

Colorado Produced Water Consortium

2024 Overview
February 27, 2024

Presented by Hope Dalton, Director

dnr.colorado.gov/colorado-produced-water-consortium



HB23-1242 Water Conservation in Oil and Gas Operations

Established in July 2023

[Colorado House Bill 23-1242](#)

Colorado Produced Water Consortium's Primary Goal

To reduce the use of freshwater and increase the recycling of produced water in oil and gas operations



Colorado Produced Water Consortium Membership

31 members appointed by the
DNR Executive Director &
Governing Body

- State & federal agencies
- Research institutions
- Environmental NGOs
- Industry
- Produced water experts
- Local governments
- Environmental justice groups
- Disproportionately impacted communities

Staff

- Director
- Assistant Director for Research
- Science Advisor for Data Innovation
- Data Manager



COLORADO

Produced Water Consortium

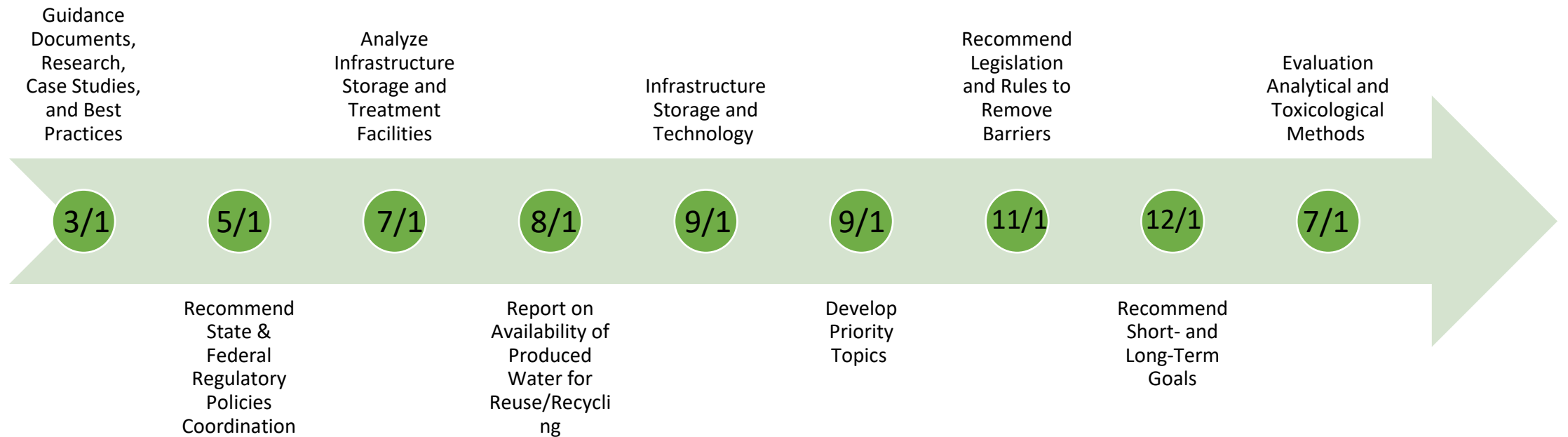
Department of Natural Resources

Strategic Priorities

- Implementing legislative requirements (focus of 2024)
- Education
- Communities & environment
- Research
- Identifying regulatory and policy recommendations



2024/2025 Legislative Requirements



First Legislative Deliverable - 3/1/2024

By March 1, 2024, the Consortium will develop guidance documents and case studies to promote best practices for infield reuse and recycling.

- Gathered and reviewed over 130 references
- Report identified common research themes

Challenges

- Could not access due to paywalls
- Lack of Colorado-based case studies and research



Second Legislative Deliverable - 5/1/2024

By May 1, 2024, the Consortium will provide recommendations to state agencies and the General Assembly on how state and federal agencies can better coordinate polices related to produced water.

- Water Quality Control Commission
- Solid & Hazardous Waste Commission
- Air Quality Control Commission
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Energy and Carbon Management Commission
- Division of Water Resources
- State Land Board
- EPA
- BLM



2024 Highlights

Current Work

- Finalizing Best Practices Report
- Drafting Policy Coordination Recommendation Report
- Additional data collection on freshwater use and produced water use
- Identifying partnerships and additional stakeholders

By the end of 2024

- 11/1 Identify legislation or rules to remove barriers to recycling and reuse
- 12/1 Recommend Statewide short- & long-term goals to inform policy making
- 12/31 Energy and Carbon Management Commission adopts new rules requiring statewide reduction in freshwater use in oil and gas



Strategic Priorities Beyond 2024



EDUCATION



COMMUNITIES &
ENVIRONMENT



RESEARCH

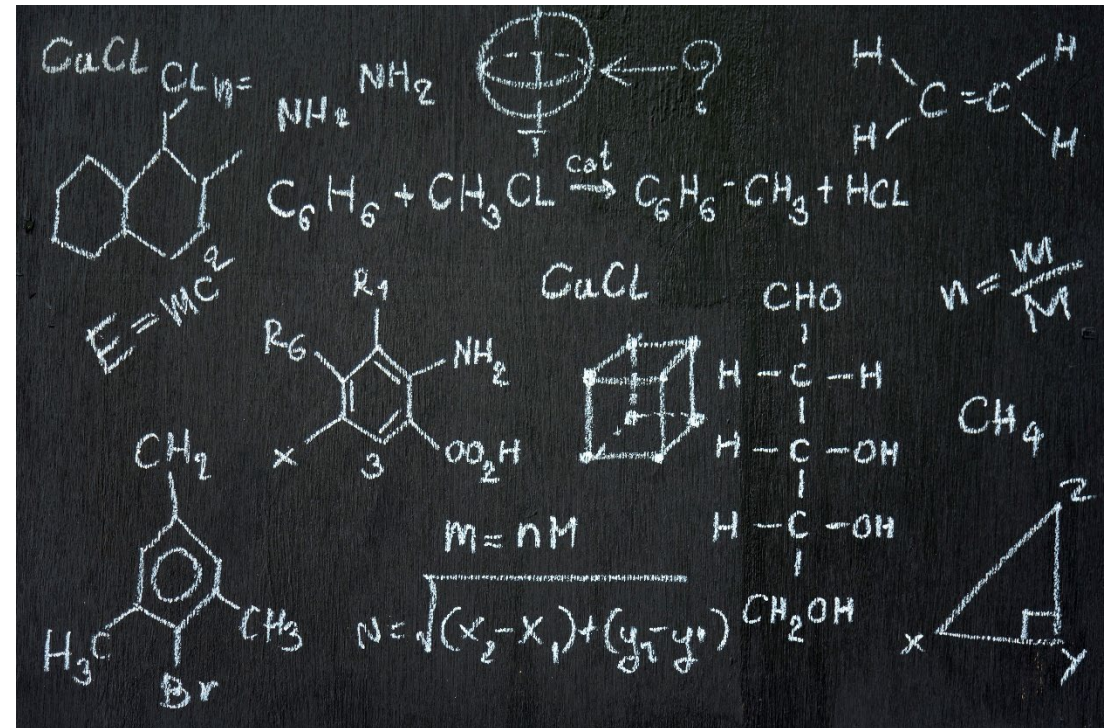


IDENTIFY REGULATORY
AND POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS



Education

- Build Consortium's knowledge
- Provide the public with information on a regular basis in accessible and understandable ways
- Engage communities in the Consortium's process of making recommendations
- Proactive outreach to impacted communities



Communities & Environment

- Create tools and guidelines to identify issues, solutions, risks, and rewards
- Proactively engage and consider local government entities, Tribes, and communities
- Provide guidelines that will identify communities impacted positively and negatively from produced water
- Identify and map points of imbalance and opportunities for reuse, recycling, and disposal of produced water and interbasin coordination and collaboration
- Consortium's recommendations will proactively consider impacts on the environment



Research



Identify research and data gaps specific to the Consortium's work



Assess and report on the current state and the necessary state to achieve different levels of recycling and reuse of produced water within the oil and gas basins in Colorado



Working collaboratively with our partners, articulate the aspirational future state of produced water within the oil and gas basins in Colorado.



Identify Regulatory and Policy Recommendations

- Identify regulation, legislation, and policy which align with the Consortium's goals
- Identify and recommend to appropriate regulatory agencies minimum thresholds for reuse and recycling of produced water



Key Takeaways



- In 2024, the Colorado Produced Water Consortium will develop recommendations for policy based on science and community feedback
- Colorado Produced Water Consortium appreciates the open sharing of research and collaboration with the Texas and New Mexico Consortia

