



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

September 2023 — May 2024
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 8.**

2023-2024 SCHEDULE

We ask that you 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 13
October 11
November 15
December 13
January 10
February 14

March 13
April 10
May 8
May Commencement Ceremony (Details TBD!)

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 unless otherwise indicated. [Click here for directions.](#)

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, if you have any special dietary restrictions.

TUITION PAYMENT

Remember to submit your payment by **Friday, September 1, 2023**. Please note if your tuition will be paid by someone other than yourself, please ensure your full name and 2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders is noted on your form of payment.

Payment options include:

Credit Card

1. Visit <https://www.nocofoundation.org/donate>
2. Click “Give Now” under the section for Give to a Specific Fund
3. Search for Water Literate Leaders in the search bar below “Donate to a Fund”
4. Enter **\$200 in the One-Time Donation box**
5. In the Additional Notes section, put: **2023-2024 WLL [Last Name, First Name]**
6. Follow the prompts to complete the donation

Check

1. Payable to: **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado**
2. Amount: **\$200**
3. Memo line notation: **2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders, [Last Name, First Name]**
4. Mail to:
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Attn: Accounting
4745 Wheaton Dr.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

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

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 engagement around our region’s water future
- Connect participants with 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 13: WLL Overview and Historical Perspectives
October 11: Water Law, Administration, and Policy
November 15: Water Supply & Storage/Delivery (Field Trip)
December 13: Book Club + Water for Municipalities
January 10: Water for Agriculture
February 14: Water for Recreation and Business
March 13: Water for the Environment
April 10: Book Club + Water and Economic Growth and Development
May 8: 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
- Presentations from key experts, Q&A, and discussion of water issues
- 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 casual conversation 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 (or some variation) 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 resonated with you from today's session? (What are your key takeaways?)
2. What questions do you have after today's session? Any areas you want to explore further?
3. Are there any components of what you learned today that are applicable for your current position or profession?

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

Book Club

As part of your homework for the September session, you will select your top five book preferences from the book list (you can suggest alternatives as well). Based on overlapping book preferences, book club groups of 2-3 people will be formed. Participants in each group will read the same book and must meet at least twice (preferably during coffee and conversation period, 8:30-9:00am) to discuss the book they are reading and work on their group book report. Groups must sign up for one of two classes (one in December, one in April) to present a 5-minute book report (based on prompt questions).

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 if time permits.

Examples of local events to consider: [South Platte Basin Roundtable](#) meetings, [South Platte Forum](#), [Colorado Watershed Assembly](#), [Poudre River Forum](#), [Colorado Ag Water Alliance Summit](#), [Northern Water Symposium](#), 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 8, 2024 to Benton.Roesler@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:

Karen Schlatter, Karen.schlatter@colostate.edu
Associate Director, Colorado Water Center

Benton Roesler, Benton.Roesler@colostate.edu
Program Assistant, Colorado Water Center

John Tracy, john.tracy@colostate.edu
Director, Colorado Water Center

THREE-PART HOMEWORK FOR SEPTEMBER 13 SESSION

Part 1

Submit a short bio (less than 200 words) and a high-resolution photo of yourself by **Friday, September 1** via email at: Benton.Roesler@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.

Part 3

3a) Review the book list and select your top five choices (don't include books you've already read). Based on your preferences, you will be matched with others in the cohort to form book club groups of 2-3 people that will read the same book during the class.

3b) Watch the film *The Great Divide* to give you background information about water in Colorado and prepare you for our first session on September 13. Details for accessing the film are found below.

Pre-Session Homework Questions

1. List your top 5 book choices
2. From your perspective as a community leader in Northern Colorado, what resonated with you from the *The Great Divide* film? (What are your key takeaways?)
3. What questions do you have after watching the film? Any areas you want to explore further?

Submit your responses to the above three questions by **Friday, September 8** via email at:

Benton.Roesler@colostate.edu with the following subject line and file name: [LAST NAME] September Session

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/3LVt/Z3lwUWZxRk>
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: WLL_CWC2023

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