

Colorado Nonpoint Source Alliance

September 21, 2007

Vision

Collaborating to reduce nonpoint source pollution in Colorado

Alliance Structure Elements

1. NPS Alliance Structure – Two basic groups:
 - a. Operational executive committee - The operation executive committee will have an open membership in first year of transition (All interested parties invited to table). The Transition team will help establish the Operational executive committee, but may not be the final membership. The Operational executive committee will logically be a smaller unit, but exact number of members or make-up of the Operational executive committee has not been delineated. Over the next two-years, members of this Operational executive committee will need to volunteer about 100 hrs/ year. This committee is an organizational and operation group with an understanding of the complex nonpoint source issues in Colorado, but may not necessarily be the technical experts in any given nonpoint source category. The committee will begin investigating several funding options and will seek grant funds to support the Alliance operations.
 - b. Working Technical Committees/Task Force/ Work Groups – This set of groups include a broad general Alliance membership with technical or knowledge-base expertise. The general membership identified through e-distribution lists or by specific involvement in temporary work groups.
 - i. Base NPS Alliance Work Group Teams
 1. Monitoring and Assessment Committee – assists the Colorado Monitoring Council, identifies monitoring needs and provide advice on assessments. In the first two years, members of this committee will meet 6-8 times per year and provide specific technical input into process/ documents/ guidance.
 2. Outreach Committee (on-going committee with an expected involvement of 8-10 meetings per year plus electronic review of education/ small projects or other outreach efforts)
 3. Basin specific watershed plan development support task force (first task force is for the upper and lower Colorado with a startup in October 2007 and continue through 2008). A basin specific task force will last about 18-24 months with a time commitment of 50-60 hours per year.
 - ii. Technical/ knowledge-based teams (as needed for project specific development or state advisement; also provides information/ technical base for generation of basin specific task forces. The NPS Alliance will develop a large listing of technical/ knowledge based experts throughout Colorado. Generally, these individuals will volunteer about 20 hours per year. Participants are encouraged to attend or present at

- annual forum (s), involved in speakers bureau or attend 1-3 meetings per year.
 - iii. Watershed Advocacy Workgroups develop and help identify funding collaboration/ partnerships (basin specific with first WAW established for the San Juan/ Gunnison). Generally, these individuals will volunteer about 30 hours per year.
- 2. NPS Alliance Organizational Drivers – Maintain a statewide perspective; Provide diversity of involvement; Encourage collaboration; Establish funding partnerships; Facilitate outreach, and information and education sharing; Promote small outreach projects; Directly support local stakeholders; support development of watershed plans; help with monitoring and assessment information; provide categorical technical support.
- 3. NPS Alliance Intent
 - a. Establish independent credibility.
 - b. Scale of interest and involvement is statewide.
 - c. Self-reliance and self-funded
 - d. Provide direct technical support and be advisors to local stakeholders
 - e. Take leadership in statewide strategic outreach, information and education programs

Alliance Objectives and Tasks

The Transition Team has identified tasks for the NPS Alliance for the next two-years. The tasks are not inclusive and are subject to revision and adjustment. The tasks begin in October 2007.

1. **Support local watershed partners and/or advocacy groups/ associations/ authorities (priority toward local groups; secondary toward state); Collaboration among local, state and federal agencies/groups**
 - Task a. Review Colorado 303(d) list and monitoring and evaluation list for potential projects/ stakeholders within target basins/ watersheds (distribute regulations #93 and #94). Review priority maps developed by the WQCD.
 - Task b. Identify potential partnerships and develop list of technical and knowledge based individuals within target basins/ watersheds.
 - Task c. Working with the Watershed Assembly, identify projects and local needs.
 - Task d. Directly assist in development of watershed plans using a common Colorado template. Host workshop in targeted basin/ watershed and invite specific stakeholders identified in task b above.
 - Task e. Develop a support based task force of NPS Alliance members to help generate watershed plans as appropriate in the lower and upper Colorado basins.
 - Task f. Host a general forum for the San Juan/ Gunnison areas in late 2008.
2. **Provide a technical pool of individuals/ agencies with wide range of expertise in NPS categorical areas/ topics (e.g., agriculture, mining, urban, construction,**

hydromodification, forestry, stormwater, BMPs, erosion control, monitoring), and provide expert knowledge pool of individuals/ agencies (e.g., educational experts, planners, policy).

- Task a. Support stakeholder groups, development of watershed plans and support stakeholder groups.
 - Task b. Compile technical and knowledge based lists.
 - Task c. Distribute lists to local stakeholders and others
 - i. Category based
 - ii. Area of interest (e.g., basin, watershed, education)
 - iii. Organizational
 - Task d. BMP review and updates
- 3. Assist in direct development of watershed plans; need watershed plan development for various types of watersheds and groups as linked with state funding cycle; assist in watershed planning, development and implementation; use the Watershed Assembly as “meeting place”.**
- Task a. Identify and develop a basin specific task force based on NPS Alliance membership, stakeholder groups and funding partnerships.
 - Task b. Directly assist in completion of watershed plan using Colorado template.
 - Task c. Identify specific projects, organize partnerships and assist with grant application processes.
- 4. Keep a connection to state funding cycle; facilitate collaboration and help establish funding partnerships.**
- Task a. Distribute information of funding opportunities.
 - Task b. Maintain lines of communication at all levels.
- 5. Serve as a conduit and provide leadership in strategic outreach, information and education programs that target nonpoint sources at the local, regional and state levels. The NPS Alliance will serve as the entity responsible for looking at water quality problems not identified by the WQCD as priority areas in Colorado.**
- Task a. Provide advice on NPS small projects as part of ongoing outreach efforts (similar to previous I&E role)
 - Task b. Promote and host annual forum(s); work in conjunction with Watershed Assemble and potentially separate 319 annual forum conferences, workshops and classes
 - Task c. Establish and promote Speakers/ Training Bureau (conferences, workshops and classes)
 - Task d. Provide direct consultation support (membership list)
 - Task e. Furnish Information and sources (e.g., NPS Connection, other newsletter(s), WEB site, E-distribution information exchange)
- 6. Measuring successes by telling/ relaying local and regional watershed stories.**

- Task a. Identify necessary metric to quantify multiple successes at a watershed level, including education and other non-water quality metrics
- Task b. Encourage local state of the watershed reports
- Task c. Economic project map for specific basins/ watersheds

7. Utilize NPS Alliance technical and knowledge-based expertise to recommend appropriate monitoring and assessment at a watershed level. This should include a more holistic view of the watershed and consider the interconnection of multiple problems at a watershed scale.

- Task a. Assist and support Colorado Monitoring Council
- Task b. Establish NPS workgroup to address monitoring and assessment needs

