The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 July 2014-June 2015



Your State. Your Water. Your Future.

www.yourwatercolorado.org

Letter from the Executive Director

Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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Programs never stop at CFWE, and by the time this annual report is published, our past accomplishments often seem far away. It is a joy for me to go back through the staff and Board's accomplishments with fresh eyes, and marvel at the amount of time, money, energy and dedication that goes into our work.

I am happy to present to you, our supporters and partners, the 2014-2015 Colorado Foundation for Water Education Annual Report.

In our programs, you will see our commitment to our organizational strategic plan, adopted this year, with new goals for 2015-2018:

- Ensure that decision-makers of today and tomorrow facing complex and important water resource decisions have the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions
- Ensure diverse perspectives are incorporated into water conversations by connecting decision-makers with myriad peers, stakeholders and citizens in a low pressure environment
- Stabilize program growth and further diversify and stabilize revenues

As you can see in the next pages, we've already been striving to meet these goals. We've explored the nexus of land and water use, connecting with land use planners and others who may not see themselves as water decision-makers. We also launched our first Water Fluency course, designed to help local decision-makers navigate the complexity of water issues.

To achieve our strategic goals, CFWE will leverage our strengths to focus on the education needs of a wider audience. We'll continue to provide balanced and accurate education and information, while considering diverse perspectives and facilitating dialog to advance the conversation around Colorado's water. But as hard as CFWE works to help Colorado "speak fluent water," our small staff would never accomplish so much without the backing of our financial supporters and volunteers, who are listed beginning on page 14. To all of you, our heartfelt thanks and 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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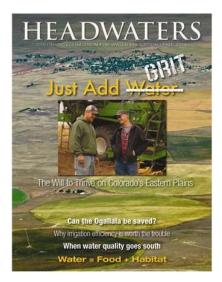
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CFWE's work will increase awareness that water is a scarce and valuable resource

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, as we explored Colorado's Eastern Plains, examined Colorado's Water Plan, and investigated the nexus between water and land use.

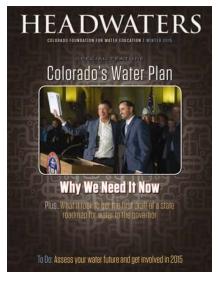


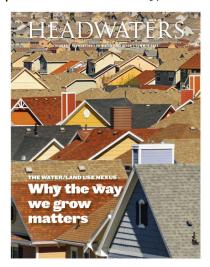
Fall 2014: Colorado's Eastern Plains

Colorado's High Plains encompass more than one-third of our state. This issue examines the challenges that are vital to this large region, including struggles to make the Ogallala Aquifer's groundwater last, strides in irrigation efficiency and technology, and the biggest threats to drinking water quality and health affecting plains communities.

Winter 2015: Colorado's Water Plan

As of December 2014, Coloradans have a draft water plan, outlining our collective priorities and plans for managing our most precious resource, looking out to 2050. This issue explores the Then, Now and Next of the water plan—how severe drought, competing demands, changing demographics and a governor's order culminated in this draft; how far we've gotten by late 2014; and even after the first plan is finalized in 2015, how much work remains to ensure success.





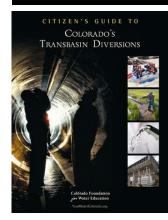
Summer 2015: Water and Land Use

Colorado's population is expected to rise to nearly 8 or 9 million people by 2050, just one of several challenges Coloradans face as we develop our land. Explore the nexus of land use and water, opportunities to merge these fields of planning, and protections to ensure the adequacy of water supplies—for both those who call Colorado home today and tomorrow. 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, 25 busy legislators, as well as aides, lobbyists, and staff, joined us to explore the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan. Attendees heard up-to-the-minute updates on what's going to be changing in the second draft, and how the Director of the CWCB, state leaders and local basin roundtables are effectively engaging their constituencies to provide input.

Transbasin Diversion Webinars



Your Water Colorado Blog

CFWE partnered with the Colorado Water Congress in a series of webinars on Colorado's transbasin diversions, reaching over 360 interested participants.

The first webinar covered the technical, political, and environmental requirements of transbasin diversions; the second profiled the Windy Gap Firming; and the third explored changing perceptions of transbasin diversions. With a diverse range of panelists and presenters, the webinars expanded on CFWE's new Citizen's Guide to Colorado's Transbasin Diversions. The webinars are recorded and available for viewing online.

CFWE staff and guest authors 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 Colorado's Water Plan, regional perspectives and issues in Colorado's river basins, water quality, watershed health, education, water events, and much more. Over the last year, the "Your Water Colorado" blog received more than 20,000 views. Visit the blog online at blog.yourwatercolorado.org to subscribe and read the latest.

Connecting the Drops Radio Series

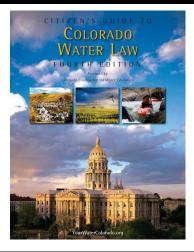
The Colorado Foundation for Water Education and Rocky Mountain Community Radio came together to put high-quality water reporting on the radio airwaves, reaching thousands across Colorado. Through the Connecting the Drops radio series, we're producing monthly water segments on topics such as water pricing, conservation, water quality, buy-and-dry in Colorado agriculture, public engagement and Colorado's Water Plan, 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.



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



This year, CFWE published a fourth edition of the Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law. This best-seller explores the basics of Colorado water law, how it has developed, and how it is applied today.

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 sold over 5,000 Citizen's Guides to recipients throughout Colorado and across the country. Additionally, CFWE distributed 2,320 free Citizen's Guides through the annual giveaway.

2014 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference

Each year, over 200 water professionals, interested citizens, and watershed group members gather to discuss watershed science, public policy and technical best practices at the 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 2014, CFWE partnered with the Colorado Watershed Assembly and the Colorado Riparian Association to host the conference.

CFWE hosted a pre-conference workshop, "Evaluation Capacity Development Training," the first in a series of evaluation workshops in collaboration with the OMNI Institute. The evaluation series was tailored to participant needs and implemented an experiential approach designed to help participants do

evaluation as they deepened their evaluation knowledge and skill base.

- 'No better place to go in Colorado for watershed education and networking.'
- 'This conference bring a very diverse group together.'
- 'The networking opportunities and face time with people I don't see often is invaluable. I learned how much coordination is happening on the state's water plan and how to get further involved.'



The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Goal: Attitudes and Values

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

Transbasin Diversion Tour

In September 2014, 35 elected officials, water managers, planners, educators, and interested individuals came together to investigate some of Colorado's transbasin diversions, to see and learn how water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, Homestake and Twin Lakes is managed, used and conveyed to various entities across the Continental Divide.

Participants said:

- "It helps to put things in perspective when you experience the large scale of these diversions first hand."
- "Full agenda, wealth of information, dramatic on the ground site visits, great representation of the different interest groups within water industry."



Water for Brewing Tour

In December 2014, 32 participants quenched their thirst for water education as they gained an inside look at water use, efficiency, conservation strategies, treatment and sustainability with breweries, by visiting Strange Brewing, Diebolt, and MillerCoors. It was a great day of networking, learning and touring.



- 'I was surprised to learn that many brewers, even small ones ... have really considered how they could make better use of water in their brewing process."
- "Great networking opportunity, informative presentations, opportunities to explore questions/ interests further with presenters on an individual basis.'

Goal: Attitudes and Values

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

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° freezer to see the stored ice cores and handle Antarctic ice samples. Attendees also received interactive teaching tools and learned how climate impacts water resources and the environment.





Participants said:

- "The tour of the Ice Core Lab was outstanding. The talk by the speakers were very informative"
- "Loved all the data given and steps taken for water/climate interaction."

Urban Waters Bike Tours

Avid and aspiring cyclists joined the fourth series of the Urban Waters Bike Tour in June 2015. These 54 students and professionals cycled along the South Platte River, visiting Chatfield State Park, South Platte Park, and the Littleton-Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Participants discussed

where our water comes from, where it goes, and the relationship between river health and urban development.

- "Beautiful easy bike ride, impressive projects, good speakers, interesting and diverse participants"
- "Great way to see all the projects, and connections between them, and also have a fun bike ride and get some exercise. Bike tour format was great for networking."



The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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

Water Efficiency Tour



In June 2015, 48 participants gained first-hand experiences learning about water efficiency along Colorado's Front Range. We saw the extent of water conservation and reuse and exemplary projects that other communities can use to cut their water use in the future. 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.



- "I'm personally motivated to change my yard to conserve water. I now think about conservation as one part of a bigger solution."
- "I now see how conservation isn't simple but is worth the effort and that regional cooperation and communications is the most important component of that. I also feel like the water plan will be a useful tool for accomplishing that and will make a difference."

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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

Water Educator Network



Launched in 2014, the Water Educator Network aims to build the capacity of local water educators, and thereby increase the amount, quality and effectiveness of water education in Colorado communities. The Water Educator Network provides customized communication, a central repository of information, specialized trainings, and forums for educators to showcase and share their work. Fifty members have joined the Network, representing non-formal educators, water utilities, private contractors, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

In total, the Water Educator Network has reached 248 participants through trainings, workshops, and symposiums. Network trainings have covered water festivals, interpretation of complex water topics, and program evaluation.

In March, the Network hosted a Water Educator Symposium attended by over 50 educators with the goal of convening educators, policymakers, artists, and scientists who care deeply about water to showcase best practices in water education programs that are transforming knowledge and experience into measurable results and to collaborate on existing resources to promote new and expanded water education.

The Water Educator Network is made possible by partnerships with Xcel Energy, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, and the OMNI

Institute.

- "It's a great way to connect with other educators, learn from their successes and stay current with water education methods & materials."
- "The partnership with OMNI created a brilliant new tool. It taught me things I didn't already know and I intend to implement my evaluation plan."



The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Goal: Decision-Making Skills

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

Water Leaders



In March, CFWE welcomed its eighth class of Water Leaders. These 15 mid-level water professionals from around the state participated extensive self-assessment, executive coaching, networking opportunities and application of learning to water issues statewide, all intended to boost their leadership potential. They also learned about regional water issues through sessions held in Colorado Springs, Estes Park, Grand Junction, and Denver.

Water Leaders Class of 2015

- Tammy Allen—CDPHE/WQCD
- Erik Anglund—Anadarko Petroleum
- Laura Belanger—Western Resource Advocates
- Matt Bond—Denver Water
- Sean Cronin—St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
- Jordan Dimick—Leonard Rice Engineers
- Heather Dutton—Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

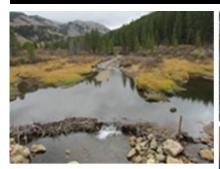
- Angie Fowler—SGM
- Hillary Hamann—University of Denver
- Ben McConahey—Hydro Venture Partners
- Kevin Niles—Arkansas Groundwater Users Association
- Susan Ryan—Ryley Carlock & Applewhite
- Stephanie Scott—Colorado Trout Unlimited
- David Skuodas—Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- Kristina Wynne—Bishop-Brogden Associates

- "The richness and diversity of the experience was fantastic—I really appreciated that many different aspects of water in Colorado were covered, either through the speakers brought in or through the field trips."
- "I am already using what I learned in the program in my personal and professional life, and I find myself telling people about what I learned all the time... it was truly a life changing program and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity."

Goal: Decision-Making Skills

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

Water Fluency



water fluency



In 2015, CFWE launched a new program for water decision-makers: the Water Fluency course. Over four months, 31 local decision-makers participated in site visits, in-person lectures, and facilitated dialogues to increase their knowledge and understanding of water resource issues. The course provided an introduction to Colorado's water resources, legal and institution frameworks, and water resource management, with discussions about Colorado's water future. The course helped participants develop a network of professional contacts as well as tools for navigating the culture, complexity and future of water management and policy issues.





- "It provided just the right overview of water use in Colorado and the issues surrounding water use and delivery. I feel very informed and feel able to inform my public about water issues."
- "For me being new to the industry the entire course was a great introduction to both policy and infrastructure.... All the topics discussed throughout the course will assist me in making more informed decisions."
- "The quality of the speakers, and the insight they provided, really blew me away..."

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

Goal: Responsibility and Participation

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

President's Award Reception



Jim Lochhead accepts the President's Award from CFWE President Gregg Ten Eyck and Vice President Greg Hobbs



Emerging Leader Greg Kernohan accepts his award from CFWE President Gregg Ten Eyck

On May 8, 140 friends, supporters, and colleagues joined CFWE at Space Gallery in Denver to celebrate the 2015 President's Award. The award pays tribute to those who demonstrate steadfast commitment to water resources education.

This year, CFWE recognized Jim Lochhead, of Denver Water. Jim's extensive career in water rights and law has embraced both West and East Slopes.

Greg Kernohan of Ducks Unlimited received CFWE's Emerging Leader Award. CFWE confers this award in recognition of current, significant contributions to balanced water resources information and education. Greg was recognized for his work helping farmers and cities address water needs while benefiting waterfowl.







The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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.

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The Colorado Foundation for Water Education

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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!"

Rachel Allen Marc Alston Pete Ampe **Erik Anglund Ron Aprin** Julie Ash Garald Barber Linda Bassi **Heather Beasley** Amy Beatie **Drew Beckwith Rich Belt** Matthew Betz Will Birchfield Geoff Blakeslee Christi Bode Jacob Bornstein Michael Brod James Broderick Carlee Brown Matthew Brown Todd Bryan **Rick Cables** Perry Cabot Don Carlson Mark Cassalia Tom Cech Sean Chambers Nicholas Colglazier Dave Colvin Sally Covington Lindsay Cox Sean Cronin Lurline Curran Deb Daniel Lisa Darling **Casey Davenhill** Alexandra Davis Rio de la Vista

Aaron Derwingson Stephanie DiBetitto Dan Diebolt Kelly DiNatale Nolan Doesken Jeff Drager Heather Dutton James Eklund John Ely John Entsminger Harold Evans Paul Fanning Steve Fearn Stuart Feinglas Randy Fischer Joe Frank John Fredell **Andrew Funchess** Jay Gallagher Julia Gallucci **Brent Gardner-Smith Russell George** Jord Gertson Mike Gibson Jim Gilmore Jennifer Gimbel Brett Gracely Jason Graham Barbara Green Joe Greiner Peter Grosshuesch Katya Hafich Alan Hamel Ellen Hanak Felicity Hannay Geoff Hargreaves Mike Harvey **Taylor Hawes** Eric Hecox

Donald Higbee Andy Hill Greg Hobbs Frank Holman Diane Hoppe **Emily Hunt** Julio Iturreria Amy Johnson Greg Johnson Laurna Kaatz Julie Kallenberger Melinda Kassen Joe Kelley Don Kennedy Doug Kenney Frank Kinder **Mike King** Gerry Knapp Katie Knoll Aimee Konowal Ted Kowalski Dan Kramer R. Eric Kuhn Karen Kwon Cindy Lair Chris Landry Skot Latona Patrice Lehermeier Matt Lepore Patty Limerick Kevin Linder Fred Linton Dave Little James Lochhead Judy Lopez Scott Lorenz Dan Luecke Jeff Lukas Kevin Lusk

Blake Magner Steve Malers Gene Manuello Mark Marsh Pat McDonald Kate McIntire **Rick McLoud** William Mihelich Bart Miller **Becky Mitchell** Peter Modreski **Benjamin Moline** Matt Mulica **Monique Mullis Tim Myers** Katie Navin **David Nettles** James Newberry Noah Newman David Nickum Ann Oliver William Paddock Glenn Patterson Pat Pfaltzgraff Chris Piasecki Jennifer Pitt Jim Pokrandt Peter Pollock Flo Raitano Ron Redd **Kevin Reidy** Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd Lauren Ris **David Robbins** Ellen Roberts **Brendon Rockey Donny Roush** Scott Roush Heidi Ruckriegle

John Salazar Mark Scharfenaker Joel Schneekloth Gloria Schoch Doug Scott Alyson Scott Nona Shipman George Sibley Lisa Sigler Harold Smethills Lesley Smith Fiona Smith Max Smith Travis Smith Zach Smith Kara Sobieski Jerry Sonnenberg Laurel Stadjuhar Natalie Stevens Dennis Stowe Dana Strongin John Stulp Mike Suarez Natalie Sullivan Gregg Ten Eyck Michael Thomas Andrew Todd Greg Trainor Chris Treese Tom Trout Tanya Trujillo Ray Tschillard Brad Udall Kevin Urie Wayne Vanderschuere Steve Vandiver James VanShaar Roy Vaughan Bruce Vaughn Becca Venable Esther Vincent Alan Ward Reagan Waskom Kathryn Weismiller Pat Wells

Volunteers, cont.

Patricia Wells Brian Werner Rob White Mely Whiting Scott Wik Eric Wilkinson Katherine Wilkins-Wells Rachel Williamson Laura Wing Steve Witte James Witwer Jim Witwer Dick Wolfe Jim Yahn



The CFWE staff thank all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication!

Statement of Financial Position¹

For the year ended June 30th, 2015 with comparative totals for 2014

	Audited 2015		Reviewed 2014	
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$	121,804	\$	109,578
Cash and cash equivalents - fiscal agent		11,139		-
Grants receivable - temporarily restricted		-		25,000
Contracts receivable		59,626		15,894
Memberships receivable		8,247		9,850
Prepaid expenses		2,775		3,019
Total assets	\$	203,591	\$	163,341
<u>Liabilities and net assets</u> Liabilities Accounts payable Payroll accruals	\$	32,366 28,692	\$	- 24,437
Fiscal agent		11,139		21,137 -
Line of credit (Note 3) Commitments (Note 4)		-		-
Total liabilities		72,197		24,437
Net assets Unrestricted				
Operating		131,394		113,904
Temporarily restricted		_		25,000
Total net assets		131,394		138,904
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	203,591	\$	163,341

¹The 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.

Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30th, 2015 with comparative totals for 2014

							Reviewed 2014		
Revenue and other support		Unrestricted		Temporarily Restricted		Total			Total
Government grants and contracts Program fees Contributions Membership dues Special events Less: direct event expenses Sale of materials Interest Grants All other Net assets released from restrictions (Net Total revenue and other support	ote 5)	\$	189,931 132,745 122,870 100,420 28,479 (16,579) 22,676 8 - 2,244 25,000 607,794	\$	- - - - - - - - (25,000)	\$	189,931 132,745 122,870 100,420 28,479 (16,579) 22,676 8 - 2,244 - 582,794	\$	191,613 108,328 122,756 79,352 30,710 (22,309) 15,506 30 50,000 2,991
<u>Expense</u> Program services			368,865		_		368,865		339,397
Supporting services Management and general Fund-raising			166,659 54,780		-		166,659 54,780		178,229 64,209
Total expense			590,304		-		590,304		581,835
Change in net assets			17,490		(25,000)		(7,510)		(2,858)
Net assets, beginning of year			113,904	. <u></u>	25,000		138,904		141,762
Net assets, end of year	:	\$	131,394	\$	-	\$	131,394	\$	138,904
Kevenue	Government gran contracts Program fees Contributions Membership dues Special events Sale of materials All other						•	Progra	am services gement and general

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education