

Water Literate Leaders  
Homework following February Session

**1. What did you learn today that encouraged you?**

- Interested to note that there is some thought to reclaiming our river corridors – Fort Collins White Water Park. Appreciate the three point focus – Storm water management, natural systems and recreation. JBS' commitment to reducing the use of water in raising and processing animals for food is a great example of industry being willing to address an issue that have implications beyond them. Encouraged at the wide range of industries that have identified water as a priority for them and have committed resources to identify opportunities to make a difference.
- I think this was the best session to date. I really enjoyed hearing about the great multi-benefit projects being done by Fort Collins and Windsor and by Ducks Unlimited. It takes a lot of time and magic to pull off projects that have multiple benefits like these. It is so nice to hear about how these projects have come together. I also thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the many projects that John Stokes reported on.
- The partnership that Greeley and Windsor have developed on the Poudre River Trail and how that has the potential to expand to additional natural area development. And Carrol's efforts to expand BreWater beyond Fort Collins!!!!
- Water impacts business much more than I realized. I liked the presentations and learning about the various entities. The drawings that Matt shared about what is happening with Tying Community to the River will engage people and will be educational and will be something that will be interesting to watch its development.
- Once again, I am very encouraged by the collaboration that is taking place through organizations like PRTI, and Duck Unlimited. Also, glad to hear about the breweries getting involved.
- I was very encouraged by hearing about aquifer recharging efforts spearheaded by Ducks Unlimited.
- The session at the beginning where everyone in the class was given a few minutes to speak was enlightening, hearing all the different perspectives.

**2. What did you learn today that discouraged you?**

- Water is a finite resource. Some years it is more finite than others. Everyone (all communities) is fighting to protect their interests (their citizens). While I don't see that we will revert to the concept of mutual sacrifice, I don't see (could just not be aware) that there is a concerted collaborative effort to address opportunities to address water use among communities. I am concerned about the Buy & Dry as exemplified by the magnitude of Thornton's purchases in Northern Colorado.
- John's comments about being discouraged by climate change really resonated with me. As a conservation practitioner, the ramifications of climate change keep us all up at night. We will all have to adapt to future conditions related to climate change, which will further exacerbate water issues.
- Nothing.
- The amount time that it takes to bring projects together. John shared many interesting things from his career and experiences, but many things take time. Collaboration is imperative, but collaboration takes time.
- I was discouraged about the effects of Climate Change, e.g. volume of snow decreasing. Discouraged that there may be too many demands placed on the Poudre.
- I was discouraged to learn that water used in the oil industry is disposed of rather than being treated and reused.
- Waterfowl types that find a wetland inhospitable during a drought, never come back.

### **3. What did you learn today that surprised you?**

- The presentation and discussion regarding JBS caused me to consider the vast difference of water reliance/demand among the different industries.
- I was aware of water conservation efforts undertaken by municipalities and the breweries, but was surprised to learn about JBS's efforts.
- The number of recharge projects that Duck Unlimited has developed along the Platte River.
- I was surprised to learn how much a business is affected by weather and other elements hearing from Brad about the recreational

component from Mountain Whitewater. He does not know from one year to the next how long his season will be, or how if river flow drops and canceling bookings yet he seems positive/optimistic given what seems like a lot of volatility with his business and how easily it can be impacted. I know I would not have a personality that can handle that.

- I was surprised to learn that Ducks Unlimited is the leader in wetland conservation with over 14 million acres conserved. That is amazing work.
- I was surprised to learn how expansive the efforts Ducks Unlimited are in the realm of water quality and wetland enhancement. They are so much more than Ducks.
- Increased nitrogen in rivers also increases the soluble selenium load in the river, which is a concern because of selenium toxicity at higher levels. How fickle the rafting business is. Groundwater that is exposed to surface evaporation (ie, River Bend Ponds), must be replaced by augmentation.

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

- I would like to know more about the initiatives by the communities along the Poudre and explore whether similar initiatives might be applicable to the Big Thompson.
- I don't think I fully understood the idea about combining instream flows and augmentation that John mentioned, and would like to learn more about how this would work.
- The Flows project. I think there are some real neat opportunities to enhance the environment along the River especially as we approach the confluence.
- It was interesting to know that oil and gas companies are also developing water lines while they are developing the transport fuel lines. I think it is good, but I didn't realize it was happening. I enjoyed hearing the presentation from Erik and need to understand more about the process, especially water that is used for oil and gas development.
- Very intrigued by the augmentation program proposed by PRTI; this seems like a step in the right direction.
- I want to learn more about the oil industry's water they "dispose" of. If this source of water could be treated and made safe, it could be utilized within our water scarce region.

- Our class and the local press are more focused on the Poudre. Would like to learn more about the issues facing the Big Thompson. Most times when I cross the Big Thompson on I-25 it seems to be a trickle compared to the Poudre at the same time.

**5. Was there anything today that captured your attention to the extent that you could see yourself engaging in it further?**

- While I don't have anything specific, I can see myself getting more deeply involved in the Loveland Utilities Commission – especially regarding water – and in any water issues that come before Loveland City Council.
- Two items: 1) Additional planning and collaboration to make projects happen that benefit multiple sectors; 2) Sitting down together to learn from each other more. In the Big Thompson we have been doing more of this – examples include monthly meetings to collaborate and learn from the other Front Range Watershed Coalitions, and a collaborative forest health project with Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. I am very interested in doing more of this, and it seems like there are conversations like this occurring in multiple arenas. Scaling it up and coming up with the strategic plan for our rivers moving forward is needed and critical. I look forward to hearing the thoughts of the group meeting at the end of the month to explore further how we scale up regional collaboration and what that might look like.
- The Flows project.
- I like the idea of working together and thinking creatively. There were many positive examples of this at our February class. As a leader, I am open to facilitating and encouraging this kind of regional collaboration.
- I definitely want to gain more knowledge in water storage through the concept of recharging aquifers. There's a lot of untapped potential in that.
- Ft Collins' annual cleanup of the Poudre River Corridor on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Expand this cleanup along the Poudre through Timnath, Windsor, & Greeley.