GROWING WATER SMART

Fort Collins Area Water Collaboration Efforts
THE ONE BIG IDEA: COLLABORATION
WHAT IS COLLABORATION?

• “To work jointly with others or together to create or achieve the same thing”

• Where do we have shared goals/objectives/interests? Can we find opportunities to collaborate to achieve those things?
WATER COLLABORATION

- East Larimer County Water District (ELCO)
- Fort Collins Loveland Water District (FCLWD)
- Fort Collins Utilities (FCU)
FORT COLLINS GMA COLLABORATION

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Water Sharing Agreements
- Water Sale and Delivery Agreements
- Water Conservation Programs
- Watershed Protection & Restoration
- Shared Infrastructure
CHALLENGES/ OPPORTUNITIES

- Rising water supply prices
- Adequate storage
- Growth
- Climate Adaptation/Resilience
- Economies of Scale

[Diagram showing the Colorado-Big Thompson Project Unit Price from 1960 to 2015. The x-axis represents the year, ranging from 1960 to 2015, and the y-axis represents the cost in dollars per unit, ranging from $0 to $25,000.]
May 2016
• Overview of Current State
• Advantages of Collaboration
• Challenges and Barriers
• Path Forward
  • Formation of Steering Committee
COLLABORATION GOVERNANCE

1. Steering Committee
   Governing Boards
   Staff

2. Identification of key issues
   • Water Supply and Drought Planning
   • Water Conservation & Shortage Response
   • Future Water Supplies

3. Points of Leverage
   • Relationship between water resources, growth, and community planning
   • Local Growing Water Smart Workshop
REASONS TO COLLABORATE

To utilize water resources effectively and efficiently
To eliminate duplication
To build trust
For drought protection
To address growth
Because we partner already
To plan for the larger community
Because we have common interests and resources
We have to for our future
### BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION

- Colorado Water Law makes water sharing difficult
- Economic and financial viability of collaborative options for all stakeholders
- Different financial models (capital cost vs. operating revenue)
- Varying interests/goals (single service vs. multi-purpose)
- Varying interests of customers (agriculture, business, residential)
- History
- Trust/Fear
LOOKING FORWARD

• Integration of water/land use planning
• Comprehensive water resources element in City’s Comprehensive Plan
• Focus on points of leverage
  • Planning/Policy Making
  • Pre-development
  • Building and Construction
  • Post-Occupancy