

The Poudre Runs Through It:

Northern Colorado's Water Future



**Data from Initial Community Forum Survey
regarding the questions, concerns, and values of the community**

Updated March 10, 2011

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The Poudre Runs Through It: Northern Colorado's Water Future Community Forum Survey

During "The Poudre Runs Through It" event on February 3, 2011 at the Larimer County Courthouse in Fort Collins, CO, over 300 community members gathered to hear speakers discuss the river, and then participate in a discussion about their values and concerns about the river. Participants were also asked to complete survey forms that had the following set of prompts (along with the page numbers for the comments for each prompt):

I am concerned that... (p. 1)

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is... (p.6)

I need more information about... (p.10)

One question I have is... (p. 13)

I am struggling with... (p.17)

One tension I need to work through is... (p.21)

I believe we should... (p. 23)

Additional comments (p. 28)

Notes from public comments made at the February 3rd event (p. 27)

The report includes all the responses that were received that night, transcribed by students from the CSU Center for Public Deliberation. Participants also had the option to complete prompts online, and those comments are posted at the end of each list of responses. This information represents the raw data that is being used to develop the educational sessions which will be held on Feb. 24, March 10, and March 24 at the Larimer County Courthouse, and then the deliberation sessions on April 11 and April 16. For more information on the sessions, visit the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado website at <http://www.universityconnections.org>. Comments or questions concerning this information can be directed to Martin Carcasson, director the Center for Public Deliberation, at cpd@colostate.edu.

I am concerned that...

- The low flows through town will be lowered even more—becoming nothing but a dried up irrigation ditch
- Fear will drive the conversation
- Without sessions like this, when Corp of Engineers grants the permit, Save the Poudre folks will file law suit within a month, creating protracted litigation and anger.
- About how in stream flows can be maintained especially how ISF's can be achieved and the positive and negative or controversial impacts of ISF's.
- Dams might be built on the main stem of the Poudre
- Things that make the Poudre wonderful and beautiful will be lost
- More diversion from our rivers will greatly affect negatively the health of the rivers
- We continue to grow in population
- The future of the river is doomed by restricted growth and too many people: not enough water

I am concerned that... (continued)

- We will be unable to control or limit growth and appropriately balance population with water and other resources
- There is not enough done to conserve the Poudre and planning for future water needs
- There won't be enough water for future residents of FC
- Northern Colorado water is used at least 6 times over before reaching Nebraska, yet so much of the floodwater reaches Nebraska without being used. How can we use (capture) that water without harming the flora and fauna.
- Water would be a critical issue to the area in the future and particularly to agriculture.
- Wide difference in water flows from spring to winter
- Powerful financial interests will do all they can to sabotage the good feeling of consensus evident tonight
- Change some of our rules so we can reuse water and carefully collect and store it
- Lack of water storage capacity will lead to agriculture being "dried up" by the municipalities
- Ft. C is becoming so self-centered that it no longer gives a hoot about the surrounding county. They have been such a good neighbor in the past
- With views that "its our water and its wrong/a waste to send water downstream"
- The NISP project will not be built
- A "balanced" solution will mean that the natural world will continue to shrink while human expansion will only slow.
- We, as a society, are selfish and don't respect natural limits and capacity
- The effect required to understand and discuss issues will be too onerous- the process needs to become more efficient
- Many of us don't know how limited and variable our natural water supplies really are. Our water education may not be sufficient
- The Poudre River corridor remain intact in nature, wildlife, and developed for public enjoyment and sustainable use
- This is just a Ft. Collins issue
- My sons will not be able to afford to live in Ft. Collins. We need to provide for growth
- In the need to act, we think we have considered it all- we believe it to be the truth- so we act, decide. Then we find out we were wrong!
- Water user groups and conservation groups are antagonistic and polarized rather than working together.
- We do not have a good sense of the true natural state of the Poudre River (150+ years ago)
- Denver Water Board, Aurora, and Thornton are growing and have greater political clout to force decisions their way
- USFS can hold City of FC hostage on flood since resources are on forest service land
- Transbasin Diversions- Club 20, they have positions too!
- we will continue to respond to demands of greater population without looking at root causes, conservation, more efficiency.

I am concerned that... (continued)

- By providing more water, we'll diminish the need to conserve water, especially because it is cheap.
- Agriculture does not utilize water efficiently
- Systems which are driven too hard tend toward instability and chaos i.e. when the flow is over allocated drought and floods ensue
- We ignore, or turn our backs on the river as it passes through our city center
- The river is invisible to most of us
- The economic impact to farmers' water rights values if growth restrictions are imposed
- We take the Poudre for granted
- Our water supply remains safe to drink, more conservation, review H2O rates-our H2O is too cheap!
- Too much water is being siphoned off by growing populations
- Growth will happen regardless of whether or not we store water.
- Fort Collins will become too big
- Wild fluctuation in stream flows
- Extensive water storage such as the Glade Project destroys an historic valley with sites of Native American footprints
- June run off will be lessened and will affect the riparian areas that are downstream from the canyon mouth
- Fear will drive the conversation.
- The low flows through town will be lower even more-becoming nothing but a dried up irrigation ditch
- Storage needs will not be met-that will harm all parties and the river and will make dry years very hard and conflicts irresolvable.
- Why aren't we creating or integrating with a regional plan e.g. Platte River Basin. Our key instructions- City, Country, CSU- are growth-oriented and growth-dependent and all of their activities promote the activities and circumstances that are making the water limits untenable. This seems fundamentally unreasonable.
- Water taps are issued by domestic water providers without requiring transfers of water. Cash payments for taps are the root of the problem of overbuilding.
- We will optimize our river and kill its spirit. We need to optimize its spirit and use what's left
- "Data" used by different sides will be thrown around to support different opinions. How can we agree on what is true "data."
- The demands by 2050 will further damage our river and natural resources and agriculture along the Front Range.
- The various interest groups will come to a consensus and allow all to share the resources. Stopping growth is not a solution.
- Lawn sprinklers are a taken-for-granted right. Do we really each need a green lawn and how much water is used to achieve green lawns?
- Great program-educational informative. Thank you!
- Thank you for the forum!

I am concerned that... (continued)

- Please get a larger room.
- Either the river will be dried up, choked with invasive weeds or sediments, devoid of fish and other life, or it will end up completely developed with no wildlife corridor.
- There will never be an end to this discussion that works for everyone.
- The environmental Republicans are again of great concern- in being in the way developing water storage. Everyone is an environmentalist in some way- you don't have to be radical and cause a lot of lawyer time and experience.
- We have to have irrigation water to make a living.
- Taking too much water from the Poudre will damage its ability to maintain its status quo and would hurt scenic.
- In the semi-arid environment, water is treated as a right rather than a resource.
- Too few people understand tradeoffs to maintaining special things in region- it all has to do with water.
- More and more municipalities want to trade water upstream and take it out of river aesthetics.
- Emotions about the river are overcoming the facts. Could we qualify values somehow?
- Decisions made today will change the role of this river in the community of Fort Collins.
- Colorado's wild and scenic river is being wasted on lawns and other unsustainable urban practices. Agriculture consumes 85% of Poudre but is it used wisely?
- The citizens of northern Colorado have sufficient, reliable water supplies to continue the life styles we are accustomed to and the family's economy can be centered. If our population is supposed to double in the coming decades, how can the Poudre River survive this onslaught of demands?
- We will not learn how to come to a consensus
- Population growth and consumption of water (no golf)
- Development and its water demand will interfere with the river's communities becoming self-sufficient in food production necessary for sustainability
- People hoping to "preserve the river" do not fully understand the degree of artificial ecology that has been created since white settlement (e.g. upper basin storage, irrigation, etc.)
- Our citizens have little understanding of how precious a resource water is in Colorado
- There is simply not enough water to meet all of the demands that are present and will come to be in the near future; so how do we decide what gets water first?
- More Poudre River water will be diverted for future development rather than municipal water- saving measures and incentives to allow more water to stay in stream
- When all is said and done more is said than done, too much discussion can lead to deadlock
- We are not doing enough to protect our watersheds, to protect water quality in our watersheds
- The Poudre River through town will be way diminished with nominal June rise
- Extreme and loud voices will overpower the "radical center"

I am concerned that... (continued)

- People who have moved here are enjoying the efforts of water stewards who planned for the future and now think the river is natural! It's our responsibility to be good stewards and plan for adequate water to support a good quality of life
- We will miss a tremendous opportunity to create a world class downtown river experience
- The overwhelming quest for growth will eclipse solutions that reduce consumption or create smart growth, in favor of big project development.
- Development along the river will damage wetlands and riparian habitat
- We will lose our local agricultural lands
- Growth and climate change add stress to our river uses that degrade or destroy both river ecology and fail to meet human needs
- Not too much water goes on lawns
- The Poudre will dry out.
- We are unwilling to sacrifice any of our ease in life (i.e. we are unwilling for our lives to be more difficult) for the sake of the environment and "environmental flows."
- Since Colorado constitution and water law has basically transferred the total average flow of the Poudre River to water rights holders, they have the right to dewater the river. How do we put the water in the river when it no longer "belongs to the people?"
- We are in a process to allocate the last amounts of Poudre River water and the organization involved must operate independently in a win/loss context.
- Population experts/educators are not at the table for this discussion(s).
- Population growth is assumed.
- Polarization will make it more difficult to derive a balanced set of solutions.
- Population growth drives presumed solutions. As one speaker commented-the root of the problem must be addressed-this clearly is population growth.
- The "identity" of the river will be lost.
- There is not enough understanding of what the costs are.
- Ft. Collins is ill-equipped to deal with growth in a way that does not compromise the long term health of the watershed.
- We need to discuss the importance of the water that is rented by agriculture from the city and the implications of reductions. We should also get serious about the potential water sharing agreements that are practical alternatives to "buy and dry".
- We can't move forward arguing one project at a time. Basin plan!
- Our water law has not kept up with modern requirements and circumstances starting with changing the political appointments of conservancy board of directors-they need to be elected.
- Not enough focus is put on conservation. Particularly how homeowners can conserve water by using xeriscaping principles.
- Colorado's population growth will kill the ecology of all our rivers, decimating the environmental quality of the rivers and impacting the tourism economy and recreation.
- Current laws discourage conservation.

I am concerned that... (continued)

- We will not be able to use our water for all the purposes we use them for. Are we going to have to pick one?
- Drying of river, need to plan well for future. Should we restrict population growth? If so, how?
- We don't all understand that the City of Thornton has a large conditional decree that might be exercised if Glade's pre-conditional decree is not made absolute by completion of Glade.
- The fundamental law that governs water in the west is antiquated and no longer fulfills/meets the needs of an expanding community.
- Conservation is underemphasized among solutions
- Reuse of water is degraded from its original water quality. Not enough treatment is required to bring diversions back to original quality.
- Population pressure will impact the river negatively. Growth may mean my children don't enjoy what we enjoy now, when they are older.
- The Poudre within the city core is lost for social and recreational use-i.e. not enough to enjoy. Are there ideas to change effective discharge in several reaches to ensure the ability to fish, float, and view the stream? This calls for manipulation of river/stream restoration.
- My grandchildren will not have ample water in Ft. Collins.
- Population growth will greatly exceed the water resources that are, or can be, available.
- There is a bias toward storage as a reasonable part of a solution to this issue.*
- Most people have little understanding of the variability of the Poudre River, how water is allocated and who owns and uses the water.*
- The city and county populations are growing very fast and our water resources are not. People who want to "save the Poudre" don't really have a concrete grasp of water issues in this area. (I bet the East River in New York was once a "wildlife corridor".) Water throughout the Intermountain West will become very scarce and we will deplete/contaminate our groundwater resources to the extent that they will be unavailable or unusable. The quality of life that we enjoy now will be history within our lifetimes.*
- The pressure from growth could extract such a toll from the Poudre that we destroy its historic and ecological role on this landscape and future*
- We don't yet know how (or want) to design our human communities in balance with ecological realities. Waste, for instance, exists everywhere but there is no "waste" in nature that is not "food" for another. Water, a precious gift, is being wasted.*

* *Comments provided online*

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is...

- Enjoying the river upstream for recreational purposes, wildlife and bird environment.
- Local food and smart growth.
- Avoiding litigation, gaining consensus, getting informed, reduce polarization.
- Healthy habitats and preservations of cold water habitats.

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is... (continued)

- Wildlife habitat around the river, the wildness of the river
- Clean, free-flowing mountain streams
- Good, clean water and healthy rivers
- Conservation of resources
- That the Poudre is such a free flowing and mostly accessible (to the public) waterway
- The natural river, the corridor, and the life corridor
- A flowing, accessible river with the ability to float through entire river.
- The ability to experience the ambiance, the security of the river in an urban setting
- Preserving agriculture, and open lands as others fill in from Cheyenne and Colorado Springs
- What are most important values- nature, free-flowing river vs. reservoir
- The work begun tonight will continue as long as needed.
- That the wild and scenic river continues to flow
- Local food production
- A healthy environment for fish and wildlife and farmers in the Poudre Valley and in the state. Streams need a certain flow to be healthy
- Poudre is a natural asset. I fish in the canyon and in town; bike and hike the Poudre trail and value it tremendously.
- New water storage projects
- Healthy, non-fragmented ecosystems
- Constructive, collaborative dialogue around complex issues
- The ability to enjoy the environment locally
- Seeing a clean and living river that continues to flow
- For the public to participate in decision making/taking and understand ALL ramifications of decisions
- The respite provided by the natural setting of the Poudre... even when it does not flow but rather is still
- Maintaining healthy flows for aesthetics, fish, recreation, etc...
- Maintaining ecological function and health of the river
- Open space, low density, growth control
- Having the joy of spending time along the river and the solace and peace of that opportunity
- Always having enough water in the river to sustain a healthy ecosystem
- Ag to Urban Transfer
- The river as a cultural and recreational amenity as it passes through town
- That the Poudre is developed in a financially viable way, and is "open and affirming" to the public. It will be developed one way or another
- Halligan Reservoir expansion is crucial to Fort Collins
- Helping the public understand more about: Colorado Water Law, History of water in the west and the effect of development on finite resources

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is... (continued)

- In stream flows all along the Poudre, not just through Old Town Fort Collins, need to be less variable to support a healthy river
- Providing reliability and certainty for our future water supplies
- Beauty
- Dialogue with the city and HOA's to help us reduce footprint of grass and give ideas about Xeriscaping (Less H2O)
- Water for irrigation, I am a farm owner
- A smart development of the downtown river corridor to create a central jewel to attract business, citizens, tourists. Include retail, art and culture, natural assets.
- Open space, natural resources
- The fishery in town
- A lush, healthy river system from the canyon mouth through town
- Discussion on how growth does in fact have an economic benefit to a large percentage of the population in the community
- Treasuring the beauty of the Poudre River and enhancing its flow through Fort Collins. The bicycle path and park areas can be expanded.
- Local food and smart growth
- The river upstream for recreational purposes, wildlife for enjoyment.
- Solution for "Poudre Problem" is the result of a process that shows the world that dialogue behavior vs. polar interest can result in a positive inclusive solution.
- A natural river corridor.
- Insuring that farms will still exist in our area with sufficient water-storage needed to capture high water flows in wet years.
- I like to have it all. I appreciate the environments the Poudre provides (fishing)
- Keeping water here when it melts. We need more storage; once it goes by its gone!
- We must know water before we go ahead and change everything.
- The feeling I get when I'm near the river, on any part of it.
- Adam Wibby- "Mathematician"
- River related revision
- Preserving the environment of the Poudre River.
- The opportunity to escape urban pressure next to a flowing river and the opportunity (future) to further protect our local food sources.
- Realizing how much water come to Ft. Collins from other basins.
- We need to be reasonable about future plans and how to make them. We need to collaborate but do so wisely and productively.
- Preserving the quality of our waterways for future generations.
- Healthy ecosystems that provide for wildlife, and aquatic life, and healthy watersheds.
- That we be able to maintain our standard of living to include our stability and attractive yards, plus a viable farming community surrounding our communities.
- Having a healthy river that flows unimpeded through Fort Collins where I can go with my family to enjoy the natural resources close to town
- To have data and solutions , not anger

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is... (continued)

- Recreation around water and the quality of water
- A healthy river and ecosystem; clean drinking water, and the notion of a livable future for those who come behind
- Maintaining the sense of equanimity: preservation of ecology is not more valuable than urban interface and vice versa
- Using water to grow food locally
- Local agriculture and local recreation
- Local agriculture and local CSA's
- That all voices are heard and considered, even if they don't have the motions to drive policy
- Quality of our water for its multiple uses
- Water in the river; water for agriculture; smart efficiencies in use of urban water
- Educating the youth and community about the many complex issues related to water. "doesn't just come from the tap" perhaps in the next education session you could include a forum for youth or an educational component for kids. They are the future and must be well informed citizens and creative problem solvers.
- Protecting agriculture use of water and providing reliable water supplies for people who will be coming here
- Being able to share, enjoy, and showcase the Poudre to all users in a sustainable way
- Instream flows supporting riparian habitat, reuse, water education in school curriculum
- Locally grown food
- Wise implementation of hydrology, science and technology can sustain water use that optimizes both environmental needs and human desires
- A strong flow of the river through town
- The intrinsic value of the Poudre, aesthetic beauty, preservation.
- The intrinsic right for a river to flow.
- Clean drinking water.
- The natural environment of the river and its sustained health.
- Quality of life.
- A balanced urban/ag environment. We cannot lose our food source.
- Sufficient supplies of water for agriculture to be sustainable locally.
- Less is more
- The respect both locals and visitors preserve or obtain for the Poudre
- Supporting local industry, especially local food, local resources. (Leads to sense of community)
- A free flowing river in the canyon and throughout the urban reach in Ft. Collins
- Allowing the river to have its native flows.
- The natural beauty of this land.
- Long-term sustainability
- Meeting agricultural needs for future-local and worldwide
- Adaptive management.

One thing that is particularly valuable to me is... (continued)

- Cold, clear, mountain water in the natural river channel.
- The scenic beauty and pristine quality of the river (in the canyon).
- Access to the Poudre
- Water quality
- Maintaining viable ag in Larimer county
- To see just how uninformed the public really is about Colorado law. Shocking!*
- The multiple uses of this water and the benefits it currently provides to the larger community - rural, urban, environmental, recreational, etc.*
- A free flowing river that varies with snow melt, protecting the June rise and the riparian ecosystem.*
- the river corridor for its serenity, fun and biodiversity. Whether biking, tubing, walking, it is the "gawking" that has the deepest value.*
- that the Poudre in its natural state balances all the urbanization growing up around Fort Collins.*

* *Comments provided online*

I need more information about...

- Proposed storage systems, projects, and locations
- Who owns and who can use the Poudre
- Will Thornton build storage reservoir if Glade is not built, and Northern Colorado lose the appropriation rights of NCWCD.
- Representing and mediating water issues in Colorado
- How the Poudre waters and transmountain waters are allocated among these interests: agriculture, industry, municipalities.
- Proposed projects and creative solutions, what all the issues are, what the problem is
- Water rights... and do they need changing?
- Water rights
- The various proposed future water projects
- Why the water users can't work together to establish and maintain a minimum stream flow. I know it can be done.
- Ways I can conserve more
- Water consumption from entities along the river
- Ag versus houses- row upon row
- What I as an ordinary citizen can do.
- How to manage growth so we can live well into the future
- City plan principals as they apply to decisions on irrigation water
- Alternative ways to conserve and share the water available
- Is there really unallocated Green River water that could be diverted? (I thought the whole Colorado river was over allocated?)
- How various organizations make decisions- what are the interfaces, limitations to scope, dependencies- who is responsible for what?

I need more information about...(continued)

- Ecological services- how much can we alter the hydrograph of the river and still have ecological health
- What will transpire in the near term and longer term if the Glade project occurs. What will it mean in the first 5 years, 10 years, and beyond?
- State laws (mountain stream flow, points of diversion, etc.) Federal laws (wild and scenic, etc.)
- How the water in the Poudre is distributed, who owns water rights for the Poudre? Where else does Ft. Collins get their water from?
- Water law and the precedents it establishes which could adversely affect the policy decisions we are examining.
- Rain water capture for home gardens/ Grey water use or re-use? Laws and implications?
- The potential for conservation in existing and future urban areas, particularly outside irrigation
- Regional needs for water--looking outside of Fort Collins
- Glade Reservoir and Halligan
- Actual potential for saving water in agriculture via conservation
- Dry up covenants, CBT carry over water
- What we can do
- The cost and impact on the river of the proposed Glade Reservoir
- Who thinks about the in-town fishery and sits at the table on water management
- Economic studies to determine how growth makes a community more prosperous versus communities that don't grow (Fort Collins Vs. eastern Colorado communities)
- Growth limiting initiatives that are on the table right now-being seriously considered.
- Who owns and who can use the Poudre.
- Proposed storage systems projects and locations.
- Posted online as background for these conversations.
- Instream requirements.
- What would happen if NISP were not built?
- Creating reservoirs
- What are viable options for our community and agricultural needs?
- What NISP can do to improve flows?
- How much the IBCC costs the state of Colorado?
- Mitigation for the damages which would be caused by transfer of water out of the Poudre basin to towns north of Denver due to the purchase of water supply shares, and participation in NISP.
- What Fort Collins residents would like to see in terms of the river's downtown "scope?"
- Alternative solutions to water shortages aside from building large reservoirs that change ecosystems, efficiency of agriculture irrigation and how to further improve it?
- How we can change outdated water laws to better represent changing environmental/ecosystem values.
- Water sharing arrangements

I need more information about...(continued)

- How many new houses would be enabled by the NISP storage project in the small towns in Northern Colorado? Where would those towns get water if NISP is not built?
- Water volumes, who owns what, users of water, projection of 20 years
- Ecosystem services around the water, changes in water laws and policy
- Constraints and consequences of using gray water for yards and gardens and technological means for the latter
- How conservation techniques would provide for current and future need
- How state/city laws impact water resources; are we appropriately taxing and regulating entities that use excessive water- like golf courses
- Let's define data points, collect facts, and make conservative decisions
- What each entity is willing to sacrifice and what can they not sacrifice
- How much water conservation would do to lessen the storage needs
- Fort Collins water storage needs in the future
- The distillation and supply system and how it can be used to keep water in the river
- Actual demands- by % vs. availability
- Why some sort of special district, URA, etc. can't be utilized as a mechanism to align stakeholders, provide funding, and enable the enhanced development of the downtown river corridor
- Glade reservoir and what interests are behind it. Who stands to benefit financially?
- Who needs to be at the table to change or improve Colorado water law and policy?
- Ways of enhancing mountain watersheds- especially impacts of climate change. Geological stability of possible reservoir locations
- Communities buying up water rights and thus drying up farm land
- We need to communicate to all that the "natural" river is one that dried up in the late fall and dries into the spring runoff.
- Check on gold medal trout streams many are below reservoirs. Free flowing streams do not supply fish.
- Where the water currently goes, how much flows, what current plans for the river are.
- Colorado water law and the right of prior appropriation.
- Historic flows and water quality in the Poudre River Basin.
- The projected population numbers. Is population increasing from people within the state or people coming to the area? Probably some of both, but would like to know more about the numbers.
- The current distribution of water. How much is used and returned by each type of user?
- How other river corridors on the Front Range can be coordinated about usage.
- Efforts to modify water rights and laws to enable more extensive water reuse methods.
- Water rights. Zoning and regulations for the Poudre.
- How water is used and allocated (residential/commercial/agriculture) to get a better understanding of where conservation can be done.
- Why irrigation of commodity crops is valued in a semi-arid region.
- The holistic value in water storage projects.
- How agriculture and cities can be even more efficient with water use.

I need more information about...(continued)

- Viable water conservation efforts and technologies for both urban dwellers and irrigators.
- The subject of water in general (economy, usage, future, etc.).
- Potential policy changes to free up water from our prior appropriation history.
- Recently completed 3-state management plan for Platte Basin (reported by Dr. David Freeman) and integration of local plans with entire basin.
- The EIS and the steps and processes through which it has to go before decisions are made. Or how it is used for decision-making.
- The change in water quality along the continuance of the river as it flows downstream. Methods used for showing where the degradation occurs.
- Surface storage plans and timing, and potential alternatives.
- *Ag/urban frontiers*
- Costs of compliance with EPA standards
- The Northern Colorado hydrological *agenda*. In particular, how much of the irrigation water is used for actual production? What is the efficiency?
- The role existing storage plays in meeting the current demand of users in the Poudre Basin, especially the municipalities?*
- ownership, the prior appropriation system, and current uses of Poudre River water.*
- The issues concerning the fight about Glade Reservoir.*
- what has happened in other communities and on other landscapes when rivers have been tapped so much for their water.*
- meeting basic needs for water and luxury needs of our Northern Colorado population (and beyond?). Water for drinking, cleaning, food production and preparation would be among the "basic". Household green lawns seem to be a luxury if we hold grass-scapes (parks, etc) as "commons" for all to enjoy.*

* *Comments provided online*

One question I have is...

- The canyon is beautiful—I see different things every time I travel through the corridor—will the ability to travel the canyon still exist as is today? Same for generations to come?
- What can we really do?
- Why didn't city of Ft. Collins become part of Glade and be a leader in getting a consensus.
- Turf irrigation included in ag use? Is there anything in place or in the works to "regulate" the amount of water or development plans?
- Why do we allow sprinkling systems for lawns?
- Why do we allow sprinkling systems in an arid climate?
- Why ag is not so much of a priority as it was historically?
- Why do we as a community feel that we must grow to be economically viable?
- What are the next steps the county, city, farmers, and residents are taking to really conserve the limited resource we have?
- **One question I have is...(continued)**

One question I have is...(continued)

- Why so many people and specifically extreme environmentalists don't understand that many of their extreme positions are in fact hurting us
- Could existing reservoirs be made larger rather than building Glade? Less costly by far.
- Could the larger community create a Poudre River plan, rather than planning by specific project proponents?
- Is there any realistic hope?
- Can we create a water park like Reno, NV on the Poudre?
- How farmers would be compensated if they did give up their water during times of drought
- Will Ft. Collins dry up farms in northern Larimer County as Thornton plans to do?
- What are the major solutions proposed?
- What claims exist on Poudre water? Are any rights unused (and why)? Are any unmet?
- Why can't the "Save the Poudre" organization see the advantages of building a storage project (i.e. Glade), that could enhance the river during low flow times. Historically, the Poudre used to dry up in August and September, but doesn't now because of dams in the upper reaches of the river
- How much is lost to evaporation?
- Can we collectively implement regional solutions within the current legal, physical, social, market framework?
- Can we change without an extreme crisis to motivate us?
- How severe of a drought can we withstand?
- When we only get 50,000 feet, who gets it?
- What would happen if we revised water law?
- Will a dam really stop the flow of water in the Poudre Basin?
- Who are/will be the real decision makers?
- Is there a deadline for decisions to be made?
- Are the flows promised by the Corp of Engineers/NCWCD etc. accurate and predictable with Glade?
- Why is water still so cheap?
- Who ultimately will actually make decisions about this river and its use?
- Will there be ag land available for farming given our projected growth by 2030?
- What are the policy options under discussion, and what are their estimated costs?
- Why the environmental community believes they are the only ones who care about the river.
- How can each individual help?
- What are the plans for future growth?
- Since we didn't get to vote on Glad Reservoir, if it happens how can we make sure it happens in the best possible way?
- If conventional urban landscaping could be abandoned and converted to xeriscaping, how much water demand could be avoided for development?
- Does water land and appropriations make new surface storage inevitable?
- With present amount of water, how much population in this area can be supported?

One question I have is...(continued)

- Why we are ignoring the elephants in the room- exponential population, growth, and climate change?
- Why can we not collect water from rain and store it for irrigation?
- What can we really do?
- The canyon is beautiful- I see different things every time I travel through this corridor. Will the ability to travel the canyon still exist as is today and same for generations to come?
- How do “citizens” change the “government” decisions?
- Why the compromises made by all points of view during the process to designate the Poudre as a wild and scenic river are now being ignored and are not being honored by all
- How can we stop people coming here? Isn't that unrealistic?
- How does a water bank work?
- Why does Ft. Collins continue to provide so much irrigation grasses in the public areas and in the new subdivisions?
- How difficult would it be to get people in the city to use less water on their lawns?
- Why communities seem to be compelled to provide water in advance for future growth- thereby making growth necessary- rather than letting the market be the determinant, i.e. let each builder develop and provide his/her own water. Is there some reason this can't work?
- Has a local jurisdiction considered the value of instituting promotion of Xeriscaping as a landscape option?
- What is the impact of personal water usage/conservation on this issue?
- New population growth should fully financially support the additional infrastructure that would be required/needed.
- Why is the state of Colorado allowing ongoing but circular discussions that seem to end with storage for example at the IBCC South Platte Basin dialogue?
- If not for our future generations, who are we doing this for? How can we reach out and get their involvement?
- To have more handouts for educational portion of meetings.
- How we can best educate the public about important issues, such as the need for water storage, Colorado's water rights system
- How can we all work together to make sure our needs are met and the river is preserved?
- Why the current water laws would allow a company like Powertech to pollute a major underground aquifer... which is another source for drinking water
- What are the new steps of water sustainability?
- When we discuss the value of water, are there more fundamental measures other than in terms of dollars? What would they be?
- How can we make decisions that impact so many political areas and so many values in a peaceful way?
- What is the significance of Halligan Reservoir to Fort Collins future waters needs?

One question I have is...(continued)

- The assumptions that went into the projections of water growth; do they include new technology; new efficiencies?
- Agriculture to urban transfers--is the use of projections a given?
- Please articulate the specific demand on the water
- Why do people who make their living using the river for recreational purposes think they should be able to use the water that belongs to others and not have to pay to develop supplies?
- What is so bad about taking an already “un-natural” stream of river from College to Lemay and creating something similar to Pueblo’s river walk?
- Is it possible to utilize Glade Reservoir to actually improve the fishery through town? That is, help bolster in-stream flows, colder water temps in August, etc?
- What is limiting water reuse at a residential level in home re-use?
- If food is a necessity and green lawns are unnecessary why shouldn’t food trump lawns?
- How agricultural to urban transfers, especially lease programs, would limit ability to consistently provide local food sources
- How much water could be saved annually by eliminating our yards
- What percent of water is going to people vs. agriculture?
- Why do we tend to decide that technological innovations (e.g. reservoirs) are the solution before attempting to conserve water resources (e.g. xeriscaping)?
- What are the current developments or revitalization plans?
- How can we compensate water rights holders for what is essentially their “401k’s” when we want to take water for the river?
- What is the maximum number of people that can be supported by current flows in Poudre River?
- Why is discussing population growth control/education so taboo?
- Why are people so afraid of additional storage when our current water supply system is wholly based on storage?
- How much does water cost?
- How can we grow in a way that is more strategic.
- How can these conservation technologies be made better and less constrained by antiquated water laws?
- Why can’t City of Ft. Collins residents harvest rainwater? It seems a waste of high quality, treated water to water our yards.
- Is it going to take too long for us to come to a decision? Will it be too late before we come a decision?
- How will 3-state management plan for Platte River basins affect local planning?
- Why so many people seem so unconcerned with 60,000 acres of irrigated farms that could have to be dried up if Glade’s 40,000 AF of annual yield is not developed?
- Has conjunctive water management been considered?
- Why we accept growth projections as *unavoidable* and don’t include discouraging growth as part of the solution.

One question I have is...(continued)

- Is the ag value of water honest? Seems like alfalfa and hay is not efficient for food supply.
 - How much farmland will be taken by growth?
 - Why do we have to always capture high flows for urban/ag uses-why can't some/most of high flows be allowed to do their job to help the channel and provide habit given stream complexity.
 - Why Save the Poudre, a local 501c3 non-profit with widespread community involvement and a mission to protect and restore the Poudre wasn't invited to be co-conveners of this effort?
 - Without the existing storage, what would the community of Fort Collins look like? How much irrigated agriculture would there be today without this storage? What would the quality of life be in the 'Choice City' without existing storage contributing to a reliable, sustained supply of domestic water? What would the gpcd be today for Fort Collins without the present storage buckets (a free flowing river)?*
 - Who would pay for significant changes to make more water flow through Fort Collins?
 - What do you think you will be able to do by holding these forums? Another question I have is:
Can we figure out a way to limit the number of people here so as to not deplete our river and all our freshwater resources? (Other areas of the Intermountain West haven't seemed to be able to do that, so are there other ideas out there?)*
 - how do we balance the pressures from development and population growth with what the carrying capacity of the land and water currently available?*
 - who are all the stakeholders in our watershed?*
- * *Comments provided online*

I am struggling with...

- The contentious energy around all of this
- "Save the Poudre" not admitting that NISP has made some major concessions and will make more if asked by broad based coalition.
- Why so much water seems to go to watering turf, why so much turf continues to be used and allowed in development?
- Watching people waste water
- Why we have to be careful about our water use and others do not seem to conserve?
- The continued conflicts over the priorities of use of the river
- Why we allow irrigation water to be converted to municipal use. We need to maintain our irrigated farms.
- If water is really such a limited resource, why do we still see overuse and waste? Are people (including city users) not educated?
- Water flows that confuse and complicate the ability to find common ground and solution
- How much growth must we accept? Do we totally use up the river?
- The waste of water in big artificial cities like Vegas
- Activists whose narrow focus does not include stewardship of the land

I am struggling with...(continued)

- Recreation taking precedence in water use versus food production
- The thought of not having healthy free flowing rivers in Colorado
- The fact that the problems (increased need for water) of growth were first made known to me 40 years ago and we are still just “discussing” it
- The concept of the market driving decisions, when water is a public good- to some degree it should be regulated by government- cannot have external costs in market system
- Growth and ag preservation- when do we know that limits are needed. Can this be planned?
- Our water wastefulness. Kentucky blue-grass is unsustainable in our climate. Let's push xeriscape.
- Comments that suggest we need to close the gate- no more population growth- are unrealistic and not useful
- The anti-growth contingent which, because they are here, would prevent others from moving here
- Water law that often seems to work at cross purposes
- The need to create hierarchy as guide: conserve→ reuse→ divert
- The public's perception that the “natural” river was constant flow
- The reluctance to talk about limiting growth. Many raised it from the forum but I sense a reluctance on the part of organizers to engage this issue
- Lack of local water district and irrigation input to environmental discussions
- How we can get people to conserve
- Balancing needs and wants
- The inherent hypocrisy in promotion of our industry and business and “best place to live in U.S.” mentality and meetings like this, while our city allows bluegrass lawns, and CSU is covered in bluegrass acreage. Why? If we are going to sacrifice as a community, we need conscientious leadership from these institutions.
- The contentious energy around all of this.
- How Colorado can manage water for 10 million people under the 1860s constitution. Water is a public resource and should be managed by the state, not by private, for profit, entities.
- Learning from the environmentalists, control the comments, agriculture needs a strong voice.
- The citizens of our large cities that have well established, senior water rights trying to preclude our younger cities from enjoying the same life styles and development opportunities they have enjoyed and benefited from.
- Understanding opposition to storing water when available to use when drought restricts flow.
- The urban interest dominance over agriculture- need to keep adequate local farmland to grow food.
- The lack of real decision based on conservation not more storage.

I am struggling with...(continued)

- My suggestion is to acquire some way to effusively get the word out. Such as Facebook or You-Tube.
- Why so many of the lawsuits that are in all stages are paid for by us the tax payers. No wonder all the radicals have so much money to fight most programs! (On water and natural resource delays.)
- Unbridled growth that doesn't perceive its impacts.
- How little water is available?
- How much I love good and plentiful drinking water and irrigation water.
- Many in public's unwillingness to get the facts from both sides, not just one.
- The spread of misinformation about NISP/Glade reservoir.
- The idea that the river may run dry someday.
- The idea that we would trust a Uranium Mining Co. to restore water in aforementioned aquifer "after-the-fact."
- The cultural paradigm of continuous and endless population growth. We can continue to abuse our environment but ultimately Mother Nature will decide.
- Why should we continue to allow urban growth?
- Water quality
- The rich, the poor and others in the allocation of water
- My frustration with the "American individualism" that often prevents us from doing what is right for our world rather than for each individual
- Is there motivation to restrict growth for the greater good
- How to provide water for the Poudre without upstream storage
- I want to look at scenarios that use more tools than water diversion and storage projects
- Not much at the moment
- People who try to control growth by limiting water supplies; they should concentrate on population growth.
- The polarized 'natural vs. developed' river corridor topic... there should be room from both... natural stretches, developed (property) stretches etc.
- How this dialogue will be manifested in actual policy and management decisions
- Why anyone could be against Halligan expansion
- Climate change possibilities leading to loss of snowpack as a natural reservoir, but would reservoir building address that or trigger further growth and development
- Why we continue agriculture and ranching in the west.
- The idea that "more is better (i.e. more development means a better life.)
- The ability of our water management strategies of the past to address the water problem of the future.
- Population growth and the need to educate local citizens on its effects on our water resources.
- Too many "water conservation" programs don't consider recycling vs. evaporation.
- The Poudre being used to solve the S. Platte flows into Nebraska and the state's compact issues. What are the responsibilities of the St. Vrain, Clear Creek vs. the Poudre?

I am struggling with...(continued)

- The notion that the river, a single ribbon of water, can be considered the only wildlife habitat worth protecting when much more habitat is created by the whole agriculture irrigation storage and distribution system.
- The current legislation for the river.
- The dilemma of conserving water only to have it reallocated and used somewhere else.
- Why we don't pursue agricultural loss rates if they are as high as 75% and agricultural use is 85% of regional use.
- What people can give up-and actually do it.
- Sacrificing a reasonable use of water for quality uses (gardens, small lawns) to accommodate population projections.
- Do we have a right to the water stolen from us from other water basins by past generations? Are water rights unalienable?
- The fact that the agenda sheet didn't include a fourth pillar of the river: habitat and wildlife.
- Choosing a side
- Ecological and environmental protection while meeting human urban needs and agricultural needs.
- Watering lawns, conservation, water quality and flows for the environment, local economy.
- Diversions that nearly dry up the river in late summer, when the next day the river is high due to rerouting the water to plains reservoirs.
- Combined levels in our city regarding the (mixed) 'values'. If the river seems low-we need more engagement so perhaps with education?
- Why many of the newer developments (i.e. Rigden Farm) do not have individual water meters!
- The lack of global perspective on much of the discussion about water in Northern Colorado. There needs to be a state, region, national perspective.
- The fact that most of the people at the Feb. 3rd meeting don't understand that the right to water is an asset granted by decree from the State. It is not a 'pie' to be divided among those who want to push themselves to the table.*
- How to best educate and inform the decision makers, interest groups and the general public so that reasonable steps can be taken to balance the competing needs for Poudre River water, while recognizing current ownership of the water rights.*
- Humanity's choice to turn away from the issues and pretend that everything is going to be okay, that we will all be able to continue to be just as greedy as we always have been with no apparent consequences.*
- growth - defined as expansion - as inevitable. Growth - defined as cultivation/development of positive community values...now, let's start the conversation there.*
- how inflamed and ideological the political rhetoric has become. We need common ground (water).*

* *Comments provided online*

One tension I need to work through is...

- “Save the Poudre’s” strident all or nothing positions.
- Is irrigated agriculture sustainable? How does local agriculture contribute to agriculture at the national level.
- We work to conserve water and watch Las Vegas and Phoenix waste it
- Agricultural irrigation versus city and residential use
- The controversy over the Glade Reservoir
- Why most of our irrigation is used to raise corn/hay to feed beef. I love beef but it is a very inefficient form of food.
- Why water is so cheap? Shouldn’t it be more expensive, especially past a very low per/person amount?
- Vehemence of opposing opinions
- Can we have a free flowing Poudre?
- How can worldwide population growth be halted?
- Dealing with activists who feel no responsibility for the land
- The Save the Poudre organization going back on their word which is given in the congressional record in the 80’s to Senator Hank Brown concerning a possible storage project on the Poudre.
- Don’t get me started, my head is about to explode already!
- The impact I have on water resources and the environment
- To what level government should advocate for water projects... especially when the benefit accrues mostly to participants in the market.
- The role of government regulations versus personal freedoms
- What can we do to expand and improve Halligan Reservoir- Ft. Collins’ basic water storage and reserve?
- The feeling I get when I meet someone with a “Save the Poudre” sticker on. The sense is, they are right, the only solution is do nothing and frankly doing nothing will probably cause more harm.
- The hidden agendas of the anti-growth contingent
- Storage-no storage
- How to achieve balance
- How to move water from abundant areas to water short areas
- The loss of natural habitat since I have lived here (55 years)
- Glade Reservoir and regional needs for water vs. impact on Poudre River
- We can’t have everything, compromises must be made
- That I am emotionally dependent on the flow of the river. It colors my ability to see all sides.
- Not knowing enough information to be able to have a reasonable idea of what might or might not work.
- That we seem to be reluctant to change laws.
- The knee-jerk anti-NISP reaction. Far too many have lost understanding they are here because of water supply.

One tension I need to work through is...(continued)

- The environment was not represented fairly in the non-consumptive needs maps done by the IBCC South Platte Basin Roundtable.
- How do we build on the heritage of the Poudre River that provided our generation with reliable, safe, water supplies and pass the same heritage to those who are coming behind us.
- How to deal with population growth and natural environment preservation.
- Why we would drain the Poudre River further and store in inefficient reservoirs that cost millions and millions.
- Why decisions about the river are made by appointed water boards not required to answer to the public?
- Why should my family embrace unsustainable population growth because it is the social, cultural norm and have always done it the same old way?
- Building dams
- Population growth and consumption of water
- Why the Northern Colorado conservancy board is not elected?
- Allowing urban interface in recognition that humans are an integral component of ecology as opposed to intruder
- No one will win; we all must compromise to achieve balance
- The unsuitability of population growth that will demand water
- Balancing growth with a healthy ecosystem
- I get frustrated when people say you cannot engineer the Poudre flood plain through our town. With the proper collaboration and funding (special district, etc.) we can create an extraordinary river corridor downtown.
- My own desire to live here and the desire of others to move here in the future; I'm not a native of the front range so why should my steady-state growth perspective start now when I chose to move here 5 years ago
- Big established cities vs. growing towns
- Why scarce water should be used for lawns
- What seems natural in free flowing river probably is, in part, a result of diversions, not nature
- Why is there ranching in the west when it only produces 34% of our beef?
- That we are losing our connection to nature and have unrealistic and irrational expectations about how our lives are actually realized through the services of nature.
- How much water does a healthy and sustainable aquatic ecosystem need? When does it need it?
- How to expand public education broadly enough to accept less thirsty landscapes in urban areas.
- The lack of concern or action.
- How can we use our water more efficiently within the current framework of water law?
- Why there are some who will not rest until the river is so "managed" so as to no longer be a river.
- How to solve those conflicting needs.

One tension I need to work through is...(continued)

- That people seem to think that the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is a “water developer” rather than a state agency charged with making sure the area has an adequate water supply.
- Patience. We need all involved to work together.
- Agriculturalists vs. environmental uses/recreation
- Whether urban dwellers are willing to greatly reduce their per capita consumption? Also, whether irrigators are willing to use more efficient crops or methods of application?
- People, both agricultural and municipalities have invested in their water asset. There seems to those who are unwilling to pony up the money to buy water to accomplish what they would like to see happen. The 'environmentalists' want to bully their views thru the public forum discussions rather than having a 'bake sale' to purchase water to help achieve their objectives.*
- What is a reasonable approach of satisfying the competing needs for the water - and to what extent.*
- Why can't people just get along with each other.*
- distrusting the short-sighted nature of those intent on maximizing profits in the here and now.*
- what I perceive as the loss of the "common good" as a shared concern, and one to be balanced with individual desires.*

** Comments provided online*

I believe we should...

- Still have clean water to drink and keep the flowing rivers for our own enjoyment
- Realize smart growth will come, let's plan and capture the last appropriated unstored water on the Poudre. This issue will not come up again. This is our last unstored water on the Poudre- that has not been explained. CSU doing studies on flow and river use as an independent source would be helpful (recreation etc.). They have resources, have they tried to inform NISP and Save the Poudre?
- Work proactively to promote sustainable maintenance and development of our water resources.
- Look at gray water options and other reuse and conservation ideas.
- Focus much more on conserving our water. We need to, as soon as we can, turn off the tap.
- Discourage more population growth and work hard to conserve our water instead of building more reservoirs.
- Determine the primary, and best, uses of the Poudre.
- Connect people to nature. The citizens need to take control of the river and decide how it should be used in the future. I like the shared vision concept, but it should be much broader than just looking at the three reservoirs, It should consider the development of a true “river masterplan” to attempt to balance all the needs of this valuable resource.
- Strive for the radical center
- Control population/development growth

I believe we should... (continued)

- Provide basic water needs to people while still conserving our amazing resources.
- Keep the dialogue going and connect with other river users (Greeley, LaPorte)
- Have comprehensive water plans for the future that include water uses, conservation, and storage. An irrigation aspect of ag needs to be the type of ag. The fact is that population will greatly increase. Ag needs to focus on the needs of local food. For example, corn can be raised in other areas. Vegetables and fruits are and will be a local need. This should be an important factor for allocation of ag water.
- Regional plan versus decisions based on individual projects
- Take a good look at how we can find a sustainable future of quality of life in Northern Colorado
- Maximize water storage now for the benefit of future generations
- Be very careful to nurture local food production
- Consider how fear and greed color/impact beliefs of all parties to this issue.
- Build the NISP project. It only makes sense in an arid region to store as much water as possible. With some creative use of the stored water, the flow of the Poudre could be enhanced in times of low water flow.
- A general feeling (peer pressure I guess) that the responsible family size is 2 children
- Widespread community agreement that every citizen needs to feel responsible for our local natural resources
- Encouragement of the above 2 values by community leaders (esp. religious leaders)
- Mention of these values at every opportunity
- Think very long term
- Keep doing what you are doing- and encourage cross-domain discussions
- Know and love our river, use our river, fight over our river but protect our river so it can serve us for many years to come. Hence, this process is ongoing. Kind of like going to church, once probably isn't enough.
- Will the market place successfully determine how much land and water needs to be preserved to feed us locally and regionally?
- Ensure that water scientists and experts are given a primary role for the future.
- Look at other non Colorado jurisdictions for positives and negatives, e.g. Los Angeles.
- Be open to ideas and possibilities.
- Conserve our water through judicious use and store our water for the future while maintaining flow. I support Glade.
- Consider at least seven generations
- Keep as much water in the riverbed as possible.
- Keep in mind growth is not always the solution
- Think of downtown as a "radical center"
- Water laws need to allow water rights be donated for in stream flows and properly managed
- Plan for growth. It will happen
- Limit growth
-

I believe we should... (continued)

- View our city as a crucial watershed that can impose varying consumptive uses across the seasons. We need to connect our urban and ex-urban settlements as sources of return flows. Should we impose high consumptive uses in the urban watershed and impose toxic materials that shrivel return flows and toxifying them to detriment off all water uses. Or, we can organize our urban/ex-urban landscapes to produce greater quantity and quality return flows. This will mean-connecting land use planning to water planning—the more in which we use our land sets the water demand schedule. Building urban-agriculture partnerships so that the urban town/water sponge can be managerial in conjunction with needs of production agriculture.
- Have urban land use codes requiring stringent conservation
- Continue these dialogues which have started with such civility. Agree with my idea of regional base plan.
- Learn to live within the water resource available including M&I users, Agricultural users, and recreation users.
- Keep as much water in the riverbed as possible.
- Work together to come up with a plan that everyone benefits, knowing that we all will have to compromise.
- Still have clean water to drink and keep the flowing rivers for our enjoyment.
- Recognize that Colorado water law has served us well and that additional water storage projects are needed to meet all competing demands.
- Seriously if there was a viral video the point would reach the youth effectively through this forum.
- Encourage personal water conservation in every day usage.
- Look outside the box and consider LEED, urban gardens, using lawn water, plants, etc... instead of continuing to keep the status quo. Talk about energy/water use and how we can reduce energy use.
- Consider virtual water using our grey water allowing us to have more individual control over our water use, capturing our runoff to use it on our gardens.
- I do greedily appreciate this forum. Perhaps we can utilize technology to spread the word and draw data. e.g. surveymonkey.com at youtube.com or facebook.com
- Have a representative/speaker from the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.
- Have a river that is:
 - Algae free
 - Biological cold water fishery
 - Contact water sports, e.g., kayak park, swimming
 - Dilution is needed to maintain high quality water
 - Economic values for our communities that embrace the river
 - Forests need to be healthy, cottonwoods, not invasive species
 - Grandkids need to see a flowing river
 - Healthy river = healthy communities.

I believe we should... (continued)

- Exhaust all low tech options for addressing our water needs (water sharing, conservation, etc.) before contemplating expensive mega-projects that are difficult or impossible to reverse.
- Place great emphasis on conservation/recycling of water by all users.
- Continue the dialog, keep talking. Discuss NISP and what the community can get from mitigation.
- Focus on facts, statistics, and combined realities across needs when it comes to our river's future.
- Act in multiple ways to save the Poudre! Think one of the most important things we can all do as citizens is to conserve and reduce our water use. Simple things like low flow faucets and showerheads.
- Explore other options rather than to continue to drain our rivers dry.
- Stop continuing to do things "the same old way". Conditions have changed and we can't continue to grow in the future the way we have the past 50 years.
- List and rank long term needs and their cost to river flow
- Create more collaboration
- Educate to keep the water we use clean; advocate conservation to the max; recognize and live within our limits
- Fully utilize allocations to prevent external appropriations outside the region
- Be more aggressive about regulating water use so that we are more sustainable; food not lawns
- Continue public discussions, but ultimately it might come down to an informed democratic decision
- Get all parties in one place and not let them out until they all concede in some ways
- There's a problem present; we need a solution; to get to a compromise for all it seems to make sense to capture as many data points of the river and all who use it and how they use it. There is a maximum average annual flow to the river. This means a maximum square footage of future land, maximum population etc. As well, one town cannot consume the entire river, we must determine a percentage or ration to the flows an area can use to define how much we can/cannot use within our annual volume. For these numbers I believe we could define percentages we can allocate to the cause we all agree are important to us.
- Institute more municipal incentives for water saving, e.g. increase water rates above a certain threshold: above x gallons/household/day rates go up x/gallon
- Continue public discussion like this. I believe we should talk about carrying capacity
- Make wise use of water available to us that now is flowing to Nebraska
- Realize there's a compromise with the downtown river corridor. Creating a 'riverwalk', or something similar, will actually enhance stewardship, awareness, conservation, etc. by expanding the opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the river in multiple ways; create jobs and economy; and an all-around win-win for both 'sides'

I believe we should... (continued)

- Not repeat the breach of the Grand Ditch. Smart water projects would not destroy mountainsides, meadows and valleys- or waste the precious resources they are meant to deliver.
- Form a regional water stakeholder committee that represents the diversity of uses and serves in an advisory capacity.
- Watershed-scale management plan for water resources
- More highly value farm land than green lawns
- Move towards small-scale food oriented agriculture, curb urban lawns and less essential water use.
- Mandate a limit on household use thus requiring water saving fixtures etc.
- Switch to urban agriculture.
- Xeriscape our yards-lessen lawns.
- “Do” less and “have” less so that there is more water for the river.
- Tell the historic and correct story of the Poudre River
- Continue (like the speaker Laura Pritchett did) to strive for the radical center. That’s where we’ll find the bundle of solutions we need.
- Educate more regarding the effects of population growth.
- Give the river back its identity
- Charge more for the use of water because it’s a limited resource.
- Prioritize locally and regionally what is important and what we can give up.
- Use the papal election approach: lock ourselves in this room, eat only bread, and drink only water, until 90% of us agree. Meanwhile, outside all extra basin draws are shut off till we agree.
- Learn to think outside the box and look forward as much as possible.
- Keep studying, discussing, and planning best future as we develop common goals.
- Talk about water law and water rights and how much of the water is appropriated.
- Basin wide planning for the Poudre River.
- Continue on this path-this meeting was great!
- Make sure developments do not follow the same green mold of always planning lawns for watering. There are other ways to landscape.
- Provide economic incentives for improved water efficiency.
- Be extremely careful not to fall into the trap of letting a few strong, vocal, loud voices to provide undue influence in the tenor and shape of the discussions and solutions brought forward.*
- Focus on educating the community about current ownership of water rights, who uses water and for what purposes.*
- Pay more for tap water usage above a basic level, increase development fees*
- Protect and preserve our freshwater resources. Acquire new resources if and when they become available. Not to provide for a thirsty growing population, but to maintain the quality of life that we are accustomed to and appreciate. Throughout our nation, streams and springs that once ran clear and clean are now either polluted or dry. Mostly they are dry because we are greedily mining the groundwater that supported them. Prepare for

water shortages, droughts and contamination of our groundwater (i.e. fracking, uranium mining, etc.) and share that information with the general public until they "get it".*

- asset that water is indeed part of "the commons," discern our truly basic needs for using it, and look at new alternatives in ag, municipal/housing design, etc. for meeting basic needs for all.*
- emphasize and develop the skill set needed to work through tough and complex issues.*

* *Comments provided online*

Additional Comments...

- I won't be able to make all these sessions. I hope that these will be available to see online or Cable 14, or some similar forums.
- Further appreciation of the Poudre would be generated by making the Poudre "boatable" down to I-25. All the present structures (12?) from the canyon mouth down to I-25 can be made passable. This does not address any water volume issues but would engender a strong appreciation of the river.
- Thanks for taking on this project. It's important
- I hope the education sessions provide quantitative clarity about reuse vs. use and opportunities for improved efficiencies and relative use of water by various groups, i.e. frame the problem

Notes from public comments made at the February 3rd event

After the presentations by the invited speakers for the initial event on February 3rd, the floor was turned over to the audience for comments, concerns, and questions, facilitated by Martín Carcasson from the Center for Public Deliberation and Mary Lou Smith from the CSU Water Institute. CPD Associate Director Leah Sprain took notes of these public comments, and her notes were projected publicly as she captured the comments. Below are Dr. Sprain's notes:

- Keep in mind when we talk about growth and biological systems, we don't need to grow to extremes. When Horsetooth was offline, we were able to manage through making modest changes to lifestyle. Growth may eat farm land—so we need to consider that in planning.
- Efficiencies, getting the best uses out of water. We are in the transition from mountains to plains. One efficiency to consider is recycling urban water flows. Look at innovative issues for treating the temperature of water as it reenters the river. Focus on reuse.
- We presume that we can't save water on the plains. That is erroneous. Farmers may waste unnecessarily. We can increase efficiencies. Debate over potential conservation. (Consumptive use and return flows may be discussed in education forums).
- We are told water is used 6 times before NB. What about major rains or snows? Can we capture that high flow better?
- We have a problem and need a solution. We need more data points. Look at multiple towns, uses to understand how much we can use to create better allocations. Better information should inform allocation.
- One defining characteristic of our city, our identity is the river a few blocks from downtown. How can we give up this environmental heritage and habitat? A natural river should be maintained not developed. Make it accessible to humans, but not an urban construction.

- In the edu sessions, get position papers in advance that explains ag-urban transfer. It seems reasonable, but good examples haven't been shared to show the merits and the problems to provide the basis for creativity.
- We value the fishery in town. Concerns about fluctuation in flows. June is followed by drops. Who controls and manages the water flows? Do they take into account the environment?
- Concern: we are ignoring the root cause of water issues: we think we can have growth in a world with limited resources. We need a community conversation about how many people we can sustain environmentally, economically, and socially.
- Values. If we can at the beginning of this series capture our values about the river (with reasonable agreement), those values can develop a plan that we can accept. Without values, we don't know where we are going.
- Values: In CO, I look to free-flowing rivers that sustain a population of trout, native wildlife, plants. A river is a wild thing.
- Importance of agricultural water from Ft. Collins and the implications of reduction of water on agriculture. Materials have been prepared.
- Decisions get made when individual proponents come forward with a project. What would it take to create a regional process for making decisions about the river? Authorize the public to make a regional, basin plan.
- How does the 3-state management plan effect us? How might agricultural uses benefit from conservation and increases in efficiencies? Is it still true that 85% goes to ag? (Yes).
- This conversation is the start of something big. But if we say "our" river who are we talking about? We are living in a world. The river belongs to the world, we are the stewards. We need to decide not just what is good for us, but keep in mind one earth that is related. Remember we are part of a whole world.
- We have complicated water law in CO. We got here with legislation, fights. But we can't fear changing water law. We've pushed to include recreation in beneficial uses. Let's include environmental concerns too. Use it or lose it. The system needs to provide economic benefit to farmers, paid by cities, to share water to make it go farther.
- Fish the Poudre. The Poudre looks good, fishes good. But we need a creative solution when there is minimum stream flow from Ted's Place down to town.
- I love the river, the water. We need to turn the tap off as soon as we can, as often as we can. Only use it when we have to.
- Suggest we use the election approach until 90% agree. Meanwhile other basin draws will be turned off. Tongue in cheek. Kinda.
- We face a shortfall. Around the state we face problems with sources and plains. The Poudre has proposed projects. We ought to look at new water supplies to add to the Poudre. A possible green water system in Summit County and a pipeline to the region, hydropower. Conservation needs be to expanded. All solutions on the table need to be looked at—plan for 5 generations in the future.
- I love fresh tomatoes. We grow all our food, and we sell some. I hope that never goes away, for future generations.
- Despite encouraging comments, the forum focus is too parochial. It is difficult to make decisions without understanding decisions up and down the Poudre River. We need forums up and down the watershed—including Greeley.
- Education sessions: we need to understand how mechanical the system is. The system is manipulated already.

- Education: The group needs to understand prior appropriation and what that does by allowing water to flow to highest and best use. Also cover instream flow. Currently there seems to be misunderstanding. UW study on instream flow. State control.
- A wide range of values from ecology to economic development. I don't know the tradeoffs. I would like to see quant. And qual. Information that can be used to make decisions. I don't feel qualified to pass judgment.
- The person missing tonight is the river commissioner. He should have been here tonight.
- I'm glad to be a part of this event and to be part of a community that participants in this. We need to consider other alternatives such as urban ag, vertical farming.
- Concern: We need to make sure that history doesn't repeat itself. Need to look beyond 40 years. We need sustainable policy.
- We went on the NoCo conservancy tour. It is educational, free. I learned that our predecessors planned. We really need to plan and provide for future generations. I want my sons to be able to afford to live in Ft. Collins.
- Represent 4 generations of agriculture. This will be a continuing problem because we need to eat. As we develop low-density sub-divisions, we need education about sustainable agriculture.
- I'm part of the problem. We need to support the influx of growth. Perhaps people need to live where there is water.
- Looking forward to education sessions, including the economics. Projects seem like large expenses, but I'm not paying enough. Learn more about what water really costs.