

The Poudre River: History of Collaboration over Conflict

The meeting was held on a hot, dry summer day in 1874. Two groups of irrigators, from the downstream Union Colony (Greeley) and the new agricultural community in upstream Fort Collins – came armed with guns. The neutral Eaton Schoolhouse was too small to hold everyone, so people crammed the doorway. Most were Civil War veterans, and they all had a problem...

“How would the two feuding groups divide the trickle of Cache la Poudre River water the remainder of the irrigation season – would it be based on “greatest need” or by priority (who dug their ditch first)?

Join Tom Cech to hear more about this fascinating history of the Poudre River.



Tom was born and raised on a farm near Clarkson, Nebraska, graduated from Kearney State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Math Education, and later received a Masters Degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He was Executive Director of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District in Greeley, taught water undergraduate and graduate level water resources courses at the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University, and is now the Director of the One World One Water (OWOW) Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship at Metropolitan State University of Denver.



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The
POUDRE
Runs Through It
Study / Action Work Group