

Water Literate Leaders 2017/18
Homework following March Session

1. What did you learn today that encouraged you?

- The idea of all communities in Northern Colorado forming an organization called NOCO for regional communication, problem solving, and action on water and other subjects of common interest (ie, public transportation)
- I am always encouraged by Mr. Lind's vision and tenacity. It is somewhat discouraging that some are only willing to see the river from the ecological and environmental standpoint and not be open to the economic impacts that it was created for in the first place. I am also encouraged that communities are learning to use less, but think we have a way to go to educate this next generation in water conservation as I still think the average citizen is not aware of how truly precious and limited this resource is in our state.
- Non Potable water systems and the potential of a non tributary water source in NOCO
- I was encouraged and appreciate the planning and foresight regarding the 2534 development. Land planning and development is not an easy process and I believe economics (profits) are a significant driver to growth, development, and what happens. Land development and meshing commercial, business, and residential uses adding elements (Farmers Ditch) or natural/open space areas cannot be easy and does not always go “as planned” especially in todays world. Open spaces do not necessarily generate revenue, but they do add value and are critically important. In my observation land development and management must be willing to adapt and it turned out to be a positive component in the evolution of the 2534 development.

2. What did you hear today that discouraged you?

- That Weld and Larimer counties today sometimes compete with each other for projects and grants. This is just another facet of the problem that also causes NOCO to have so many independent water supply entities and independent planning for future reservoirs and supply projects.
- As a NISP participant it is discouraging to hear there are still those that oppose this water project. This is driving up our cost to an almost unbearable number to participate and yet what other ideas or options as a region do we have?

- I enjoyed hearing about the NOCO city concept and the development of Crossroads and I-25 as such from Martin Lind. It is good to learn and hear about, but I cannot imagine a NOCO concept without support from the people living in the surrounding communities. I don't believe anyone who resides from any of the towns, cities or municipalities would support this. Every town or community wants its own identity, yet all are willing to share or recognize they live and are part of a region, Northern Colorado. It was discouraging to think about solving important regional issues, such as water or transportation with a NOCO city concept.

3. What did you learn today that surprised you?

- That the population from Longmont to Wellington is already 750,000.
- Surprised to learn that Loveland did not have a Big Thompson Master Plan until recently, but in the event of a major flood like in 1976 will it really make a difference? Is there something we should be looking at from a regional standpoint that would impact or mitigate flood control in Northern CO? One communities flood devastation can affect the region, so perhaps there are some best management or practices we all ought to consider or adopt.
- When Martin Lind put the growth in NOCO in context. Building a Windsor each year.
- I enjoyed hearing from Chris Carlson and I was surprised to learn that Loveland had not developed a master plan (as he described) earlier or sooner. I was around in 1976 when the Big Thompson flooded and for many people it was a tragic and devastating event. I am not a resident of Loveland nor do I know if the city had any damage. It just surprised me that something was not developed then as result of that natural disaster especially since a city as large as Loveland is at the opening of the canyon and how probable a city would be impacted by such a big event (flood) like it was in 2013.

4. What did you learn today that you want to know more about?

- A common landscape code for NOCO communities that reduces water use. Implementing variable tap fees that are dependent on the landscape plan.

- I was not aware of the Western Resource Advocacy Group and they offered multiple good points to consider as we adjust or revise our future comp plans. I would agree with the statement, land use should be more involved in water planning.
- Pending Train Wreck regarding the Colorado River Compact
- I need to know more about land use. The situation which Drew asked us to stand and sit after key questions made me realize I need to know more. Land use planners need to be in more communication with water planners

5. Was there anything today that captured your attention to the extent that you could see yourself engaging in it further—to study it further, to play a leadership role in bringing it to the attention of others?

- Land use planning that leverages and celebrates the asset of a river.
- It was interesting to learn about the 2534 development project and how they went about getting their water decree and setting up a water bank. I found it interesting that they are placing the multi family units in the mix as that seems to be the trend now in all our communities. How will this addition of multi family units in NOCO affect the current water structure/s in place or does it? Do they help or hurt?