

2018-2019 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado
Homework Assignment for **November 2018**

What did you learn today that encouraged you?

- Municipalities creative solutions to increasing population demands; Positive impacts of water conservation after droughts; Current collaborative efforts of multiple municipalities (Windsor/Greeley); Other state models of management (Utah/Wyoming); Colorado Water Trust.
- Everything about Alex Davis I found encouraging -- she is intelligent, engaged, and thinks outside of the box. I would like to see more of her type of leadership in our political arena.
- I was encouraged by the long-term thinking of our municipal water managers and their continued emphasis on storage projects.
- How to Share Water Differently. Somewhat encouraged. Throughout human history, when enough of us recognize a common problem, creativity and compromise result in solutions. I hesitate though because the pace of global changes may out pace leadership.
- Loveland, Fort Collins, and Greeley's examples of diverse approaches to conservation that are reducing per capita water usage even as population increases. It shows that municipalities are looking outside the box to find ways to educate and implement conservations measures to decrease water demand and therefore reduce or delay costly infrastructure and water supply projects.
- From the municipal data that was presented, per capita water use is trending down. It appears that, building code changes, conservation measures, changes in home designs and lot sizes, are all having an effect.
- How different the 6 municipalities operate.
- Cities each have a different approach to obtaining water, but most are on the same page of reducing resident use even with growth.
- Alex Davis's discussion on how do we share water differently, in a fairer way and the inclusion of the environmental needs.
- I thought the forward thinking and planning that our Northern Colorado communities demonstrated during their presentations during the November session is very encouraging. As a community member, I know the public is often quick to discount/minimize the contributions of our public utility Board members, staff and consultants and we never contact them to say thank you when everything works perfectly. So, thank you to the members of our current class that are in those positions and thank you for ensuring that your service area has a reliable, safe, and tasty water supply at such a low cost, I appreciate everything that you do.
- Water planners / providers look very far into the future. Glad to hear about efforts to increase (or explore) the opportunity to delivery raw water for municipal outdoor use – having a parallel purple plpe system is a great thing. Ed Canon could make me want to read any book he recommends.
- I was impressed with the robust planning initiatives. It was comforting to know that in general the focus is on responsible planning for future water demands; including seeking alternative

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methods, i.e. reverse osmosis etc. Also, encouraged by the holistic approach of water conservation and the importance of watershed health and vitality.

- A number of municipalities in Northern Colorado feel they have sufficient water rights to meet their population growth demands for the foreseeable future; more concerned with storage and treatment. So it may not be a complete blood bath as municipalities fight each other for shares; some have enough already!
- It was interesting and encouraging to hear some of the unique approaches Aurora water is considering in respect to ag conversions compared to historic approaches. Past approaches, such as what occurred in Crowley County Colorado, devastated local communities by completely removing the agriculture economy from many rural areas. There appears to be a significant effort to minimize and reduce that effect to small rural ag-based communities in the future.

What did you hear today that discouraged you?

- Aurora Water legal budget of 2 million per year; Lack of collaboration between water districts/municipalities; and Colorado Water Law vs other states.
- As a citizen of Fort Collins, I run with a circle that is very against the NISP project. I was taken back a bit at the confidence of some of the speakers that it will happen and happen in the next few years. I appreciate the perspective and definitely understand the need, but I am saddened that this project is pitting cities against each other.
- I was discouraged by the predicament that some of the smaller (“newer”) towns and water districts are in relative to water supply and storage.
- We take pride in systems that have worked for us for over a century. Much of our system is still effective but any system that begins with confrontation leads to winners and losers, which means eventually all lose.
- I felt that the representatives from the water districts during the panel discussion were focused on preserving the status quo rather than seeking new solutions to water shortages.
- While we are seeing a downward trend in per capita water use, municipal water dedication policies have not adapted to recognize that fact. In some cases, they have gotten more conservative in their calculation. It appears as if there is a disconnect on this item.
- The vast investment we have to make today to ensure water for the future.
- So many people! This keeps coming up, how do we manage?
- Compact was created during a “wet” period rather than a more conservative “dryer” period.
- The number of communities that have zero diversity in their supply is discouraging.
- I don’t mean to be the person that says, now that I’m here, no one else should be allowed to move/live here. But, at the same time, I find it interesting that we seem to see growth as not just inevitable, but (almost) desirable. We certainly see growth as a “given”. Will natural limits ever become the guide or, will we in northern CO do like others around the world have done – and just go forward at any price – regardless of natural “limits”?

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Homework Assignment for **November 2018**

- It is often discouraging to see the exponential growth and predictions of growth and the challenges associated with supplying water.
- Issues at Lake Powell and the lower states in the Colorado River Compact may require a voluntary (or maybe even involuntary) reduction in the allocation to the upper states. If that happens, it seems like Northern Water will need to reduce the annual allocations, putting further strain on water resources for those holding CBT shares.
- It was somewhat discouraging to hear the Tri-Districts does not have the goal or authority to engage in community planning. Tri-Districts sole mission is provide water to the residents of the district and they appear do very good job in meeting their mission. Smart community planning typically results in more efficient use of resources, including water.

What did you learn today that surprised you?

- Different challenges facing municipalities (storage, rights, growth); Continuing competition for limited available water rights; Amount of money needed for Windsor / Evans to participate in NISP Relationship between conservation and water rates.
- I was surprised to learn that every city and municipality have to treat their water differently -- that their facilities all have to be set up differently because of the different needs of the community.
- I was surprised by limitations of the City of Fort Collins' water rights relative to their ability to serve their entire municipal boundary.
- Greeley's reservoir and treatment plant at Boyd Lake just for seasonal peak demand.
- That Fort Collins water rights portfolio are not decreed for the entire GMA.
- The vast investment we have to make today to ensure water for the future.
- Each City has a different history, path, plan, etc. for water - Sourcing, storage, future plans, and management. Without storage, Cities can't grow – Evans, Wellington, etc.; Greeley treats its water in Loveland. How do they keep it clean?
- It was interesting to hear from cities further east of Loveland and the challenges they face to keep up with growth, water needs and water treatment.
- The reliance on C-BT for the majority of the Northern Colorado water providers is pretty alarming/surprising when you consider the effect the Colorado River compact call may have on the availability of C-BT as a reliable supply.
- The interconnectedness of our northern CO municipalities and populations regarding water treatment facilities (and delivery). I had no idea who was helping who (or reliant on who). The idea (or reminder) that prior to 1973 – keeping water in a river (for the benefit of the environment) was considered (by some or many) to be waste.
- Was very surprised about the minimal impact that residential conservation really has and how efficient new residences have become.

2018-2019 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado
Homework Assignment for **November 2018**

- That Fort Collins has a treatment plant that can handle 87 MGD near Laporte, but they only use about 24 MGD of capacity now. Wow! We're trying to figure out how to meet future treatment needs and here's a plant with tons of excess capacity today!
- I was surprised to hear that Evans may decide to opt out of participating in NISP due to cost given how long they have been involved in the development process.

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

- NISP; How natural flows and wildlife are represented within Colorado Water Court.
- I would like to learn more about how developers deal with the water issue for its future residents. Because Colorado is a community that needs to think seriously about water use, at what point will a high price for water become part of the cost of doing business?
- The Poudre Flows project.
- Relative to my responsibilities to my community, the extent to which existing treatment facilities can be expanded vs. building new; and what areas regional collaboration may benefit us all.
- Greeley uses a water rate structure that uses a water budget for single-family homes that are based on efficiency rather than volume. I also liked how their water bills are structured to show higher rates for inefficient water use (above budget). I would like to learn how this model might be used in other municipalities, what equipment (meters, software, etc.) required to provide the data to support the water budget model.
- We touched briefly on other western states water management plans and procedures. I think it would be interesting to know how other western states are managing their water rights and how they differ from Colorado.
- The presentation from Alex Davis was really interesting.
- Really junior water rights that only get water during really high flows, very rarely. Who uses them? What use are they?
- I would like updates from Alex Davis.
- I would love to hear more about Windsor's dual system and how they are able to successfully manage it.
- Water budget billing/rates (?). Poudre River Flows Project.
- Water Storage alternatives specifically NISP, pros and cons.
- Organizations or groups in Northern Colorado that are cooperating to address raw water distribution, treatment capacity, and water efficiency on a regional basis.
- I would like to learn more about the City of Greeley's and other water providers cash-in-lieu programs. I'm curious if this results in risky water planning given the significant challenges that come with developing new water supplies and storage.

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?

- NISP.
- The book that Ed Cannon discussed, "A Land Made From Water" sounded incredibly informative and interesting.
- I don't know what role I could play, but I believe more can be done to bring parity in water pricing across the Fort Collins GMA.
- After the session I visited the Greeley, Fort Collins, Loveland, and Windsor websites to review their water utility policies, rate structure, education and conservation measures to see how Wellington could incorporate similar measures. I believe education will be instrumental in helping Wellington reduce per capita water use.
- I would like to get involved in the changing municipal water use discussion. I would like to explore that data further, to see if certain factors can be isolated as having meaningful impact on the reduction in use, and how we use that data moving forward.
- Windsor's use of non-pot systems is incredibly interesting and is going to be a part of my organization into the future.
- Would love to be able to participate in the CO Water Congress webinar.
- Inspired to begin to tackle the Colorado Water Plan and try and gain an overview and understanding of the players and the processes.
- Management of the Poudre River generally, and especially the CBT flows.
- It was interesting to hear how different providers look and consider their water budgets with respect to conservation improvements and planning for future demand. I'm certain this is an area I will further engage in.