

Water Literate Leaders

December Homework

1. What did you learn today that encouraged you?

- Having worked with endangered species issues in the past and compensatory mitigation in the past, I was encouraged to hear about the positive experience that Alan Berryman described about the South Platte ESA process and the collaborative process working with 10 others from a variety of organizations to successfully get through the adaptive management process. In my limited experience working on somewhat similar issues related to terrestrial endangered species, it can be very hard to work through this type of process successfully. Alan's point that it takes a year to just learn how to talk to one another in a collaborative group was well said.
- To learn about organizations working together (e.g., 2 birds, a fish, and all the water voices at a table...) and to hear more about how the Endangered Species Act has actually helped bring more voices to the table (though I realize some folks at that table likely considered it a giant pain).
- I learned that there may be opportunities with local water districts for collaboration. I recognize the challenges here, politically, operationally, and economically, but still felt that there is something here to be explored.
- Thoroughly enjoyed Brian Werner's knowledge and history information. Colorado has certainly been at it a long time and yet the process still seems primitive in many ways.
- I don't find a lot to be encouraged about when it comes to water in Colorado. We have a finite resource with growing demand that will only get worse.
- Encouraged and surprised: Learning that Northern Water and the Colorado Big Thompson project was an idea of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce Grand Lake Committee was truly inspiring. It raised the bar several notches in my perspective on what our committees at the Fort Collins Chamber might be capable of accomplishing in our attempts to build futures for our region.
- Northern Colorado Water Conservation District has played a significant role in the history of water, especially in Northern Colorado. I enjoyed Brian's presentation and his enthusiasm when it comes to water. The importance of water goes back in American history and into 1800's. Even though there are numerous challenges there are numerous reasons to be optimistic.

2. What did you learn today that discouraged you?

- The Northern Water presentation by Brian Werner was well done and I think that they are an important part of Northern Colorado water issues. I was hoping that they would talk about lessons learned about environmental mitigation related to their many projects and show how they consider these issues, improve based on what they have learned over the years, and work toward good solutions for other important sectors like the environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation.
- Can't get our 60 degree December days off my mind.
- The pending Montava development and how we can manage the water needs of a growing community!
- How do we ensure this history is well preserved for those future generations who will be in charge of or operating our water systems?
- One frustration that I expressed in the class is the comment made to me by the Loveland City Manager (was Water and Power directed) is regarding water conservation. I made the comment that why doesn't the city do more to encourage water conservation such as reducing the requirement for grass and live plants in new development. He responded that if conservation measures are too successful they would have to raise rates as they have to pay for the additional storage. SO... what is the incentive to conserve water? There has got to be a better way so that citizens are not penalized for conserving water.
- Nothing seemed discouraging.
- It was interesting to hear of the support (94%) in 1938 of the C-BT project. I ponder and wonder the degree of support in today's world or society would be for such an impactful project as this. The leaders were truly visionary. Would it be possible in today's world to achieve that much support?

3. What did you learn today that surprised you?

- I was surprised to learn that some participants in our class might be under the impression that all river projects would require a Water Court case to move forward. We discussed during the session how changing the stream geometry does not necessarily warrant a water court case. I look forward to sharing more about the many aspects of river restoration projects and how they benefit multiple community sectors, and highlighting that these projects do not alter the delivery of decreed water rights and require a Water Court case to move

forward.

- Great to finally start grasping flow returns and that flood irrigation has a huge role in replenishing the river in previously dry times (this is also worrisome – how are we affecting downstream populations when we move to sprinkling or drip?)
- The difference between City of Fort Collins and Tri-Districts cost of water!
- I was surprised to learn about the no flow return requirement on CBT!
- I have become surprised at the number of organizations (Water Districts and others) that are involved in water allocation and management. I was also amazed at the coordination among organizations to facilitate the building of the C-BT.
- I was surprised to learn how something indirect such as the Endangered Species Act could impact or effect an issue such as water. It was interesting to learn in Alan's presentation about the species and collaboration that has occurred. I like that adaptive management was used due to lack of information or knowledge but it is surprising to hear the number of groups or organizations who were involved.

4 .What did you learn today that you want to know more about?

- Thanks for the very informative discussion on the return flows clarification! For Alan Berryman's discussion, I would really like to learn more about how the collaborative ESA group worked through the adaptive management and science process that allowed their group to learn about how their mitigation efforts were working. I have found when working on similar issues, that often groups like these state they have a need for more information; however the science and data gathering process often becomes controversial and is used as a method to argue and stymie the process, rather than work toward a collaborative solution. I would love to hear more about whether they encountered this within this ESA process, and if so how they worked through it, and if not, the conditions that they had in place that may have prevented this from occurring. I guess I will have to read the CSU sociologist book about the process!
- If possible, maybe we can have more details re: the discussion that has already been started between the Tri-Districts and the City. What are the details of the challenges and opportunities here?
- How can we best educate at the local level and teach our citizens to be

resourceful? Is there a benefit to working on programs or ideas regionally instead of each municipality working independently?

- Despite the discussion at the beginning of class in which an example was presented, I am as confused as ever. **Diversion, Augmentation, Extinction and a lot of other terms are foreign to me.** I also became confused on return flows – when did it begin to be a consideration? When is it applied to specific water rights?
- ELCO does not provide water to developers but ELCO has a water bank. I don't really know what any of that means. Who does provide water to developers? Why doesn't ELCO? What is a water bank? Does ELCO not have any water rights? It appears ELCO sources their water from others. How much water leaves the state of Colorado that if storage were available could be held? What compacts require set volumes of water to flow from the state and what compacts have a requirement based on percentages of annual precipitation/snow melt in Colorado? How do water authorities work? Has a water authority been considered in the attempt to bring all of the water providers together under some common rules and costs in the Fort Collins growth management area? Would a water authority have been an approach to use in bringing all of the various proposed storage projects together under a regional plan?
- I think I may need to better understand the Endangered Species Act. I did not expect something such as a species like the whooping crane to impact an issue such as water. It is important to know issues downstream can easily be impacted by decisions and issues upstream.

5. Was there anything that captured your attention to the extent that you could see yourself engaging in it further – to study it further, to play a leadership role in bringing it to the attention of others?

- I would be interested in studying further the Northern Water Platte River Recovery/ESA mitigation project and bringing successful principles or lessons learned regarding adaptive management into river projects that are conducted in other areas of the Front Range.
- Clearly I'm going to need to make more time for reading books. Also want to try to arrange a brewers' "water slopes" tour with Northern Water. And what's going to downstream communities when Denver and surrounds start using trans-basin water to extinction?

- I feel that water management, water law, water allocation, anything to do with water is complicated. These have and will have even greater impact on communities in the future. I am certain that this is just a start of my education