

House Bill 1278 Final Report

January 22, 2014

Time 1:19:15 – 1:21:17

Representative Lori Saine

"So Reagan, you had said there is a problem with direct attribution so we have to rely more on correlation, but you have identified some localized areas and you've made some recommendations for long-term mitigation of high water tables. Is there any short-term solution you can see that we can utilize right at this moment?"

Dr. Reagan Waskom

"So the short-term solution I really think is in that first set of recommendations where I say let's make sure that new recharge structures are looked at carefully, particularly in areas where we know we have high groundwater, particularly in areas where we know we have urbanization. Let's look at it carefully there, and then the idea of let's get these pilots on the ground in those areas, specifically in those areas, and let's look at are there ways to differentially manage so that we utilize the resource, we don't restrict agriculture to pump or whatever, we pull down that water table to a good place and maybe we figure out how we use groundwater levels to manage the system. And, you know, I thought a lot about this as whether or not we could set up levels whereby, okay what has to be replaced is different, what can be pumped is different, it would take very good monitoring and modeling in order to do that. That would be quite a move for Colorado. That would be very sophisticated, finding out how we sustain these aquifers where we don't overdraft them, and don't overfill them, but just use them, would be a great thing and a great contribution globally if Colorado could figure that out."

Representative Lori Saine

"So are you recommending a real time data management system to be able to do that on these localized problem sites?"

Dr. Reagan Waskom

"Absolutely. I think that's what we need is, we need really good data, we need good localized models, and then we have to experiment, we have to look for better ways to do this."