

ADOPTED May 6, 2016

## Membership in the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group

The Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group (PRTI) is made up of about 25 citizen experts of diverse backgrounds and expertise, actively pursuing the goal of making the Poudre River the world's best example of a healthy "working river"—one that meets both human and ecological needs.

The group has accomplished a great deal in the years we have been meeting. Our members—from agriculture, business, recreation, the environment, industry and urban water management—have built cooperative relationships leading to two major initiatives and some smaller ones. Information about the group and our initiatives is available on our website, <http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/thepoudrerunsthroughit/>.

Colorado Water Institute convened the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group in October, 2012, as a response to a very successful 2011 community conversation about the Poudre River and Northern Colorado's Water Future. Those chosen for membership represent a wide diversity of leaders who share a passion for the Poudre River and who see the value in cooperating with those from multiple sectors to put that passion into action. Our members include those with expertise about the human uses of the river and those with expertise about its ecological needs.

Any member of the group can nominate others to become members. In addition, individuals wishing to join the group may nominate themselves. Nominations are to be submitted to the steering committee, care of MaryLou Smith, [MaryLou.Smith@colostate.edu](mailto:MaryLou.Smith@colostate.edu). Those nominated are considered by the steering committee, taking into account the current diversity of the group. The steering committee makes membership recommendations for approval by consensus of the full membership.

We keep the group small so that we can build trust and collaborative relationships allowing us to catalyze action initiatives. For the same reason, the meetings are not open to the public. Only members and invited guests may attend and we do not allow alternates or proxies. The individuals chosen come from a variety of organizations with interests in the Poudre, but they do not represent their given organizations. However, we recognize that it is not possible for individuals to completely set aside the interests of the organizations they work for. In some cases, individuals weigh a balance between their personal opinions and the role they play in the community.

Because we meet only five times each year, it is very important that each of our members commit to being at each session. The sessions are what gives us the opportunity to build the strong relationships to bridge the diverse interests and values of our members. Those accepted for membership must be willing to commit to the sessions scheduled at the time of their acceptance. Generally, our members miss only on those occasions that critical conflicts arise, and alert us to that ahead of time. The five sessions per year are typically on Fridays from 7:30am to 12noon, including breakfast, at Tamasag Retreat Center near Bellvue and occasionally at the Poudre Learning Center, on the Poudre River southwest of Greeley.

As new members become familiar with our work, they may want to join one or more of our initiative (action) committees, but that is not a requirement. All members, however, are expected to support our goals and projects, including to help promote our annual Poudre River Forum.

Sometimes, community members who otherwise are not members of the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group are invited to be members of our initiative committees.

Though all of our initiatives are self-funded through grants, registrations or sponsorships, the minimal operating expenses for the Poudre Runs Through It are covered by the organizations with which our members are affiliated. Once each year we ask for contributions from those organizations, but such contributions are not a condition of membership.

Members should either live in one of the communities along the Poudre or do work related to the Poudre. We expect our members to bring with them a demonstrative record of collaboration in past efforts. They should have curiosity about and respect for the interests and values of other group members. Those interested in membership should have a passion for working together to solve the puzzles that emerge as we try to meet the needs of various interests in the Poudre. Because we adopt for action those initiatives upon which we can come to consensus, those accepted for membership must agree to work toward that end.