

Confluence

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In the Beginning

- “Go West young man, Go West and grow up with the country” Horace Greeley
- 1869- Nathan Meeker hosts a meeting in New York City to gather “Like Minded” individuals to head West and start a colony in Colorado.
- President Thomas Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803 for \$15 million dollars, which included the “Great American Desert”



Figure 1.2 *On the Cache la Poudre River, Colorado, 1876*. American artist Thomas Worthington Whittredge (1820-1910) delighted in Colorado's incomparable scenery and the success of the new town of Greeley. The massive cottonwood trees, which framed the river in Island Grove Park, became the perfect pastoral setting for Whittredge to sketch and paint in the summers of 1870 and 1871. Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas.

Horace Greeley

- 1859- Traveled west through Colorado to capture the story of the area and the gold rush for his newspaper.
- His articles noted the need for Irrigation, food production, gardens, women and railroad routes
- He noted the prior appropriation water use doctrine in use in California- different than that of Eastern U.S. which consisted of riparian law and only those who abutted a water source could access it.

What awaited the colonists?

- 4 years of locust plagues
- Expensive ditch and fence repairs
- Hail
- Blizzards
- Drought

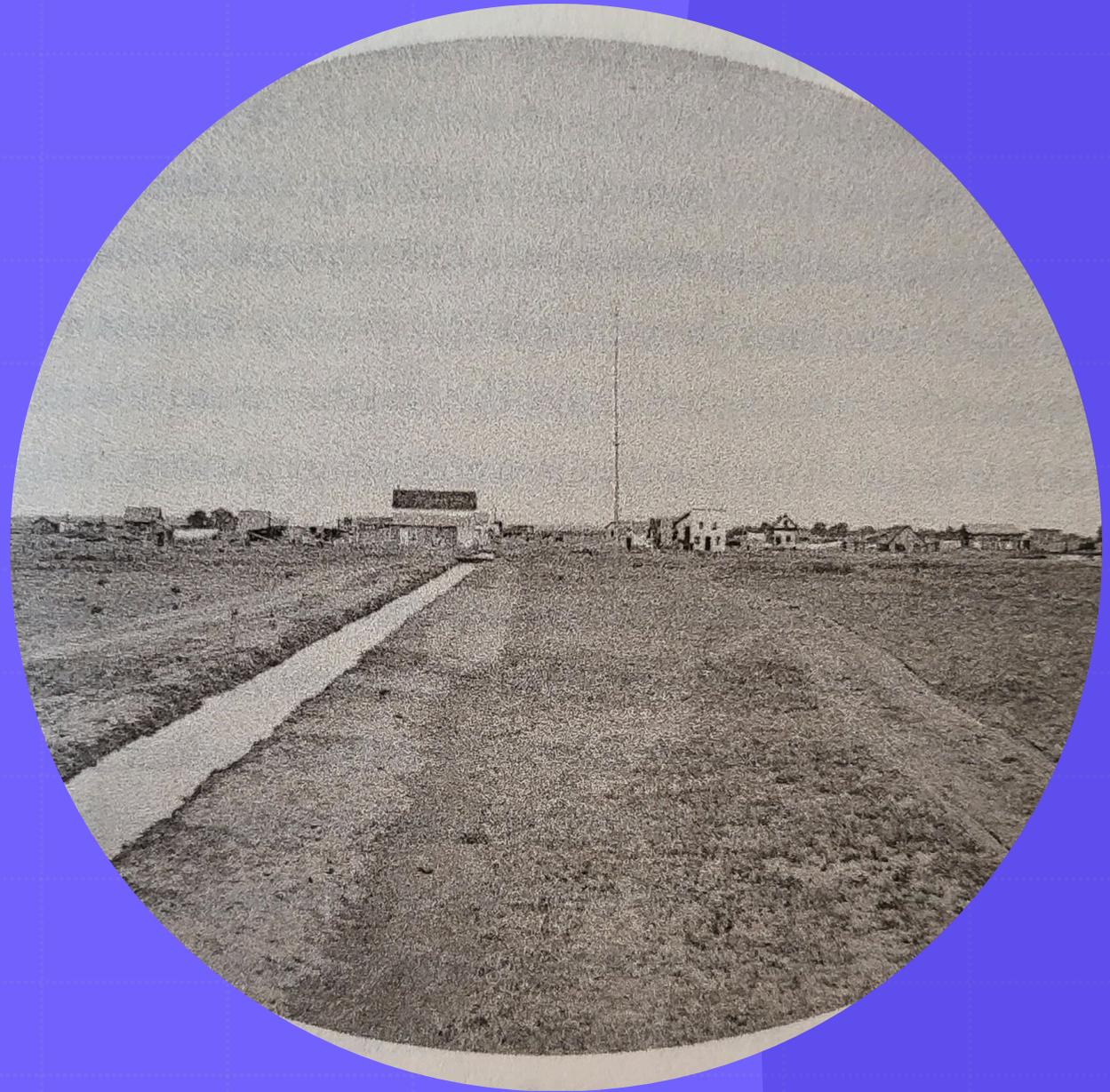


Meeker's 1869 meeting

- 59 attendees
- \$5 initiation fee
- \$155 purchase fund contribution to acquire property
- 1870 expedition purchased 9324 acres of railway lands for \$3-5 per acre
- Total of 737 members
- 500 inhabitants in 1870

Irrigation

- 1870 Greeley No.3 ditch constructed
- 10 miles long
- 6-8 feet wide
- 15 inches deep



Every man to his tent, to his rifle and cartridges!

- July 15th 1874
- This was the start of the priority of appropriation movement in Colorado
- 1876 they crafted prior appropriation of water rights into the state constitution
- 1882 Judicial system was in place to create decrees for water rights as well as enforcement

Water Treatment

- 1889 Greeley Constructs its first “Water Works” plant.
- Uses a sand filtration system to remove pollutants from its ground water sources.
- 1891 Colorado Supreme court decides that senior water rights can be purchased by municipalities and their use changed (Strickler v. City of Colorado Springs)

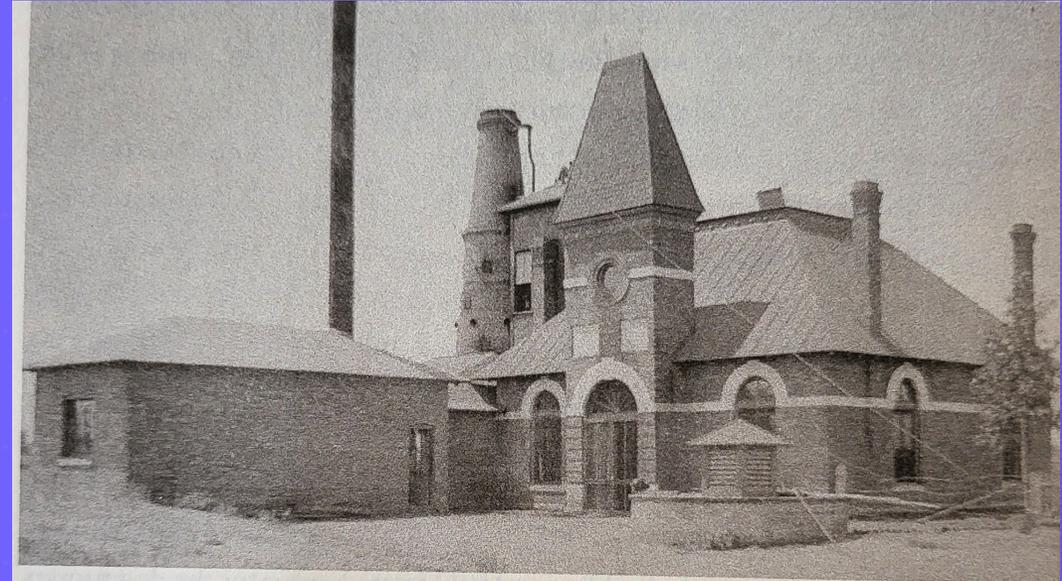


Figure 3.3 In 1889, Greeley's first water works plant was constructed at 14th Avenue and A Street. Two steam pumps forced water from infusion chambers (dug at the site) into water mains under the streets, and to a 138,000-gallon water tower on Inspiration Hill. Daytime pump capacity was 45,000 gallons per hour. At midnight, pumps were shut down and then restarted at 5:00 a.m. As demand regularly outpaced supply, Greeley faced a water shortage crisis by 1900. City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection, AI-0014.

Water Treatment

- 1906-1907 Greeley Constructs a 38 mile wooden stave pipeline to transport Poudre River water from their new Bellview treatment facility



Placing the Last Length of Pipe in Greeley's (Colo.) New Mountain Water System, August 24, 1907. This Pipe Line is 38 Miles Long, and Cost \$350,000.

“Ewww what’s that smell”

1930's

Greeley gets notified by state it needs to do something about its raw sewage problem

5 July 1938

Contract signed with U.S. Government for repayment of construction costs of the Colorado Big Thompson Project (C-BT) Project was completed in 1957 and on average delivers 200,000 acre feet of water into the Northern District

Greeley constructs its first wastewater treatment plant

1936

Dam that water!

- Milton Seaman reservoir construction begins in the 1940's, it was completed in 1948.
- 7 high mountain reservoirs are purchased in 1947

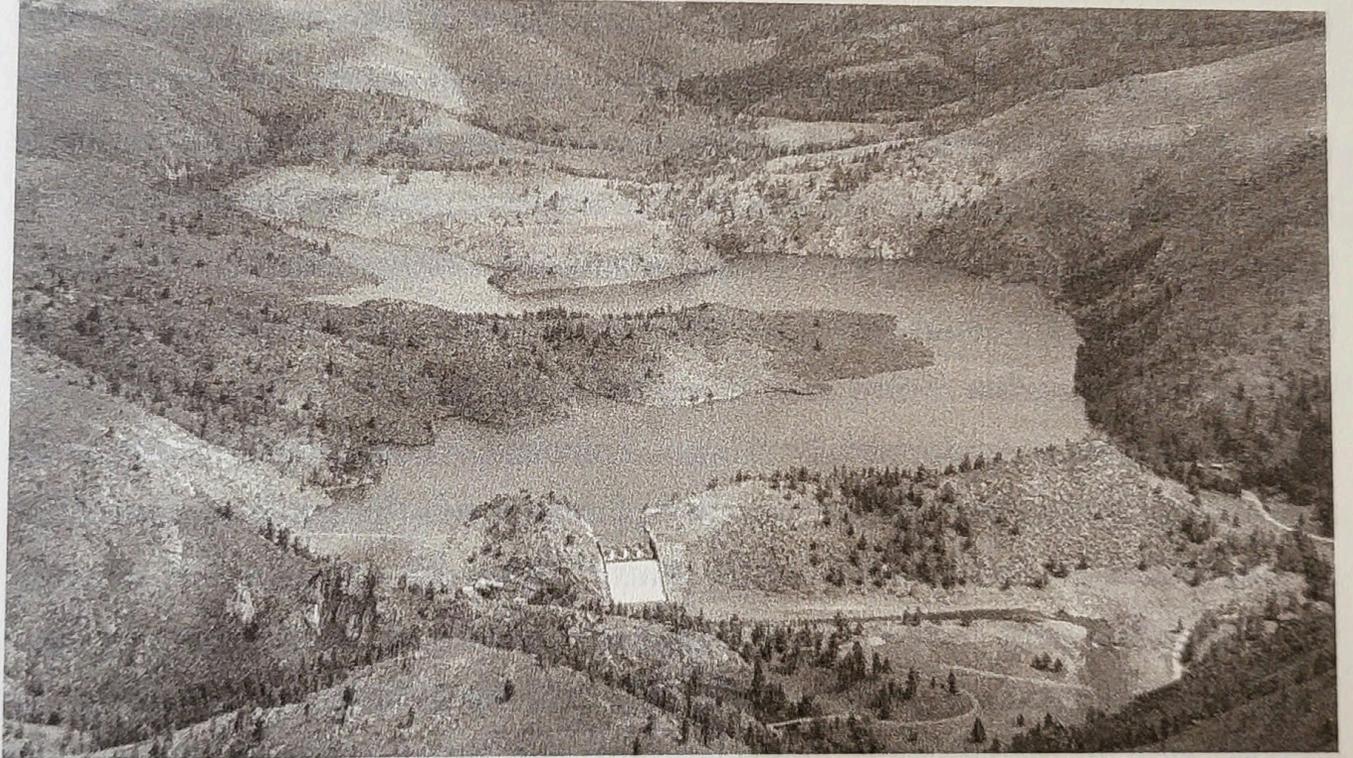


Figure 7.1 Work Projects Administration (WPA) and City funds were used to construct Milton Seaman Dam and Reservoir in 1940-1945. Labor and material shortages during WWII periodically hampered construction. A succession of employees included WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers, and Mennonite conscientious objectors, who were housed in a 125-man camp near the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River. Photo courtesy of Richard Stenzel.

Water Board creation

- 1958 Greeley creates the water board and it is part of Greeley's home rule charter. W.D. Farr is the first chair.
- 1961 Boyd lake becomes part of Greeley's supply system

Industry

- 1985 Major Expansion of the Waste Water Treatment facility. In partnership with Monfort Packing Company
- Windy Gap finally receives approval in 1981 and is Completed in 1985
- 1986 Senator Hank Brown a received a designation of 75 miles of the Poudre to be labeled "Wild and Scenic"
- 1996 Passed the "River Corridor Act" These acts established the Poudre River's significance in history of western water law and preserved it from it's headwaters to it's confluence with the South Platte.

Current and future issues

- Conservation
- Infrastructure Investments
- Water acquisition
- Expansion of Storage

Summary

- Water history is a cycle
- Obtaining water
- Storage of water
- Delivering water
- Water treatment (Fresh and Waste)
- Population Growth