December 2010 IBCC Report

IBCC Accomplishments and Recommendations

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"The 21st Century is the era of limits made applicable to water decision-making. Due to natural western water scarcity, we are no longer developing a resource. Instead, we are learning how to share a developed resource."

Gregory J. Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court Justice

Governor Ritter's challenge to the IBCC:

Make significant progress towards developing a statewide vision for Colorado's water supply future.

This Vision must

- Support sustainable economic growth
- Protect our Environment
- Provide for municipal, agricultural, and industrial needs
- Support rural economies
- Support Recreation and Eco-Tourism based economies

Challenges to the Vision:

- Local control has long been the guiding principle for water development in Colorado
- Prior Appropriation is a ground up, individually driven, locally based system
- A growing population in the State with all signs pointing to continued growth
- A decrease in the water available due to, among other things, climate change

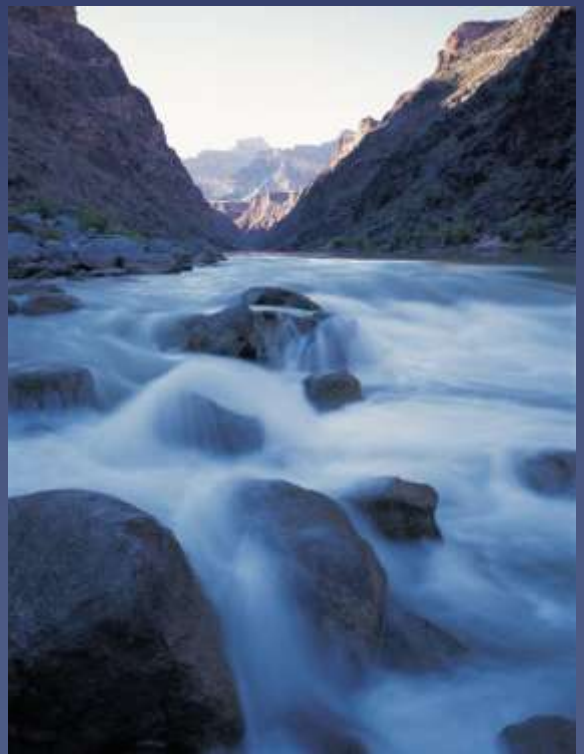
The Vision in Detail

The Vision has three parts:

1. A Vision Statement- a broad overall directive or mission
2. Vision Goals- These are the “why” of the Vision Statement
3. Water Supply Strategies- these are the “how” of the Vision statement and provide benchmarks on the way to achieving the Vision Statement. These will be covered later in the slideshow.

Vision Statement

We envision a Colorado the balances municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water needs and promotes cooperation among all water users.



Vision Goals

- Meet municipal and industrial demands
- Meet agricultural demands
- Meet Colorado's Environmental and Recreation demands
- Engage in cooperation between water supply planners and land use planners
- Encourage more cooperation among all of Colorado's water users
- Optimize existing and future water supplies
- Promote cost-effectiveness
- Minimize the net energy used to supply water
- Protect cultural values
- Provide operational flexibility and coordinated infrastructure
- Promote increased fairness when water is moved between basins
- Comply with all laws and regulations
- Educate Coloradans on the importance of water and the need to conserve

Accomplishments of the IBCC

- Expanded and diversified the individuals involved in State water issues
- Fostered collaboration among the stakeholders in the basins
- Developed additional technical information on each basin's consumptive and non-consumptive needs
- Begun to address local water needs through the use of Water Supply Reserve Account grants
- Begun a dialogue across basins leading to better understanding among stakeholders

Expanding the Individuals Involved in State Water Issues

The 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act created the IBCC as well as 9 Basin Roundtables. The Roundtables represent the 8 major river basins in Colorado as well as the Denver-metro area. The IBCC was charged with facilitating conversations between the Basin Roundtables . In this way, the IBCC has helped facilitate and grow conversation on water issues among a diverse, and sometimes adversarial, group of stakeholders.

Fostering Collaboration Among Stakeholders

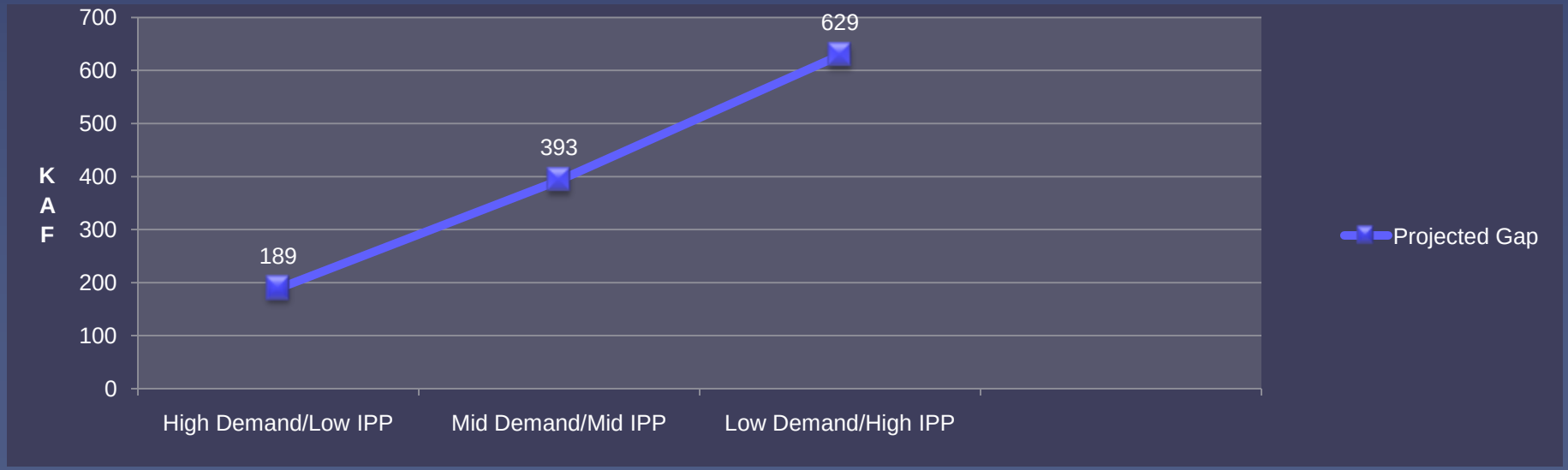
May 2006 – October 2007: The IBCC met jointly with each Basin Roundtable to better understand water supply issues in each basin.

Since its inceptions, the IBCC has worked with the different Basin Roundtables in an effort to pull them together. This collaboration has helped the Basins realize that sharing resources, information, and efforts between the Basins will help craft water policy that is more advantageous to all involved.

Developed Additional Technical Information on Each Basin's Consumptive and Non-Consumptive Needs

Each Basin Roundtable were given "Task Orders" to further develop their consumptive and non-consumptive needs based on what will be necessary in the year 2050, the highlighted results were:

- Colorado's baseline demands for municipal and industrial (M&I) uses will rise 745 Thousand Acre-Feet (KAF)
- Passive Conservation at a high level could reduce this by up to 154 KAF
- If 100% of the planned Indentified Projects and Processes (IPPs) are implemented, the water supplied for M&I will be between 437 and 588 KAF
- The gap between new demand and indentified water supply projects ranges from 189 KAF (low demand projection coupled with 100% IPP success), to 393 KAF (mid demand with mid IPP success), to 629 KAF (high demand with low IPP success)



Water Supply Reserve Account Grants

The Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) was created to help water users address critical water supply issues. This includes technical assistance, studies and analysis, and water projects. The WSRA is administered through the Colorado Water Conservation Board and, with the grants the WSRA has given, the IBCC have helped to begin to address local water supply problems. To date, the IBCC has:

- Assisted in over 140 water projects
- Given over $26 million
    - This money helped leverage over $45 million in local and federal funds

Portfolios of Solutions

In its pursuit of state-wide water solutions and in accordance with its charge, the IBCC has been working with all of the CWCB and 9 Basin Roundtables to determine the best possible mix of 4 major solutions.

- IPPs
- Conservation and Reuse
- Ag Transfers
- New Supply Development

Subcommittees

The IBCC established five subcommittees to address different areas of a state-wide water portfolio, these subcommittees examined:

- How the state can best support the IPPs
- The role of M&I Conservation
- How we can develop new supplies from the Colorado River System for use on the east and west slope
- How we can help meet nonconsumptive needs
- How we can over come hurdles to implementing alternative ag transfer methods

Solutions to Water Supply Gap

There are four prongs to help close the projected water supply gap:

1. Conservation- Subcommittee is discussing what changes are needed, both short term and long term, in order for conservation to be a key part of the portfolio.

2. IPPs- these will need state support in order to be successful

3. Agricultural Transfers- Some ag transfers will continue on a willing-buyer-willing seller basis. However, we are also examining ways alternative ag transfer methods can be implemented.

4. New Supply Development- In order to implement a portfolio, new supply development will be needed. The subcommittee is discussing how water from the Colorado River System can be developed for use on both the east and west slope, while mitigating or enhancing environmental needs.