

## One Water Advisory Group: Meeting #2

November 10, 2020  
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

### View the Recorded Virtual Meeting:

<https://gbsm.sharefile.com/d-sfc3deb5b3a7c4ec>

### Meeting Objectives & Agenda

- Meeting facilitator Miles Graham opened the meeting and reviewed meeting objectives and agenda:
  - Update on Denver One Water planning process and project
  - Present and discuss draft version of citywide community survey
  - Receive input on project opportunities, goals, and monitoring/implementing strategies

#### PART 1: Update

1. Welcome and Introductions [15 min.]
  - Meeting purpose & agenda
  - Core Planning Team
  - Technical Subcommittee
  - OWAG Members
2. One Water Process [10 min.]
  - Timeline and milestones
  - Community workshop recap
  - Upcoming touchpoints
  - **Discussion Zone #1: Open Q&A**

#### PART 2: Engage

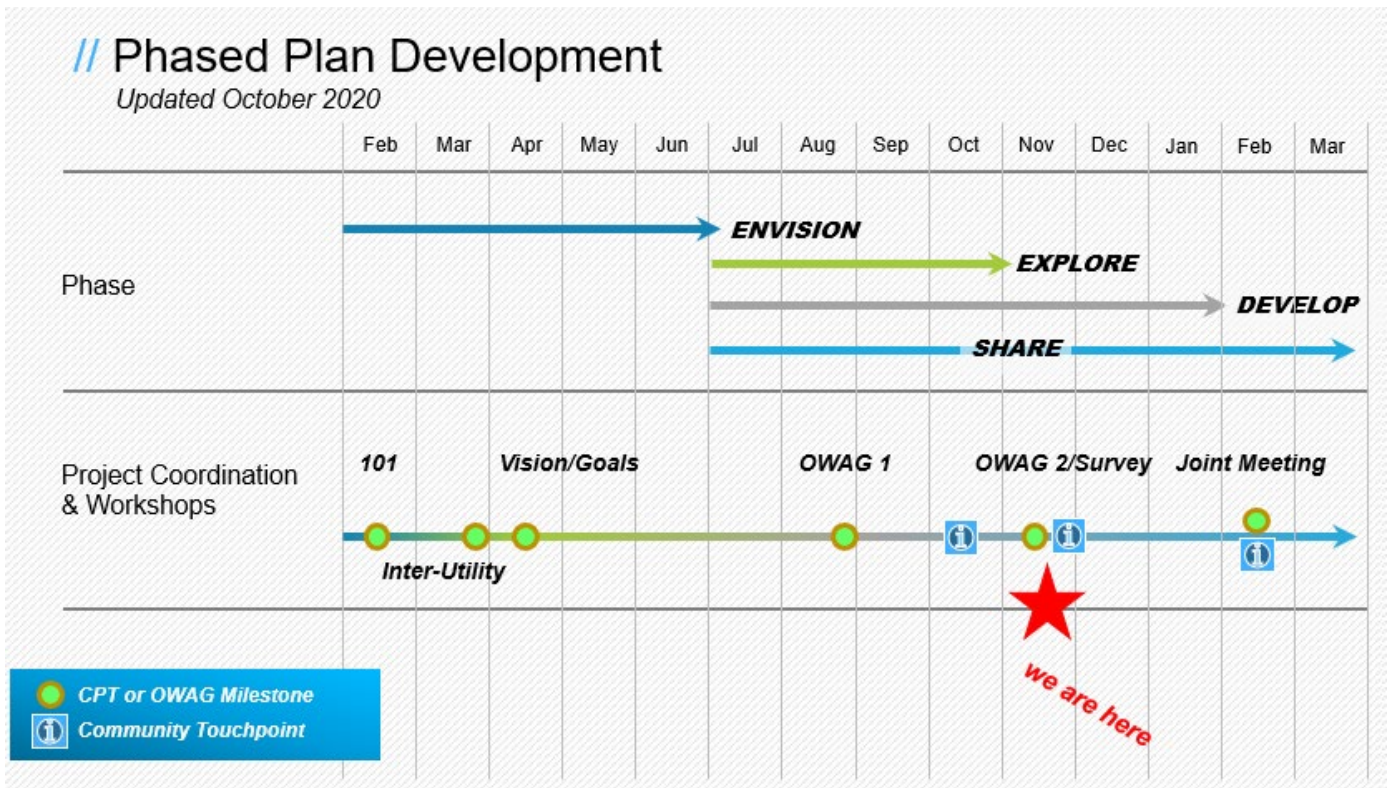
3. Citywide Community Survey [20 min.]
  - Present draft survey
  - Take draft survey
  - Discuss real-time results
  - **Discussion Zone #2: Survey Refinements**

#### PART 3: Explore

4. Project Opportunities [40 min.]
  - One Water project goals and opportunities
  - Potential project types:
    - Healthy Watersheds
    - Land Use/Development
    - Water Efficiency/Reuse
  - Breakout Groups
  - **Discussion Zone #3: Breakout Reporting**
5. Next Steps [5 min.]
  - Upcoming input opportunities
  - **Discussion Zone #4: Final Thoughts**

**Planning Process Update**

- Dave Jula with the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure gave an update regarding the efforts thus far:



- Dave Jula also recapped the Community Workshop #1
  - Details can be found: [www.DenverGov.org/OneWater](http://www.DenverGov.org/OneWater)
  - Over 80 participants and significant dialogue
  - Next meeting will be a joint OWAG/Community workshop planned for early 2021
- An overview was provided of the water cycle and why we need a One Water Plan:
  - Increasing population growth
  - Lack of uniform and enforceable water and land use policies
  - Unpredictable future water supplies
  - Climate change risks
  - Projected State Water Plan shortfall

### **Discussion Zone #1 – Open Q&A**

- Question: Do you have materials about the modeling and the assumptions that went into the directions that you're taking with regards to climate events, population growth, connections to other plans such as Blueprint or maybe even the recent climate action taskforce recommendations? What I am looking for is references to background materials, assumptions and modeling that are the foundations for this work?
  - One of the things that we are trying to do is to establish a set of goals and strategies, and different ways we could accomplish those goals. The phase we are in right now is looking at the existing code, protocols, regulations and other documents that would help us achieve those strategies and give us real world implementations to those strategies. We are looking to leverage things like the Denver Green Code. In terms of modeling, we are not doing analytical work with respect to water supplies, rather we are focused more on collaboration more on water projects and making sure we can do the kinds of innovative and forward-thinking things that are embodied in the One Water goals
  - This planning effort is looking to leverage all of the good work that our partner agencies have already done and leveraging them to come up with new policies that are tied to land use in relation to water
  - This effort is setting the table for the vision and identifying a framework we can use to implement policies moving forward
- Question: Have you looked at any other cities in particular to model this plan on, or is it open blue skies? Kind of curious if there has been a scan of other cities that have done similar work?
  - Yes, we have learned from different partners and peer cities, but there are aspects that are different in every region, but our team has experience working with other efforts in places such as Los Angeles.
  - This effort is applying the process, lessons learned and stakeholder and agency engagement practices but at the same time remain flexible to the unique issues of each geography because the drivers and challenges are different and unique.

### **Citywide Community Survey**

- Meeting facilitator Steve Coffin presented a preview of the community survey and explained that it will be promoted collaboratively through the following:
  - Project website
  - Core Planning Team
  - OWAG/community/business partners
- Survey goals were presented:
  - Develop understanding/awareness
  - Identify opportunities/challenges

- Understand support for goals/outcomes
- A link was then presented to the group so that they could take the test community survey
  - Participants had ten minutes to take the draft survey
- Results of the survey were reviewed with the group, followed by discussion and feedback that will be used to refine the survey before it is finalized and promoted citywide.

## // Draft Community Survey



### Denver One Water City Wide Survey

Water is a resource that has historically been managed in silos. One agency provides drinking water, another regulates stormwater, another treats our wastewater, etc. The reality is it is all connected – it is all One Water. By taking a holistic and collaborative approach, we can manage this precious resource in a more integrated, sustainable and inclusive way.

\* 1. Before you had read the explanation above, did you know that different agencies provide drinking water, treat wastewater, manage storm water, secure more water supplies, and manage streams and rivers?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

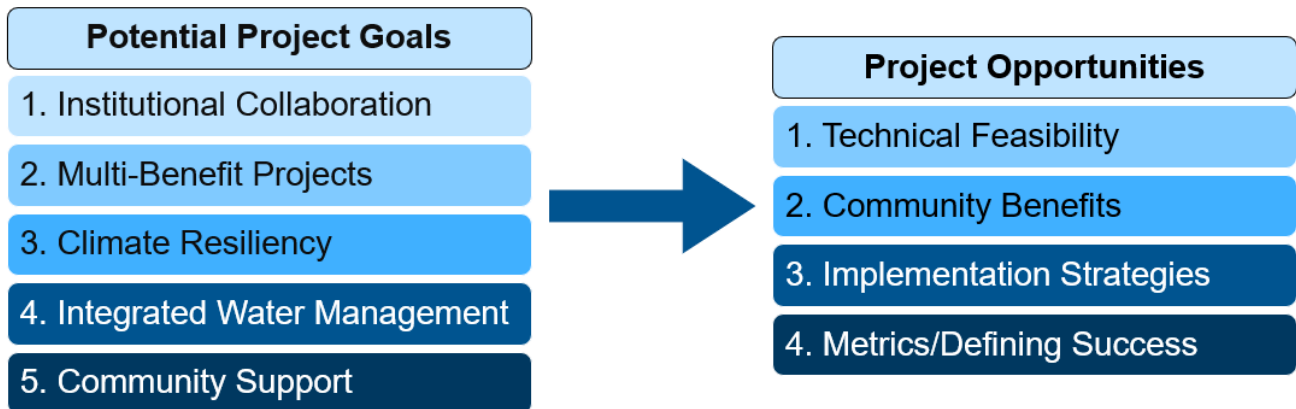
### Discussion Zone #2 – Survey Results and Refinements

- Question: Who is the audience we are wanting to fill this survey out? General public and how we are going to get this survey out?
  - The survey will be promoted for the general public, and the process of sharing this survey will be going through the project website, newsletters and partner communications.
  - The OWAG's role in helping promote the survey was emphasized, along with emailing the survey out to all of the RNOs, all the business improvement districts and everyone who has visited the project website to get project update emails.
- A participant mentioned that some topics may benefit from being simplified for the general public and expressed how switching the order of some of the questions would benefit the public.

- The meeting facilitators mentioned that multiple comments on the survey included switching around the question order.

**BREAKOUTS – One Water Project Opportunities: Benefits, Strategies and Metrics**

- Miles Graham introduced the idea of potential project goals, community benefits and the process for identifying project opportunities that can come from the goals.



- Breakout groups were facilitated to explore potential One Water projects, along with related community benefits, implementation strategies and metrics, within three categories:
  - Healthy Watersheds
  - Land Use/Development
  - Water Efficiency/Reuse

**Discussion Zone #3 – Breakout Reporting**

- The following tables summarize the outcomes of each breakout group discussion:

## // Breakout Group 1: Exploring Project Opportunities

Healthy Watersheds (notes from 11/10 OWAG meeting)		
Community Benefits	Implementation Strategies	Metrics & Defining Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality</li> <li>Outdoor recreation</li> <li>Flood protection</li> <li><i>Physical water projects people can see</i></li> <li><i>Future water scarcity, how do we prepare?</i></li> <li><i>Awareness spurring additional projects</i></li> <li><i>Project "design"</i></li> <li><i>Habitat and species restoration</i></li> <li><i>Flood preparedness</i></li> <li><i>Making sure your community is resilient</i></li> <li><i>Economic development benefits</i></li> <li><i>Public health: creating areas of interaction and promoting active lifestyles</i></li> <li><i>Equity, connecting communities to park availabilities, etc.</i></li> <li><i>Reuse water projects, making people feel that they are included</i></li> <li><i>Doing more with what we have</i></li> <li><i>Fishable/swimmable water</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interagency collaboration</li> <li>River buffers</li> <li>Stormwater treatment</li> <li><i>Land use development codes and regulations</i></li> <li><i>Ensuring sustainable and achievable efforts</i></li> <li><i>Development incentives</i></li> <li><i>Partnership opportunities/community and business</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental sustainability</li> <li>Urban livability</li> <li>Social justice/equity</li> <li>Integration of all projects</li> <li><i>Monitoring river improvements and stormwater treatment efforts</i></li> <li><i>Loss avoidance studies</i></li> <li><i>Mitigation efforts</i></li> <li><i>Impact on flow</i></li> <li><i>Community sentiment</i></li> </ul>

## // Breakout Group 2: Exploring Project Opportunities

Land Use / Development (notes from 11/10 OWAG meeting)		
Community Benefits	Implementation Strategies	Metrics & Defining Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GHG reductions</li> <li>Resource conservation</li> <li>Economic development</li> <li>Flood protection</li> <li><i>Improve Water Quality</i></li> <li><i>Safe Water</i></li> <li><i>Systemic Financing support for Green Infrastructure due to mutual benefits</i></li> <li><i>Quality of Life improvements</i></li> <li><i>Increase green space are tied to water improvement</i></li> <li><i>Watershed management (outside the urban area)</i></li> <li><i>Water education about water conservation</i></li> <li><i>Increased understanding about the different roles that different agencies/people play by bringing more players together</i></li> <li><i>Land use planning provides the opportunity to rethink and "do it right" from the beginning at different scales (neighborhood/regional)</i></li> <li><i>Security of investment in housing sector when water scarcity is considered in land use planning</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green codes/policy change</li> <li>Heat recovery</li> <li>Public/private partnerships</li> <li>River buffers</li> <li><i>Public-Private Partnerships connects initial investors while keeping long-term benefits in mind</i></li> <li><i>Incentive programs like development fees, timing of development, low interest loans or grants for businesses</i></li> <li><i>Grant program are attractive for developments, loans are too burdensome for small businesses</i></li> <li><i>Incentive combined with existing infrastructure to make things work (e.g. provide watering system to keep new trees alive)</i></li> <li><i>Public infrastructure and investment is needed to achieve larger scale community improvements that can address equity on a neighborhood scale (trees throughout the neighborhood)</i></li> <li><i>Education on how to make something work, incl. O&amp;M</i></li> <li><i>Need streamlined and simplified requirements</i></li> <li><i>Empower community to share priorities during neighborhood development planning stage</i></li> <li><i>Demonstrate ROI that the benefits exceed the</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy enforcement</li> <li>Economic/property values</li> <li>Urban livability</li> <li>Social justice/equity</li> <li><i>Water usage by person (e.g. gpcd)</i></li> <li><i>Acre or sq ft of something</i></li> <li><i>A number by Building (Interior/exterior)</i></li> <li><i>Water efficiencies BMPs</i></li> <li><i>Flood control or</i></li> <li><i>Number of Green Infrastructure BMPs</i></li> <li><i>Metrics on developers may be different from metrics for public realm</i></li> <li><i>Think about what do we want to increase/decrease (positives and negatives) tree canopy, street runoff,</i></li> <li><i>Metric for supply and demand for a development</i></li> <li><i>Build upon existing standards like: Tree canopy count or Water use efficiency standard</i></li> <li><i>Metric to reduce parking places to restore permeable spaces to incentivize developers to enhance water quality</i></li> <li><i>Develop good goals and a stretch goal</i></li> <li><i>Show the public/stakeholders that benefits exceed cost</i></li> <li><i>Need demonstration areas/pilots to</i></li> </ul>

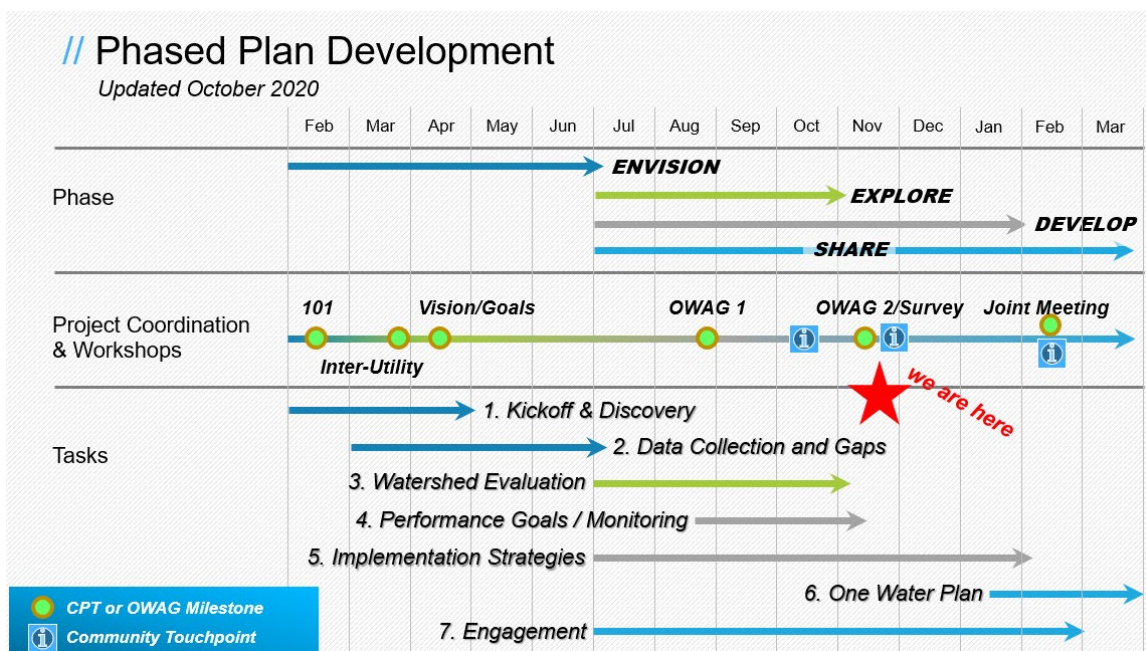
## // Breakout Group 3: Exploring Project Opportunities

### Water Efficiency/Reuse (notes from 11/10 OWAG meeting)

Community Benefits	Implementation Strategies	Metrics & Defining Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure water supply</li> <li>Community awareness</li> <li>Affordability</li> <li><i>Others?</i></li> <li>Regulatory development / prove safety of recycled water</li> <li>Offsets demand on mountain supplies</li> <li>Supply resilience, address aridification and climate change</li> <li>Support urban gardens</li> <li>Address equity and underserved communities</li> <li>Weave green spaces into higher-density development</li> <li>Mitigate storm/flooding impacts</li> <li>Recreational benefits – public parks, equitable access for all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incentive programs</li> <li>Public education campaigns</li> <li>Reclaimed outdoor irrigation (Purple Pipe)</li> <li>Potential future potable reuse</li> <li><i>Others?</i></li> <li>Prioritize equity/ underserved areas</li> <li>Work collaboratively with West Slope and regional neighbors and support East Slope ag</li> <li>Increase awareness that irrigation water affects source waters or impacts other uses/users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water usage → Efficient usage (gal/acre, “density” of unit water use – gal/sf etc.)</li> <li>Utility rates → more creative rate structures – affordability measure</li> <li>Economic development</li> <li><i>Others?</i></li> <li>Address TDS concerns and challenge of reuse vs. inexpensive potable water, energy tradeoffs of recycled</li> <li>Buffer capacity to get through X years of extended drought</li> <li>Number of people served by public park benefits</li> </ul>

### Next Steps

- To conclude the meeting, consultant team lead John Rehring shared the project schedule and next steps. Dave Jula thanked all OWAG members for participating and adjourned the meeting.



## **Meeting Participants:**

### **Core Planning Team**

- Dave Jula, Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI)
- Kathleen LeVeque, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Sarah Cawrse, Denver Community Planning and Development (CPD)
- Barb Chongtoua, Mile High Flood District
- Devon Buckles, The Water Connection
- Ty Bereskie, Denver Water
- Abby Antolovich, Denver Water
- Brandy DeLange, Metro Wastewater
- Dawn Ambrosio, Metro Wastewater
- Kevin Reidy, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- John Rehring, Carollo Engineers
- Inge Wiersema Carollo Engineers
- Steve Coffin, Coffin Strategies
- Miles Graham, GBSM
- Alex Ehrett, GBSM
- Lexi Williams, GBSM

### **One Water Advisory Group and Technical Sub-Committee**

- Barb Biggs (Metro Basin Roundtable)
- Beth Moyski (Downtown Denver Partnership)
- Christy Collins (CPD Engineer-Architect Specialist)
- Collin Bell (Engineering Associate Senior)
- Demian Wetzel (DPR Water Conservation Administrator)
- Grace Rink (Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency)
- Gwen Campbell (Elyria-Swansea Business Association)
- Jeremy Hamer (DOTI Architect Supervisor)
- Jocelyn (Gray Water Project, Colorado School of Mines)
- John Berggren (Western Resource Advocates)
- Jon Covert (Colorado Trout Unlimited)



- Jon Novick (DPHE Environmental Administrator)
- KC McFerson (Colorado Department of Local Affairs Land Use Planner)
- Kevin Doyle (Water Resource Engineer)
- Nona Shipman (Metro State University One World One Water Center)
- Perry Burnap (Pollution Prevention Sustainability and Climate Action Career)
- Paul Lander (University of Colorado Masters of the Environment Program)
- Raul Rodriguez (DOTI Engineer-Architect Manager)
- Sarah Anderson (DOTI Project Manager)
- Scott Berry (US Water Alliance)
- Waverly Klaw (Sonoran Institute)
- Christopher Hawkins (The Nature Conservancy)
- Anne Kuechenmeister (Bluebird Business Improvement District)