

## Poudre River Forum EVALUATION 2018

### 1. Please tell us a little about yourself:

- CSU graduate student in Conservation Leadership through Learning (CTCL)
- Poudre river recreationalist
- CSU graduate student in CTCL program
- Forestry and wildlife interests- connections between upland vegetation and processes and the river system
- Taught about Colorado water for 27 years
- I work with irrigation water and groundwater. My main interest is education to further my understanding of Poudre river workings.
- Educator, outreach, facilitator
- Natural areas manager FC/ manage land along the Poudre for habitat and recreation. Want to see river remain viable for wildlife and enjoyable for the citizens of Larimer/Weld to recreate.
- Citizen concerned about future water for grandkids
- Local citizen just interested in issues of water use and trying to understand all of the different issues and interests and where we are going
- Retired forester. Volunteer with Poudre Landmarks Foundation- Water Works. Live in Fort Collins for 52 years
- Student at CSU about to graduate this May.
- Watershed science student
- Water group member
- A generally interested taxpayers and ratepayer who has been fortunate to find a career that lets me explore my interests in civics and natural resources
- Sponsor
- Water quality and environmental issues and water management. Water professional.
- Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group (PRTI) member
- Citizen concerned about H2O
- Water buffalo
- Big dependent on water (as we all are)
- Water resources engineer, concerned citizen
- Work for a nonprofit that works on the river
- CSU Graduate Student
- CSU Masters Student and intern at CSU Water Center
- CSU graduate student in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Management and researcher with experience as a water management educator
- Graduate Student (CSU, CLTL)
- Student in the CLTL Master's Program at CSU who is interested in learning more about water issues
- CSU professor researching stream restoration, floodplain function, and environmental flows
- I work in water quality at Northern Water
- Educator, citizen, recreationist
- I'm a water lawyer interested in conservation and land and water stewardship
- Rancher/water engineer/grad student

### 2. How did you hear about the forum

- Email: 22
- KUNC radio: 4
- Newspaper: 1

- Word of Mouth: 13
  - Other: 8
    - CSU CLTL Program
    - CSU Human Dimensions Dept.
    - CSU
    - Provost learning center
    - Class
    - PRTI
- 3. Was the registration fee about right for value received?**
- Yes: 27
  - No: 1
- 4. Did you like having a choice of full price or sponsor-subsidized discount rate?**
- Yes: 14
    - Helped for non profit
    - Good for students
  - N/A: 14
  - Price is low enough that it doesn't matter
- 5. Food ok?**
- Yes: 34
    - Liked that larger room opened for dining
    - Maybe more water coolers
  - No: 4
    - Lunch not good
    - More vegetarian other than salad
    - More fresh veggies/less bacon/grease
    - Scale 1-5 it was a 2 (1=worst)
- 6. Venue ok?**
- Yes: 35
    - Perhaps a bit small, a lot of people standing
    - A bit tight
    - Will need a bigger venue next year
    - Kind of cold (3)
    - Better this year than last- displays in different rooms
    - Seems to be attracting larger crowds than The Ranch. Keep it.
    - Could alternate venues every other year Fort Collins/Greeley
    - Odd shape. However, corners could still hear and see
    - Little tight, room was very cold
  - No: 7
    - Cold!
    - Doesn't seem to be as roomy as The Ranch facility
    - Room is too small- it was freezing! Host in FC.
    - OK except no heat!
    - A little chilly
    - Crowded and freezing! Hard to see
    - Cramped
- 7. Friday or Saturday?**
- Friday: 35
  - Saturday: 0
  - Either: 5
- 8. Length ok?**
- Yes: 29

- Breaks were well spaced
- Slightly earlier release for traffic may be better. 8:30-3:30?
- A little long to sit, more interaction would be nice
- Slightly long
- Needed a break in the afternoon
- No: 4
  - Too long - 4

#### 9. What did you like about today?

- The theme and the first speaker. Agriculture talk interesting.
- (some) diversity in speakers- really enjoyed the “lightning speakers”
- Presentations by Greg Hobbs and Michael Welsh (very entertaining) Kurt Fausch articulation of what we value about rivers
- Diversity in speakers and topics- good exhibits
- I enjoy the history lessons. They help broaden my understanding of current policies.
- Interesting speakers. Judge Hobbs and Dr. Welch. All speakers very good.
- Communication, networking, collaboration opportunities
- Emphasis on collaboration was widespread message
- Keynote speakers were great. Variety of issues
- Panels. Diversity of topics.
- Broad variety of interests presented
- Change in layout from one session to another
- The broad variety of topics covered. I've learned many pieces in my classes, but being able to learn from actual professionals doing this work was very valuable. Also, the presentations weren't too technical and so they were accessible to all (or most).
- The Ag speakers
- Sean was great as emcee
- Variety of individuals present. Really enjoyed the information at the forum
- The depth of differing perspectives by the ones I agreed with, disagreed with, or just learned for the first time
- Excellent turnout, displays really good, my favorite session was the “can we grow water smart”
- Continued building on regional collaborations successes. We have more in common than not.
- Ag panel and flow panel
- Good balance in topics without being too academic. Demonstrated collaboration- not much disagreement.
- The participation session. The short talks.
- Really appreciated Martin's presentation to frame the topic of dialogue, deliberation, collaboration, etc.
- Variety of speakers
- Quality of presenters
- Hearing from the Ag sector! Even more would be better
- Collaborative spirit and overall positive forward-thinking atmosphere
- Hearing about all the great work being done on Poudre
- The speakers and people
- Topics, good speakers and content. Better layout than last year. Time for the booths
- Hearing diversity of perspectives
- Martin Carcasson and Poudre Ag Lecture

- Martin Carcasson's talk and the discussion of Ag runoff
- I appreciated many different perspectives (farmers, ranchers, scientists, politics, etc). My favorite was Martin Carcasson, Ag producers, and Kurt Fausch
- I really enjoyed the displays and the video by the CO Water Quality Control Commission in the Ag Producer session. Also enjoyed introductory interactive poll
- Generally good speakers, Martin's overview stuff, the PM program
- Keynote Speakers
- The ag panel and the lightning panel
- Good overview of uses on the Poudre and collaborative initiatives. Liked the agriculture sessions and hearing from farmers-more of that. Liked does the river have rights? More on people's values and beliefs
- Really good presentations/topics

**10. Did anything disappoint you? Was anything missing?**

- No: 9
- More diversity in speakers and perspectives- what about resource users? The speakers did not engage that well or convey their technical info in a digestible way. This made the theme lose some of its validity.
- Really disappointed there wasn't any recycling. We ate on paper plates with plastic cups and forks and it all went in the trash. Talk about hypocrisy at an environmental forum.
- 8am start time was an early start- yet event speakers didn't start until 9am- maybe 8:30am start?
- Morning session ignored money and public interest
- The other points of view- anti Glade, pro-environment, need a lot more on conservation. Discuss cost of water and why so cheap
- Some of the speakers were disjointed, more practice
- So much single use plastic and no recycling
- I overheard comments that we missed conversations about the "Thornton pipeline"
- First panel was disjointed and presentations lacked depth- sometimes it is better to have less on the program and allow more time for speakers
- Lack of climate change
- Cultural aspects of water along the river
- Implementing deliberation - maybe could have chosen some more pressing questions.
- Where are all the Greeley people? How do we get residents and businesses here? Seems like only city and county employers.
- Not much time for lunch and going through the line
- Diversity! CSU alone has water experts from many backgrounds. Where are younger, more female, and POC perspectives. There have to be more people to feature.
- I was disappointed by how few of the speakers directly addressed the theme of collaboration. Their projects were collaborative in nature but in no way discussed the challenges or nature of the collaborative process. Perhaps the speakers did not feel comfortable with discussing interpersonal topics but I believe stakeholders would benefit
- The forum did not seem to apply to the theme. Need more collaborative focus.
- No recycling for anything other than cans was very disappointing. First session (grow water smart) was very technical and not engaging for those without prior knowledge

- Lack of discussion of storage, when we talk about all the water being diverted no one ever mentions how much water is added from Horsetooth
- Disappointed that Ella Wohl could not present
- Keynote was a little dry
- Very heavy on water law and lots of folks used acronyms and didn't say what they stood for. Also assumed we all knew the definition of water specific terms and didn't define them.
- No real information about working river/and the value of Ag! Too much of the environmental bent

#### **11. Please share your ideas for improvement**

- Other types of Poudre users. More of a focus on the theme. Could also have some comparison case studies of river management in other areas
- Get a recycling bin or don't use disposable plates. Some of the speakers for "grow water smart" segment were a little dry- and they didn't give suggestions on how "normal" people can be water smart. It was very technical (which is fine) but hard to explain to others not where/ what we learned. Perhaps more of a grass roots approach would be more effective. Take into account the 90 people who are first timers
- Technology applications in study or use of the river
- This year compared to last, I like the movement of booths to the other room.
- A list of all participants and their emails- not sure if that is a privacy thing- but it would be great to know who was all there (maybe just names and organization)
- Address- maintaining minimum flow in Poudre all the way to Greeley
- Teach presenters how to use microphone
- More data on Poudre drainage demands and potential (inputs and outputs) what's the future look like?
- Still think there needs to be discussion about river basin management: forest management, etc.
- Include groundwater issues as well
- Calibrate both projectors to show appropriate colors- esp when presenters use colors callouts in so many presentations
- It'd be interesting to have presenters that each have a position on either side of a controversial issue (like the construction of Glade Reservoir). This wouldn't necessarily be a "debate", but rather an opportunity for attendees to form their own informed opinions
- Student involvement. Somehow get the younger generation included. Have a student panel.
- Post-flood outlook for "water coalitions" and conservation districts
- Blend shorter and longer presentations
- Figure out how to provide resources online to let audience follow up with more learning
- World cafe style discussion of topical issues. Mapping exercise.
- Keep having it!
- The projected slide on the north screen was washed out and did not have the colors that the speaker referenced in his/her talk
- Too technical/jargony. What about users like recreationists? This more accessible perspective was lacking. Comparison to river case studies from other parts of the world.
- More of a real emphasis on adaptive management and best collaborative practices. Way less jargon and more accessible choice of topic

- I'd like to hear from more recreationists and private sector (ducks unlimited, trout unlimited) kayak/sport, fishing
- Beer and other water-reliant industries may be an interesting topic for next year. I would also suggest a poster session for students.
- Suggest different venue.
- Ken Kehmeier's closing thought in his presentation may be an interesting topic
- More on recreation challenges and uses. Less on policy and more on management (more equal time for both)
- Water law basics and how it relates to some current projects such as John Stokes' presentation on water augmentation
- Let's talk more about how a working river is a healthy river

**12. Anyone you recommend we contact to consider being a sponsor next year?**

- Noosa Yogurt and Human Bean- better coffee!
- Ehrlich Toyota, Ehrlich Management
- Other rafting companies, Xcel Energy and PRPA
- A more diverse array of speakers in terms of demographics and perspective
- A-Busch

**13. Other comments:**

- Focus on how to get attendees more excited about Poudre River conservation
- The theme was "listening and understanding" but it was really just listening- instead of free for all breaks facilitated discussions may have been more productive a similar type format would be helpful for next year too. Or speakers with a broader range of interests (kayakers, birders, anglers, etc.) or relate our issues with the Poudre to similar scenarios around the world etc. and how they utilize water.
- Really enjoy the cross section of people this event brings together. I've worked in this area for 13 years and am meeting new people here.
- Very good speakers!
- Thank you for putting this forum together. I appreciate hearing new ideas and always enjoy a history lesson. PS bacon wrapped chicken :) yes
- Great diverse audience. Good to see more than just the typical water professionals at the forum and engaging in the conversation. Water users, citizens, students were represented well.
- Great to network, meet others with common interests
- I felt like this was all "how do we get enough water for the growth that is inevitably coming." I never hear anyone say "can we slow growth down to match the water we have" Do people not learn from history? - Las Vegas, Phoenix, LA. DO we want to look like LA?
- If forum begins to grow, then meeting room needs to change. Meet room cannot hold many more. The right side video didn't have correct color.
- Thanks for all the hard work in putting this event together!
- Get the oil and gas business here
- This was my first but will not be my last. Hopefully I will someday have something to present!
- Thanks for all excellent effort
- Topics to discuss- climate change barriers to collaboration, further explore the concept of nutrient issues, Ag, and the potential for nutrient trading and ecosystem services
- Seem to be a good diversity in attendees. Lots of environmental folks- a bit surprising
- Thanks for the hard work putting this together! I enjoyed the day

- Thank you for your hard work and your undying persistence!
- Good program, thanks!
- Breakout sessions would allow for more in-depth coverage of topics and allow attendees to customize their experience
- As someone with a relatively high degree of knowledge regarding water management I still found many perspectives to be too technical and focused on strict hard policy perspective. The audience seemed interested in the community engagement and participating governance dimension, which seemed absent from the presentations
- Program looks lovely
- Ideas for Pioneer Awards: Jim Reichard, Howard Aiden, Eric Wilkinson, Bob Streeter
- The room was so uncomfortably cold, it was really hard to listen

Poudre River Forum  
 Island Grove Events Center, Greeley Colorado  
 February 2, 2018

### **Can “Listening to Understand” Make our Water Talk More Productive?**

#### **1. Something I heard today that encouraged me:**

- Dairy farmer video showed initiative
- Many organizations and people recognize the importance of collaboration in solving problems and creating plans, and thus have made it a key part of their initiatives
- The possibility of working together to return peak flows
- There is growing support for collaboration that is based on mutual respect and mutual understanding. I like the focus on listening to understand
- 50,000 acre feet by 2030 in ATM. Greg Johnson. Kurt Fausch. Fish are resilient. Maybe the river will take care of itself - even though it may not look like Fort Collins wants it to

#### **2. Something I heard today that discouraged me:**

- The history of the Poudre (was good/bad) but uninspiring we're in the situation we're in
- We remove >65% of H<sub>2</sub>O from the river
- A few of the stakeholders not “owning” their impact on the watershed/river
- The flow of the river is down in Greeley
- 50,000 ac ft by 2030 in ATM - can we get there

#### **3. Something I heard today that surprised me:**

- water/air pollution is not regulated - ranchers tracking/working to reduce emissions are doing so voluntarily
- The number of community planners that I talked to
- The sound of running water is scientifically shown to be the most preferred sound; lowers heart rate and facilitates healing

#### **4. Something I heard today that caused me to see things in a different light:**

- Rivers have rights speech
- Does a river have rights? Should it? Corporations have rights! Are many existing organizations already pursuing projects/goals that protect/support river health/ (physical/ecological integrity, etc.)?
- The need for a flushing of the river

#### **5. Something I heard today that . . . . .:**

- A river having its own right - a worldview that should not be followed thru on