

Water Literate Leaders
Homework Responses
For September 14, 2017 Session

What are you especially interested in seeing covered in these sessions?

- I am interested in learning about water issues in our region and how we might solve them. I am interested in learning about laws that might be barriers to achieving our goals around storage and conservation, e.g. laws around graywater. I am interested in learning about new technology that will help us be more resilient.
- What is the current thinking on the proposed NISP project? How would these developments affect flows through town during the year and what impact would those flows have on the health of our river?
- Learning to communicate better with and to individuals (especially millennials) who have come from areas where water is abundant and so they do not make conservation especially of water an important issue and do not seem to have much concern.
- Honestly, I am just seeking the opportunity to learn more about an incredibly important issue in our region that I am only mildly versed in. I believe the value of understanding water challenges, laws and nuances will be invaluable to me in continuing to make a difference in the community.
- I would find it most interesting to find out about our storage systems both today and 50 years out. I would assume there are models of both large reservoir systems along with small pocket “water farming” systems.
- After reviewing the curriculum outline there is nothing of more or less interest to me. Everything in the area of “convey an understanding of basic water information and issues critical to future decisions...” is of equal interest to me and the curriculum looks very engaging. Certainly anytime I see “Economic Growth” (March 8) it is a special interest of the Chamber. Also Proposed Storage Projects (May 10) has been a prime interest of ours for a number of years.
- Overall just learning more about how water works in northern Colorado and what factors most directly impact the water available to us and its quality. I am very interested in finding out more about how we will deal with water in the future versus what we have done in the past as we have seen the value of water increase dramatically while growth continues in northern Colorado.
- I am just hoping to have a broader and better knowledge base of water in general as water in my community is an important and complex topic. I'd like to have a good understanding of how it relates to these 4 key areas: development, infrastructure, oil and gas and water conservation. I am hoping to learn everything from where the water comes from and where it goes to policy and rule making. Especially how NISP/Glade project works into the picture and what happens if it does not become a reality
- Water law basics and discussion of constraints due to water law, and any creative solutions to overcome these constraints; Economic Growth and Supply –

what options, if any, do we have outside of new water storage projects that will keep up with growth? What other creative solutions are out there? Local zoning – how can we best use local policies or other mechanisms to incentivize water conservation, where development occurs to minimize future issues, etc.

- I come at this from a regulatory perspective and I am interested in learning and exploring all the competing interests and uses, and concerns and opportunities, for our local water resources. I hope to gain a broader perspective of water resource and water quality issues, hoping to get a deeper understanding, in particular, regarding water rights/water law and the history of water law in Colorado, and how that impacts us, and our neighboring states' water future
- I hope we can cover the pros and cons of creating new reservoirs, particularly if we can cover the why those opposed to new reservoirs are so opposed to them, and why those in favor of new reservoirs are so in favor of them.
- A few items that I would like to see covered are; 1) how do we educate the general public on our State's fairly complex water law and sources of our water, and 2) how to educate them on the long term nature of planning for future water supplies for the growing population given the long time frames involved in the project approval process. I feel most of our population has no idea that we cannot do "just in time" projects for water storage or infrastructure.

Any specific concerns you hope we will address?

- How to work with other communities that might have different goals than ours. How to communicate complex water issues to the general public. How to make sure we are taking care of our water infrastructure.
- I hope that there might be some tangible solutions to may come out of this experience.
- I would be very interested to learn about a water storage plan that takes into account the rapid rate of growth along the Front Range. A plan that addresses how we stay ahead of water resourcing vs having to react to the reality of growth. I believe Wyoming developed their resources years ago with a solid plan in tact that will serve their State for decades to come. I realize the North Platte is very different from the South Platte however we need to be looking at broader solutions that just our State provides in water resourcing.
- I'm looking for this program to be a continuing effort in fostering collaboration between many stakeholders at many levels with respect to regional water. I am glad to see the April session Ag/Urban Historical Changes and Future Outlook. I assume there is a rationale for putting Economic Growth and Water in the curriculum before Ag/ Urban Historical Changes. I am interested to see how those areas work together.
- How much water do we have available for future domestic use and what steps need to be taken to maximize the efficiency of that water? Also how will the future growth of domestic use impact agriculture and other uses of the water?

- I think it will be important to include climate change adaptation planning into the mix, including both the Rural/Urban connections as well as social equity and environmental justice in water resource/water quality planning issues.
- I'm hoping we can address the relationship between water supply for municipal purposes and affordable housing for all our northern Colorado communities. In particular, the higher it costs per tap for a new water tap in northern Colorado, the harder it will be to build new "affordable housing" units that are actually affordable to the lower end of the spectrum of wage earners. I'm concerned that there is a growing trend among activists to encourage the public to oppose converting agricultural water rights to be converted to municipal purposes, and also to oppose creating new reservoirs, without acknowledging how that so closely impacts the cost of housing in northern Colorado.

Any particular individuals you would like for us to bring as resources for presentation and dialogue?

- State Lawmakers, people with knowledge about agricultural water needs, scientists, and people from non-profit sector.
- I don't know if there is anyone out there looking at large pipeline concepts bringing water from other States however I would find that quite interesting if there is a person of that mindset.
- Any time the curriculum can bring in the actual parties who have participated in this conversation historically would be powerful.
- I do not have any specific individuals in mind, but would like to hear from individuals representing the different groups involved in managing our water supply as well as the different users of our water.
- If you don't have them already, perhaps consider someone from the CSU CLEAN center to discuss more technical detailed water quality/nutrient issues as well as emerging low impact development and other stormwater technologies.
- I would recommend Sue Beck-Ferkiss, the affordable housing specialist for the City of Fort Collins. Also, perhaps Eric Wilkinson of Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, with the request to talk specifically about the creation of a new reservoir from initial concept through to construction and operation of a new reservoir, including why to build one, and what challenges were needed to overcome to make it happen despite opposition, including what sort of opposition did he encounter.
- I see that there will be many presenters you have coming, but I was not sure if you had some for the economics of the impact of the value of water to municipal, industrial, and agriculture in the area.