statement, provide a Team Roster and optional supporting materials. Once completed, send your files to climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org

Community Challenge Statement - Applicants must develop a 700-word challenge statement that answers the following questions (in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) **not** PDF file):

1. **Water Awareness:** Describe your understanding of current and forecasted water supply and demand for your community. How well understood and accepted are these figures by decision-makers and the community?
2. **Planning and Policy:** What plans, policies, and programs are in place in your community that address water efficiency and conservation? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are/will you be starting that are related the water and land use planning integration?
3. **Collaboration:** What is the level of cooperation or collaboration among the entities responsible for water planning and land use planning? Describe any opportunities or challenges you might want to address in this workshop.
4. **Desired Outcomes:** How does your community believe it will benefit from better integrating water and land use planning? Be as specific as possible.



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Team Roster - Applicants must also complete a team member list as part of the application process that includes each team member's full name, position, organization, and email. Submit these via email (below) by the deadline.

Supporting Materials (optional) - Applicants may submit copies of news articles and links to any reports or publications that provide additional information in response to questions posed as part of your challenge statement. You may also provide letters of support from local officials to strengthen your application. Submit via email by the deadline.

Costs Covered

Lodging and most meals will be provided, including dinner on Day 1 as well as breakfast and lunch on Day 2 and 3. Teams will be responsible for dinner on their own on Day 2. Travel to and from Keystone is not covered.

Application Deadline

Applications, including the challenge statement, team roster, and supporting materials (optional), are due by 5pm (MDT), **January 11, 2019** to the email below.

Contact Information

For more information or to submit materials:

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Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Support the Sonoran Institute

Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America. Learn more about how you can help at SonoranInstitute.org/donate.

About the Lincoln Institute

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land.

About the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them.

Connect With Us

Go to SonoranInstitute.org to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on Social Media:



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