

# The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014

July 2013-June 2014



**Your State. Your Water. Your Future.**

[www.yourwatercolorado.org](http://www.yourwatercolorado.org)

# Letter from the Executive Director

## Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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In 2014, the entire staff and board of CFWE worked on navigating the challenge of managing growth. Since 2007, when I started as Executive Director, CFWE has gone from two to five full-time staff and our budget has increased accordingly. With more capacity comes the ability to do more great water education for Colorado, but determining which path to go down can be tricky.

There isn't a lack of great ideas. Every week brings a new offer to partner or a creative idea to further our mission. The difficulty is to set our sights on clear goals and not be distracted by other possibilities that arise. There is a balancing act to achieve, one that lets you stick to identified goals but not be so single-minded as to lose flexibility or be unable to respond to changing circumstances.

As we've grown, CFWE has become more intentional about the impact we want our work to have. Our form of education involves not only increasing knowledge, but identifying and shaping values, and ultimately putting it all to use through doing things better or differently. This kind of work is long-term, and may not bear easily identifiable fruit for years.

The importance of water education to our state's future is clear and often cited. Numerous local, state and national reports identify educating the general public and specific interest groups as a critical need. But the resources currently dedicated to water education pale in comparison to what is required. At CFWE, for example, our educational tours sell out weeks in advance, leaving dozens of people on waiting lists. The problem isn't interest—it's capacity to meet that interest.

Given the clear need, why hasn't that investment happened? I believe it's because there exists a belief that water education is, at best, unmeasurable and without definable results and, at worst, is an unnecessary junket. This obviously troubles me, as I see the results of good water education and can attest that it is making a difference in our state.

Good water education increases awareness of the severity and complexity of water issues, creating concern and the desire to get involved.

Good water education broadens perspectives and helps us walk a mile in another's shoes, developing compassion for other viewpoints and a willingness to explore rather than disengage in the midst of disagreement.

Good water education widens the number of people invested in our water and river systems, producing collaborative solutions that meet multiple needs.

Good water education promotes uncommon alliances by connecting people around common interests instead of dividing them with their differences.

Over the next few years, I want CFWE to help lead a movement to communicate the value of water education, spur increased investment in carrying it out, and foster the work of the dozens of local education organizations across Colorado. Everyone who cares about Colorado has a stake in CFWE's mission, and I would like to thank our donors, volunteers and partners for their help in ensuring that all Coloradans speak fluent water.

We couldn't do it with you.

In gratitude,

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education



The Colorado Foundation for Water Education offers an array of publications, tours, events, and other programs to fulfill its mission. These programs reach a variety of audiences, including members, water professionals, and other interested citizens. What are the outcomes and impacts of these programs? Read on to find CFWE’s desired goals for water-related awareness, knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values, decision-making skills, and responsibility and participation, and the programs targeted to meet these goals.

## Mission Statement

*Promote better understanding of Colorado’s water resources and issues through balanced and accurate information and education.*

## Vision Statement

*Coloradans, through an improved understanding of water's complexities and trade-offs, will make more informed water resource decisions.*

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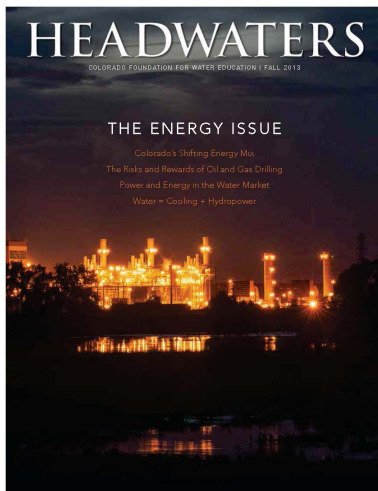


## Goal: Awareness

*CFWE's work will increase awareness that water is a scarce and valuable resource*

### Headwaters Magazine

Headwaters magazine has become a trusted source for up-to-date news from the world of Colorado water. CFWE reached over 9,000 Coloradans with *Headwaters* this year. This year, *Headwaters* explored the water-energy nexus, highlighted the work of water educators, and covered the devastation and recovery of the 2013 floods.

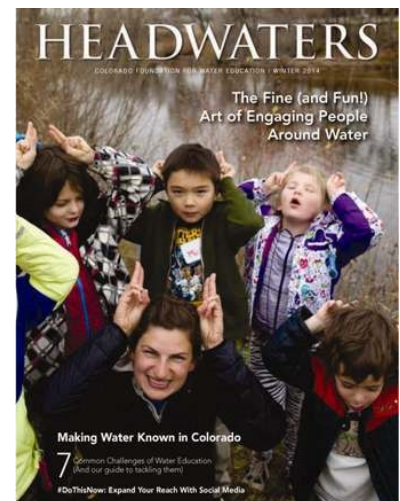


#### *Fall 2013: The Energy Issue*

A reliable power supply is integral to our day-to-day lives, and that power supply is reliant on water. This issue explores Colorado's water-energy nexus, from production to power generation, as well as the challenges presented by water markets, growing populations, urban interfaces, and the creative solutions that may resolve them.

#### *Winter 2014: Education and Civic Engagement*

Water educators are on a mission for people to know more about water, and to know enough to care and act. This issue explores the challenges of water education and engagement in Colorado, with inspiring ideas for overcoming them. The issue also provides a toolkit for water educators.



#### *Summer 2014: Flooded*



The September 2013 flood disaster was financially the most devastating flood Colorado has faced this century. This issue covers the events of 2013 (and how it could have been worse), the rush of flood recovery efforts targeting short and long-term resiliency, and the opportunities that a strong rebuild presents.

## Goal: Awareness

*CFWE's work will increase awareness that water is a scarce and valuable resource*

### Legislative Lunch



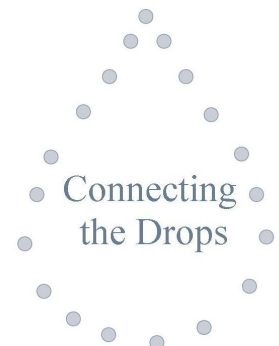
Each year, CFWE leads a legislative lunch at the state Capitol. The goal of the lunch is to keep water issues “top of mind” for our state decision-makers and ensure they are familiar with the educational resources CFWE has to offer. This year, 20 busy legislators, as well as aides, lobbyists, and staff, joined us to learn how policymakers and elected officials are involving the public in Colorado's Water Plan. Attendees heard how the Director of the CWCB, state leaders and local basin roundtables are effectively engaging their constituencies and taking action.

### Your Water Colorado Blog

CFWE staff and volunteers have been blogging since January 2012 to reach new audiences, provide a forum for discussion, and share information about water news, events, and CFWE updates. We’ve covered important topics like drought, water availability, the energy-water nexus, water rates, water infrastructure, big events, water news and much more. Over the last year, the “Your Water Colorado” blog received more than 18,000 views. Visit the blog online at [blog.yourwatercolorado.org](http://blog.yourwatercolorado.org) to subscribe and read the latest.

### Connecting the Drops Radio Series

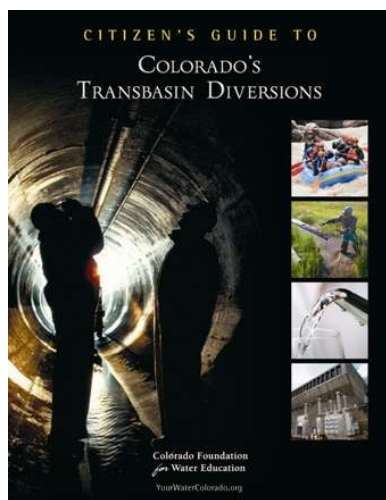
The Colorado Foundation for Water Education and Rocky Mountain Community Radio came together to put high-quality water reporting on the radio airwaves, reaching thousands across Colorado. Through the Connecting the Drops radio series, we’re producing monthly water segments on topics such as the water-energy nexus, buy-and-dry in Colorado agriculture, the Colorado River, water for beer, and much more. Interested Coloradans have had a chance to ask the experts about their water concerns through our call-in shows. All episodes are available online at [yourwatercolorado.org](http://yourwatercolorado.org).



## Goal: Knowledge and Understanding

*CFWE's work will enhance understanding of water's role in CO and its inherent complexities and tradeoffs*

### Citizen's Guide Series



CFWE added a new title to its library this year with the Citizen's Guide to Colorado's Transbasin Diversions. The guide explores the history, costs and benefits of these controversial water projects, from both an historic and current point of view.

The Citizen's Guide series, now covering ten different topics, were the first of CFWE's educational offerings, providing Coloradans and CFWE supporters access to reliable, accurate information on some of the most vital topics in Colorado water. This year, CFWE distributed over 4,000 Citizen's Guides to recipients throughout Colorado and across the country. Of those guides, CFWE distributed 1,100 free Citizen's Guides through the annual give-away, made possible by CWCB.

### 2013 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference

CFWE partnered with the Colorado Watershed Assembly and the Colorado Riparian Association to host the 2013 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference. The conference aims to expand cooperation and collaboration throughout Colorado in natural resource conservation, protection and enhancement by informing participants about new issues and innovative projects. In 3 days, the conference educated over 200 concerned individuals, watershed groups and other professionals on watershed science, public policy and technical best practices.



CFWE hosted a pre-conference workshop, "Collecting Evidence of Your Impact," which covered different tools for program evaluation, including how to develop measurable output and outcome statements, methods for collecting data and information, and use of evaluation as leverage for funding and administrative attention.

#### Participants said:

- "I met a lot of inspiring people and made connections to many individuals and ideas."
- "I learned that no matter what your profession is, or your demographics, or what you enjoy doing... we ALL use water and we ALL have a responsibility in the issue of caring for and understanding it."



## Goal: Attitudes and Values

*CFWE's work will illustrate and examine differing water-related values*

### Urban Waters Bike Tours

Avid and aspiring cyclists joined the third series of the Urban Waters Bike Tour in May 2014. CFWE hosted 60 students and professionals as we cycled along the South Platte River in Denver, discussing where our water comes from, where it goes, and the relationship between river health and urban development.

Participants said:

- “Interesting knowledgeable speakers, fun interesting people and time to interact.”
- “Thoughtful and engaging presentations.”
- “Wide variety of participants with different backgrounds interests, good learning experience.”
- “Learned a lot about urban watershed.”



### Climate and Colorado's Water Future Workshop

CFWE's annual workshop at the National Ice Core Laboratory gave 50 educators and scientists an inside look at how climate data is extracted from polar regions. Participants braved the  $-22^{\circ}$  freezer to see the stored ice cores. Attendees also received interactive teaching tools and learned how climate impacts water resources and the environment.

Participants said:

- “Great summaries of cutting edge research”
- “Provided resources for water/climate/legal information, provided a diverse perspective of climate change”



## Goal: Attitudes and Values

*CFWE's work will illustrate and examine differing water-related values*

### Land and Water Tour

In September 2013, 40 participants on the Land and Water Tour explored how water development and land use policy planning interact by visiting the Rueter-Hess Reservoir, Castle Rock, Sterling Ranch and other intriguing sites. We learned how the region is transitioning to renewable water supplies and looking towards innovative approaches in managing urban growth.

Participants said:

- “The opportunity to meet other water providers and discuss alternative mechanisms to bring renewable water to Douglas County was invaluable.”
- “The variety of activities and diversity of experience was very valuable.”



### Energy Tour

In November 2013, 40 participants joined CFWE for our first ever energy-water nexus tour. This unique on-the-ground learning opportunity led us into northeastern Colorado's Denver-Julesburg Basin where we witnessed water use as it relates to industry operations, regulation, environmental considerations and community planning.



Participants said:

- “I feel like I get real information that is not slanted in any way. You have created a safe space to ask questions.”
- “It was an awesome day with diverse speakers, great access to the sites, and lots of great info.”



## Goal: Attitudes and Values

*CFWE's work will illustrate and examine differing water-related values*

### Yampa Basin Tour



In June 2014, 50 participants gained first-hand experiences learning about river recreation, agriculture, ecological health, future water demands and more in Northwestern Colorado's Yampa Basin. We were joined by a diverse group of elected officials, decision makers, water professionals, interested citizens and many others and visited exclusive sites and expert speakers.

Participants said:

- “I began the tour as a water novice and left able to carry on a sophisticated conversation on the subject. Thank you for introducing me to these issues and for providing an excellent collection of speakers to do so.”



Participants said:

- “Re-enforced how much the people in the Yampa Valley love the river and their life there.”
- “Prior to the tour, I was unaware of the remarkable level of cooperation between water users in the basin.”





## Goal: Decision-Making Skills

*CFWE's work will develop and promote critical thinking skills and leadership*

### Water Educator Network



In 2014, CFWE launched a new resource for educators across Colorado: the Water Educator Network. The Network aims to build the capacity of local water educators, and thereby increase the amount, quality and effectiveness of water education in Colorado communities. Strong and effective water education programs have the potential to grow the knowledge, change the attitudes and increase the involvement of tens of thousands of Colorado youth and adults annually. This will lead to a more active and involved citizenry that advocates for balanced, sustainable solutions.

The Water Educator Network provides customized communication, a central repository of information, specialized trainings, and forums for educators to showcase and share their work. The Network's first trainings focused on water festivals, interpretation of complex water topics, and program evaluation. The initial launch garnered 25 members, and membership continues to grow.

The Water Educator Network is made possible by partnerships with Xcel Energy and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education. The Network carries on the spirit of water education collaboration generated through the Water 2012 initiative.



## Goal: Decision-Making Skills

*CFWE's work will develop and promote critical thinking skills and leadership*

### Water Leaders



In March, CFWE welcomed its seventh class of Water Leaders. These 15 mid-level water professionals from around the state participated in leadership assessments, management training, in-the-field exploration, and personal networking sessions, all intended to boost their leadership potential.

### Water Leaders Class of 2014

- Jason Carey—RiverRestoration.org
- Adam Cwiklin—Town of Fraser
- Aaron Derwingson—The Nature Conservancy
- Julia Gallucci—Colorado Springs Utilities
- James Henderson—711 Ranch
- Dawn Jewell—Aurora Water
- Lurna Kaatz—Denver Water
- Aimee Konowal—Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment
- Steve Malers—Open Water Foundation
- Maria Pastore—Wilson Water Group
- Klinton Reedy—Black and Veatch
- Gigi Richard—Water Center at Colorado Mesa University
- Jennifer Shanahan—Fort Collins Utilities
- Enrique Triana—MWH
- James VanShaar—Bureau of Reclamation

#### Participants said:

- “Thank you so much for this opportunity. It was truly a full spectrum program - education, relationships, introspection and growth.”
- “The best thing I've done for my career development, in years and maybe ever.”





## Goal: Responsibility and Participation

*CFWE's work will inspire a commitment to informed water decision-making*

### President's Award Reception



Alan Hamel accepts the President's Award

On May 2, 165 friends, supporters, and colleagues joined CFWE at History Colorado to celebrate the 2014 President's Award. The award pays tribute to those who demonstrate steadfast commitment to water resources education.

This year, CFWE recognized Alan Hamel, current chair of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, for his lifetime dedication to Colorado's water. Alan's career included 30 years with the Board of Water Works of Pueblo.

Sean Cronin of St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District received CFWE's Emerging Leader Award. CFWE confers this award in recognition of current, significant contributions to balanced water resources information and education. Sean was recognized for his work in the 2013 flood recovery, as well as his past work preparing for drought.



Emerging Leader Sean Cronin accepts his award from CFWE President Gregg Ten Eyck



Guests mingle at History Colorado



Denver Water and the spirit of conservation



CFWE staff members celebrate



Colleagues and friends catch up

*The Colorado Foundation for Water Education would like to thank its financial supporters. Their generosity makes a state where all residents “speak fluent water” possible.*

**Endowing Partners (\$20,000+)**

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Xcel Energy Foundation

**Headwaters Supporters (\$5,000+)**

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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/ Water Quality Control Division

Colorado River District

Denver Suburban Water District

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association



## Financial Supporters & Volunteers

### Basin Supporters (\$2,000+)

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CDM Smith	Emily Griffith Technical College	South Platte Water Related Activities Program
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City of Longmont	Nestle Waters North America	Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority	Patrick Miller Kropf Noto	Ute Water Conservancy District
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Colorado Division of Water Resources	Metro Wastewater Reclamation District	Town of Monument
Colorado Farm Bureau	Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District	The Water Information Program
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	The Nature Conservancy	White & Jankowski, LLP
Colorado Springs Utilities		Wright Water Engineers



## Financial Supporters & Volunteers

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City of Thornton	Maynes Bradford Shipps & Sheftel, LLP	Weld County Farm Bureau
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Zachary Smith	University of Denver Water Law Review	W-Y GW Management District
Laurel Stadjuhar	Laurian Unnevehr	Kristina Wynne
States West Water	Upper Thompson Sanitation District	Margot Zallen
Pavlos Stavropoulos	Cindy Vassios	
David Stiller		
Gordon Stonington		



### Volunteers

CFWE relies on hundreds of volunteers to help brainstorm, plan and implement our programs. Their involvement in our work is so very important. Thank you to all who gave time to help Colorado “speak fluent water!”

Marc Alston	James Eklund	Patty Limerick	Brian Romig
Erik Anglund	Mitchell Espinoza	Dave Little	Chris Rowe
Billy Atkinson	Harold Evans	James Lochhead	Denise Rue-Pastin
Joe Aucoin	Paul Fanning	Becky Long	John Salazar
Kristen Averyt	Kate Fay	Judy Lopez	Kim Sanchez
Linda Bassi	Stephen Fearn	Scott Lorenz	John Sanderson
David Bauer	Randy Fischer	Dan Luecke	Alyson Scott
Amy Beatie	Mike Fitzgerald	Jeff Lukas	Jeff Sellen
Drew Beckwith	Doug Flanders	Bruce Lytle	Thomas Sharp
Laura Belanger	Sarah Fowler	Jordan Macknick	Mark Shively
Richard Belt	Jay Gallagher	Mark Marlowe	Harold Smethills
Dan Birch	Julia Gallucci	Alicia Marrs	Travis Smith
Geoff Blakeslee	Michael Gease	Ben Martin	Zachary Smith
Jacob Bornstein	Mike Gibson	Ren Martyn	Kara Sobieski
Jackie Brown	Jim Gilmore	Kevin McBride	Brad Spangler
Matthew Brown	David Graf	Kate McIntire	Laurel Stadjuhar
Tom Browning	Tom Gray	James Meldrum	Natalie Stevens
Susan Buhr	Charles Grobe	Dave Miller	Dana Strongin
Rob Buirgy	Todd Hagenbuch	Becky Mitchell	John Stulp
Rick Cables	Jim Havey	Nat Miullo	Chris Sturm
Perry Cabot	Taylor Hawes	Patrick Mulhern	Stacy Tellinghuisen
Don Carlson	Polly Hays	Matt Mulica	Andrew Todd
Ken Carlson	Kelly Heaney	Tim Murrell	Greg Trainor
Tom Cech	Eric Hecox	James Newberry	Chris Treese
Tom Chart	John Hendrick	Noah Newman	Tom Trout
Laura Chartrand	Greg Hobbs	David Nickum	Ray Tschillard
Nick Colglazier	Cabell Hodge	Tim O'Keefe	Brad Udall
Dave Colvin	Hannah Holm	Tim Osborn	Steve Vandiver
Beorn Courtney	Amy Johnson	William Paddock	Brian Varrella
Sally Covington	Greg Johnson	Mary Palumbo	Kent Vertrees
Jeff Crane	Tyler Jones	Kathy Parker	Esther Vincent
Sean Cronin	Julie Kallenberger	Tom Parko	Ron vonLembke
Lurline Curran	Doug Kemper	Roger Partridge	Reagan Waskom
Scott Cuthbertson	Mike King	Chet Pauls	Marv Weible
Lisa Darling	Ken Knox	Jennifer Pitt	Pat Wells
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Betty Konarski	James Pokrandt	Patricia Wells
Casey Davenport	Tracy Kosloff	Craig Preston	Eric Wilkinson
Rio de la Vista	Adrianne Kroepsch	Dale Rademacher	Jim Witwer
Ron Dellacroce	Eric Kuhn	Douglas Rademacher	Kirby Wynn
Nolan Doesken	Kara Lamb	Ron Redd	Jim Yahn
Todd Doherty	Chris Landry	Kevin Rein	Travis Yee
Jeff Drager	Wesley LaVanchy	Craig Robinson	
Heather Dutton	Matt Lepore	Brendon Rockey	

## Statement of Financial Position<sup>1</sup>

For the year ended June 30th, 2014 with comparative totals for 2013

	2014	2013
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 109,578	\$ 99,327
Grants receivable - temporarily restricted	25,000	-
Contracts receivable	25,244	53,946
Memberships receivable	500	9,850
Prepaid expenses	3,019	6,987
Total assets	<u>\$ 163,341</u>	<u>\$ 170,110</u>
<u>Liabilities and net assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 3,292
Payroll accruals	24,437	16,484
Deferred tour income	-	8,572
Line of credit (Note 3)	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>24,437</u>	<u>28,348</u>
<u>Net assets</u>		
Unrestricted		
Operating	113,904	141,762
Temporarily restricted (Note 5)	25,000	-
Total net assets	<u>138,904</u>	<u>141,762</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 163,341</u>	<u>\$ 170,110</u>

<sup>1</sup>The Colorado Foundation for Water Education is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Financial statements are reviewed by Taylor, Roth and Co., an independent accounting firm. If you would like a copy of the full reviewed financial statements, please send your request to [info@yourwatercolorado.org](mailto:info@yourwatercolorado.org).



## Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30th, 2014 with comparative totals for 2013

	2014			2013
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Revenue and other support</b>				
Government grants and contracts	\$ 191,613	\$ -	\$ 191,613	\$ 226,167
Contributions	122,756	-	122,756	55,386
Program fees	108,328	-	108,328	88,488
Membership dues	79,352	-	79,352	70,642
Grants	-	50,000	50,000	-
Special events	30,710	-	30,710	29,303
Less: direct event expenses	(22,309)	-	(22,309)	(6,110)
Sale of materials	15,506	-	15,506	12,039
Interest	30	-	30	63
All other	2,991	-	2,991	4,075
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 6)	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
<b>Total revenue and other support</b>	<b>553,977</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>578,977</b>	<b>480,053</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Program services	339,397	-	339,397	346,048
Supporting services				
Management and general	178,229	-	178,229	112,633
Fund-raising	64,209	-	64,209	69,991
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>581,835</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>581,835</b>	<b>528,672</b>
Change in net assets	(27,858)	25,000	(2,858)	(48,619)
Net assets, beginning of year	141,762	-	141,762	190,381
Net assets, end of year	\$ 113,904	\$ 25,000	\$ 138,904	\$ 141,762

