



## Colorado Water Stewardship Project Charter

The CWSP is a Colorado Water Congress (CWC) special project separately funded and managed by CWC members who are deeply concerned about the impact of any Public Trust Doctrine development that would undermine Colorado's Prior Appropriation Doctrine.

### **Mission Statement:**

To ensure that CWC members and water stakeholders from around the state are prepared for any Public Trust Doctrine initiative that would disrupt ownership or management of Colorado's water resources, by assessing ballot filings, judicial, regulatory, and legislative actions related to a Public Trust Doctrine, assessing the public level of knowledge and support for the doctrine, and implementing a communication and action plan to protect Colorado's water community from adverse impacts.

### **Membership:**

Members shall be persons who have an interest in the protection of the Prior Appropriation System. Active membership of the CWSP shall consist of representatives of organizations (or individuals) that are active members of the CWC and have provided funding for the CWSP within the previous 36 months. If a tallied vote is necessary for any reason, then only those active members present at the meeting may contribute.

### **Officers:**

Officers will consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Each officer shall be elected at-large by a vote of the active members. Both positions are a two-year commitment. In the event that either position is vacated, then the remaining position shall take on the responsibility of both Chair and Vice-Chair until a suitable replacement is found or until one is elected. There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms that an officer may hold a position. Responsibilities of each officer are listed below in the "Biennial Cycle" section.

### **Meetings:**

The CWSP shall meet quarterly, at a minimum. It is anticipated that the meetings will occur on the second Monday of March, June, September, and December. Additional meetings may be held, with an advanced notice to the membership, to work through critical matters.

### **Funding:**

The CWSP operates in line with the Water Year (October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>) and meets quarterly. In the September quarterly meeting, members will agree on a proposed budget for the subsequent year. Once a budget has been agreed upon, with input provided by project leadership and CWC staff, "General Funding" letters will be sent out to prior and current CWSP funders. Because of the unpredictable nature of proposed initiatives and litigation threatening the legal foundation for water

rights in Colorado, the CWSP aims to maintain a minimum \$50,000 reserve balance in addition to funds for the planned and approved operating budget.

Should the CWSP ever be dissolved, all previously approved debts will be paid and the remaining funding balance will be returned to the active members minus a 5% administrative charge to be kept by CWC. The amount refunded will be prorated to the amount provided by each active member during the previous 36 months from the dissolution date.

**Biennial Cycle:**

The CWSP will operate on a two-year planning cycle.

At a time near the December meeting for odd number years, the CWSP will host a webinar – open to all – to highlight the importance of tracking ballot initiatives. As topics of emerging threat to the Prior Appropriation System arise, the CWSP may host additional webinars open to general attendance.

Reoccurring tasks and responsible parties are detailed in the table below

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
Odd	March	Strategic Outline Update	Chair
Odd	June	Summary Update	Vice Chair
Odd	September	Budget	CWSP Committee
	As Needed	Webinar on Ballot Initiatives and Other Issues as Needed	Chair
Even	March	Strategic Outline Update	Chair
Even	June	Background & History Update	Vice Chair
Even	September	Budget	CWSP Committee
Even	December	Officer Selection	CWSP Committee

This charter may be updated annually, if needed, and ratified by simple majority of those in attendance at a quarterly meeting.