

**From your perspective as a community leader in Northern Colorado, what resonated with you from today's session? (What are your key takeaways?)**

- CO water availability based/ on storage, storage is not that much; Climate change is not problematic for base supply, it affects consumption & natural disasters; Water management in CO is all about diversions; Water is so complicated in CO, and its even harder to communicate to the public.
- It was eye opening to view Water as an operational and management challenge. In my position as a Utilities Director, I thrive on the development of processes and programs for O&M and the task felt more manageable and tangible to address especially on my scale.
- I was struck by John Tracy's comments about how water problems are not "solvable"; our goal is not to solve water problems. Rather, we need to learn to adjust and respond to the unexpected and learn to manage issues that will inevitably arise around water. I was surprised to learn that a growing population does not necessarily equal greater water use. And that greater economic productivity does not need to equal greater water consumption. I don't know why I never considered that before. I understand the vital role of conservation but I didn't realize that so much could be achieved in terms of reducing use by becoming more efficient and changing policies. The idea of getting more value from the water resources that we have rather than working to increase supply really resonated with me. Just that alone left me feeling much more hopeful, optimistic and motivated. I am very interested to continue to explore how we create a more inclusive and equitable environment to engage in discussions around water in our region. I truly appreciated Martin Carcasson's presentation. This was the first time I have heard about the concept of wicked problems and I think it's a great lens through which to view water issues in our region.
- I would say what resonated the most, as it often is in the water space, is how vastly water touches and shapes almost everything here in CO. Growing up in an area of the country where water is not a topic of conversation, I was truly amazed at the different professions in the room yesterday and their differing views of and relationships to water.
- The first session was a great overview reminded of how water connects all of us our environment and its impacts. The one thing that stuck with me was the assertion that we don't need more water in Colorado to meet the growing population growth BUT rather we need to more efficiently use the water we have.
- So many things!! As a community leader, there is so much I don't know about water use in NoCo. I'm thrilled to be in this class! With so many different types of users and stakeholders – people using water for different reasons – how can we most effectively and holistically manage water (the triple bottom line with values on social, economic, ecological perspectives)?
- The value placed upon agriculture in North Colorado. Hearing about how our brains work and potential strategies to have conversations was very fascinating. Wish we had more time for discussion after each speaker.
- My key takeaways from the first class is that data and history are paramount factors in planning for the future. Hysteria, scarcity and shame are persuasive emotional arguments rooted in fallacies and instead, data and stewardship are the keys to a better future. The prime examples being neighbors critiquing someone for having a grass lawn versus xeriscaping and being thought of as the problem, when in reality, agriculture has an exponentially larger factor than any residential use, regardless of scale.
- There were two things that really resonated with me from the September session. First, the amount of trans-basin diversions that are currently in use in Colorado was astounding to learn about. Specifically, because this is so unique as compared to other Western states. Of

2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado  
Homework Assignment for **September 2023 – Redacted**

course, that attributes to how unique Colorado is, being the Headwaters State, and the need to have these trans-basin diversions in order to support life in these different basins.

Definitely interesting and fascinating to learn. Second, I greatly enjoyed the discussions about the price of water in Colorado as compared to other Western states. It is amazing to me to hear that other Western states, even some much more dry than Colorado, have much lower prices of water for development. Of course, Colorado is seeing so much development along the Front Range, but I know that type of growth is not unique to this area, as places such as Phoenix and Reno also have these same growth rates but their water is much lower in cost. I remember John Tracy stating that there is and has been an “artificial inflation” of the cost of water here, due to potentially water being overallocated by municipalities. I’m not sure of how to solve this sort of problem, but I really enjoyed hearing John’s perspective on this issue. It seems as though with the uniqueness and history of water in Colorado, we should be tackling these issues, but they are quite complex which may be the reason as to why they have not been solved yet. I’m not sure but I’m very interested in learning more as housing inequality is becoming more and more of an issue in this region.

- Knowing the history of water rights (especially as they relate to the ag industry, where there are so many third/fourth/fifth/plus generation users of water) will be crucial when bringing various stakeholders "to the table" about how we move forward as a community - respect of the history will help create trust!
- Finding common ground and shared values is the main way we will be able to work together to affect change in our community.
- Water History is vast and long... With an undergrad in history, I want to dive a bit more into this subject. Mr. Tracy’s presentation on water provided insight into things I never knew, such as the flux of water in each of its different states. Additionally, the stat which stuck with me the most is that Agriculture currently uses 80% of water. And let’s not forget that Colorado has 44 diversions... that is incredible.
- The fact that SO many people share the same river(s) , the absolute need to have compromise, innovation, working across city/county/state lines is SO important for our future growth. And given the "political" environment today, it will be so necessary for future leaders in so many of these places to have the skills and understanding of this subject in order to shape future policies and usage. Also realizing that each community "sees" the resource differently, having empathy for all of those while also making that good policy, while easier said than done, MUST be something we are always striving for if we are to keep our supply of water abundant AND put to good use. Also, after hearing backgrounds from a number of the participants, it was interesting to hear from those that were not originally from this area, like those from the East Coast, where it doesn't seem to be as much as an issue in terms of water supply-really understanding that we do in fact live in a "desert"-how do we get those that live here/move here to understand our climate is much different therefore might take some different "thinking" and planning on how we use/store/ water and what part do things like agriculture, people use, landscaping, outdoor activities play in the overall picture of our water.
- There was so much that I took away from today’s session. The first is that the problem is hard and complex. IT takes bold ideas and cooperation to move forward. The second, this problem can be managed. It is not a lost cause with no solutions, but we need to continually manage it and work towards better solutions. This is not a one and done conversation, but needs to continually evolve and needs to continually be monitored. There were BIG, innovative projects of that past that bought us a lot of time and have put us in a strong place, but these projects are being tested now as we continue to grow and climate changes affect the water cycle. Big, innovative projects do not move quickly these days, so we need to start now to make sure we stay in front of this.

2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado  
Homework Assignment for **September 2023 – Redacted**

- My key takeaway from our session is that the subject of water for Colorado is not a wicked problem to be solved and done with. But rather an infinite game in finding opportunities to collaborate, re-evaluate, and improve over time. The many factors that effect water do not allow for a single solution. They are too fluid to be so. Just this change in mindset and thinking really has allowed me, almost instantly, to see water issues more as an opportunity and not an obstacle.
- If I had to only choose one thing that resonated with me, it would be Martin's discussion about people with opposing views becoming vilified, when the issue should actually be the villain.
- I think the history/timeline that Patty provided resonated most with me because it was familiar. "The cost of Colorado water is due to the complexity of all parties involved and the requirements of 'certificate of occupancy' – too much water is required", said Dr. John Tracy. Wow! Never heard that before.
- Colorado has more diversions than any other state (44 diversion points); Increased water use of vegetation because of climate change, can't manage this but we need to deal with the impact on our water supply; Water use and economic/agricultural productivity are not correlated; Colorado's perspective on water is that we want to support urban growth AND support agriculture. Unique perspective in the west.
- I enjoyed all three speakers at our first meeting. John Tracy had some interesting background information for us, especially some facts about the hydraulic cycle. I learned that no water is either created or destroyed. Also, we learned that 90% of the fresh water on earth is in the ice caps and in glaciers. It was also interesting to learn that humans use 1.87% of the available fresh water on earth. The challenge to the population is that water is not always available when it's needed. Thus, the need for storage (reservoirs and dams). An interesting fact - 18% of the populations relies on groundwater. John had interesting information on trans basin diversion of water. 80% of the water used in Colorado is in Agriculture. John posited that the warming temperatures of the earth during this most recent "hotter" cycle has caused more vegetation, forests and shrub line to grow more in the mountains. The impact of this increased vegetation growth is a higher use of water by the forests, etc. and the resulting lower flows of water in the streams and rivers. Patty Rettig presented an interesting history of water in the region that supported much of what we heard in the movie, The Great Divide.
- What resonated with me most about the first class, really came from our first two speakers. First, the history of water use and acquisition is amazing. Second, the complexity of water rules is equally amazing, but also amazingly frustrating! Due to it's limited quantity in a state like CO (unlike eastern states), we have to be open-minded and conscious of the choices that are in front of us, and the policies we make.
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**What questions do you have after today's session? Any areas you want to explore further?**

- How does the commoditization of water play into equity? Is Colorado creating a bunch of Jackson Hole's where yes we'll be great at conservation?
- There was a small mention in the History presentation of how Colorado collaborated as a whole rather than the east vs west with the development of Water Conservancy Districts. I would like to hear more on that as a whole for the State as I feel rather divided on the issue with the transference of water from the basins. I want to explore the structure of public engagement in Municipal Government and see if there are ways we can facilitate collaborative conversations. I would like to learn more about the development of gpcpd rates for assumed water use and water dedication and how to reframe that requirement since it is the backbone of development in our community.
- I want to understand the water-related challenges that are specific to the most socially/economically vulnerable people in our region. I want to know why the Big Thompson seems to hold a different space in our community than the Poudre. People love the Poudre river! I just don't get the sense that there is as much connection between our Northern Colorado community and the Big Thompson. I am curious about why and I am curious to understand whether this has an impact on the way we care for and manage the Big Thompson.
- Something that left me with some questions during the first session was John Tracey's perspective on Colorado's approach/beliefs when it comes to the urban/rural divide regarding water and infrastructure. I found it difficult to wrap my head around his idea that industrializing historically rural/farming areas would not have any impact on food security. I understand the thought process, but do not know that 'because it's worked elsewhere' is a valid reason to believe it work here to create positive change in water use without creating negative impact on food security. As follow up, I'll definitely be diving into the ideas and thoughts he shared on water use and beneficial changes to the area to better understand his perspective.
- The final session was a great session to set the tone of the class and the broader conversation of how to deal with difficult topics. I was intrigued by the "wicked person" vs. "wicked problem" concept and now the focus should be on values and listening.
- The concept of how the cost of housing is tied to the cost of water and how that value is artificially inflated.
- This question came not from any of the presentations, but more from what I have read and see in municipality interests: To me it seems like there more interest in the Poudre River than the Big Thompson. Why is that? Is it the sheer size of the watershed and the opportunities for more reservoirs to be built in the watershed? A more reliable source of water?
- How can we start conversations with community members/public when they aren't engaged or educated about water?
- I'd love to learn more about the history of our water system and how we arrived at the current structure.
- I wonder why so much emphasis has been put onto the individual user, when in reality it is the larger corporations or entities where the difference is made. How much do laws and politics punish the end user when in fact it is not the source of the problem. I'd like to further understand how the media and the overall mindset of scarcity has corrupted the enjoyment of this natural resource.
- After the September session, I am interested to learn how other and more arid places in the Western US handle water and why their cost of water is lower than here in Colorado, specifically along the Front Range. I'd love to look into that more and see if I could

2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado  
Homework Assignment for **September 2023 – Redacted**

determine why that is, and see if there are clear reasons why our water is so much more expensive here.

- What can we do in our various industries/communities to lead others to the same conclusion: water is a crucial topic and should take a leading role in community discussions? Can we get a one-pager about the water cycle and the quantities of freshwater/cycle of freshwater to use when talking to folks about water? That was awesome!
- I have no additional questions after our class. However, I am interested in exploring Colorado Water Law more and am excited I was placed in this book group. Additionally, I would like a bit more history of water in Colorado, as the more history and understanding we have of the past, the more it will help us understand why our State is where it is today regarding water.
- OHHHH so many questions..ha ha. Actually there are just so many areas to explore that I can't really narrow it down but not having the background in say government that many of them did, every session will be a wonderful opportunity to learn something new and pertinent about this topic.
- I would like to better understand the water fees issue. Obviously, this is top of mind with some of the conversations regarding further cost increases. I have friends that are developers and home builders, and I hear their stance on this, but would be curious to further explore the issues at hand. The increases they are talking about are not nominal and have a direct affect on another major issue for the region- affordable housing.
- I would love to (and plan to) explore more of on Delph Carpenter and his work on the compacts. Understanding the political atmosphere and the growth in the area during that time might actually shed some light on the things we are facing today. History has a way of repeating itself.
- How Colorado's historic water policy has differed so drastically than other state's policies.
- I definitely want to learn about technology that enables us to use/reuse water in our local region. Is the practice of municipalities buying water rights speculation? And, is speculation a "beneficial use"? Do we need more and more water to keep growing? Or, do we have enough? Do we have a moral obligation to send water to communities that do not have enough to sustain themselves? Are we destined to eventually experience the same fate as ancient Puebloans due to severe climate change? Very provocative questions I want to explore.
- I'd like to learn more about conservation best practices, for example what San Antonio did to decrease their overall water use despite population growth; Would also like to learn more about the definition of beneficial use and the possibility for social pressure to change how water is used in our state.
- No questions
- Personally, I will be exploring the history aspect of water use and acquisition in greater detail. I want to learn more about the people who helped shape our infrastructure and current rules into what they are today.
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**Are there any components of what you learned today that are applicable for your current position or profession?**

- Water isn't as scarce as we think, we need to use it more efficiently..
- Genuine Conversation really came out to me as the item that I need to make more time for in my position. I want to engage our community and I need to create the opportunities to have tough conversation. I want to be better educated on my own water system to be able to actively educate and promote its roll in the Johnstown community. I would like to develop relationships that allow me to cross the municipal boundaries and collaborating on the regional level for water in the Front Range area.
- The history overview was very helpful in understanding what has led us to where we are today. I really appreciated the history behind the creation of the Colorado Division of Water Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. I am starting to work much more closely with the CWCB and I didn't know any of the history of how or why it was created. I also appreciate any opportunity to expand my understanding of the history and background of the CBT project since protecting CBT infrastructure continues to be an important component of my work. I work closely with Northern Water and I really benefit from any information about CBT.
- Much of Martin Carcasson's presentation on how to better communicate our way through 'wicked problems' is certainly applicable in my current profession. Wicked problems are all too common in governmental affairs – in the water space and beyond! I took a great deal of what he shared, and will make an effort to incorporate his tools/changed thinking into many of my interactions.
- I was very much pleased with he first session and believe the course will be very valuable to me in my role as a manager and consultant for water matters.
- Because many people do not know where their water comes from and how it gets to them, I'm interested in exploring how BTWC can be used as a platform to get information out there more broadly – can it be interwoven into people's everyday lives?
- Oh so many! The entire communications presentation from Martin was directly related to my daily work.
- Understanding how to better steward and capture this resource for more efficient use is the critical component and not trying to fugure out how to always "make" more water from an eco-system that is producing any more.
- Absolutely, knowing and understanding how water works in our environment is very important to me in my current position. Learning new ways to talk about water is also very relevant and gaining an understanding on the history of water in Colorado is also very relevant. Already, I am finding new ways to talk about water to the citizens within Greeley when the opportunity arises, which is very exciting.
- The history is helpful for when I have discussions surrounding our current situation with others in the brewing industry. I will absolutely incorporate the suggestion of finding common ground and building trust to have difficult conversations in my work and social life!
- Absolutely! The entire class applied to my current position as it helped give me a background of the history of Colorado water. I was thrown into the deep end, pun intended, early in my career for municipal water. I had no background in the history of Colorado water nor the time to explore it. This brief but detailed session on the history was very helpful. Additionally, the presentation from Profession Carcasson provided great insight into conversations with practical advice I can use day-to-day.
- I think being in the real estate "world" , it gives me so much to think about regarding future developments, how we will supply water to all of the people that are forecast to move into the northern Colorado region in the next 30 years, how can we possibly adjust water fees to help attain the unicorn of "affordable housing" and that fact that the entire subject is

2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado  
Homework Assignment for **September 2023 – Redacted**

something that goes so deep that it helps me to try to educate our memberships of Realtors and affiliates on the subject of water and all that it entails since it is a big part of real estate.

- Sure. I deal with developers and builders every day. I work in a business that is focused on community building and community vitality, and these topics are at the heart of all of our communities. I also understand that I come into this with my own ideas, partially educated and partially not fully educated. I am excited to see how the conversation changes my stance on these ideas and how I can incorporate what I learn into ideas regarding finance and the financial feasibility of projects in this region in the future.
- The early time in our water history, specifically Mesa Verde, resonated in my current profession. As a public servant looking for ways to help my community and the region understand water, the impacts and plan for larger infrastructure that will outlive any political cycle, I find the time of Puebloans in Mesa Verde insightful. For their time they were working to provide the same “services” with limited resources as we do today. Understanding their ways I believe is key.
- Yes, specifically how to diverge/converge on topics.
- Yes! Knowing the history of water development is helpful in my role as a City Councilmember. But, thinking about the costs versus benefits of acquiring/competing for additional water for years down the road is an interesting thought exercise. Answering the questions above will inform my decisions, too.
- I was really interested in the discussion around equity and the fact that the Colorado Water Plan doesn't deal with local equity issues or what tools need to be put into place to ensure equity. I am interested in knowing more about this, and it might be something worth considering if elected.
- Martin Carcasson presented an interesting summary of what he has learned from his years of leading groups. He also presented some data about what science tells us about our biases. His Keys to Depolarizing and Elevating Our Conversations was helpful and interesting. My most informative takeaway was about "confirmation bias" or "my side bias. He did a good job finishing the session with some energy.
- In general, I don't believe anything is directly pertinent to what I do on a daily basis (with the County as Oil & Gas Director). However, I do find all the information very applicable to overall general knowledge to know more about the complexity of water use and accessibility for the oil & gas sector. In addition, the information discussed at the last class certainly helps with my overall understanding of water issues as I pursue my candidacy for Weld County Commissioner.
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