

Water Literate Leaders Homework following the April 2018 session

1. What did you learn today that encouraged you?

- The discussion regarding how WLL looks in the future was very encouraging. I think there is a lot of energy and experience in the room and I hope that I have opportunities to continue to interact with these people! Water Supply Vulnerability Study. Aquifer Storage studies
- Learning of the 1991/92 water purchase lease back that Greeley Water did to keep Ag viable.
- I was encouraged and appreciate learning about ATM's. They will not solve or resolve the water situation in Northern Colorado, but it is encouraging to learn of and hear about them, because the agricultural/urban relationship appears to be key when dealing with water, especially in Northern Colorado. ATM's are not a new idea nor were they just thought up yesterday. I appreciate that they are being researched and studied further. I appreciate getting the CSU Colorado Water publication about ATM's.
- I was encouraged by the success Peter Nichols had in creating an actual working cooperative of water right owners who agreed to participate in the sharing of their water rights in a scenario that made sense for the farmers, and made sense for the participating municipalities.

2. What did you learn today that discouraged you?

- I don't think there was anything discussed today that was completely

discouraging.

- We hear from panelists, experts and individuals who have tremendous knowledge about water. I think that is great! However, it was discouraging seeing and hearing terminology and words which so-called experts don't agree or they themselves may be confused about when dealing with water. It is discouraging (all be it minor) to real/clear understanding of the issues surrounding water.
- I was discouraged to learn the ways in which ATM are frequently not appealing to municipalities nor to farmers, namely that both parties desire to have control of the water right, and that sometimes means "no-deal."

3. What did you learn today the surprised you?

- Greeley has delivered treated water from Bellevue for 111 years! Greeley's water history was amazing to hear! 75,000 dairy cows to support Leprino Foods operations/production Leasing water to energy development discussion was a new notion to me. ATM allowed Greeley to maintain its ag community while also allowing residential/community/urban development 1 unit of CBT is \$30K Big Thompson water currently very difficult to treat (TSS from post-flood construction/restoration)
- Turbidity issues that Loveland is facing from the US 34 road construction being as severe as the High Park Fire to the Poudre direct flows.
- I am going to preface this with maybe "not surprised" rather "more confused". I know water statistics can easily be biased! It seemed as

though calculations or “statistics” we were presented are calculated a bit differently by municipalities, which causes confusion among listeners. If you do not have total understanding or the background and knowledge of all variables used, it can be difficult to compare one to another or if they should be compared, even though they are described or labeled the same way (i.e. water demand).

- I was surprised to hear a success story that Peter Nichols explained in his team’s effort to get agricultural water rights owners to the table to discuss and agree to sharing water in the context of the Arkansas River valley in southeastern CO.

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

- I’d like to learn more about some of the points raised in the opening discussion and the fees/forces that are impacting pace of growth as well as the discussion re: metro districts and mill levies; Water Dedication requirements, land use planning, and conservation efforts and how they feed into the buy and dry issue. Additionally, some of the book reports (Lory) really spurred interest...must head to the library:-) New Cache Ditch
- Water vulnerability study rather than just drought studies.
- Brett mentioned “land use planning is critical.” I need to know more about land use planning. As Northern Colorado continues to grow land use planners need to be in more communication with water planners. How does it happen? Does this happen? Can it happen?

- One of the panelists mentioned that ATMs are especially good for filling up reservoirs. I want to know more about the details of what makes ATMs a good tool for filling reservoirs, with the desire to spread the word to help arm the appropriate players with the knowledge necessary greatly enhance the effort of filling reservoirs.

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?

- I was excited to learn from Peter of the concept of cooperative sharing and leasing of water rights by multiple farmers and multiple ditch companies, and the story behind how he was able to piece together this complex solution with crop rotations to provide municipal water. I would like to be engaged in implementing such a program (if possible and as appropriate) in NoCo. Although this tool may not work the same way in Northern Colorado as it did in the Arkansas Valley, I would like to be involved in attempting to determine the extent to which something like that could work here, and if so, I'd like to be involved in putting something like that together.