

GROWING WATER SMART:

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND WATERSHEDS

Spring 2017

Jeremy Stapleton

Integrated Land Use and Water Planning Workshop

When:

September 11-13, 2017

Where:

Keystone, CO

Application Deadline:

July 10, 2017

Apply Online!



Why Integrate Land Use and Water Resource Planning?

Colorado's population has grown from 1 million people in 1930 to over 5 million today. Population projections anticipate it 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. Colorado's Water Plan predicts that by 2050, the state could have a gap between water supply and demand 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 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 in silos. Yet land use decisions have profound impacts on the quantity of water people and buildings consume and the quantity and quality of the water entering our ecosystems and replenishing 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 sources of supply.

"Goal: 75 percent of Coloradans live in water smart communities by 2025."

Colorado Water Plan



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Sonoran Institute and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Resilient Communities and Watersheds 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.

“Ensuring a prosperous future and healthy watersheds through the integration of water resource and land use planning.”

Resilient Communities and Watersheds



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Jeremy Stapleton; aerial support provided by LightHawk



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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 and prosperous water future.

Day 1 focuses on the population and climatic trends impacting Colorado and the State response to these trends.

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 and 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 the third day

Who Can Apply

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
- Key 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 to wanting to address water sustainability.
3. Understanding of projected growth and uncertainties associated with meeting future water demands.
4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnership among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

Community Challenge Statement

Applicants must develop a 700-word challenge statement that answers the following questions:

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:** Does your community have an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan? What plans, policies, and programs are in place in your community that address water efficiency and conservation? How well are they being implemented?
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 the list of team members as part of the application process.

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 these 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.

Application Deadline

Applications, including the challenge statement, team roster, and supporting materials (optional), are due by 5pm (MDT), July 10, 2017. **Apply Online!**

Contact Information

For more information or to submit optional materials:

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Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Gates Family Foundation.

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.

The Mission of the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. We work at the nexus of commerce, community, and conservation to help people in the North American West build the communities they want to live in while preserving the values which brought them here. We envision a West where civil dialogue and collaboration are hallmarks of decision making, where people and wildlife live in harmony, and where clean water, air, and energy are assured.

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