

## Statewide Water Quality Priorities Work Group

**Purpose:** *To develop a new system/process for developing long-term water quality priorities in Colorado. The work group would focus on the Water Quality Control Commission's strategic water quality outlined in Colorado's Water Plan. The commission's goal states: By 2050, Colorado's waters will fully support their classified uses, which may include drinking water, agriculture, recreation, aquatic life, and wetlands.*

### Preliminary scope outline for the work group:

1. Analysis of past water quality and progress we have made since the inception of the Clean Water Act and Colorado Water Quality Control Act.
  - Identify what we have accomplished (e.g. ammonia reduction).
  - Where were in the 1970s (e.g. the unchecked pollution into the system and what is it now?). Concern: Is there data available to make these comparisons using an apples to apples approach.
2. Conduct a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis on the current Water Quality Forum process for priority setting.
  - What are the strengths and weaknesses of our current process?
  - What are the opportunities/threats to priority setting in the next five to seven years in Colorado?
3. Identify what the current drivers are and what should they be?
  - Drivers may be identified in the SWOT analysis, but if not identify drivers.
  - The goal of this task is to identify the spectrum of issues/problems we need to take in the next five to seven years.
4. Identify the long-term priorities and strategies for a new priority setting process in Colorado.
  - What are the pros and cons of different process strategies?
  - Develop an overall road map required to implement long-term strategies.
  - Caveat: CDPHE still needs flexibility and the process will need to be adaptive and allow for course correction. It is expected that the work group will part of the "crew", not captain of the ship.

**Next Steps:**

1. Water Quality Forum Steering Committee will refine scope of work prior to forum's 2017 retreat.
2. Identify funding.
3. If this effort does become a work group it will require involvement from everyone who is on the Water Quality Forum. An outreach plan would be required to re-engage all sectors to make sure the process is inclusive (e.g. agriculture, industry, stormwater, local government, etc.).