

June 5, 2014

The Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group

SESSION SUMMARY

What a great day for a great field trip!

Two van loads of us ventured to one of Troy and Richard Seaworth's farms and then on to the Munroe Canal/Pleasant Valley Pipeline Diversion, and to the gage house located at the mouth of the Poudre Canyon. Thanks to Troy and Richard, and Mark Simpson for being our tour guides. Among the facts we learned:

- The Seaworths have seen tremendous savings of water as they have switched from flood irrigation to variable rate sprinkler irrigation—from 3 acre feet down to 1.2 acre feet.
- North Poudre's Munroe Gravity Canal is named for their president at the time. Before the company invested in the C-BT project (which helped bring in enough capital to make the project feasible) the North Poudre system was called "the Dry Ditch."
- In North Poudre Irrigation Company, the company owns the shares in C-BT. In the New Cache la Poudre Irrigation Company, individuals own shares of C-BT and pay New Cache a carriage fee to run C-BT water in the New Cache ditch.
- After the September 2013 flood, the river changed significantly in ways that only a few people like the river commissioner might notice. Mark said "the rapids, the holes, everything is different."
- (MaryLou was too busy identifying weeds to jot down other notes from Mark's presentation at the canyon mouth gage. Let's get him to remind us of a few factoids at our September meeting!)

Thanks to Susan Smolnik and the City of Fort Collins Water Utility for hosting us in the conference room for our business meeting.

Since we have several new members over the past couple of months we each told something of interest we had learned about another member while on the field trip. Nothing too juicy emerged, but it was fun.

Covered during the business meeting:

- Adoption of Phase 3 session dates, September 30, 2014; November 14, 2014; January 9, 2015; March 6, 2015; May 8, 2015.
- Poudre Runs Through It is co-sponsoring with Center for Collaborative Conservation a Perspectives on the Poudre seminar series fall semester at CSU
- We are each encouraged to share a letter and contribution form with our employers and affiliated organizations in order to secure funds for our Phase 3 operations, including CSU expense for facilitator's and student assistant salaries, cost of meeting space and food, etc.
- Gage the River was successful getting the grant from Poudre Heritage Alliance and is moving forward on getting the CFS measuring signs set up at the McMurray Bridge in Fort Collins and the County Road 13 Bridge near Windsor.

- Our folks working on the River Friendly Diversion Structures project are working with the City of Greeley legal folks.
- John Stokes got an impressive award from Colorado Water Trust and we will put a copy of the speech he gave about the Poudre on our website.
- The FLOWS group will be meeting with the Colorado Water Conservation Board staff soon.
- The FORUM group has had a couple of meetings, with the next one to be held early in September. Date for second annual Poudre River Forum is set for January 31, 2015.

Everyone agreed to extend the hours of our September meeting since we will be staging both a field trip and we have a lot of business to conduct. We will meet from 7:30—2pm, lunch included.