



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

Room 029 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1784  
(303) 866-3521 • FAX: 866-3855 • TDD: 866-3472  
[www.colorado.gov/lcs](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs)  
E-mail: [lcs.ga@state.co.us](mailto:lcs.ga@state.co.us)

**M E M O R A N D U M**

July 17, 2014

**TO:** Members of the Water Resources Review Committee

**FROM:** David Beaujon, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4781  
Brooke Maddaford, Research Analyst, 303-866-4753

**SUBJECT:** Overview of the Water Resources Review Committee

**Summary**

This memorandum identifies the Water Resources Review Committee's membership and discusses its charge, bill limits, and bill deadlines. It also summarizes the committee's activities since 2001, including meetings, tours, and legislative recommendations. Final reports, memoranda, and other information from previous years are available on the General Assembly's website at: [www.colorado.gov/lcs](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs).

**2014 Water Resources Review Committee**

Representative Randy Fischer, Chair	Senator Gail Schwartz, Vice-chair
Representative Don Coram	Senator Greg Brophy
Representative Diane Mitsch Bush	Senator Mary Hodge
Representative Jerry Sonnenberg	Senator Matt Jones
Representative Ed Vigil	Senator Ellen Roberts

**Membership requirements.** The Water Resources Review Committee is a ten-member committee with terms extending from January 1 of an odd-numbered year to December 31 of the following even-numbered year (two years).<sup>1</sup> During even-numbered years, the Speaker appoints the chair and the President appoints the vice-chair. Members are appointed according to the following criteria:

- five Senate members, three appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

<sup>1</sup> Section 37-98-102 (2), C.R.S.

- five House members appointed by the House Speaker in consultation with the House Minority Leader;
- at least four members must reside west of the Continental Divide or their district must have a majority of its population residing west of the Continental Divide; and
- members should represent each of the seven water divisions.

**Committee charge.** The committee is authorized to review water issues and propose legislation related to the conservation, use, development, and financing of Colorado's water resources. In conducting its review, the committee is required to consult with experts in the field of water conservation, quality, use, finance, and development.

**Senate Bill 14-017 concerning municipal outdoor water consumption.** According to the legislative declaration of Senate Bill 14-017, statewide efforts to ease some of the pressure from agricultural water supplies would benefit greatly from reductions in municipal consumptive water uses, and it is critical to identify and quantify the best practices that limit municipal outdoor water consumption. Senate Bill 14-017 directs the Water Resources Review Committee to study during the 2014 interim best practices to limit municipal outdoor water consumption. The committee may propose legislation to facilitate the implementation of those best practices that are both reasonable and likely to result in the measurable conservation of municipal water used for outdoor purposes.

**Senate Bill 14-115 and statewide hearings on the Colorado Water Plan.** Pursuant to Senate Bill 14-115, the Water Resources Review Committee is required to review statewide planning for water resources. By August 1, 2014, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is required to submit to the committee the scope, fundamental approach, and basic elements of a draft state water plan. The law requires the committee to hold at least one public hearing in each geographic region associated with basin roundtables to collect feedback from the public. The committee must provide a summary of the public's feedback as well as its own feedback to the CWCB by November 1, 2014. By July 1, 2015, the CWCB is required to submit a draft state water plan to the committee, after which the committee must hold at least one public hearing in each basin to collect feedback from the public. The committee must provide a summary of the public's feedback as well as its own feedback to the CWCB by November 1, 2015. The committee may repeat this process whenever the CWCB submits a significant amendment to the state water plan. By November 1 of each year following the submission to the committee of a state water plan or plan amendment, any member of the General Assembly may request that the committee hold one or more hearings to review the plan or plan amendment. The committee may recommend the introduction of legislation based on the results of the review. Any bill recommended by the WRRC or hearing held regarding the state water plan does not count against the committee bill or meeting limit.

**Field trips and meetings.** The committee is authorized to meet up to six times during even-numbered years and to take up to two field trips.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 identifies the six meetings and three<sup>3</sup> field trips that have been selected by the Chair of the Water Resources Review Committee. It also identifies meetings to hear public testimony on the State Water Plan, pursuant to Senate Bill 14-115. Additional information about the SB 14-115 hearings is provided in the following section. Agendas for committee meetings will be posted on the committee's website at: [www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC).

---

<sup>2</sup> Section 37-98-102 (1)(a), C.R.S.

<sup>3</sup> On April 21, 2014, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council approved adding an additional field trip to attend the Colorado Water Workshop.

**Table 1  
Water Resources Review Committee Meeting and Tour Schedule**

Date	Location	Time <sup>4</sup>
<b>2014 Committee Meetings</b>		
Wednesday, August 6	State Capitol Building - HCR 0112	9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 7	State Capitol Building - HCR 0112	8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	Westin Snowmass Resort, Snowmass, CO	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 4	State Capitol Building - HCR 0112	9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, September 5 - <i>Last day to request draft legislation</i>	State Capitol Building - HCR 0112	9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 30 - <i>Last day to approve legislative recommendations</i>	State Capitol Building - HCR 0112	9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
<b>Senate Bill 14-115 Hearings Concerning Colorado Water Plan</b>		
Gunnison River Basin hearing - Wednesday, June 18	Western State College, Gunnison, CO	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM
Colorado River Basin hearing - Thursday, August 21	Glenwood Springs, CO Glenwood Springs Branch Library	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Dolores-San Miguel-San Juan River Basin - Wednesday, August 27	Durango, CO Durango Public Library	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Rio Grande Basin hearing - Thursday, August 28	Alamosa, CO - Location to be determined	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Arkansas River Basin hearing - Friday, August 29	Pueblo, CO Rawlings Library	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Yampa-White River Basin - Tuesday, September 16	Steamboat Springs, CO - Location to be determined	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
North Platte River Basin hearing -Tuesday, September 16	Walden, CO - Location to be determined	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
South Platte River Basin hearing - Wednesday, September 17	Fort Collins, CO Old Town Library, Community Combo Room	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Denver Metropolitan Area hearing - Wednesday, October 1	Denver CO - Metropolitan State University of Denver Decision Theater	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

---

<sup>4</sup> Times may change depending on the committee's workload. Latest agendas will be available at: [www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC).

**Table 1**  
**Water Resources Review Committee Meeting and Tour Schedule (Cont.)**

Date	Location	Time <sup>5</sup>
<b>2014 Committee Field Trips</b>		
Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13.	Colorado Foundation for Water Education Yampa Basin Tour	
Wednesday, June 18 - Friday, June 20	Colorado Water Workshop - Western State College, Gunnison, CO	
Colorado Water Congress - Wednesday, August 20 - Friday, August 22	Westin Snowmass Resort, Snowmass, CO	

**Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council**

**Bill limits.** Each bill recommended by the committee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the committee, or at least seven members. The committee is limited to recommending three bills to the Legislative Council, unless two-thirds of the members of the Water Resources Review Committee vote to recommend a greater number.<sup>6</sup> Such greater number may not exceed one bill or other measure per member or up to ten bills and resolutions. However, the committee must obtain permission from the Executive Committee of Legislative Council if it wants to exceed the five-bill limit that is specified in joint rule.<sup>7</sup> The request to exceed the bill limit must be made at least 30 days before Legislative Council's deadline for approving interim committee recommendations.

**Legislative Council review of committee recommendations.** In even-numbered years, the Legislative Council must review interim committee recommendations by October 15. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session.<sup>8</sup> Bills not approved by Legislative Council may be introduced in the regular session, but such bills will count against a member's five bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.<sup>9</sup>

**Requirements for bill drafts.** The Executive Committee of Legislative Council's guidelines for interim committees require that at least a majority of the committee membership approve a bill in concept prior to requesting a bill draft. Requests must also be made at least three weeks before the final meeting to allow sufficient time for drafting and final consideration by the committee. Legislative Council must meet by October 15, 2014, to consider interim committee recommendations.

---

<sup>5</sup> Times may change depending on the committee's workload. Latest agendas will be available at: [www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC).

<sup>6</sup> Section 37-98-103 (1), C.R.S.

<sup>7</sup> Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D)

<sup>8</sup> Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E)

<sup>9</sup> Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E)

**Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee.** The Water Resources Review Committee has recommended 39 bills since it was created in 2001. Twenty-nine of these bills have been signed into law. It has also recommended five joint resolutions and drafted eleven letters to state and federal policymakers. The committee has also conducted 18 tours, covering all of Colorado's major river basins. Table 2 provides additional information about the committee's tours, legislative recommendations, and letters to policy makers.

**Table 2  
Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>Tour(s)</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
2013	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-day tour in the Platte River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• Attended Gunnison Water Workshop Western State Colorado University</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Bill 14-1026, Water Flexible Markets — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> <li>• House Bill 14-1028, Oppose Federal Special Use Permit Water Right Term — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> <li>• House Bill 14-1030, Hydroelectric Generation Incentives — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Joint Resolution 14-1002, Forest Products Transport Interstate Weight Limit — <i>approved</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 14-025, Wastewater Treatment Small Communities Grants — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 14-026, Division of Water Resources Remove Printing Requirements — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Letter 1 — to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expressing concern about the draft FDA agricultural water standards</li> <li>• Letter 2 — to Governor Hickenlooper urging him to ensure that Colorado's agricultural, municipal, and commercial water users are able to promptly repair or replace water infrastructure that was damaged during the September 2013 floods</li> </ul>
2012	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Southern metropolitan area of the Denver Basin</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Bill 13-1013, Protect Water Right Ownership Rights — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> <li>• House Joint Resolution 13-1004, Oppose Forest Service Water Permit Requirement — <i>lost in the Senate</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 13-072, No Final Well Permit Required Denver Basin Designated — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 13-073, General Permits Stormwater Rule-making — <i>enacted</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 13-074, Irrigation Water Right Historical Use Acreage — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 13-075, Promote Water Conservation Of Designated Ground Water — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 13-078, Erroneously Located Water Diversion Points — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Joint Resolution 13-005, Use of Severance Tax for Water Infrastructure — <i>adopted</i></li> </ul>

**Table 2**  
**Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001 (Cont.)**

Year	Number of Meetings	Tour(s)	Recommendation(s)
2011	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Colorado River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 12-008, Postpone Repeal Date for Denver Basin Aquifer Pumping Requirement — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 12-009, Consolidate Division of Water Resources Cash Funds — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Joint Resolution 12-002, Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Infrastructure — <i>adopted</i></li> <li>• House Bill 12-1010, Reissue Lost Mutual Ditch Share Certificate — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 12-1022, Establish Water Replacement Requirement for Mines — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 12-1078, Exempt Drinking Water Certification Designation — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Letter urging Colorado's Congressional delegation to support legislation to extend federal "Good Neighbor Authority" to manage forests on public lands</li> </ul>
2010	Interim committees were suspended during the 2010 interim.		
2009	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Rio Grande Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• 1-day tour of the Animas-La Plata storage project near Durango</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 10-019, Valuation of New Hydroelectric Facilities — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 10-025, Extend Water Efficiency Grant Program — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 10-1006, Fund Division of Water Resources with Tier 1 Operational Account Moneys — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> </ul>
2008	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5-day tour in the South Platte River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• half-day tour of the Republican River Basin</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 09-015, White River Water Division Change — <i>signed into law</i></li> </ul>
2007	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Gunnison and Uncompahgre River basins with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• 1-day tour in the Yampa River Basin</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 08-010, Board of Directors of the Water Resources and Power Development Authority — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 08-1030, Exemption for Depletions from Pumping that Occurred Prior to 1974 — <i>lost in the Senate</i></li> <li>• Letter 1 — urging Colorado's congressional delegation to fund a study concerning options for increasing water storage in Chatfield Reservoir that is located on the South Platte River, southwest of Denver</li> <li>• Letter 2 — expressing support for funding for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in the 2007 Farm Bill</li> <li>• Letter 3 — expressing concern to the congressional delegation about H.R. 720, the "Water Quality Financing Act of 2007"</li> </ul>

**Table 2**  
**Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001 (Cont.)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>Tour(s)</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
2006	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Upper Colorado River and the Upper Arkansas River basins with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 07-008, Expansion of the Water Efficiency Grant Program — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 07-1056, Increase the Compensation for Directors of Certain Water Districts — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Joint Resolution 07-1004, Request that Congress support the federal "Rural Colorado Water Infrastructure Act" — <i>adopted</i></li> </ul>
2005	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in northwestern Colorado including the Upper Colorado River and the Yampa-White basins</li> <li>• half day tour of the South Platte River Basin</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 06-034, Appointments to the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 06-037, Adjudication of Recreational In-channel Diversions — <i>signed into law</i></li> </ul>
2004	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-day tour in the South Platte River Basin</li> <li>• 4-day tour in the Lower Gunnison, Dolores, Animas, La Plata, San Juan, and Rio Grande River basins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 05-011, Water Project Revolving Fund Eligibility Lists — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 05-045, Authorization for Certain Water Districts to Provide Park and Recreation Services in Connection with a Reservoir — <i>signed into law</i></li> </ul>
2003	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-day tour in the Upper Gunnison, the Rio Grande, and the Arkansas River basin</li> <li>• 2-day tour in the Upper Colorado River Basin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 04-013, Deadlines for Senate Confirmation of Water Boards — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 04-032, Loans of Agricultural Water Rights — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 04-039, Limit Voting Rights of Ex Officio Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> <li>• House Bill 04-1035, Prohibit Proxy Voting by Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 04-1040, Mitigation of Transbasin Diversions — <i>lost in House</i></li> </ul>
2002	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-day tour in the Arkansas River Basin</li> <li>• Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 03-045, Increase Well Permit Fees for Well Inspections and Oversight of Well Contractors — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Senate Bill 03-047, Extend Water Resources Review Committee — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 03-1005, Extend Water Augmentation Requirements for Water Divisions 1 and 2 — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Letter 1 — requesting the Department of Natural Resources Executive Director to encourage the release of water from Cherry Creek Reservoir to augment South Platte River wells</li> <li>• Letter 2 — requesting Colorado's congressional delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to encourage a streamlined approach to forest management on federal lands</li> <li>• Letter 3 — requesting Colorado's congressional delegation to support federal legislation that funds research on the impact of invasive plants on water supplies</li> </ul>

**Table 2**  
**Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001 (Cont.)**

Year	Number of Meetings	Tour(s)	Recommendation(s)
2001	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day tour in the Gunnison River Basin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 02-045, Continue the Water Resources Review Committee — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• House Bill 02-1012, Appropriation for Species Conservation Trust Fund — <i>postponed indefinitely</i></li> <li>• House Bill 02-1024, Qualification for Electors of Irrigation Districts — <i>signed into law</i></li> <li>• Letter 1 — requesting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to delay new water quality rules and expressing concern about water delivery obligations for endangered species</li> <li>• Letter 2 — expressing concern to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior about quantification of the reserved water right for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park</li> </ul>