Straw Man: Northern Colorado River Conservancy District

• To achieve a healthier working river:
  – Establish a semi-regular forum for broad-based water discussions
  – Characterized by voluntary collaboration and adherence to the “That could work if ...” model
  – Targets success through a combination of agricultural, municipal, environmental and recreational outcomes and measures
  – Seeks input and advice of local governments, water providers and others, inviting new and mixing previous participants as necessary and productive
– Suggests and roughly prioritizes projects opportunistically

– Incubates one to three “projects” per year that integrate non-consumptive needs with consumptive needs

– Brokers at least one of these “projects” per year

– Interfaces with an engaged community (annual meeting, speakers bureau, website)

– Is not intended to restrict the ability of a water right holder to use their water right as permitted under Colorado law unless agreed by all parties
Challenges:

• Straw men need brains
  – Securing knowledgeable, motivated and available leadership that can facilitate the discussion and actions over the long term

• Generating sufficient and sustainable public and private funding to achieve the mission

• Putting up with frustration and managing near-term expectations

• Not interfering with parallel but independent efforts

• Identifying when enough is enough