



What is a Healthy Working River? Pieces of the Puzzle

2019 Poudre River Forum
February 1, 2019
DRAFT PROGRAM

- 8:00—8:45 **Breakfast Sandwiches/Coffee/Tea**
Displays View of the Poudre from Local Organizations
- 8:45—8:50 **Framing the Day—Welcome**
MaryLou Smith, Policy and Collaboration Specialist, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University
- 8:50—9:00 **Who's Here Today?**
Emcee Sean Cronin, Executive Director, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
- 9:00—9:05 **Healthy Working River: Puzzles on the Poudre—an Overview of Today's Program**
What are some of those puzzles? How do different interests work together on those puzzles to get water down from the mountains out onto the plains for agriculture and urban use, and how do we keep the river healthy along the way?
- 9:05—10:30 **WATER RIGHTS PUZZLES ON THE POUDRE**
In keeping with our theme about the Poudre's puzzles, we are going to start today by concentrating on some specific examples in the Poudre that people may be puzzling over relating to water rights.

A Day in the Life of the Poudre River Commissioner—*Mark Simpson, Poudre River Commissioner, Division 1, State Engineer's Office.* Where water in the Poudre comes from, who has rights to use it, and how the river commissioner makes sure it goes to the right place at the right time.

From Farms to a City: Thornton's Change Case—*Emily Hunt, Water Resources Division Manager, City of Thornton.*

How a ten year water court case had to be surmounted before water purchased from Poudre farmers in the 1980's could be transported south for a growing municipality.

Can Carrots, Cattails and Kayaks Co-Exist under Water Law?—*Mike Shimmin, Vranesh and Raisch Law Firm (retired).*

A Northern Colorado water attorney tells the behind-the-scenes story of the history of legislation that makes it possible for the environment and recreation to have water rights.

Bolstering Summer and Winter Flows as Mitigation for Storage—*Jerry Gibbens, Northern Water Director of Operations*

How seeking federal, state and local permits to use their water rights on the Poudre to build the Northern Integrated Supply Project led Northern Water to a unique summer and winter flows mitigation approach.

Who is Responsible for Poudre Water Quality?—*Jerrae Swanson, City of Greeley, Environmental and Water Resources Attorney*

With much of the Poudre's water ending up back in the river after we use it for agriculture and urban needs, who is responsible for overseeing its quality?

10:30—10:55

BREAK and View Displays

10:55—11:05

ONE HISTORICAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: *Poudre Heritage Alliance*

11:05—11:15

FROM GREELEY TO BARCELONA

How 8th graders from Salida del Sol, a bilingual school in Greeley, are working with their counterparts in Spain to learn about their respective watersheds.

11:15—12:00

WHAT IS A HEALTHY WORKING RIVER?

We will take a look at a video produced by Poudre River Forum committee members Corey Odell and Eric Brown featuring a diversity of perspectives

on that puzzling question—drawn from interviews they conducted with folks the length of the river.

Audience Perspectives on “What is a Healthy Working River”

A chance to share our own perspectives with those at our tables on “What is a healthy working river” and then have a full-group dialogue about anything that surprised us or broadened our thinking.

12:00—12:55

LUNCH and View Displays

12:55—1:10

POUDRE PIONEER AWARD—presented by Robert Ward, Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group and Poudre River Forum Committee

1:10—1:40

KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Prof. Edward B. Barbier, Department of Economics, Colorado State University

Barbier’s book, *Water Paradox*, to be released by Yale University Press in February 2019, is touted as “a radical new approach to tackling the growing threat of water scarcity.” He will share perspectives for us to keep in mind as we tackle water puzzles on the Poudre.

1:40—2:20

APPLYING CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION TO ADDRESS THE PUZZLE OF THE LOSS OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

Regional Storage on the South Platte to Stave off Buy and Dry?

Sean Cronin, South Platte Basin Roundtable. What is the South Platte Basin Roundtable and how is the Poudre involved in it? How a study the roundtable is conducting addresses the loss of irrigated agriculture by investigating a regional Ag/Urban/Environmental approach to storing water in times of high flows before it flows out of the state to Nebraska.

Larimer County Ag Advisory Board’s Take on the Need for Ag/Urban Water Dialogue. *Zach Thode, Manager, Roberts Ranch.* The need for cities, towns and ditch companies to work together to ensure reliable deliveries in both wet and dry years for both urban and Ag needs.

New Cache Water Marketing Strategy—A Pilot Project

Greg Kernohan, Ducks Unlimited and Brett Bovee, WestWater Research. How New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company is working with Ducks Unlimited and others to pilot a unique water sharing strategy, with funding from the Bureau of Reclamation.

2:20—2:40

Break and View Displays

2:40—4:15

WHAT'S THE (EVOLVING) PICTURE ON THE PUZZLE BOX LID?

What are the looming challenges we face on the Poudre, and are there ways we might begin to look at them differently than in the past? A panel of experts will address the following questions and then participate in a facilitated dialogue between themselves and then the audience:

How will the Poudre be affected by climate change and by the water supply crisis on the Colorado River? *Jennifer Gimbel, Senior Water Policy Scholar, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University*

What is the nexus between affordable housing and the price of water from the Poudre? *Patrick McMeekin, Partner, VP of Land Development, Hartford Homes*

How the Town of Windsor's "dual system" water requirement is helping them face their water challenges in light of tremendous growth *Kristie Melendez, Mayor of Windsor*

Is it time to face up to the ecological damage our pioneering spirit has caused to the Poudre River? How might we prevent additional damage and achieve significant gains on the healthy river front?" *LeRoy Poff, CSU Biology Professor*

How might we move beyond our geographical and sector boundaries to think regionally about our economic future and the role water plays in that? *Roy Otto, City Manager, City of Greeley*

4:15—4:20

Closing

4:20—5:00

Beer/Refreshments/Displays/Conversation