

# NWCCOG/WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY COMMITTEE

## SCOPE OF SERVICES 2009

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### I. INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2009

#### A. COALITIONS AND EDUCATION (Implements Policies I, II, V)

- (1) Facilitate “fact-based” discussions of headwater impacts associated with Front Range growth
- (2) Continue to educate Front Range policymakers and legislators about headwaters issues and transmountain diversion impacts in appropriate forums.
- (3) Collaborate with other East Slope and West Slope organizations to strengthen public awareness and educate Front Range citizens about headwater issues and transmountain diversion impacts on the West Slope.
- (4) Track and educate members on emerging water-related recreation issues.
- (5) Develop relationship with the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News to promote education on QQ issues. Send letters to the editors of the local and state newspapers on water issues to refute mis-information.
- (6) Organize and present papers at meetings, workshops and other venues to advocate headwater perspectives throughout the State.
- (7) Serve on appropriate State and local task forces or committees to promote QQ’s interests.
- (8) Track and coordinate efforts with other groups and organizations to ensure awareness of diverse West Slope water concerns.

#### B. COLORADO FOR THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY ACT/1177 (Implements Policies I, III, V)

- (1) Track the outcome of the project and any potential legislation as a result of this process that may be counter to Headwater interests.
- (2) Participate in the Colorado Basin Roundtable.

- (3) Evaluate opportunities to identify and promote headwater interests through this initiative.
- C. STATEWIDE WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE ("SWSI") (Implements Policies I, III, V)
- (1) Continue efforts to correct misinformation from SWSI and monitor the use of SWSI data.
- D. UPPER COLORADO RIVER PROJECT ("UPCO") AND STREAM MANAGEMENT APPROACH (Implements Policies II, IV, V)
- (1) Continue to work with QQ members and Front Range diverters to develop solutions to identified impacts.
  - (2) Participate in the Colorado River Basin Proposal negotiations and associated technical projects.
  - (3) Explore and promote UPCO concept with other basins, including the "Stream Management Plan" approach.
  - (4) Implement findings of Grand County Stream Management Plan in initiatives such as the Bureau of Land Management's Wild and Scenic process.
- E. PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ADDRESS INSTREAM FLOWS (Implements Policies III, IV, V)
- (1) Assist member jurisdictions in efforts to support Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") Instream Flow Program and ensure state representatives understand the value of the program.
  - (2) Assist member jurisdictions in the creation and protection of recreational in-channel diversions.
  - (3) Track Recreational In-channel Diversions filings and CWCB hearings in QQ region.
  - (4) Assist members to determine nonconsumptive stream flow needed to protect recreation and environmental values.
  - (5) Evaluate upstream impacts related 10,825 water that provides long term water supply for endangered fish in the 15-mile.
- F. LOBBYING IN 2008 COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SESSION (Implements Policies I, II, V)
- (1) Provide policy analysis on legislative bills as they affect members' authority.

- (2) Oppose bills that would limit land use authority to protect the region's water resources or conditional water development projects.
- (3) Participate in development of any state water planning legislation.
- (4) Lobby on water-related bills that QQ has taken a position on, or based on QQ's mission and policies.
- (5) Draft testimony, or assist in preparing testimony for QQ elected officials, as needed.
- (6) Communicate and collaborate with other entities where interests overlap.
- (7) Provide reports and action alerts to members on legislation, outlining pros, cons and QQ's position.
- (8) Prepare alternatives to legislation that is counter to QQ's interests as directed by the QQ Committee.
- (9) Evaluate and encourage legislation that furthers QQ interests. Possibilities include reuse, instream flows, metropolitan efficiency, special district legislation, or favorable changes in water law to promote conservation.
- (10) Participate in the Colorado Water Congress and other organizations that may create and or influence legislation pertinent to QQ's issues.

G. WATER QUALITY PROTECTION (Implements Policies II, III, IV, V)

- (1) Participate in State Water Quality Control Commission ("WQCC") rulemakings, hearings and meetings.
- (2) Participate in stakeholder meetings, Water Quality Control Division ("WQCD") workgroups, and any rulemaking hearings.
- (3) Monitor WQCC and WQCD activities.
- (4) Continue to participate in the Snake River Task Force to identify remediation alternatives and seek funding for projects. Work closely with the State and others to develop appropriate water quality standards for the Snake River in the next five to ten years.
- (5) Coordinate with NWCCOG to maintain 208 administrative responsibilities as determined by membership.
- (6) Provide technical development reviews as 208 Agency for fee that is passed onto developer.

- (7) Coordinate with Water and Sanitation Districts on issues of interest.
- (8) Participate in hearings specifically related to newly implemented temperature standards; assist members in the site specific standards hearing; and assist members in deciphering the new standards.

H. LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS (Implements Policy I, III)

- (1) Coordinate with County staff to update 1041 and land use regulations as requested. Provide legal and technical assistance to member's staff in revisions of their 1041 Regulations. (Since the revision processes are specific to a particular member, QQ cannot do the revisions as part of the dues. However, Barbara, Shanna and Lane will coordinate to minimize costs to members.)
- (2) Neutralize objections raised by the Front Range about the 1041 process.
- (3) Work with members in the QQ region on refinements to land use regulations, policies and technical approaches to protect water quality.
- (4) Spearhead efforts to maintain County authority over oil and gas operations, including on federal lands, so that water quality and quantity are protected. Work with Department of Natural Resources to introduce County in-put into federal mitigation decision on leases.

I. EVALUATE GROWTH IMPACTS TO WATER RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS (Implements Policies II, IV, V)

- (1) Inform public entities and private sector of regional water quality and quantity impacts of their proposals and identify mitigation measures.
- (2) Continue to assist ski areas through the NEPA processes, 404 permits and 401 certifications in an effort to analyze in-basin impacts.
- (3) Research and understand our own water usage and conservation efforts in order to work more effectively with those entities in the Front Range areas that are looking to the west for more water to meet their supply needs for future growth.

J. MONITOR AND EVALUATE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION PROJECTS (Implements Policies I, II, III)

- (1) Utilize IGA between QQ counties to facilitate coordination to address impacts in neighboring jurisdictions in 1041 permitting process.
- (2) Assist the Counties with 1041 permitting as requested.

- (3) Assist members as needed with federal legislation that approves the study of, or development of, projects leading to further potential transmountain diversions.
- (4) Actively participate in and monitor Denver Water Board and Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's firming projects and other water development activities in the region.

## **II. LEGAL SERVICES**

- A. Assist members update 1041 or other land use regulations applicable to water matters.
- B. Represent members in rulemaking hearings in front of Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and other state agencies.
- C. Prepare briefs on behalf of members relating to legal matters of regional importance.
- D. Stay abreast of evolving judicial and legislative decisions that affect member authority.

## **III. QQ PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Organize and prepare for QQ Executive and full Committee meetings.
- B. Oversee QQ's program finances.
- C. Regularly meet with NWCCOG Executive Director and provide legislative update to NWCCOG Board.
- D. Meet with members on individual basis to update elected officials on QQ's activities.
- E. Recruit new members within the headwaters region.

## **IV. MEMBER SERVICES**

- A. Represent QQ Committee at meetings, rulemaking hearings, and state water policy forums.
- B. Be available to QQ members to answer questions and provide technical, legislative and legal expertise on matters regarding water quality or quantity.

- C. Coordinate between QQ legislative liaison and NWCCOG and circulate legislative updates when appropriate.
- D. Provide litigation and advocacy support.
- E. Design QQ meetings as a forum for exchange of ideas and establishment of policy.
- F. Analyze and provide comment on water development projects for member jurisdictions.
- G. Place QQ Committee members on key committees, commissions and boards relative to water quality and quantity issues.
- H. Provide reports and white papers on regulations, Clean Water Act, water quality and quantity issues.
- I. Encourage and support intergovernmental, inter-jurisdictional cooperation in water matters.

<u>COST:</u>	Koenig/Wyatt	\$75,500.00
	SullivanGreenSeavy	\$40,000.00
	Professional Services	\$14,499.00
	Direct Expenses	\$19,601.00
	<u>NWCCOG</u>	<u>\$18,500.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$168,100.00</b>