



2020 Water Educator Symposium

Equipping Learners for Action in a Climate of Uncertainty

Virtual Format

August 20, 2020 9:00am - 5:00pm

Note: Exact timing will be modified as the agenda is adjusted to a virtual format.

Members of the Water Educator Network requested discussions around “inspiring action” and “civic participation”. The Statewide Water Education Action Plan for Colorado (SWEAP) describes an impact, that by 2025, Coloradans are “Empowered to take thoughtful action regarding critical water challenges facing the state and their communities.” SWEAP defines water education disciplines and related 2025 outcomes, including Behavior Change, as well as strategies, that if implemented, would achieve the outcomes and desired impact.

For learners, behavior change and action happen within the context of our daily lives. Water educators consistently face questions from learners about Colorado’s water future and regularly need to put their educational activities in context despite underlying uncertainties. An issue such as climate change can increase the anxiety of all learners, but particularly children as highlighted in reports from the [American Psychological Association](#), the [American Psychiatric Association](#), the [Washington Post](#), and Colorado’s own [KRCC](#). In addition, historically marginalized populations may be hesitant to participate in decision-making processes. If we are educating in part for action, how can we better understand the relationship between uncertainty, anxiety, and action? What responsibility do we have as educators for addressing this anxiety? How do we create a welcoming environment for civic participation in our decision-making bodies? What tools exist inside the field of education to tackle this? Please join us for a robust discussion of these challenging issues as well as examples of educators who are tackling the issue head on.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 4 (final registration deadline)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$105 Full Admission; \$85 Discounted/WEN Member Admission.

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources



DRAFT Workshop Agenda

Note: Exact timing will be modified as the agenda is adjusted to a virtual format.

- 9:00 am** **Welcome**
Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado
- Water Education Colorado and Water Educator Network
 - Review today's topic, agenda and a thank you to sponsors
- 9:10 am** **Introductions**
- Around the room introductions
 - What are you hoping to get out of today?
- 9:30 am** **Setting the Context: Statewide Water Education Action Plan**
Scott Williamson
- Overview of SWEAP
 - Water education disciplines
 - Action or "Behavior Change" in SWEAP and today's focus
- 10:00 am** **Climate Scenarios and Colorado's Water Future**
Megan Holcomb, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- 10:30 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am** **Uncertainty, Anxiety, and their Impact on Learners**
Jason Plautz, Journalist and author of the Washington Post article, The Environmental Burden of Generation Z: Kids are terrified, anxious and depressed about climate change. Whose fault is that?
- 11:15 am** **Tools and Responsibilities for Educators to Address Learner Anxiety**
- Socio-emotional tools for educators: creating a supportive environment for learners, from youth to adults - *Jay Loschert, Montezuma Land Conservancy*
 - Tools for decision-making bodies: Creating a welcoming environment for civic participation
- 12:00 pm** **Individual Reflection and Group Discussion**
- 12:30 pm** **Lunch Programming**

Note: Exact timing, breaks, and other format details will be modified as the agenda is adjusted to a virtual format.

2:00 pm **Return from lunch programming**

2:15 pm **Examples of Equipping Learners for Action (*Examples to be confirmed*)**

H2O Outdoors: Role play Colorado Water Scenarios – *Mary Dawson, Aurora Water and Matt Bond, Denver Water*

Youth Water Leadership Program – *Sarah Johnson, Wild Rose Education*

Providing policy makers access to factual information on water issues and associated tradeoffs – *Larry Morandi, freelance journalist and former Director of State Policy Research at National Conference of State Legislatures*

Creek Week: Lessons on how to plan your event to gain community interest in taking action – Alli Schuch, Fountain Creek Watershed District

3:40 pm **Break**

3:50 pm **Water Educator Case Studies**

Note: If you have a water education issue that you are facing as a water educator that you would like feedback on, please email scott@wateredco.org for more information and to be included as a case study.

- Break into small groups
- Presenter reads their case about a water education issue they are facing
- Participants ask clarifying questions
- Participants discuss presenter's question
- Presenter reflects on suggestions received and follow-up action plan

4:20 pm **Closing - Group Question**

- Groups discuss today's big question
- Report out

4:50 pm **Wrap up**

- Next steps
- Evaluation reminder

5:00pm **Adjourn**

Note: We will adjourn no later than 5:00pm. Exact adjourn time will be modified as the agenda is adjusted to a virtual format.