

One Water Community Workshop #1

October 20, 2020

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Watch the Virtual Meeting Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE_7tnzkFaA&feature=youtu.be

Meeting Purpose

- Introduce Denver One Water Plan, process and project
- Present One Water definition, background and guiding principles
- Receive community input on key aspects of One Water Plan

Meeting Purpose and Agenda

- The meeting facilitator Miles Graham presented the meeting purpose, agenda and participation guidelines. The [meeting presentation](#) and more information about the Denver One Water planning process can be found at: www.DenverGov.org/OneWater

PART 1: Inform

1. Welcome and Introductions
[15 min.]
 - Meeting purpose & agenda
 - Core Planning Team

2. One Water Background
[10 min.]
 - Historic approach
 - One Water defined
 - **Q&A #1**

3. Denver One Water Plan
[15 min.]
 - Need, goals and benefits
 - Planning process
 - Community role and outcomes
 - **Q&A #2**

PART 2: Discuss

1. Potential One Water Projects
[30 min.]
 - What makes a good project?
 - Project Snapshot:
 - National Western Center
 - **Q&A #3**

2. Community Survey Preview:
[10 min.]
 - Sample questions
 - **Q&A #4**

PART 3: Roadmap

1. Next Steps
[10 min.]
 - Schedule and framework
 - Upcoming input opportunities
 - **Q&A #5**

Core Planning Team

- Denver One Water project manager Dave Jula introduced the Core Planning Team, comprised of an unprecedented coalition of water resource partners. Each organization's representative described who they were, what they do, and why One Water matters to their organization.



- **City and County of Denver**
 - Dave Jula presented the mission of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI), which enhances quality of life by efficiently delivering effective, high quality, safe and equitable public infrastructure and services.
 - Sarah Cawrse, Core Planning Team member, presented Community Planning and Development which is responsible for visionary city planning and ensuring safe, responsible and sustainable building
 - Kathleen LeVeque, Core Planning Team member, presented Denver Parks and Recreation which provides the foundation for the environmental health of the city and physical health of its residents by wisely using resources to create dynamic and sustainable public spaces, innovative programs, and neighborhood connections that are a catalyst for community-building and high quality-of-life for all residents
- **The Mile High Food District** was presented by Core Planning Team member Barbara Chongtoua:
 - Mile High Flood District protects people, property, and the environment through preservation, mitigation and education
 - One Water is important for creating one space that is high value while remaining low maintenance
- **The Water Connection** was presented by Core Planning Team member Devon Buckels:
 - The Water Connection is the policy and water resources arm of The Greenway Foundation, a Denver-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has led efforts, since 1974, to reclaim the South Platte River and its tributaries from a virtual cesspool to a place of environmental and recreational pride

- **Denver Water** was presented by Core Planning Team member Ty Bereskie:
 - Largest water utility in Colorado. Provider of drinking, recycled, and raw water to over 1.5 million people
 - Always seeking ways to most efficiently use and protect our water supplies
 - Understands that our regional partners are an incredible asset in building a sustainable water future
 - Strives to lead by example, paving the way with our Operations Complex Redevelopment

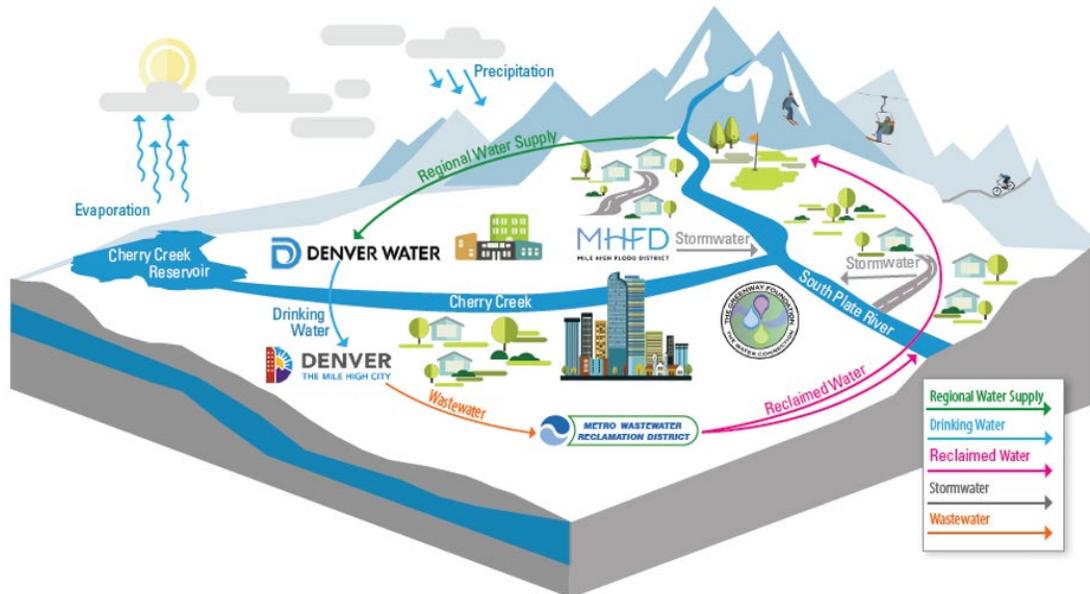
- **Metro Wastewater Reclamation District** was presented by Core Planning Team member Brandy DeLange:
 - The Metro District is a critical part of the water cycle, providing wastewater treatment to 60 local municipalities and sanitation districts within the Denver-metropolitan area, serving about 2 million people
 - In addition to providing clean water, the District is also an innovative leader in the wastewater treatment industry, pioneering advancements in wastewater treatment
 - One Water supports the District's strategic mission to protect the region's health and environment by cleaning water and recovering resources.
 - Values creating collaborative relationships on large infrastructure projects with stakeholders throughout the water cycle

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board** was presented by Core Planning Team member Kevin Reidy:
 - The Colorado Water Conservation Board mission is to conserve, develop, protect and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations
 - Colorado's Water Plan predicts the potential for significant water shortages in the years and decades to come. One Water planning, including innovative approaches and considering land use as an integral part of water planning, can be a key tool to mitigate that potential

Background on One Water

- Dave Jula presented the definition of One Water and the historically siloed approach to water management:
 - One Water Definition: "An integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs."

- The following graphic of the One Water cycle was presented to illustrate the roles and functions of the organizations represented in the Core Planning Team:



Live Poll #1

- The first live poll asked meeting participants: Did you know about the One Water concept before this meeting?
 - Yes – 77%
 - No – 23%

Discussion Zone #1 – Q&A on Introductions and One Water Background

- Planning team member Alex Ehrett announced no questions had yet been submitted through chat or by raising a virtual hand. Participants were reminded of how to use the Zoom functions to submit questions to the planning team.

Needs, Goals & Benefit

- Core Planning Team member Devon Buckels, with The Water Connection, discussed why a One Water Plan is needed, in part, to help address the following issues:
 - Projected water shortfall identified in the Colorado State Water Plan
 - Increasing population growth
 - Lack of uniform and enforceable water and land use policies
 - Unpredictable future water supplies
 - Climate change risks

- Devon also presented the goals and benefits of a One Water plan:
 - Elevate water’s visibility, and standing relative to other critical resources
 - Reduce negative impacts from decisions made in siloes
 - Strengthen relationships for holistic and multi-benefit solutions to water challenges
 - Pivot from business as usual
 - Support opportunities for a water-resilient future
 - Improve urban livability, equity and social justice – water is a fundamental human need



AGENCY COORDINATION TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE BEST
PRACTICES



PREDICTABLE AND
IMPLEMENTABLE WATER
POLICIES TIED TO LAND
USE



SUPPORTS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND SMART
GROWTH



COLLABORATION IN WATER
PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP AND
CONSERVATION OF FINITE
RESOURCE



UNIFIED VISION WITH A
ROADMAP TO ACHIEVE
GOALS

Process & Outcomes

- Dave Jula discussed how One Water principles create opportunities for a new approach to infrastructure projects and how in the last few years the city has shifted to a more holistic design process that includes community benefits, social equity factors and policies tailored to meet the needs of each neighborhood.
- The Denver One Water planning approach and timeline was presented, including the importance of community participation.
- The goal of developing a citywide water strategy was identified in the Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040 and the three-year Denveright outreach and planning effort.



Discussion Zone #2 – Q&A on the Denver One Water Planning Process

- “How is equity being integrated into Denver's One Water planning process? The pandemic has highlighted longstanding inequities in access to affordable, reliable, safe drinking water and in underserved communities not being prioritized for green infrastructure projects. Particularly, is the planning team looking to adopt any best practices from other states or compiled from national groups, such as the "Policy Innovations to Secure Drinking Water for All" report published by the US Water Alliance? How can Denver Water, as the largest water provider in CO, become a national leader in centering the equity piece?”
 - The Core Planning Team discussed how important equity is to the One Water Plan, and how it is integrated into the plan’s vision statement and implementation metrics
 - Work of the US Water Alliance was identified along with other best practices happening around the country, such as One Water Los Angeles
- “Has the team identified the most pressing water challenges (i.e. top 4-5 items) facing the city and community?”
 - Several Core Planning Team members highlighted the purpose of this meeting is to gather feedback from the community to help identify opportunities and challenges
 - The challenges of the massive growth in Denver and development pressures our waterways, stormwater infrastructure and water quantity and quality
- “Recreational users need to have a stakeholder position in current and future “Denver One Water Plan” be it those in our waters/rivers such as river surfers, fishermen/women, etc. or those on the edge of the waters. What is the plan to allow the voice of water recreation users?”
 - Several Core Planning Team members discussed the upcoming community survey and stressed the importance of diverse feedback, including how recreational uses are addressed through this process

- Urban livability, environmental and mobility aspects of this planning process are being integrated with water resource management

What Makes a good One Water Project?

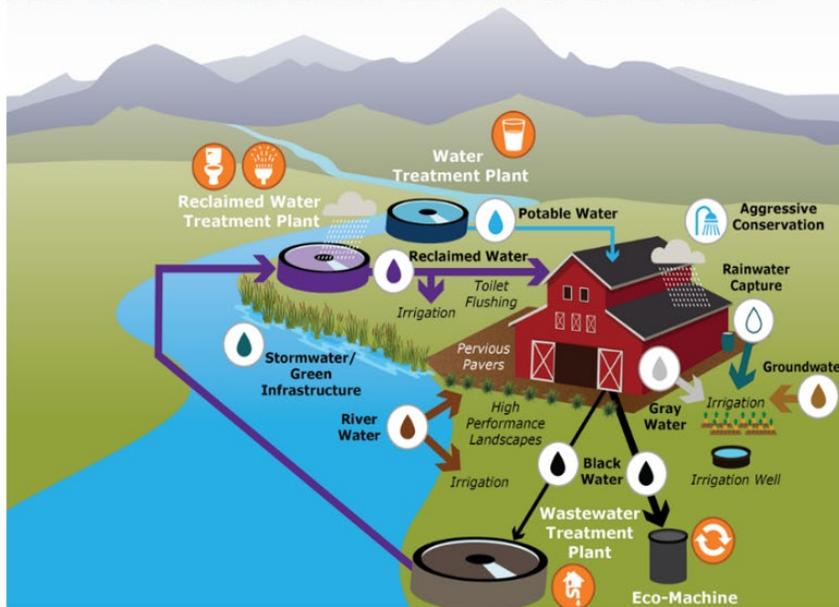
- Core Planning Team member Barb Chongtoua, with the Mile High Flood District, presented the criteria that are considered in identifying what makes a project a good candidate for One Water principles. A potential One Water project is one that protects an area to keep people safe from floods and to convey water as a resource for drinking, irrigation, and recreation.



Denver One Water Project Examples: National Western Center

- National Western Center representatives Brad Buchanan and Barb Frommell presented how the center and its partners are striving to create a low-carbon campus that's sustainable, regenerative and embracing One Water concepts in many different areas:

AN INTEGRATED LIVING SYSTEM



- Potable**
Used for potable water needs only
- Reclaimed Water**
Non-potable water needs
- Black Water**
Possible treatment onsite by an Eco-Machine
- Gray Water**
Reused onsite for non-potable needs
- Rainwater**
Roof captured, stored onsite for non-potable needs
- Stormwater/Green Infrastructure**
Naturally retained or detained to minimize runoff
- River Water**
Non-potable water source
- Groundwater**
Additional potable water source
- Aggressive Conservation**
Fixtures and faucets beyond code

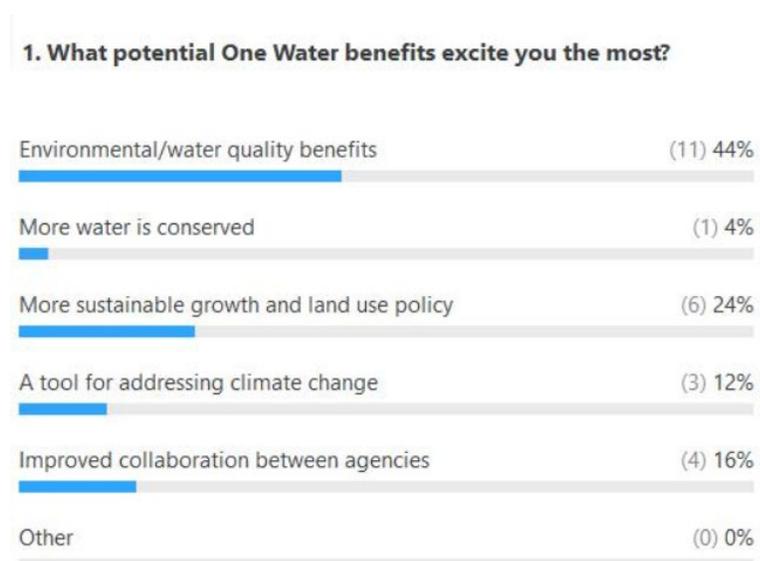
Discussion Zone #3 – Q&A on One Water Project Examples and National Western Center

- “What a great project! Does the city offer incentives to encourage green infrastructure and other one water solutions in new developments?”
 - Several Core Planning Team members discussed that one of the goals of the One Water plan is to identify the policy considerations related to incentivizing the planning and design of One Water infrastructure and development projects
 - The process to design a sustainable National Western Center campus that incorporated green infrastructure highlighted the financial benefits related to the heat and energy recovery program from the onsite wastewater pipeline
 - Gathering incentive ideas from workshop participants that are acceptable and adaptable will inform the planning process

- “Where has One Water bridged the gap between development and conservation? Where have you seen the most success?”
 - Several Core Planning Team members expressed that new developments are increasingly incorporating innovative water management elements
 - The development of the One Water Plan will include key goals and strategies to increasingly bridge the gap between development and water stewardship

- “The graphics on the National Western design illustration show very green (grass?) areas. Will there be grass in these areas or will it be climate appropriate/low water?”
 - The grasses in the open spaces will consist of pollinator lawns and alternative turf to meet water conservation goals, and it will look more native than most typical parks

Citywide Community Survey Preview



- Steve Coffin, Core Planning Team member, stressed the importance of community input and provided a preview of the upcoming citywide One Water community survey. Two instant polling questions were presented as a sample of the types of questions expected to be asked in the community survey:

1. What are the biggest challenges the One Water effort will have to overcome?

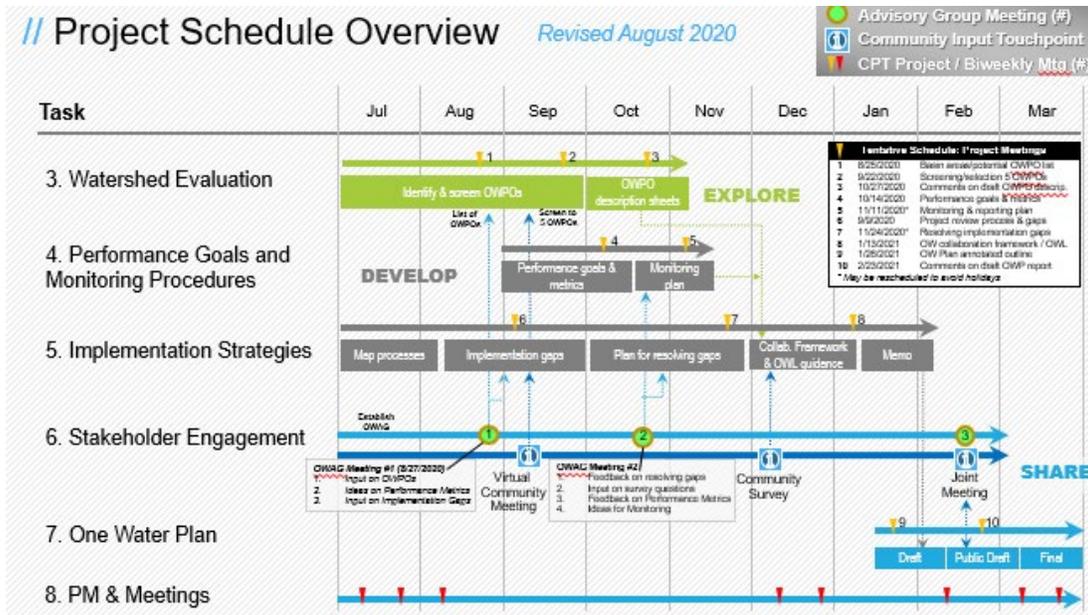


Discussion Zone #4 – Q&A on Community Survey Preview

- Planning team member Alex Ehrett announced no questions had yet been submitted through chat or by raising a virtual hand. Participants were reminded of how to use the Zoom functions to submit questions to the planning team.

Next Steps

- John Rehring, Core Planning Team member, discussed the next steps and process for developing the Denver One Water plan:



Discussion Zone #5 – Final Thoughts & Questions

- “What are the plans for change in storm water treatment? Seems the Denver street storm drains lead straight to the water ways”
 - Several Core Planning Team members identified the treatments and regulations/policies that are currently in place and stated that the Denver One Water planning process will assess what potential policy changes may be considered in the future