

What did you learn today that encouraged you?

- I learned a little bit about the background and perspectives of the class members and am encouraged to develop relationships and benefit from the diverse insight and connections
- The relative collegiality of the panelists who have starkly different professional backgrounds and perspectives on water.
- Working with farmers to allow them to lease water rights without losing the land for future agriculture.
- I was encouraged to learn about the Colorado Water Congress and their roll and efforts they take throughout the year to attempt to adapt Colorado Water Law to the needs of a changing state.
- The flexible agreements being made between farmers and cities to share resources; the expertise and energy of participants” in learning about water issues in northern Colorado; the collective attempts to educate our community about water utilization and conversation in Colorado.
- I thought it was encouraging to see so many people from such diverse backgrounds come together to learn more about our water supply from different perspectives than we typically consider.
- How little water is used for municipal and lawns.
- It appears as if there is a real sense of collaboration when it comes to water policy and use within the State. It’s that level of collaboration that is going to be required as we plan our needs well into the future.
- The diversity of backgrounds, interests and excitement/passion/desire to learn of those attending the class. I believe this diversity will truly reveal the multi-faceted nature of the “water/supply demand” issue, which in turn will make this a very rich educational and community experience! Seriously, I am so excited to be here!
- I was encouraged by Patty Wells' comments that 1/10th of 1% goes to lawn irrigation, and that irrigation and even Kentucky Bluegrass is not the enemy. As a municipal leader, these comments encourage me to develop education and awareness within my community and to provide resources that help residents use water more effectively, and to look for ways to institute water efficiency in our building standards.
- I am encouraged by the knowledgeable people and scope of their expertise that we were introduced to.
- I learned quite a lot in our first session, but what encouraged me most was the diversity of participants chosen for the program and the fact that we are all there to learn more and work towards collaborative answers to Colorado's water issues.
- That more thought is going into methods like water leasing to obtain water for municipalities from farms.
- I am encouraged by the Alternative Transfer Mechanisms (ATM) allowing municipalities to buy water during dry years and still keeping the farmer “whole”. I am also encouraged by the potential of the municipal water re-use opportunities such as allowing re-used water as toilet water.
- Third, fourth generation Coloradoans come from rugged individualists stock. Those of us who packed up, left homes and moved here also have a rugged individualistic spirit. This spirit, confidence and self-reliance has been and is a strength. A strength can also be a weakness though. Until fairly recently this strength/weakness came through in strong parochial attitudes of our northern Colorado communities. Over the past decade or so attitudes have changed. The Northern Colorado Metropolitan Organization is a great example. Counties and communities, some that do not even border I-25, worked together to lobby for federal and state funds and contribute local funds to improve I-25. I am encouraged by continued regional collaboration and looking for opportunities where we may work together on water issues.

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- I was encouraged by the varied perspectives and expertise in the room. I was particularly happy to hear the respect that industry experts have for Representative Jeni Arndt and that she is leading positive change as the Chair of the Ag Committee. It was also encouraging to learn about the concept of water sharing as an alternative to buy & dry.

What did you hear today that discouraged you?

- I learned how complicated water law can be and am discouraged by the handcuffs it can impose on creativity and collaborative problem-solving.
- Regulatory obstacles to reclaimed water as a supply solution
- Only 1% of Colorado's watering / irrigation is via a "drip" system.
- As someone that grew up on an irrigated farm in Colorado, I was discouraged that attempting to increase water yields through increased efficiency of agriculture water can be problematic, if not impossible.
- Complexity of water management (Mechanical Monstrosity) in Colorado and polarized nature of stakeholders; the legal entrenchment water issues face in trying to institute innovative solutions to water problems; the limitations of citizens impact on water conversation; amount of water resources and projection of declining water resources in the future.
- The divide between city leaders and the agricultural community as it relates to agricultural efficiencies and water usage is apparently quite vast.
- How much water Ag uses and how Ag is essentially punished for conservation.
- The way the current laws are setup, there isn't a real good way to promote efficiencies within the Agricultural sector.
- The "water/supply demand" issue seems so complex and overwhelming, having the feeling that the MORE that I know the MORE I will need to know and pursue additional education and hands on opportunities to fully comprehend and engage.
- I was discouraged to learn that very little is done about inefficiencies in agricultural water applications, since agriculture is the largest water consumer. I was also discouraged to hear that Ag efficiencies could lead to decreased return flows: however, I believe that this should not stop the discussion.
- I was not discouraged by anything I heard.
- I initially felt discouraged by the fact that the average citizen -- by putting in place water saving measures such as xeriscaping -- is not able to solve our water issues. But I am glad I was given the chance to ask the question and Doug Kemper's response that it was still worth it, i.e. if you look at it similarly to all environmental issues on a global scale and that every little bit helps.
- There's always more work to do and people to get on the same page.
- I was discouraged by the impression I got from the presenters that Colorado is not very forward thinking. They implied that others states are more progressive in their approach to water issues.
- Difficulty in revising laws around use it or lose it. That not all water can be reused.
- The limitations of the interstate compacts was somewhat concerning, and also the statement that we came into the year above average for storage, but will end the year in a much different place.

What did you learn today that surprised you?

- I was surprised to learn how small of a percentage urban/suburban lawns are of the state's total water use.
- The breadth of expertise and perspectives on water issues and policy among WLL participants.

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- Water on West side is typically used seven times vs. water use on East side.
- While I was aware that consumptive use of water to maintain green landscaping was low, I was surprised that consumptive use for landscaping is only 0.01% of overall consumptive use statewide.
- The difficulty in instituting innovative/best practice water management in Colorado's water policy/legal structure; Small impact of residential/city lawn irrigation in overall water usage.
- I believe I heard Patty Wells say that it takes 12 gallons of water per sq-ft to properly irrigate bluegrass. Assuming 12 gallons/sq.ft is an annual figure, the consumption on a per acre basis is approximately 520,000 gallons or roughly 1.6 acre-feet per acre.
- That buy-and-dry isn't a city policy, but an underlying water rights/law issue.
- This was the first time I have heard the statistic about how much water is actually utilized for lawn irrigation in the State. When reading articles and talking with policy makers you get the sense that we are utilizing a tremendous amount of the resource to keep lawns green.
- Of course the water supply demand issue is political; mildly surprised at the level of organization associated with the politics. Ms. Wells diverse background being applied in a very political position gave the process a great deal of credence. Was also, surprised at the Colorado Water Congress, and the longevity of the organization.
- I was surprised to learn how much water flows out of state through Interstate Compacts, and that these compacts date back to 1922.
- The complicity of the water laws.
- I was surprised to learn from Doug Kemper that, on average, there are 13-15 adjustments to our state statutes related to water laws. This made me curious if these adjustments actually make the law simpler or more complex.
- That "Buy and Dries" are not the only solution but that currently they make most sense legally.
- I was surprised at the water on the East Slope is used multiple times before it gets to the state line, which makes sense. However, I was further surprised that water on West Slope is not.
- How little of our water is used for outdoor residential.
- The number of organizations and non-profits that are working in this space, and that ¼ of our legislators are on some type of water committee.

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

- Although not in our region, I am intrigued by the Prairie Waters project in Aurora.
- Water policy roles, players, and alliances at the state level.
- On site recycling and potential for application in new and existing development.
- Return flow obligations... How do they work? How are they calculated? It appears like we are going to get into this topic in depth and I look forward to that.
- Perspectives of farmers on future water management issues; 21st century building design structures that support water conservation and management; Water Congress.
- The Big Thompson Conservation District.
- How can we move from an all or nothing buy-and-dry policy? How can we reward Aq for conservation?
- Alternative Transfer Methods.
- Seems like politics drive everything - understanding the history and current work of the Colorado Water Congress, seems like a good stroke towards unlocking the water supply demand mysteries.
- I would like to know more about conservation and drought planning, as well as municipal re-use.

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- I would like to learn more about what Aurora is doing with its water that is so revolutionary. It was discussed briefly during our Q&A session with the panel but I still couldn't quite wrap my head around what is going on with their water system.
- I would like to learn more about groundwater and how it is recharged and why are we allowed to pull more than that recharge rate, which ultimately diminishes the ground water in an aquifer.
- Ideas to assist conservation of agricultural water.
- Re-use options for non-potable water and how we can expand opportunities in this area.

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?

- No single topic per se, but I have been sharing my excitement for the program with others thus far, including past (and potentially future) class participants.
- Colorado Water Congress role in water policy.
- I was impressed with the efforts that David Jessup was taking to improve stream habitat, not only on his property but also with his work with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. As a result, I have reached out to him to look at a potential funding option to assist in meeting their goals.
- 21st century building design structures for water conservation in new schools. How can educational environments model the stewardship we are trying to develop?; I am also interested in reading the history of drinking water text.
- After our first class, it is apparent that the agricultural community needs to do a better job engaging and educating leaders from our nearby cities and communities about agricultural irrigation practices and efficiencies. Assisting in this educational process will be vital to my organization as our communities continue to grow.
- Correcting the record on the numbers and the data. Seems like there is a lot of misinformation out there and that people are going down the wrong path with the best of intentions.
- The concept of Alternative Transfer Methods is very interesting to me. I believe that in order to encourage our largest user of water (Ag. Sector) to be more efficient in their operations we need to incentivize them. Giving them a mechanism to monetize their efficiency seems like a great solution long term.
- The Colorado Water Congress, again the key to affecting change is through the political process—was hoping to do my book report on Desert Solitaire, but must rethink this and perhaps focus on a book that helps unravel Colorado's water politics. Grigg's book?
- I would like to get involved in the South Platte River Basin round table discussions.
- I enjoyed the discussion at the end of the day about the possibilities for reusing water in new construction. I would like to find out if there is a way to retrofit current homes/buildings so that these types of systems could become universal, but I don't currently know enough about how our sewer systems work in the city to know what is possible. Also, my family recently purchased some mountain land close to Roosevelt National Forest. Someday we would like to build on it and I would like to research what kinds of systems are available that could perhaps help us use our water at the utmost efficiency up there.
- Water leasing (ATMs); Book- The History of Drinking Water; and CBT water.
- Regional water treatment.