**No Submission:**

**What was your key takeaway from this film?**

* History of water rights is complicated, water law has ebbed and flowed with the challenges of the day, and we can't move forward without understanding where we've been. "The Future will not look like the Past" resonates with me, especially from the perspective of our changing climate, but the future does depend on the past. Water issues are urgent and increasingly require diplomacy as engineering our way out will only go so far. Evaluating our cultural approach to water use may result in new ways for us to work together regarding this shared resource and we have an opportunity to work together and articulate the value of water.
* I think we all know that water is a key resource to support the residents of Colorado, but I like the way this movie pieced all the parts together into a story that showed how everything is linked. These were not individual water projects, but parts of bigger strategies. Creativity (and conservation) will be key to supporting Colorado’s growth with a dwindling water supply. Water supplies in the Colorado River have dropped to even more critical levels since this movie was made.
* It was a big eye opener just how complicated water is in Colorado and truly how many people are impacted by a slight change in the flow of a river or water system.
* As a community leader in Northern Colorado, my key takeaway is Colorado’s long history of resiliency. This film documents the history of society’s need to progress and modernize in Colorado. We heard about the obstacles they had to overcome and the associated water projects that made development possible in our specific geography and climate. We must continue to move forward with this same resiliency and tenacity to continue Colorado’s development, but with a more sustainable eye toward how we solve these problems. Moving forward, this may not necessarily look like it did historically, with large water projects being developed every few years and sprawling suburban lawns. This may instead look like technological advancements, culture shifts, and collaborative efforts to manage and use water more efficiently.
* We have to continue to discuss our community’s water needs – to be open, collaborative, and know we all need to compromise. With its limited supply, water and our growth need to be at the top of any leaders’ list of things to be concerned about. We have about 20 years of experience working together – environmentalist and water managers…but others need to be at the table. We have a lot of challenges ahead of us as climate change is occurring even faster than we have first estimated. People continue to move to our area for many reasons. Our economic development colleagues are regularly promoting the area, fielding attraction calls and working with existing companies on expansion projects. What are their conversations like with business owners regarding water resources, supply, demand and storage?
* I learned that it is important for a project to have “Champions” that will push hard to move their mission forward, but also to have the ability to “Negotiate” to find common ground and a solution that can be implemented. If these can be embodied in one individual, even better, but often it takes a number of people, often with a variety of interests, backgrounds, skills, and objectives to reach a solution.
* I had watched the film when it was new on PBS.  One statistic I had missed or forgotten, was that 4 million acres of farmland irrigated by the Colorado River produces 50% of the nation’s fruit, nuts and vegetables.  Watching it again, combined with all of the recent media reports regarding the on-going drought, gives one a sense of renewed urgency to do more from a water conservation standpoint.
* Front Range Population is estimated to double by 2050. Water planning is more critical than ever. Innovative solutions are needed now.
* We need to seek collaborative solutions for an increasingly scarce resource. A tremendous amount of human ingenuity and capital have been invested in storing and distributing water in an arid place to take advantage of  sun and soil.
* Everyone across the State (and Country) is fighting for each drop of Colorado water, regardless of where it falls.
* There were several things that I learned from the film, but I think that my key takeaway is a greater awareness and respect for the incredible complexity of water and water issues and how it has shaped and will continue to shape not only Colorado but many other states.
* First of all, just let me say that this film was incredibly well done, very informative and a great way to start this course. My key takeaway was the idea that ALL of Colorado will need to collaborate, not compromise in order to answer the question “How do we use our water in a sustainable way?”
* Increased, strategic planning and collaboration across stakeholders is essential for future success in resource management and allocation, given the population growth protections in CO (the front range) over the next 30 years
* It is imperative that we build upon collaborative platforms of discussion, management, and planning for the conservation of our water resources in the western states. Water conversations focused on shared management and innovative conservation policies, and mutual commitments for all western water users are a necessity for the future of our water resources if we are to have enough water for the generations ahead.
* Some key takeaways from The Great Divide film are the ingenuity of Colorado water policy, its history, and that water that originates in Colorado’s high country is critical for Coloradans, 18 states and Mexico. Here are a couple quotes that resonated with me. “Every drop of water that comes out of that tap is coming out of a river,” was poignant and profound. “Water is precious and the truth is few people really understand where their water comes from.” “Trillions of economic activity depends on rivers born in Colorado’s mountains.”
* Limits are forcing Colorado to get collaborative and creative. In my opinion, that is a really good thing. Wearing my Hartford hat, I’m thinking about how we are working to find mutually-beneficial outcomes with ditch companies as we use non-potable irrigation in our new communities. That partnership of using non-pot keeps water in the ditches for irrigation and also comes with some issues, such as how landscape irrigation has a sightly different irrigation cycle from agricultural. Still, we’re trying to make sure we have win-win outcomes. We are also building smaller homes and getting more dense in our communities. As an urban planner, that is a value I hold and I’m excited to work with the cohort on how the built environment affects all this.
* The future of water in Colorado is an issue that will affect all aspects of life. Therefore, the resolution will require every Coloradoan to partake in ensuring we can sustain the this way of life. Additionally, if we want to be able to continue growth as we are currently projected to achieve and maintain any sense of attainability/affordability we will need to act quickly and collaboratively. However, given the complex nature of water how do you educate the masses without causing hysteria or other inverse impacts.
* Professionally, I work for an organization that just switched to municipal water, selling its water rights. Personally, I live where my home is part of a water association for irrigation water. Our household is required to take water every 6.5 days for a 12-hour period May-Oct. My husband and I are exploring homes that, in our minds, offer more sustainable ways of collecting and using water.
* Competing demands for water have been a challenge in Colorado for over 100 years, and over time these challenges have only intensified with more and more at stake.
* I gained a much better perspective of the history of compromise between urban development and environmental activism.

**What did you learn that encouraged you, discouraged you, or captured your attention to the extent that you could see yourself engaging in it further?**

* The Great Divide was designed to separate resources but history shows we have found ways around this design. The unintended consequences of laws, rules, engineering projects, etc must be better recognized and planned for, which requires time and thoughtful and transparent conversation. I would like to be engaged with understanding better and communicating better the impacts of local government plans, policies, and actions that will influence life in Colorado's future as we write the next chapter of water law. Water conservation efforts may be able to meet 25-30% of our urban center needs but these measures fail to address the largest water users and the impact to our natural environment of land use decisions and climate change on our water resource. I would like to learn more about applying the water loop concept.
* I have canoed on many of the rivers shown in the film (Colorado, Yampa, Gunnison) – it was encouraging that folx that came before me had the forethought to preserve at least portions of those rivers for their inherent beauty. It was discouraging to learn that CO will double in population – I wonder if our relatively fragile ecosystem can support that many people…. I have been engaged in water issues in the past – primarily working to stop the dams in the Poudre in the 1980s and support the efforts to get the Wild & Scenic designation. However, I also realized that there is a need for me to stay engaged on these issues as pressure mounts on limited water supplies.
* While Colorado has some big water hurdles to overcome it seems that other states (i.e. Arizona, Nevada, California etc..) have much bigger problems since they rely on Colorado’s water so much. I have people that are thinking twice about buying real estate in Arizona because of the water issues (demand vs supply). The new storage facilities in northern Colorado are encouraging especially for the demand on the eastern slope. I am somewhat discouraged and maybe surprised that more municipalities are not being tougher on developers when it comes to landscape / water requirements. It still seems like there is a lot of grass, shrubs, and trees in new developments that need to be irrigated. One thing I am encouraged about and would like to learn more on is vertical grow technology in the agricultural industry. I think it is something that will help since these operations use very little water compared to a typical farm. And since the ag world consumer the majority of the water in the state this might be a topic for the class to study.
* I was somewhat discouraged to hear about the low flows of water even in the 1800’s. I had always assumed around that time there we higher flows and sufficient water supply, so scarcity wasn’t a concern and that’s why growth occurred here the way that it did. It’s easy to feel like those were reckless decisions but I continue to remind myself that without the infrastructure and ingenuity of these water projects, we wouldn’t be able to live here today. I feel encouraged that we can be equally innovative and take initiative in dictating our future, just like Coloradans have over the past 200 years. Dan Luecke’s comment about environmentalists needing to offer exchanges and alternatives when opposing large water projects resonates with me. Everyone needs to make compromises, exchanges, or alternatives to make future life in Colorado viable. I know that I need to take part in these types of discussions and promote collaboration to help solve regional water issues.
* The fact that engagement is a huge part of any water discussion is encouraging to me. People are sitting around tables, attending meetings together, and creating common language, shared visions, and still sharing individual needs regarding water. People are discovering they still share common values and the wish to collaborate and compromise. In my engagement role at the Community Foundation, I hope to provide a neutral place for continued discussions on water through the Water StratOp process that is underway with municipal water providers, water and utility providers, and other stakeholders within the Foundation’s work.
* I was encouraged about the progress that has been made over the past 100 years in creating projects that still serve the interests and people of Colorado. While some of the failures (such as Two Forks) are discouraging, that failure, and the pressures of growth and climate change, pushed us in different directions, and enabled even greater success (Windy Gap). NISP is something we will need by the time it will be on-line (10 years), and I will work towards its success.
* The concept of “alternative transfer methods” is encouraging to me as it can be a win-win for multiple stakeholders and comes with other benefits.  Keeping land in agricultural production not only produces much needed food and economic benefit, but it also helps recharge subsurface aquifers and preserves open spaces that we all enjoy.  If a municipality can benefit from additional water in particularly dry years without having to purchase and maintain the land, and the land can be kept in agricultural production more often than not, seemingly everyone benefits.  I’ve heard of this concept before, but I am interested in learning more about existing examples, strategies others have used, the structure and duration of such agreements, etc.
* A lot of groups have begun cooperating to solve these issues. That was very encouraging! When new projects are proposed many stakeholders are involved.
* Encouraged by the increased extent that water producers, users and regulators are sharing information and working on cooperative solutions such as ATM, rotational fallowing, instream flow as beneficial use. Discouraged by the aspect of prior appropriation doctrine that incentivizes “use it or lose it” without much incentive to conserve or share. Would be keen to facilitate work on policy issues for demand management and interstate compact issues.
* Encouraged by the vast amount of involvement to preserve, protect and effectively use water; Discouraged about the vast amount of involvement. Its overwhelming; Myself: Don’t get caught up (discouraged) in the details of every aspect; but to have focused and intentional involvement locally and regionally.
* I was encouraged by the level of communication and cooperation that has been occurring between different users/interest groups where the acknowledged shared interest is motivating people to work together to find balance.
* I understand that we don’t always have crystal balls when it comes to making decisions for the future. Even so, I was discouraged that the main entities involved in water usage weren’t able from the very beginning to have the foresight to combine all the water needs and issues (agricultural, communal, environmental and recreational) into one big sustainable plan. However, I was encouraged that the film alluded to the fact that there are now “hats of gray” in the ongoing discussion and collaboration seems to be taking hold. As an elected official, I would like to further that collaboration in any way possible for Northern Colorado and beyond.
* Encouraged: brilliant, experienced minds from a broad spectrum of perspectives are involved and advocating. Discouraged: the projected population growth rates at this point do not change the “rules of the game” for CO water management, so solving this for our state and the dependent regions seems nearly set up to lose. A great risk to “lose” or “mismanaged” our most precious resource
* We could rely on a reduction of 35% of water conservation to help meet our future water needs, which was encouraging.  It is something I feel passionately about, and I believe it is an excellent opportunity for water leaders to seize this opportunity to prepare for the impact of climate change and dwindling water supplies.
* I found the history of Colorado water policy leadership encouraging that they realized collaboration is the only way to secure this precious natural resource is available for future generations. It was inspiring to see the collaborative work that continues to bring the water community together on the Colorado Water Plan. It was discouraging to feel the urgency of our decisions and that we may not have the luxury to keep deliberating management plans. Our rivers and forest health are critical to conserving and protecting our watersheds. Climate crisis has created urgency to protect and conserve our water the most precious of natural resources “essential to all life.”
* I was surprised to learn that 80-ish% of Colorado’s water is used for ag. I knew it was a high percent but that surprised me. Some of the currently proposed Colorado River diversions that have not yet been built also surprised me, particularly the amount of the river that would be diverted in the future. My uncle is Gary Barber who chairs the Ark Basin Roundtable, so for many years I’ve heard about his work there and delicate balance of the users of Ark water. I was encouraged to hear about the other types of water rights that Colorado has created for recreation and environmental purposes, which I know are big factors in the Ark basin and I am guessing the Cache basin as well.
* While difficult to just pick one area I am most interested in anti-speculation laws. What is considered use? What are the rules and requirements around anti-speculation? Who enforces anti-speculation? What are the consequences of violating these requirements? If farmers are forced to “use it or lose it” how do you encourage more conservation? Could you find collaborative solutions between municipalities and agricultural users to meet the use requirements? How can some municipalities have significant water shares, but not use them year over year? Is the potential for future development considered use?
* I was encouraged by the foresight and ingenuity of those that came before us from the Native Americans that collected water for the Mesa Verde community, until severe drought struck, to how Nathan Meeker founded Greeley/Union Colony in a strategic location for water, to those who set the Colorado Big Thompson (CBT) project in motion and more. I was humbled by the action of environmentalists to save places like Dinosaur National Monument from being damned, to date, and yet curious as to how we balance all of this with depleting supply and population growth. I was also encourage by the multiple examples of cooperation that I saw in the film. I was discouraged by the seeming waste that and often disregard for this limited resource that is vital for life. Examples include the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer; and the use of or lose it approach to some past and present management practices.
* It was really interesting to hear about the history of water in the state, along with some of the litigation and legislation that has resulted. I was encouraged to learn that recent efforts have brought competing interests together in venues where different voices and viewpoints can be heard and trust can be built.
* The most captivating opportunity for me will be the ways we use technology to drive innovation and conservation around water

**What questions do you have based on what you learned in the film?**

* As we aren't going to be able to "kick the can down the road" regarding addressing land use and our ability to grow endlessly, I have questions regarding the intersection of water law and land use policy. Of course this question applies not only to Colorado but to our adjacent States that depend on the water that originates here. I am curious if this question can be explored without pitting the economy against environmentalists.
* I was curious about all the organizations represented in the film. Which are govt’l agencies, which are non-profits, are they regional, local, …… A few I knew (like Trout Unlimited) but would be interested to learn more about the background of the organizations working on this issue.
* How does water law in other states in the western US compare to Colorado and does Colorado find itself in an endless battle with other states regarding keeping more water within our border?
* I want to know what kind of actions this film may have sparked? It felt like the film really discussed how collaborative management is needed and is starting to happen, and I want to know what new initiatives it has sparked since its release. I often run into the thought, working for a smaller utility, what can I do that helps meets these goals? It can feel hard to make a big impact when you are just a small piece of the puzzle.
* How are businesses who are attracting employees looking at water? How do areas that receive junior water rights or cities who are in desert locations plan for the future? As watershed community, how can we protect that which flows naturally through our community, but also assist downstream communities so they thrive, too? How can we protect agricultural farms who feed our region and nation, and disincentivize metro Denver communities from buying farmers’ water rights and piping supply south? It doesn’t seem sustainable. How have natural disasters, such as the fires and floods of 2012, 2013, 2020, 2022 affected regional water discussions and plans? What plans are in place to reduce the burn scar’s impact on water quality? How have communities prepared for future flooding in urban areas?
* Native water rights are something that have been neglected, and the successes have been few. How can we begin again to come to settlement on these going forward? Such a great portion of water is consumed by agriculture; even small increases in efficiency can have tremendous benefits. What mechanisms do we need to implement these technologies and techniques as they become available? If we are not successful in narrowing the gap between demand and supply, will people actually move away, like the Mesa Verde and Chaco people did a thousand years ago?
* I am curious to learn more about alternative transfer methods and strategies used by others, perhaps in in conjunction with conservations easements being used to protect open space.
* Farm ground was reported in the movie to be very good in Colorado. I would like to look into soil types further, because I think there is a small percentage of farm ground that is highly rated i.e.: type I and type II. I do not think Colorado soils compares to Iowa and Kansas etc. Maybe some farm ground that is currently irrigated does not have the yield that makes the use of water worthwhile. It is a factor that should be discussed and debated.
* In addition to education, what set of incentives, mechanisms, or penalties could be used to reduce demand by ag? By industry? By municipalities? By what set of incentives, grants mechanisms, monitoring and or penalties, could supply, storage and transmission be made more efficient? Is sound water conservation and existing storage capacity for the front range adequate to meet projected population growth without additional trans basin diversion?
* No questions at this time. Had a general understanding of Colorado Water. However, the film provided other information I was unaware of. It was an incredible amount of information (dates, terms, locations, etc) all packed into 90 minutes.
* The film talks about water reuse and water recycling.  What does that look entail – is it the water loop that was touched on?  Are there smaller scale options?
* Having learned a bit of the history of water in our state and the issues facing our future from the film, I would just like to learn how I as an elected official can help foster the collaboration needed to use our water in a sustainable way.
* Who are the regional thought leaders influencing change? What models are being developed to understand impact on water allotment/use and environmental impact due to high population growth in shortened periods of time? What technology is CO exploring? Re-use? Treatment? Storage? Where are we at with navigating compact issues and can any rules of the game change at this point? In light of the Conservation Board-aAre there substantiated concerns that in 25 years Colorado will not be the Colorado of the last 25 years in terms of recreation and agriculture due to resource challenges?
* What is the likelihood of eventual legal changes to our nation’s century-old water CO River Compact, especially as it relates to the demands from downstream users of the Colorado River?  With the expected population growth in Colorado, how are water managers ensuring a balance between agriculture and development? To what extent are regional long-term water management plans being cooperatively developed by all western water users?
* What is our path forward? What if the only way forward to protect the Colorado Headwaters is federal oversight? Can the upper and lower basins find common ground on management and conservation? Is there a path forward for western and eastern demand management of water usage?
* I’m curious about when that film was made and what the updates are on the Norther Water projects, as well as the Denver Water projects. NISP seems to be constantly in flux so I am curious to learn more about that. It wasn’t in the film, but I would like to know more about the impacts of the Thornton project on Northern Colorado. I think it would be also good to discuss how water is dedicated to cities and districts in Northern Colorado. It took Hartford years to acquire the water we needed for one community, which we will then dedicate to ELCO. We are doing a non-pot system in that community, both to further Fort Collins’ environmental goals but also because doing so dramatically reduces the amount of water needed to be dedicated to ELCO, which has a fairly large delta between what is dedicated and what is later provided. I understand the rationale behind this, but talking about that whole process as a cohort would be interesting.
* Does the use of Alternative Transfer Methods cause issues in the long term, by allowing use of short term water (leases) for long term fixed service needs (homes and businesses)? What do the proponents of updating the Colorado water system propose as a superior system? How do other western states (with prior appropriation) administration of water rights differ from Colorado? Logistically what would a system overhaul entail? Is it even feasible without emanant domain of the property rights for those who oppose? What is considered beneficial use? With the current issues around the Colorado River Impact and the Rio Grande Compact misallocation of long term sustainable water usage, are the other 7 interstate water agreements being reviewed? Are there concerns water may have been miscalculated like the level of water produced from the Colorado River? The video mentioned the Windy Gap Reservoir has the greatest impacts to the fish population. How does the recent Windy Gap Firming project improve this issue?
* I am curious to know more about solutions that are currently being explored by legislative bodies, water conservationists, municipalities, ag, oil and gas developers, recreation groups and others. I look forward to learning more through this program; and to seeing how I can play a positive role as a NoCo leader.
* With such complexity surrounding the disparate needs for water, and total demand exceeding the supply, how do you break that complexity down into discrete pieces that can be assembled into a clearer understanding? Take NISP, for example, where holders of completely opposite viewpoints regarding the impact of the project are sure they are right. Where do you start to unravel the intricacies to make an informed decision for yourself?
* My biggest question involves the Colorado River Compact and how the current drought conditions and low reservoir levels will be handled across all 7 states.