

# **Colorado Water Quality Forum – Collaboration vs. Confrontation**

**Colorado Institute of Public Policy  
October 6, 2006**

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# I. Background

## A. Water quality statutes and regulations

1. Implementation and stringency of standards
2. Use designations (anti degradation)
3. Permit terms and conditions
4. Impacts on water rights (quality/quantity)
5. Use of enforcement tools
6. Outside forces, e.g., EPA, etc.
7. Legislative initiatives (401 certification, anti degradation, permit fees, cost/benefit analysis, etc.)

# **I. Background (con't)**

## **B. Battlefields**

- 1. WQCC**
- 2. WQCD**
- 3. Legislature**
- 4. Water Court**

## **II. Forum Formation (1992)**

- A. Water suppliers**
- B. Wastewater dischargers (municipal and industrial)**
- C. Environmental organizations**
- D. State agencies**
- E. Federal agencies (EPA, USFS, USFWS, Department of Agriculture, Corps)**
- F. Local agencies**
- G. Agricultural community (non-point source)**

# III. Forum Mission

- A. **“To achieve solutions to Colorado water quality issues through communications and understanding, balancing use and protection of the resource.”**
  
- B. **Objective: Common understanding of facts and the law applicable to an issue (not consensus)**

# IV. Mechanisms to achieve objective

- A. Work Group process (“...to provide a safe atmosphere for an open and frank discussion of key water quality issues or topics, with the objective of working to a consensus resolution or, alternatively, to develop an identification of and better understanding of issues where disagreement remains.”)
- B. Establishment of workgroups
  1. Aquatic life classification
  2. Impacted water supplies
  3. Nutrient criteria
  4. Practical quantitation limits
  5. Reuse committee
  6. Temperature
  7. TMDL/303(d)
- C. No preclusion from WQCC rulemakings
- D. Incentive: WQCC deference to workgroup recommendations

# V. Forum Ground Rules

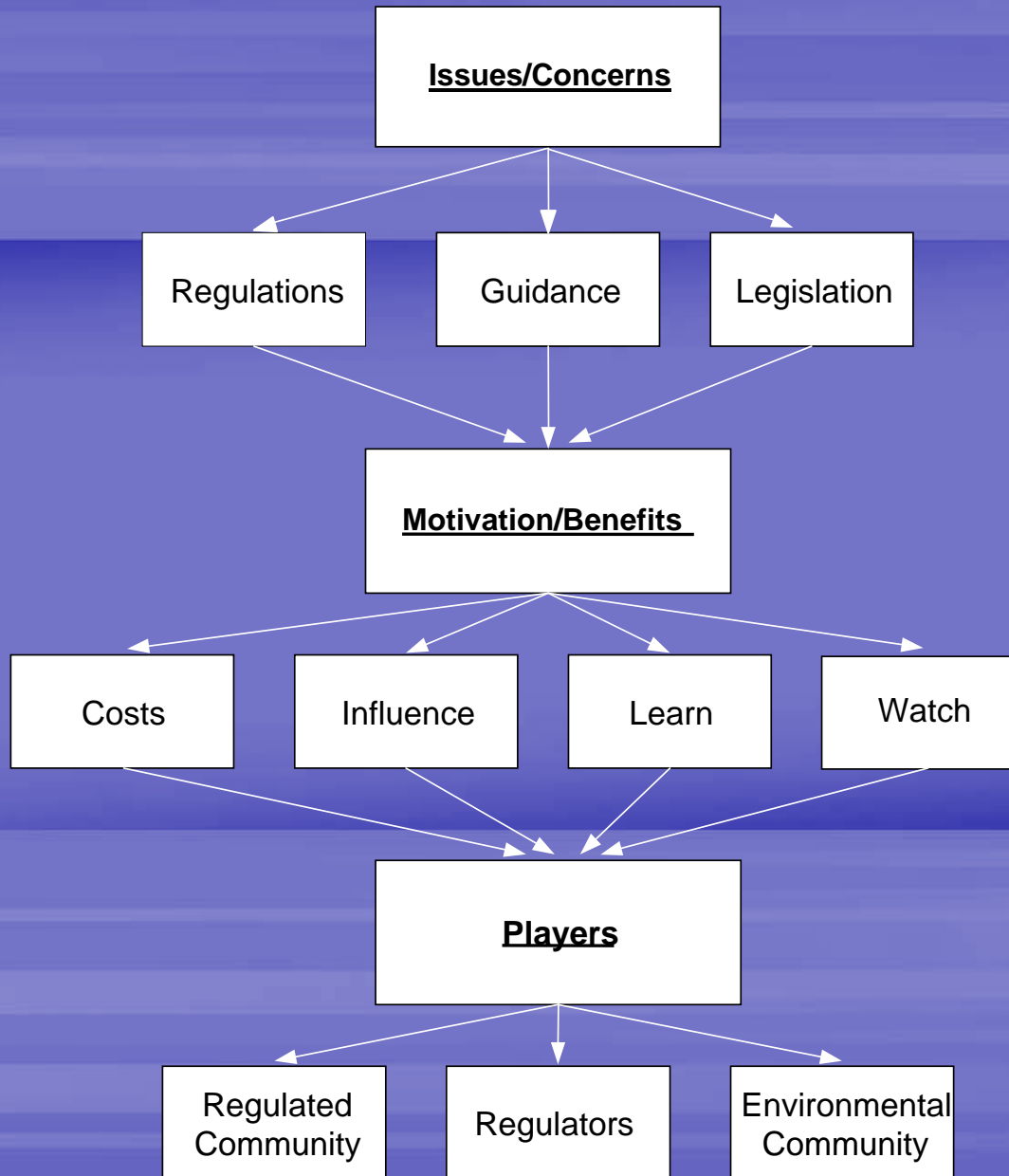
- A. Come to each meeting prepared for discussion.**
- B. Be concise.**
- C. Avoid personal attacks.**
- D. Sort for similarities/listen carefully to perspectives/proposals.**
- E. Clearly identify remaining differences.**
- F. Respect the process – no sneak attacks.**

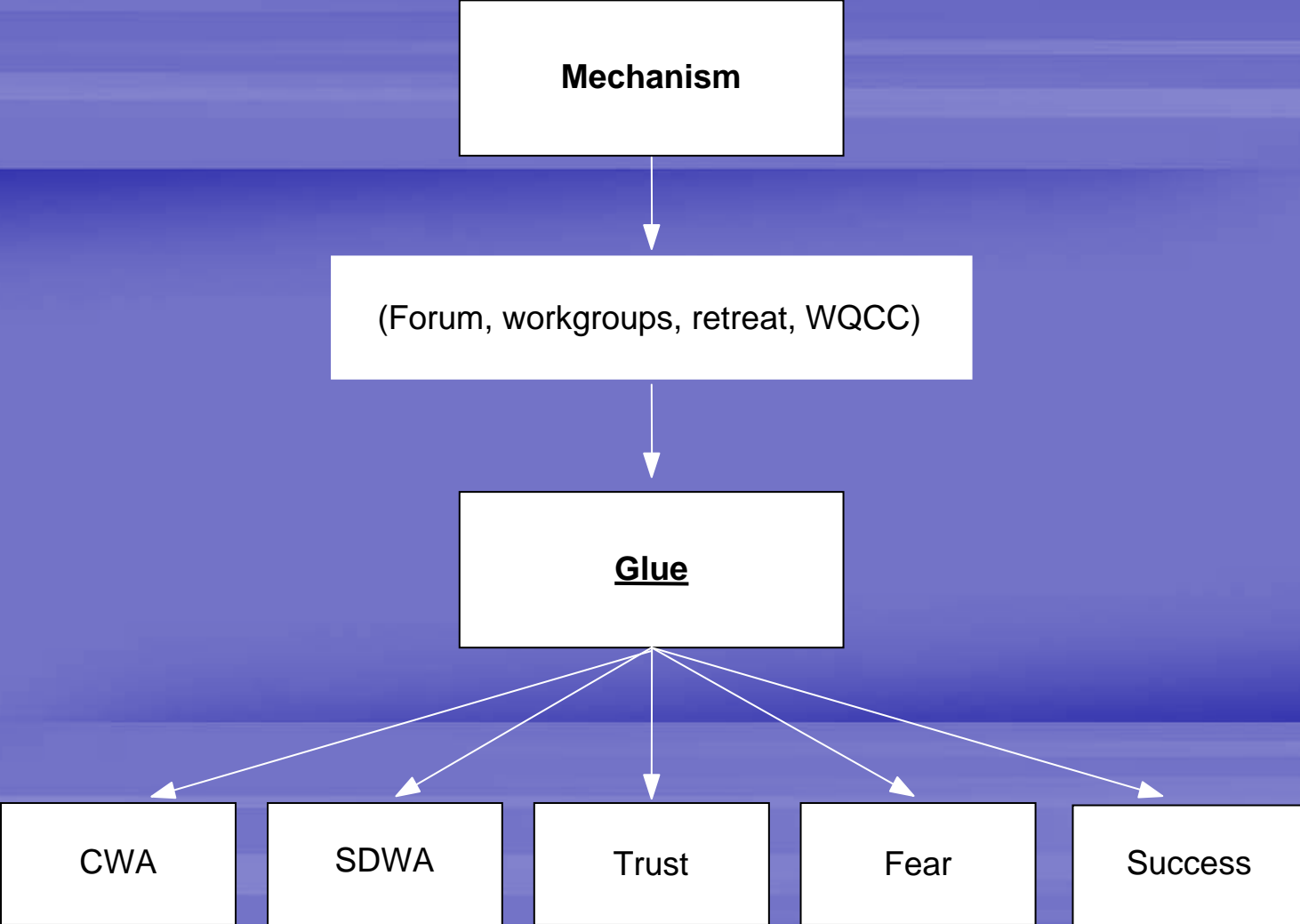
# VI. Prioritization of Issues

- A. WQCC desires
- B. WQCD decisions
- C. Legislative hot buttons
- D. Available resources

# VII. Forum/Workgroup Process

- A. Chair**
- B. Coordinator (administrative matters)**
- C. Set agenda**
- D. Website/minutes**
- E. WQCC contact person**
- F. Recruitment**
- G. Use of speaker phones**





For More Information, visit the

Colorado Water Quality Forum Website:

<http://www.cwqf.org/default.htm>