



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

September 2022 — May 2023
watercenter.colostate.edu/wll

Hello Water Literate Leaders class,

A hearty welcome to each of you as we launch this year's class of Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado! This letter contains the details that will help you prepare for an exciting year ahead. **Please note the pre-session homework on page 6 that is due by Friday, September 9.**

2022-2023 SCHEDULE

We ask that you make an effort to attend and participate in all nine sessions as well as the commencement ceremony. We hope that you find value in each and every session by interacting and learning from our suite of key experts as well as your fellow classmates.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates. **Plan to arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 AM** for coffee and conversation. We will begin promptly at **9:00 AM**. Each session will **conclude by 2:00 PM** and includes a working lunch.

September 14
October 12
November 9
December 7
January 18

February 15
March 15
April 12
May 17
Commencement Ceremony (Details coming soon!)

MEETING LOCATION

Thank you to our partners at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. All sessions will be held at their offices located at 4745 Wheaton Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525. [Click here for directions.](#)

If the pandemic situation requires us to meet outdoors for safety reasons, we have secured an alternate location for our September session. We will provide you with updated information and directions should it become necessary.

FOOD AND DRINK

Coffee, water, and light snacks will be provided throughout each session. Each session will also include a working lunch. This is a key time for dialogue, so please do not think of them as optional. Please contact our Program

Assistant, Benton Roesler at Benton.Roesler@colostate.edu, right away if you have any special dietary restrictions.

TUITION PAYMENT

Remember to submit your payment by **Friday, September 2, 2022**. Please note if your tuition will be paid by someone other than yourself, please ensure your full name and 2022-2023 Water Literate Leaders is noted on your form of payment.

Payment options include:

Credit Card

1. Visit <https://www.nocofoundation.org/donate>
2. Amount: Select Other and enter **\$200**
3. Designation:
 1. Select "Other" from the drop-down menu.
 2. Type the following in the comment box: **2022-2023 WLL [Last Name, First Name]**
4. Additional Information: Name of Donor/Company: **Enter No Tax Deduction**

Check

1. Payable to: **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado**
2. Amount: **\$200**
3. Memo line notation: **2022-2023 Water Literate Leaders, [Last Name, First Name]**
4. Mail to:
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Attention Jordan Cook
4745 Wheaton Dr.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Questions about tuition payment? Contact Jordan Cook at jordan@nocofoundation.org

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

- We will not require proof of vaccine unless required by CSU or local health authorities. We will operate on the honor system and recommend that those not fully vaccinated wear a mask while indoors.
- Plan to bring a face covering to all sessions and field tours as they may be required based on local health guidance and/or the preference of our speakers and guests. Regardless of the local mask rules, we recommend that anyone with health concerns wear a face covering while indoors.
- Service of all meals and snacks will follow local health guidance.
- We will adjust programming as needed depending on the status of the pandemic and local health guidance (for example, moving sessions to a virtual format).

WEBSITE AND CLASS MATERIALS

We will continuously update our website to be a resource for you in terms of agendas, homework assignments, and speaker presentations that you can refer back to. The class list will appear on our website but without contact information. We will provide you with a complete list of names and emails at our first session so you can easily communicate with one another outside of the sessions. watercenter.colostate.edu/wll

CURRICULUM

The goal of Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado is to convene current and emerging leaders from the region's communities to convey an understanding of basic water information and issues critical to future decisions that will have deep influence over their communities' long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The program will:

- Create a cohort of community leaders with knowledge and concern about our region's water future
- Introduce participants to key regional and statewide players in water
- Impart information about water institutions, policies, and issues from multiple angles
- Provide an opportunity for discussion that delves deep into the area's water challenges and possibilities
- Showcase and examine examples of water leadership as a means of encouraging leadership in participants
- Develop and maintain a community of Water Literate Leader graduates who can cooperate on regional water projects

Our curriculum is somewhat fluid so that we can take advantage of opportunities and your input as we go. It reflects the areas of emphasis we will be concentrating on and the expert resources we will engage. We aim for sessions to relay information critical to each topic area and provide opportunities for you to engage with our experts and with each other. We will supplement speaker presentations by providing you with links to pertinent resource materials from time to time. All materials will be posted on our website at watercenter.colostate.edu/wll

Session Content at a Glance

- September 14: Overview and Historical Perspectives
- October 12: Water Law, Administration, and Policy
- November 9: Water and Economic Growth and Development
- December 7: Water for Municipalities
- January 18: Water for Agriculture
- February 15: Water for Recreation and Business
- March 15: Water for the Environment
- April 12: Supply, storage/delivery projects, and groundwater
- May 17: Bringing it all together, opportunities for regional cooperation
- Late May/early June: Commencement Ceremony (TBD)

Each session includes:

- A debrief of the previous session, including homework responses and questions remaining
- Topic-focused book discussions led by class participants
- Presentations from key experts
- Leadership Challenge: key water leaders will tell stories about their water leadership experiences and engage in dialogue about what we can learn to inform and inspire the leadership needed to address our region's water issues
- Time for individual discussion and building relationships with your classmates

ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Post-Session Homework

Program participants are required to submit their responses to the following three questions before 5:00 PM on the Monday after each session. Your responses will be compiled and shared with the class (without attribution) and provide a valuable opportunity for discussion and clarification at the next session.

1. From your perspective as a community leader in Northern Colorado, what is your key takeaway from today's session?
2. What did you learn today that encouraged you, discouraged you, or captured your attention to the extent that you could see yourself engaging in it further?
3. What questions do you have based on what you heard from today's speakers and group discussion?

Submit your responses via email to: NoCoWaterLeaders@colostate.edu with the following subject line and file name: [LAST NAME] WLL Homework [MONTH]

Book Assignment

During our first session, you will choose a future date to provide a brief book report to the class. Your report should include a 2-3 minute overview and key takeaways from your perspective as a community leader. You will then lead the class in a short discussion about an important point or two from the book. We also request you include a short section on the ways the book you chose relates to the day's topic, e.g. If you are giving your report before the Water for Agriculture session, please discuss how agricultural perspectives were treated in your book.

We set aside 30 minutes at the beginning of each session for book reports (3 reports per class x 10 minutes per book). We will provide you with a list of recommended reading to get you started, and we have a small collection of books that were donated by previous class members that you are welcome to borrow.

Attend a Water-Related Meeting or Event

One way to learn about water is to attend events and engage with other attendees. Over the course of the class, select at least one water-focused meeting, conference, or workshop that will allow you to learn about a particular subject matter and network with others. You will provide a brief written overview describing key takeaways from your perspective as a community leader. Your submission will be shared with the class, and we will set aside time for group discussion as time permits.

Examples of local events to consider: [South Platte Basin Roundtable](#) meetings, [South Platte Forum](#), [Big Thompson Watershed Forum Conference](#), [Poudre River Forum](#), [Colorado Ag Water Alliance Summit](#), and the [Colorado Water Congress Convention](#). Please choose an event that you would not usually attend as part of your professional work!

Although the following calendar is not inclusive of all events in the area, it will provide you with some opportunities to consider <https://watercenter.colostate.edu/events/>

Submit your water event report prior to Monday, April 4, 2022 to NoCoWaterLeaders@colostate.edu with the following subject line and file name: [LAST NAME] WLL Event Report

Connecting You to Outside Information/Opportunities

From time to time, we will announce additional water education opportunities for your consideration. We know most of you do not have time to take advantage of all of the opportunities, but we want you to know about them if you are interested.

QUESTIONS

Throughout our time together, please feel free to contact us directly with any questions or email us at NoCoWaterLeaders@colostate.edu

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THREE-PART HOMEWORK FOR SEPTEMBER 14 SESSION

Part 1

Submit a short bio (less than 200 words) and a high-resolution photo of yourself by **Friday, September 2** via email at: NoCoWaterLeaders@colostate.edu with the following subject line and file name: [LAST NAME] Photo-Bio.

Part 2

Prepare a 2-minute introduction to give the class a sense of who you are. We especially want to hear what you are doing in your life at this point that makes you keen to learn more about water. Where do you live and work? What do you hope to gain from and contribute to the program? You will be sharing this during our first session and you will be timed!

Part 3

Watch the film *The Great Divide* to give you background information about water in Colorado and prepare you for our first session on September 14.

Pre-Session Homework Questions

1. From your perspective as a community leader in Northern Colorado, what is your key takeaway from the film?
2. 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?
3. What questions do you have based on what you learned in the film?

Submit your responses to the above three questions by **Friday, September 9** via email at:

NoCoWaterLeaders@colostate.edu with the following subject line and file name: [LAST NAME] The Great Divide

About The Great Divide

“Tens of millions of people, billions of dollars of agricultural production, and an enormous amount of economic activity across a vast swath of America from California to the Mississippi River are all dependent on rivers born in the mountains of Colorado. In a time of mounting demand and limited supply, the need for all citizens to better understand and participate in decisions affecting this critical resource is paramount. The Great Divide, a feature-length documentary film from the Emmy award-winning team of Havey Productions, in association with Colorado Humanities, illustrates the timeless influence of water in connecting and dividing an arid state and region. From Ancient Puebloan cultures and the gold rush origins of Colorado water law to agriculture, dams, diversions, and conservation, the film reveals today’s critical need to cross “the great divide,” replacing conflict with cooperation. The Great Divide raises public understanding and appreciation of Colorado’s water heritage while inspiring personal responsibility and informed discussion concerning the vital challenge confronting the state and region with increasing urgency — forging collaborative solutions for managing this most precious resource for a prosperous and sustainable future.”

We’ve purchased an electronic download of the film for each of you. To access the film:

1. Go to <https://vimeo.com/r/3zUJ/Z3RsM0Fmej>
2. Create a free Vimeo account if you don’t have one already
3. Click on the Purchase option, then enter the promo code, which will bring the balance due to \$0.00
4. Promo code: CWC_2022

Note: Once you download the film, you have one week to complete your viewing.