



Colorado Legislative Council Staff

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MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2015

TO: Members of the Water Resources Review Committee
FROM: David Beaujon, Senior Analyst, 303-866-4781
SUBJECT: Overview of Water Resources Review Committee

Summary

This memorandum describes the Water Resources Review Committee's membership, charge, meeting schedule, 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.

2015 Water Resources Review Committee

Senator Ellen Roberts, Chair	Representative Ed Vigil, Vice-chair
Senator Randy Baumgardner	Representative Jeni Arndt
Senator Mary Hodge	Representative Jon Becker
Senator Matt Jones	Representative Don Coram
Senator Jerry Sonnenberg	Representative Diane Mitsch Bush

Membership requirements. The Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC) 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).¹ During odd-numbered years, the President appoints the chair and the Speaker 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;

¹ 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 of the ten 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 14-115 and statewide hearings on the Colorado Water Plan. Pursuant to Senate Bill 14-115, the WRRC is required to review statewide planning for water resources. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is required to submit a draft state water plan to the WRRC by July 1, 2015, after which the WRRC must hold at least one public hearing in each basin to collect feedback from the public. The WRRC must provide a summary of the public's feedback as well as its own feedback to the CWCB by November 1, 2015. Table 1 identifies deadlines set by the CWCB for public comment on the draft Colorado water plans and other events. The WRRC 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 WRRC of a state water plan or plan amendment, any member of the General Assembly may request that the WRRC 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's bill or meeting limit.

**Table 1
CWCB's 2015 Deadlines for Colorado Water Plan**

Date	Deadline
February 27, 2015	Public comment deadline for Basin Implementation Plans (BIP)
April 27, 2015	Deadline to submit final BIPs to CWCB
May 1, 2015	Public comment deadline for first draft CWP
July 15, 2015	Deadline to release second draft CWP
September 17, 2015	Public comment deadline for second draft CWP
December 10, 2015	Deadline to submit final CWP to the Governor

Field trips and meetings. The committee is authorized to meet up to eight times during odd-numbered years and to take up to two field trips.² Table 2 identifies the seven meetings and two 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 Colorado Water Plan (CWP), pursuant to Senate Bill 14-115. Agendas for committee meetings will be posted on the committee's website at: www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC.

² Section 37-98-102 (1)(a), C.R.S.

Table 2
Water Resources Review Committee Meetings and Field Trips

Date	Location	Time
Regular Committee Meetings		
Monday, July 20	Durango, CO - <i>Holiday Inn & Suites</i> 21636 Hwy 160 West	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 21	Montrose, CO - Montrose Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S Townsend Avenue	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 22	Craig, CO - Clarion Inn and Suites, 300 S. Highway 13	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 10	Alamosa, CO - Inn of the Rio Grande Hotel and Conference Center, 333 Santa Fe Avenue	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 19	Vail Cascade Resort, Vail, CO	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 15 - <i>Last day to request draft legislation</i>	State Capitol Building - SCR 356	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 29 - <i>Last day to approve legislative recommendations</i>	State Capitol Building - SCR 356	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Senate Bill 14-115 Hearings Concerning Colorado Water Plan		
First Colorado Water Plan Field Trip (July 20 - 22)		
Monday, July 20 - Dolores-San Miguel-San Juan River Basin	Durango, CO - <i>Holiday Inn & Suites</i> 21636 Hwy 160 West	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 21 - Gunnison River Basin	Montrose, CO - Montrose Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S Townsend Ave	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 22 - Yampa-White River Basin	Craig, CO - Clarion Inn and Suites, 300 S. Highway 13	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Second Colorado Water Plan Field Trip (August 10 - 12)		
Monday, August 10 - Rio Grande Basin	Alamosa, CO - Inn of the Rio Grande Hotel and Conference Center, 333 Santa Fe Ave	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11 - Arkansas River Basin	Salida, CO - Salida Community Center, 305 F Street	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 12 - Colorado River Basin	Granby, CO - Inn at Silver Creek 62927 US Highway 40	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Third Colorado Water Plan Field Trip (September 14 and 15)		
Monday, September 14 - North Platte River Basin	Walden, CO - US Forest Service Parks District Office, 100 Main Street	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14 - South Platte River Basin	Greeley, CO - Island Grove Event Center, 421 N. 15th Avenue	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 15 - Denver Metropolitan Area	Aurora CO - Aurora City Council Chamber, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Table 2
Water Resources Review Committee Meeting and Tour Schedule (Cont.)

2015 Committee Field Trips	
Date	Location
Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12	Colorado Foundation for Water Education metro area tour
Colorado Water Congress - Wednesday, August 19 - Friday, August 21	Vail Cascade Resort, Vail, CO

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits. Each bill recommended by the committee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the committee members, or at least seven members. The committee is limited to recommending three bills to the Legislative Council, unless two-thirds of the Water Resources Review Committee members vote to recommend a greater number.³ Such greater number may not exceed one bill or other measure per member or up to ten bills and resolutions.

Legislative Council review of committee recommendations. In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Council must review interim committee recommendations by November 15. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session.⁴ 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.⁵

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 31 days before the final meeting to allow sufficient time for drafting, the preparation of a fiscal note, and final consideration by the committee.

Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee. The Water Resources Review Committee has recommended 45 bills since it was created in 2001. Thirty six of these bills have been signed into law, and 9 bills have been postponed indefinitely or deemed lost. It has also recommended five joint resolutions and drafted eleven letters to state and federal policymakers. The committee has conducted 19 tours, covering all of Colorado's major river basins. Table 3 provides additional information about the committee's tours, legislative recommendations, and letters to policy makers.

³ Section 37-98-103 (1), C.R.S.

⁴ Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E)

⁵ Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E)

**Table 3
Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001**

Year	Number of Meetings	Tour(s)	Recommendation(s)
2014	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in the Yampa River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education • Attended Gunnison Water Workshop at Western State Colorado University • Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 15-1006, Invasive Phreatophyte Grant Program — <i>signed into law</i> • House Bill 15-1013, South Platte Aquifer Study Recommendations — <i>signed into law</i> • House Bill 15-1016, Promote Precipitation Harvesting Pilot Projects — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 15-008, Promote Water Conservation In Land Use Planning — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 15-010, Repeal New Augmentation Standard Dawson Aquifer — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 15-017, Appellate Process For Decisions About Groundwater — <i>postponed indefinitely</i>
2013	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-day tour in the Platte River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education • Attended Gunnison Water Workshop Western State Colorado University • Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 14-1026, Water Flexible Markets — <i>postponed indefinitely</i> • House Bill 14-1028, Oppose Federal Special Use Permit Water Right Term — <i>postponed indefinitely</i> • House Bill 14-1030, Hydroelectric Generation Incentives — <i>signed into law</i> • House Joint Resolution 14-1002, Forest Products Transport Interstate Weight Limit — <i>approved</i> • Senate Bill 14-025, Wastewater Treatment Small Communities Grants — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 14-026, Division of Water Resources Remove Printing Requirements — <i>signed into law</i> • Letter 1 — to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expressing concern about the draft FDA agricultural water standards • 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
2012	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in the Southern metropolitan area of the Denver Basin • Attended Colorado Water Congress summer conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 13-1013, Protect Water Right Ownership Rights — <i>postponed indefinitely</i> • House Joint Resolution 13-1004, Oppose Forest Service Water Permit Requirement — <i>lost in the Senate</i> • Senate Bill 13-072, No Final Well Permit Required Denver Basin Designated — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 13-073, General Permits Stormwater Rule-making — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 13-074, Irrigation Water Right Historical Use Acreage — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 13-075, Promote Water Conservation Of Designated Ground Water — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Bill 13-078, Erroneously Located Water Diversion Points — <i>signed into law</i> • Senate Joint Resolution 13-005, Use of Severance Tax for Water Infrastructure — <i>adopted</i>

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

Table 3
Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2001 (Cont.)

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

Table 3
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"> • 2-day tour in the Gunnison River Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 02-045, Continue the Water Resources Review Committee — <i>signed into law</i> • House Bill 02-1012, Appropriation for Species Conservation Trust Fund — <i>postponed indefinitely</i> • House Bill 02-1024, Qualification for Electors of Irrigation Districts — <i>signed into law</i> • Letter 1 — requesting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to delay new water quality rules and expressing concern about water delivery obligations for endangered species • 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