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QQ Meeting Summary

August 30, 2018 at Blue River Room, Silverthorne Library

Summary sent out September 7, 2018

QQ HOSTS GOVERNOR CANDIDATES FORUM

Surrogates for gubernatorial candidates joined QQ at its meeting to discuss the candidates' water policy, especially as it relates to headwaters water quality issues. Grand County Commissioner Richard Cimino spoke on behalf of Mr. Walker Stapleton, and former Senator Gail Schwartz spoke on behalf of Congressman Jared Polis. Senator Schwartz was joined by Anne Castle, former Undersecretary of Water at the Department of the Interior and current

CHECK OUT THE NEW [QQ RESOURCES PAGE](#),

chock-full of water news, conferences, watershed groups, and other great resources for QQ members.

<http://nwccog.org/programs/water-qualityquantity-committee/qq-member-resources/>

Did you know we also have a webpage about **linking water and land use planning?**

<http://nwccog.org/programs/water-qualityquantity-committee/our-work-policy-1/integrating-land-use-and-water-planning/>



The Upper Colorado Wild & Scenic Stakeholders Group (including some QQ members) took a field trip on the Upper Colorado River from Pump House to State Bridge in June of 2018. Photo credit: Jack Bombardier

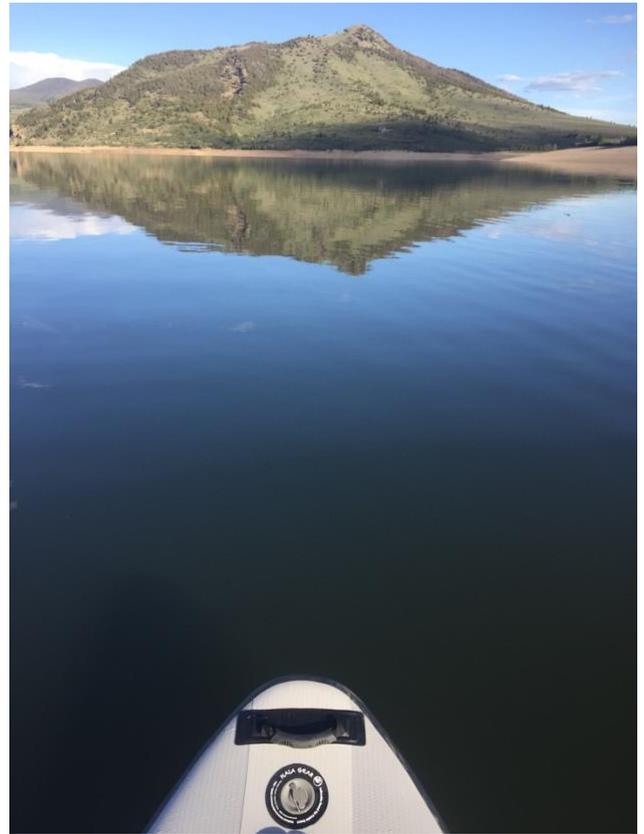
Water Quality Control Commission, 2018-2019 Timeline of Rulemakings

July 2018: Regulation 84, Reclaimed Water, rulemaking. QQ submits letter of support ([available here](#)).

November 2018: Regulation 82 (401 Certification) rulemaking. QQ is a party and will keep members updated.

December 2018: Molybdenum Temporary Modification Rulemakings for Ten Mile Creek (Summit). QQ will be party and keep members updated.

June 2019: Triennial review of water quality standards for Upper Colorado Basin. QQ will be party and keep members updated.



Green Mountain Reservoir in the early summer, while the mountains were still green. Photo credit: Torie Jarvis

fellow at the CU Law School, who is consulting with the Polis campaign on “big picture” Colorado River issues.

Each candidate spoke about their priorities for water policy, including various approaches to funding the \$100 million annual projected need for Colorado Water Plan implementation and protecting Colorado from a possible future call against the Colorado River Compact. QQ members asked each candidate about possible outside-of-the-box funding opportunities for the Water Plan as well as how each candidate might view the State’s role in water conservation. The surrogates plan to work on some written responses to questions that were outside of their purview, and may provide written versions of the presentations to be shared with QQ members at a later date. Thank you to the candidates and to Commissioner Cimino and Senator Schwartz for the productive presentations and Q&A.

QQ OPPOSES BALLOT INITIATIVE 108/ AMENDMENT 74

At its August meeting, QQ members voted to oppose¹ Ballot Initiative 108, which will be known as Amendment 74 after certification. This ballot initiative would amend the Colorado Constitution to require just compensation for any regulation that reduces the fair market value of a property right, no matter how small the reduction. The initiative is ambiguous enough to require significant litigation to understand when it would apply, and it is likely to cost local and state government, and taxpayers by extension, billions in claims of reduced fair market value.

¹ QQ takes positions only with 100% consensus from members. Please let Torie Jarvis know if any member has concerns with this initial position to oppose. QQ had consensus from all present members at the August 30 meeting.

Sam Mamet, Executive Director of the Colorado Municipal League, joined QQ to discuss CML's concerns over 108, including that it "could spawn countless and expensive lawsuits over a myriad of basic local land-use decisions such as zoning or the siting of municipal facilities." As Torie pointed out at the meeting, 108 could impact a myriad of water quality-related land use decisions, including instituting waterbody buffers to protect riparian corridors or low impact development regulations to improve water quality. QQ is currently working on a white paper to outline the legal issues and possible impacts to water quality in the headwaters if this Initiative were to pass.

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING QQ LEADERSHIP

During the April 2018 QQ Retreat, members expressed interest in developing a set of guidelines outlining the process for QQ to select new leadership or confirm existing leadership. QQ consultants have developed draft guidelines and are currently requesting member feedback.

QQ currently has a vacancy for the Vice-Chair position. QQ Chair Rachel Richards is term-limited as Pitkin County Commissioner at the end of this year, and thus QQ will be selecting all new leadership at its November or December meeting (still to be scheduled). Stay tuned for more information on nominations!

Of note, the current draft guidelines incorporate the following member feedback from the retreat:

- Add a third leadership position, a Secretary, along the existing Chair and Vice-Chair positions.
- Confirm or select leaders as needed, or at a minimum on even number years confirm existing leadership at the fall budget and contracting meeting.
- Include a description of each leadership position and a list of desired qualities in the leaders.

OTHER QQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **QQ kicked off its land use and water assessment project this June!** QQ was awarded a Water Plan implementation grant to assess our local governments' integration of land use and water in land use codes. The project includes an assessment of water savings and water quality measures in member land use codes, the development of a model code for water savings measures specific to the headwaters region, and technical assistance to update selected member land use codes. Del Corazon Consulting, led by long-time planner and facilitator Marjo Curgus, is



As QQ Members emphasized at during its recent meeting, summer 2018 has been marked with drought, low flows, and fires. This is a photo of the Crystal River just before it reaches the Town of Carbondale. Photo credit: Heather Sackett, Aspen Journalism, www.aspenjournalism.com.

the consultant on the project. We are also partnering with the Sonoran Institute to plan a late-spring training and follow up technical assistance as part of this project. We are excited to get this project underway!

- **Interim Water Resource Review Committee.** QQ continued its monitoring of legislation in the 2018 session. In general, this was a slower session for water issues. One of QQ's priorities issues did pass the year: a bill that instituted an aquatic nuisance species sticker for motorized watercraft to partially fund the State's boat inspection and decontamination program. The session also saw the passage of a series of bills to expand available uses of reclaimed water, which QQ supported, as well as legislation that will pave the way for state regulations of NORM (naturally occurring radioactive material) and TENORM (technologically-enhanced NORM) after a robust stakeholder process to ensure appropriate level of regulation.
- QQ is participating in the newly-formed **Water and Land Use Planning Alliance**, formed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Department of Local Affairs to convene leaders around the state on efforts to better link land use and water planning.
- **Sonoran Institute will host trainings** on land use and water, scheduled for September 26-28, 2018 in Keystone. QQ will continue serving in an advisory planning capacity. Commissioners Karn Stiegelmeier and Kathy Chandler-Henry will be providing opening remarks to the participating local governments about their leadership and experience with integrating land use and water planning.
- QQ continues ongoing member support, including:
 - **Grand Lake Clarity Adaptive Management Committee.** Each summer this AMC meets weekly to evaluate real time water quality monitoring in Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Reservoir and to discuss ongoing operations of the C-BT project and changes that could be employed to help maintain or improve Grand Lake clarity. Lessons learned from this process inform the evaluation of alternatives for the NEPA analysis (explained below). NWCCOG is party to the MOU establishing the AMC and participates in the AMC.
 - **Upper Colorado Wild & Grand Lake Clarity NEPA process.** The Bureau of Reclamation is undertaking a NEPA analysis of operational approaches and structural changes to the Three Lakes portion of the Colorado Big Thompson Project to address clarity problems in Grand Lake. NWCCOG is participating in the process as the 208 Regional Water Quality Planning Agency, as well as supporting involved QQ members.
 - **Upper CO Wild & Scenic Stakeholder Group (SG).** Torie represents QQ on the SG and supports SG local governments by serving on the Executive Committee, which provides day-to-day administration of the SG. NWCCOG also provides fiscal support to the SG, serving as a fiscal agent and managing the contract for the SG Administrator, Anna Drexler-Dreis.
 - **Learning By Doing (LBD).** QQ continues to provide support to QQ members involved in LBD. LBD completed its [first river restoration project](#) on the Fraser River near Tabernash, with initial reports of a 400% increase over fish present before the restoration.
 - **QQ continues website development.** While it is certainly a work in progress, check out www.nwccog-qq.org for lots of new information on QQ history and current progress. We'd love to hear feedback.

