

## Colorado Water Quality Forum

**Mission:** To achieve solutions to Colorado water quality issues through communication and understanding, balancing use and protection of the resource

**Ground Rules** The following “ground rules”, based on those utilized over the years at Water Quality Forum meetings, are recommended for work group meetings:

- Come to each meeting prepared for the scheduled discussion, e.g. having reviewed any relevant draft documents that have been circulated prior to the meeting.
- Speak up so that everyone can hear.
- Only one person should speak at a time.
- Be concise in asking questions and/or stating your perspective on an issue.
- Avoid personal attacks. Be respectful of others’ perspectives and responsibilities.
- Sort for similarities that may exist in spite of differences. Listen carefully to the perspectives/proposals raised by others and respond in a manner that moves the discussion forward.
- Clearly identify remaining differences that are not resolved by work group discussions.
- Avoid sneak attacks. Respect the process by letting others know of positions and actions that will be taken regarding the issues being discussed.
- Decision making method: Consensus (everyone understands and can live with the decision), Fall back method: Minority report
- Avoid end runs. Respect the process by letting others know if differences remain that will be pursued in other venues (e.g. directly with other members in the executive and/or legislative branches of state or federal government).
- Identify conversations that aren’t working. Bring this to the attention of others.
- Backtrack from poor results. Step out of the content, observe the process and fix it. Reestablish mutual respect and mutual purpose before bringing the conversation forward.