

# COLORADO GROWING WATER SMART

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND WATERSHEDS

Spring 2020

Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support by LightHawk

## Integrated Water and Land Use Planning Workshop

### When:

May 6 - 8, 2020

### Where:

Beaver Run Resort  
Breckenridge, CO

### Who Can Apply:

Colorado Municipalities and  
Counties

### Deadline:

Feb. 14, 2020



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## Why Integrate Water and Land Use Planning?

Growth, drought and the impacts of climate change in Colorado have created significant uncertainty about water availability in the coming decades. The Colorado Water Plan predicts that by 2050 the state could have an annual supply gap of 250,000 - 750,000 acre-feet. Balancing water needs with available water supplies and keeping it affordable is an increasing challenge. How will Colorado address this gap in a way that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and sustains Colorado's high quality of life in urban and rural communities?

Historically, water resources and land use planning have been conducted separately. Yet land use decisions have profound impacts on the quality and quantity of water for people, nature and industry. Local jurisdictions are assuming new leadership roles around water and are fundamentally rethinking how they manage water demand, adapt to growth in over appropriated river basins and remain resilient in the face of longer drought and more frequent and severe wildfires. They are being deliberate in integrating decisions about how and where they build, how much water development uses and how to best steward our resources.

## How We Can Help

We facilitate a team of people making water and land use decisions in your community to collaborate on long-term water security. We share a range of public engagement, planning, communication and policy implementation tools to ensure your team can realize its water efficiency, watershed health and community resilience goals. Most costs of attending are covered.

*“Colorado Growing Water Smart helped Fort Collins better collaborate with all of our water providers to plan for growth so that we consider cost and availability of water.”*

Donnie Dustin | City of Fort Collins



Pixabay



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## What you Gain

Participants in the Growing Water Smart program gain:

- **Foresight.** A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at the state and local level.
- **Adaptability.** The strategies and tools to integrate water and land use planning to better adapt to change and uncertainty.
- **Commitment.** Decision makers from multiple disciplines, departments, agencies and organizations commit to common goals.
- **Clarity.** The ability to communicate why your goals are needed and gain the support you need to succeed.
- **A path forward.** An action plan tailored to your community's needs.

## Training at a Glance

The Growing Water Smart Workshop provides time and space for the exchange of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned. Participating teams will spend much of their time defining their water resilience goals and a path to attain them.

**Day 1** Become familiar with the context for linking water and land use, and begin collaborative thinking.

**Day 2** Learn the strategic planning framework for Growing Water Smart to ensure that the water needs of Colorado's communities, tribes, agriculture, and the environment are all met.

**Day 3** Develop an action plan for your community and set a date to reconvene your team. Participating communities will be eligible for technical assistance to help you realize your water and land use goals.

The workshop typically begins mid-afternoon on the first day and ends mid-afternoon on the third day. Participation by your entire team is expected and appreciated throughout the entire workshop.



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*“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Following the workshop, our local governments and service providers are seeking to use a common set of data and growth projections in our planning efforts. We expect this collaboration will expand to other issues in our community.”*

James Dickoff | Town of Pagosa Springs

## Who Can Apply

Interdisciplinary teams from counties and municipalities across Colorado are welcomed to apply this round.

This workshop is designed to build a collaborative team committed to taking local action. Applicants are encouraged to build a team of 5 to 7 that includes a diversity of knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure your community’s water future such as:

- Elected and appointed officials
- Long range and land use planners
- Water utility and water resource managers
- Economic Development departments
- Sustainability and Resilience Officers
- Parks and Public Works staff
- Regional planning organizations
- Local non-profits and NGO’s
- Consultants on your current water and land use efforts

Competitive applications will propose interdisciplinary teams capable of crafting and implementing effective action plans. Include senior and elected/appointed leaders and staff tasked with managing water and land resources to ensure community sustainability and resilience. If this is a multi-jurisdictional proposal, representatives from each community should be on the team and in a common pursuit.

## Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

1. Team composition.
2. Ability to demonstrate local commitment toward addressing water sustainability.
3. Understanding of projected growth and uncertainties associated with meeting future water demands.
4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

## How to Apply

To participate in our Growing Water Smart program, please organize a team of 5 - 7 of your community’s water and land use decision makers who are able to commit to attending the workshop. Identify a lead contact person and submit names, positions and email addresses for your team and answers to the following four questions in .doc or .pdf format to [climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org)

Please limit responses to 250 words per question.

1. **Water Awareness:** Describe your understanding of current and forecasted water supply and demand for your community. How well understood and accepted are these figures by decision-makers and the community?
2. **Planning and Policy:** What plans, policies, and programs are in place in your community that address water efficiency and conservation? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are/will you be starting that are related to water and land use planning integration?



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3. **Community Readiness:** What is the level of cooperation or collaboration among the entities responsible for water planning and land use planning in your community? Describe any opportunities or challenges you might want to address in this workshop.

4. **Desired Outcomes:** How does your community believe it will benefit from better integrating water and land use planning? What specific issues would you like to develop an action plan around? Be as specific as possible.

## Costs Covered

Lodging and meals will be provided. Travel to and from the workshop location is not covered.

## Deadline

Submit your application by 5:00pm MST,

**February 14, 2020**

## Contact Information

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Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy.

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## About the Lincoln Institute

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land.

## About the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them.

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