

# QQ Meeting Summary

March 3, 2022 at Colorado Mountain College, Edwards  
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## Drought Preparedness in Grand County

Grand County recently initiated a county-wide Drought Preparedness Program. Kayli Foulk, the County's Water Quality Specialist, presented an overview of the program to QQ at its meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



A group of stakeholders developed the County's [Drought Preparedness Plan](#) from 2020 to 2021. The Plan outlines levels of drought stages (Drought Watch, Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3) based on a series of indicators such as the US Drought Monitor Index, the snow-water equivalent, the Standardized Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index, and even local anecdotal evidence and perception of drought. The plan includes recommended actions for each stage of drought.

Currently, Grand County serves as a leader in the stakeholder effort, and entities throughout Grand County have signed onto the drought preparedness memorandum of understanding. Water conservation and efficiency efforts are voluntary through the program.

The effort most recently focused on the production of education and outreach materials such as logos, slogans, posters, and videos such as [this 30-second video](#). Examples of materials produced are shown to the right.

QQ Members applaud Grand County's leadership in this effort and shared their own experiences, including the City of Aspen's new [Drought Management and Response Plan](#) (July 2020).

## GRAND COUNTY DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM



## NWCCOG Kicks Off Update of Regional Water Quality Management Plan (“208 Plan”)

NWCCOG, through its Watershed Services program, is updating the Regional Water Quality Management Plan, otherwise known as the “208 Plan” as Section 208 of the Clean Water Act provides for a coordinated regional approach to water quality management. The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (“NWCCOG”) 208 plan region consists of the area within Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. NWCCOG is the designated regional water quality management agency responsible for water quality

planning within this region. The primary goal of the 208 plan is the protection and enhancement of the existing water quality and designated uses of waters in the region.

As the water policy arm of NWCCOG, QQ will be asked to provide comment and guidance in the 208 Plan Update. At the QQ meeting, consultants reviewed the new draft policies and implementation strategies with members. These policies become regulatory requirements when local governments in the region include 208 Plan compliance in their municipal or county codes. The draft policies and implementation strategies are available for download and review via Word document [here](#). Thank you for your feedback!

## QQ UPDATES

- This QQ meeting was held as a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting at the Colorado Mountain College's Edwards campus. We think the interaction between virtual and in-person attendees was a success and will continue to work on this new meeting format. In-person attendees went out to lunch together following the meeting (see above). We hope you'll join us next time! Please provide meeting format feedback to [tjarvis@nwccog.org](mailto:tjarvis@nwccog.org).
- The Colorado General Assembly 2022 session is underway, and QQ continues to provide legislative updates and advocated based on member positions. The March meeting provided an opportunity for members to discuss legislation and take official positions on bills. The most recent legislative update is [available here](#) and the bill tracking spreadsheet [available here](#).
- **Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Updates.**
  - o QQ is currently participating in the Gunnison Basin Water Quality Standards Rulemaking (Reg. 35) in partnership with Gunnison County, Crested Butte, and the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District. We are tracking several issues of regional importance with Ashley Bembenek leading the effort. Contact [abembenek@nwccog.org](mailto:abembenek@nwccog.org) for more information.
  - o Climax Molybdenum has requested a WQCC hearing to revise statewide molybdenum standards for human water consumption, following a [new toxicological profile](#) for molybdenum from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in 2020. A hearing for a new standard will likely be scheduled for June 2023, and QQ anticipated teaming up with interested other parties as we've done in the past.
- **Bridging the Gap Project in Partnership with Sonoran Institute, CWCB, Northern Water, River District, and Trout Unlimited.** With our partners, QQ is helping to develop a stakeholder process to identify issues and lessons learned from water supply projects that seek to transfer water from one area of the state to urban growth centers, with an eye toward increasing collaboration between water supply planning and land use planning in both the area where the water is needed and the area where the water originates. The Sonoran Institute will convene a diverse stakeholder group who have expertise in these projects to identify a set of lessons learned or best practices that support effective partnerships, with an emphasis on early consultation on local land use and water supply planning in the face of increasing water scarcity. QQ will keep members apprised as this project progresses through 2022.





- Sullivan Green Seavy, long time counsel to QQ, announced that Torie Jarvis, who serves as QQ's Director and Staff Attorney, will join SGS as its fourth partner in May! Torie's role with QQ will continue unchanged, and Torie's current firm, Dynamic Planning + Science, will continue to support QQ as well.

## Member Updates

Updates on the huge amount of water-related working going on throughout the QQ region is always a high point of QQ meetings. Here are a few highlights:

- Eagle River Water and Sanitation District (ERWSD) and the Town of Minturn both celebrated the District's recent purchase of Bolts Lake site, a 45-acre parcel at the south end of Minturn, with the intent to develop a water supply reservoir up to 1,200 acre-feet in volume. In addition to serving all existing district and authority customers, water stored in the reservoir will also be used to augment diversions of the town of Minturn and Battle North's planned future development on the land surrounding the reservoir site. The Minturn Town Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the district and authority on Feb. 2 that secured augmentation rights for Minturn in exchange for a simplified future reservoir permitting process and other considerations.
- Pitkin County is supporting a comprehensive Roaring Fork Watershed Biodiversity and Connectivity Study to identify high priority habitats and zones of existing and potential wildlife connectivity where conservation actions can be most effective.
- Ruedi Water and Power Authority (RWAPA) received a project accelerator grant from the WaterNow Alliance to develop unified permanent watering restrictions for the Roaring Fork Valley and a consistent message across jurisdictions to help alleviate confusion and increase compliance, thereby reducing water use and preserving water resources.
- Summit County's High Country Conservation Center (HC3) is partnering with ERWSD to offer Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) training in both Summit and Eagle counties. HC3 is combining QWEL trainings with a rebate program that provides incentives for irrigation audits and equipment upgrades and environmental education designed to drive water savings to help headwaters communities adapt to both a changing climate and the projected increases in population in the region.

