



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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What's Next for Steamboat Springs Water Conservation July, 2009

In the spring of this year, three water districts - the City of Steamboat Springs, Mount Werner Water, and Steamboat II Metropolitan District - moved forward to develop the first ever joint Water Conservation Plan (WCP), which was presented in April to the three governing entities for review kicking off a 60-day public comment period during which the Plan was presented in May at an Open House event and at the Home and Garden Show. Now that the 60 day public comment period for the Plan has passed, the trio has outlined the next steps toward ultimate adoption and implementation.

One of the priorities is to secure grant monies to refine and develop details for the 59 action items listed in the first edition of the WCP. This will bring the Plan closer to meeting the approval requirements of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). An important benefit of CWCB approval is to be eligible for grant funds that can go towards accomplishing the action items.

Public outreach and awareness programs have already begun to address the need for water conservation, how it benefits our community, and guidelines and tools for conserving water at home and at work. Additional educational efforts are planned for 2009 and 2010 to work toward stated goals of reducing peak demand usage by 20% by the year 2030.

In 2009, look for continued education efforts to focus on both residential and commercial users to include:

- a "how to conserve" brochure which will be distributed to all users,
- workshops geared to improved landscape and irrigation techniques specific to the Steamboat Springs area,
- an expanded resource "library" of website links on the City and MWW websites that will provide additional detail on what products are available, local suppliers, drought tolerant plants for Routt County, and more,
- school programs,
- rain harvesting and gray water recycling information, and
- drought and water emergency preparedness program implementation.

Future efforts will focus on developing incentive programs and institutionalizing public outreach efforts. For more information, please contact Joe Zimmerman, City of Steamboat Springs Distribution/Collection Supervisor at (970) 871-8209, Jay Gallagher, Mt. Werner Water Manager, at (970) 879-2424, or Doug Baker, Steamboat II Metropolitan District Manager at (970) 879-7671.

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