



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

2025 Annual Convention

A Gathering of Water Minds

Hyatt Regency Aurora
Denver Conference Center

January 29-31, 2025

Our Speakers



Erik Anglund

Erik Anglund is a native Colorado farm kid and Rockies Water Team Manager for Occidental Petroleum. He works on all things water related for the company's operations in Colorado, including activities for construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, production, disposal and recycle. He has spent his career working with agricultural, municipal and industrial water rights, regulations, permitting and projects in Colorado and Wyoming. Erik also serves on the South Platte Basin Roundtable and is a Board Member of the Longs Peak Water District. He has degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Organizational Leadership; and is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.



Christine Arbogast

Christine Arbogast is a native Coloradan. She has a degree in journalism and political science and has worked with Congressman Ray Kogovsek since 1979. Since 1985 when Kogovsek & Associates was established, the small firm has worked primarily in the Western states on resource and tribal issues as well as local government concerns, capital construction projects and health care. Christine is an active member of the Water Congress Federal Affairs Committee and former President of the National Water Resources Association. She chairs the NWRA's federal affairs committee, and is a member of the Colorado River Water Users' Association and the Family Farm Alliance. She is the President and Founder of the Women in Water Scholarship Fund. Christine is the 2020 Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award.

Samantha Barncastle



Samantha is an attorney from New Mexico with over 17 years of experience in the field of complex litigation and policy making regarding water and natural resources on both the state and federal level. Samantha actively represents a variety of small local governments, private companies of all sizes, farmers, and ranchers. She served as Lead General Counsel to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District for 8 years and as its Water Counsel for more than 7 years prior to becoming General Counsel. Samantha is also currently employed by the New Mexico Legislature as a policy analyst for both the Senate Conservation and the Senate Judiciary Committees for the 2025 Legislative Session. Most importantly, she is a mother to two children and the wife of a farmer who actively farms in the beautiful Mesilla Valley in New Mexico.



Jenna Battson

Jenna Battson is the Outdoor Water Conservation Coordinator in the Water Supply Planning Section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. She manages the State's Turf Replacement Program, managed the Urban Landscape Conservation Task Force as they identified practical ways to advance outdoor water conservation and transformative landscape change, and is spearheading several studies and initiatives related to outdoor municipal water use in Colorado. Prior to joining CWCB, Jenna earned her master's degree at CU Boulder in natural resources policy, focusing on water law, governance structures, and conservation strategies with an emphasis on turf replacement efforts in the Southwestern states.

Meghan Bell

Meghan Bell is a Section Chief of the Lakewood Hydrologic Investigations Section at the U.S. Geological Survey Colorado Water Science Center. Meghan has B.S. in Geology from the University of Oklahoma and an M.S. in Geoscience-Geophysics from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her professional experience includes time spent in environmental consulting, surface water quality regulation, and groundwater availability.



Ken Brenner

Ken Brenner is a Yampa Valley native with decades of public service including Steamboat Springs City Council and Colorado Mountain College Trustee (eight years each). He has just completed 14 years as an Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Director. He serves as the IBCC representative, PEPO Chair and Vice Chair for the Yampa River on the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable. Ken is a board member for the Colorado Water Congress, Chairs the Headwaters of the Colorado Initiative and has a keen interest in water policy matters.



Angela Bricmont

As Chief Financial Officer at Denver Water, Angela Montoya Bricmont has been instrumental in driving strategic financial and operational transformation for a 100-year-old utility serving 1.5 million customers. She revised the organization's financing strategy, successfully implementing federal financing options, issuing green bonds, and introducing a new rate structure that stabilized revenues while addressing affordability and conservation. Angela's leadership extended to securing grants and low-interest loans, leading the removal of lead service lines, and attracting new investors, thereby enhancing the financial sustainability of Denver Water.

Angela currently serves on several boards, leveraging her financial strategy, environmental finance, and governance expertise. She is an Advisory Board Member at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business Burrigge Center for Finance. Appointed by the head of the EPA, Angela serves on the US EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board. Appointed by the Mayor of Denver, she is the Board Chair of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority.

Alex Funk graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's in environmental policy and planning and has a Juris Doctorate from Vermont Law School.



Grace Brofman

Grace works as a Program Specialist for Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA), a non-profit based out of Hood River, Oregon. Grace joined FCA in 2021 as part of the Irrigation Modernization Program, which supports the development, funding, and implementation of water management solutions that benefit the common good. In her position with FCA, Grace works with agricultural water providers in Colorado to identify goals and pathways to modernization, engage with stakeholders, and navigate state and local funding processes. Grace holds a BA in Geology from Colorado College and a Masters in Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara.



Hank Brown

Hank Brown is an American politician and lawyer from Colorado. He is a former Republican politician and U.S. Senator. He served as the president of the University of Northern Colorado from July 1998 to June 2002, and later as the 21st president of the University of Colorado system from April 2005 to January 2008.



Jackie Brown

Jackie Brown begged her parents to move from California to Colorado in the early 80's as a toddler, sensing that Colorado would offer more intellectual stimulation in its water community. Submitting to her accurate appraisal, she is currently the Water and Natural Resource Policy Advisor to Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, representing Energy on the Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors. Tri-State is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power provider owned by the 43 co-ops and public power districts in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming that it serves with a varied generation portfolio inclusive of coal, wind, solar, hydropower, and natural gas. Jackie works on external affairs and policy issues in each of the aforementioned four states, and on Colorado River Basin Issues on behalf of Tri-State. Jackie studied History at the University of Colorado and Water Resources at Colorado State University, and serves as Vice-Chair of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable and a Director on Board of the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance. Mrs. Brown tolerates cold swims through rapids, though much prefers any river from the boatman's seat.



Marshall Brown

Marshall P. Brown, General Manager of Aurora Water, has been General Manager of Aurora Water employed with the City since 2012. Mr. Brown has more than 30 years of experience in the water industry. He began in the private sector, where he gained significant technical expertise on water resource evaluation and development, feasibility studies, groundwater modeling and groundwater characterization and remediation. From 2006 through 2012, Mr. Brown was the head of the Scottsdale Water in Arizona. During his time with Aurora and Scottsdale, two industry leading utilities, Mr. Brown has had the opportunity to plan, manage and direct activities to position each organization for sustainable futures. Mr. Brown received a Bachelor of Science degree from Brigham Young University in Geological Engineering and a Master of Science degree from the University of Arizona in Geophysical and Geological Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has served in a leadership capacity for multiple regional and national organizations including a current leadership role as Chair of the Front Range Water Council and having just completed a rotation as Chairman of the Western Urban Water Coalition.



Sarah Brucker

Sarah is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and has worked for the Division of Water Resources since 2004. Sarah's current role is Deputy State Engineer with supervision of the Water Supply Branch and Hydrogeology Section and oversight of intrastate litigation coordination. This position supervises the review and engineering evaluation of substitute water supply plans, water court applications, well permit applications, and other water supply-related activities as well as hydrogeological investigation activities of the Hydrogeology Section.



Ken Buck

Kenneth Robert Buck is an American lawyer and politician who represented Colorado's 4th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives from 2015 until his resignation in 2024. Buck served as chair of the Colorado Republican Party, from 2019 to 2021.



Kate Burchenal

Kate has a background in water resources management with a Masters of Environmental Science & Management from the Bren School at UC Santa Barbara. She spent several years in philanthropy working to identify and support promising and scalable solutions to the challenges of water scarcity in the Colorado River Basin. Kate serves on the board of directors of the Eagle River Water & Sanitation District representing the town of Minturn. Kate joined ASO as Lead Project Manager in January 2022. Kate wears many hats, but her work focuses on formulation development across the Western US and internationally, client relations, and providing general support for ASO's internal operations.

Perry Cabot



Biography. Dr. Perry Cabot is an Extension Professor based at the at the Western Colorado Research Center, which is a unit of Colorado State University that comprises the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Office of Extension and Engagement. His research program focuses on innovative irrigation technologies, sustainable water resources management, alternative cropping systems and crop consumptive use evaluation. He is also the irrigation and water resources specialist for the CSU Office of Extension and Engagement in the Western Region of the state in the Upper Colorado River Basin. He leads and collaborates on numerous research efforts supported by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as non-profit charitable organizations. Dr. Perry Cabot received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering and Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University.



Emily Carbone

Emily works in the Water Resources department at Northern Water. She leads the streamflow forecasting program and is passionate about projects to improve forecasting and the associated data (e.g. snow and streamflow data). Before working at Northern Water, she worked in Water Resources at the City of Greeley and received her MS in hydrologic sciences from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



Sarah Casale

Sarah Casale is an accomplished program manager with expertise in maturing cybersecurity program capabilities. As a Supervisory Cybersecurity Specialist at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), she leads an Operational Technology (OT) security operations program that protects critical hydropower and water systems, including National Critical Infrastructure. She has a 14-year tenure with USBR, holds an MBA and a Graduate Certificate in Information Systems from the University of Utah, and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).



Anne Castle

Anne Castle is a senior fellow at the Getches-Wilkinson Center at the University of Colorado Law School, focusing on western water issues, including Colorado River policy and management and Tribal water interests. She was appointed by President Biden in 2022 as the U.S. Commissioner and Chair of the Upper Colorado River Commission. She is a founding member of the Water Policy Group and serves on the boards of the Colorado Water Trust, Colorado Legal Services, and Stanford University's Water in the West program. From 2009 to 2014, Castle was Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior where she had responsibility for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey. She is the co-founder of and senior advisor to the initiative on Universal Access to Clean Water in Tribal Communities. Castle practiced water law for 28 years in Denver, Colorado with the law firm of Holland & Hart LLP.



Sean Chambers



Andy Colosimo

Andy joined the Colorado Springs Utilities in 2002 and is responsible for all state and federal legislative activities affecting Colorado Springs Utilities including water, wastewater and gas and electricity issues. Andy serves on the Board of Directors of the National Water Resources Association, the Colorado Water Congress and chairs the Federal Affairs Committee. He spent more than seven years working in Washington, D.C. and Colorado on energy and natural resources for U.S. Senator's Bill Armstrong and Wayne Allard. Andy was born in Grand Junction and has a BA from the University of Utah.



Stacy Chesney

Stacy Chesney is the Director of Public Affairs for Denver Water, leading the organization's communications, media, marketing, community outreach, and government relations strategies. With over 20 years of experience, she has successfully led teams in managing internal and external issues, developing community relations initiatives, and executing comprehensive communications, brand and content marketing plans. Stacy currently serves on the board of directors for the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Northwestern University and a graduate certificate in Public Relations and Marketing from the University of Denver.



Nathan Coombs

Aaron's experience in water and his passion for river conservation goes back to years spent guiding raft trips on the Klamath, Sacramento and other rivers throughout the western U.S. After completing a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon, Aaron moved to Colorado, where he served as



Lauren Connell

Lauren Connell is the Regional Chief of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Mountain-Prairie Zone. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program delivers voluntary conservation in all 50 states to non-federal land managers like private landowners, Tribes, and community-based conservation groups. Together, they achieve mutual goals to support working landscapes, enhance ecological services, and support healthy wildlife populations.

Lauren's professional background includes experience as a Hydrogeologist, Rangeland Ecologist, and program administrator in private and federal sector. In her free time, Lauren enjoys tangling her fishing line and coercing trout into her net.



Meryl Corbin

Meryl Corbin is the Director of the Growing Water Smart program at the Sonoran Institute, where she leads efforts to help communities integrate water and land use planning for sustainable resource management. Since joining Sonoran Institute in 2022, Meryl has designed and facilitated workshops that bring together diverse stakeholders to address critical water challenges across the Colorado River Basin.

Meryl holds a master's certification in Environmental Management and Policy from the University of Colorado Denver, with a focus on Western water issues. Prior to her current role, she contributed to the WaterNow Alliance by enhancing the Project Accelerator Library, conducting policy analysis, and advancing strategic communications.

With a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design and a minor in Regional and Community Planning from Kansas State University, Meryl began her career as a project manager in commercial architecture, working in Boston and Denver. Her transition to water resource management reflects her commitment to fostering sustainable, resilient communities through collaboration and innovative planning.



Craig Cotten

Craig is the Division Engineer for Water Division No. 3 of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, where he manages surface and groundwater use in the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado. He is also Colorado's Engineer Adviser to the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek Compacts and has been extensively involved in the current U.S. Supreme Court Case on the Rio Grande Compact. Craig has testified as an expert witness in many Division 3 water case trials and hearings, including in the Division 3 Groundwater Rules and Regulations case. Craig graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Civil Engineering and has worked for the Division of Water Resources for 34 years.



Ken Curtis

Ken chose a college that was near the Colorado ski areas and assured him he wouldn't have to go to graduate school. Being home to Coors was a coincidental benefit. Finding himself an Oredigger and an engineer he started helping build civil projects all around New Mexico for a heavy/highway contractor for 13 years. Deciding to settle down, he tried his hand at SimCity, but on the ground as a city engineer for 8 years. Then a wonderful opportunity to play with water at the foot of the San Juan Mountains opened up and he currently resides in Arriola, Colorado and practices being a large scale plumbing manager for western Montezuma & Dolores Counties and making the country green, must be the Irish background.



Bobbie Daniel

Bobbie Daniel is a voice for Western Colorado and working-class families advocating for empowered citizens and local solutions with a career spanning small business, public policy, and community service.

Bobbie and her husband, Nick Daniel are making their home in Grand Junction with their four children.

Corey DeAngelis

Corey was born in Colorado on the Front Range, growing up on both the Front Range and San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in 1995. Prior to joining the Division of Water Resources team in 2006, Corey worked as a private consulting engineer in civil and water resources projects, primarily in the San Luis Valley and southwestern Colorado from 1995 to 2006. After joining the Division of Water Resources in 2006, Corey spent the first 5 years in the Division 3 office in Alamosa acting as the Water Measurement Branch Chief and Assistant Division Engineer involved in both surface and ground water administration in Division 3. In 2011, Corey transferred to the Division 1 Greeley office as the Lead Assistant Division Engineer from 2011 until July 2018 at which time he was appointed Division One Engineer. Corey has been involved in both surface water and tributary ground water, including designated basin ground water, administration in Division 1 and 3. Corey has been involved in Division Water Court matters through participation in: Division Summary of Consultations with the Water Referee, contributing to and authoring expert reports; testimony in depositions and at trial as an expert, factual, and lay witness in water court and civil cases.

Jeff Deems

Jeffrey Deems has helped pioneer the use of lidar snow depth mapping in support of hydrologic science, water management, and avalanche mitigation. As a founding member of the NASA JPL Airborne Snow Observatory Science Team, he helped develop the lidar mapping and data fusion workflows while fostering connections with hydrologic forecasting and management entities. His interests and expertise in avalanche and snow hydrology research combine field data collection, modeling, and remote sensing in midlatitude mountain locations in the western US and around the globe, and actively further connections between science and management applications.



Aaron Derwingson

Aaron's experience in water and his passion for river conservation goes back to years spent guiding raft trips on the Klamath, Sacramento and other rivers throughout the western U.S. After completing a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon, Aaron moved to Colorado, where he served as the stewardship director for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. In this role, Aaron helped protect working agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and water resources along the mighty Rio Grande and its tributaries. After receiving a second, more hands-on education in irrigation water use from the farmers and ranchers along the Rio Grande, Aaron joined The Nature Conservancy in 2012 on a two-year fellowship to build relationships with agricultural producers and test new approaches to water management in the Colorado River Basin.

Now as the Water Projects Director for TNC's Colorado River Program, Aaron continues to focus on building partnerships and creating pragmatic, solution-oriented approaches to freshwater challenges that deliver benefits for agriculture, communities and the health of the rivers that we all rely on. In his time at TNC, Aaron has piloted water banking and other tools for flexible water management, conducted field research on the agronomic and environmental impacts of reduced irrigation, evaluated alternative low-water-use crops and upgraded irrigation water use to help improve river flows.



Jen Dial

Jen Dial has over 15 years of experience in water resources management and is currently the Water Resources Manager for the City of Fort Collins where she has worked since 2022. In this role she leads or oversees the management of the City's diverse water rights portfolio, water supply planning efforts, protection of the City's water rights, development of water related policy, and collaboration on regional issues. She has a bachelor's degree in Geography from Texas State University and a masters in Geography from the University of Colorado.



Sarah Dominick

Sarah Dominick is Hazen's National Director of Integrated Resource Planning with over 20 years of experience focused on facilitating sustainable, community-focused solutions for water challenges. She is renowned for her expertise in water supply planning and her strategic approach to creating tailored, forward-thinking water resource strategies across the nation. She is a Past Chair of the Rocky Mountain Section of AWWA and she holds two degrees from the Colorado School of Mines.



Traci Dowd

Traci Dowd is the Agent in Charge of the Economic Crimes Unit at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) where her unit investigates such things as organized crime, money laundering, wire fraud, and cyber-related crimes. Before her law enforcement career, Traci was a real estate investor, mortgage broker, and rehab lender to real estate investors throughout Colorado. Traci is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and has a degree in accounting. She is dedicated to the prevention and detection of fraud through relentless outreach and enforcement.



Jeff Drager

Jeff Drager is the Director of Engineering at the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. He has worked at Northern Water since 1995 where he has also served as Project Manager for the Windy Gap Firing Project, which involved an 18-year NEPA/permitting and litigation process. He has also served as Project Manager for other water supply projects in Colorado and California as both a consultant and owner's representative. Jeff is a Colorado native with a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and master's degree from Stanford University. He is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and California.



Brent Esplin

Brent C Esplin is the regional director for the Missouri Basin (Interior Region 5) and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf (Interior Region 6), which collectively are the largest and most ecologically diverse regions in Reclamation.

Esplin began this position June 21, 2020. He provides leadership for the management, development and protection of water and related resources across nine states. This includes 80 Reclamation reservoirs, 20 powerplants and 93 recreational areas that host more than 14 million visitors each year. Reclamation facilities in the region deliver water to rural and urban communities, providing drinking water to more than three million people, in addition to irrigating more than two million acres of agriculture. This complex region which is inclusive of nine western states has an annual appropriated budget of approximately \$180 million and a workforce of 650 employees.

Esplin has more than 20 years of service with the Bureau of Reclamation, most recently serving as Upper Colorado Basin Regional Director; prior to that position he served as Deputy Regional Director for the Upper Colorado Basin. He also served as Area Manager for Reclamation's Montana Area Office in Billings, Montana; Deputy Area Manager for the Phoenix Area Office in Arizona; and Deputy Area Manager for the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office in McCook, Nebraska.

A native of Smithfield, Utah, Esplin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering, both from Utah State University.



Raquel Flinker

Raquel Flinker is a Senior Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager with the Colorado River District. Raquel provides technical support to West Slope water users with a focus on the Gunnison River Basin. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and a master's degree in Geosciences (Hydrology focus) from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining the Colorado River District, Raquel was with the City of Aspen's Engineering and Utilities departments. Her experience also includes management consulting for the energy sector, engineering consulting, and teaching watershed science.



Kayli Foulk

Kayli Foulk is Grand County's Water Quality Specialist, dedicated to protecting aquatic ecosystems and upholding sustainable water management. In this role, she monitors aquatic conditions, advances drought resilience, and leads stream restoration efforts to improve the health of the Colorado River headwaters, ensuring the long-term vitality of this critical resource.

With nearly a decade of experience in water resource management, Kayli has successfully led programs, facilitated stakeholder collaboration, and managed large-scale water initiatives. She collaborates with diverse stakeholders across the Colorado River Basin, oversees key agreements like the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement and the Windy Gap Firing Project, and is leading the update to the Grand County Stream Management Plan. She remains committed to serving the Grand County community, working to protect the headwaters of the Colorado River for generations to come.



Alex Funk

Alex Funk is the Director of Water Resources and Senior Counsel with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). Alex brings over a decade of experience working on federal and state water policy, focusing on securing public funding to increase the pace and scale of investments in drought resilience strategies benefiting both water users and fish and wildlife. Recent successes include testifying before Congress on the importance of the Farm Bill to address western water challenges, working with the Bureau of Reclamation in developing their Inflation Reduction Act investment strategies, and advancing bipartisan legislation creating new opportunities for watershed restoration through the Army Corps of Engineers.

As the Director of Water Resources, Alex leads TRCP's national and state water policy efforts with a focus on scaling nature-based solutions to address the impacts of a changing climate and conservation of vital wetland and river ecosystems. Alex previously served as the Colorado Water Conservation Board's first agriculture water policy specialist, acting as a liaison to Colorado's agriculture community on water resource issues and working with farmers and ranchers to secure federal and state funds to support investments to address aging infrastructure and demonstrate innovative approaches to water conservation. Alex Funk graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's in environmental policy and planning and has a Juris Doctorate from Vermont Law School.



Julia Gallucci

Julia Gallucci began her career building marketing services companies under very talented entrepreneurs where she gained business and marketing acumen and learned the keys to exceptional service delivery. Since 2009, at Colorado Springs Utilities, Julia has worked primarily within the water resources management department, most currently as the water conservation supervisor. Along with an amazing team of conservation experts, her work in water conservation is driven by deep purpose and broad strategies designed to make positive, far-reaching impacts for the Colorado Springs community.



Greg Gates



Robert Genualdi

Robert B. Genualdi, P.E., has over 30 years of experience in engineering and water resources, specializing in water resource administration, hydrology and hydraulic design. Mr. Genualdi is currently the Division Engineer for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division 7, located in Durango, Colorado. His responsibilities include overseeing water administration and Colorado's water rights priority system throughout the San Juan and Dolores River Basins, consulting with the Division 7 Water Court on water rights applications, issuing well permits, and ensuring compliance with dam safety requirements. His previous experience includes Project Engineer for the Central Arizona Project and District Manager for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. Mr. Genualdi holds degrees in Civil Engineering and Geology.



Russell George

At various times past or in the present Russ has served organizations including Crow Tribe of Indians of Montana, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Colorado Water Conservation Board, Interbasin Compact Committee, Colorado Ground Water Commission, Silt Water Conservancy District, West Divide Water Conservancy District, Great Outdoors Colorado, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, Western Colorado Community Foundation, Boettcher Foundation, Roaring Fork Habitat for Humanity, Colorado Bar Association, and Uniform Law Commission.

Russ was president of Colorado Northwestern Community College which provides education opportunities to the main campuses in Rangely and Craig and to Meeker and South Routt County.

Russ served as the director of Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Russ was elected four times to the Colorado House of Representatives. The district included Moffat, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Pitkin Counties in Western Colorado. In his fourth term he was elected Speaker of the House.

Russ practiced natural resources law in Rifle with the law firm of Stuver and George. He was admitted to the Colorado bar and the Montana bar. Russ is a graduate of Rifle High School, Colorado State University and Harvard Law School. He resides in Rifle and Denver.



Jerry Gibbens

Jerry is Director of Operations for Northern Water in Berthoud, Colorado, where he oversees Northern Water's operation and maintenance of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Windy Gap Project and other water storage, conveyance and hydropower facilities that deliver supplemental water supplies to more than 1,000,000 people and 615,000 acres of irrigated land in Northeastern Colorado. He also serves as Treasurer for both the Northern Water and Municipal Sub-District boards. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Colorado State University and is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and Wyoming. Jerry lives in Loveland with his wife Shelli and enjoys everything that his native Colorado and surrounding states have to offer, including vacationing, chasing his adult kids and soon-to-be grand-daughter from place-to-place, outdoor activities, and home improvement.



Brandon Glant

Brandon Glandt is a Colorado native who has been a valued member of the Coalition team for over three years. With over five years of experience in the cybersecurity industry, Brandon brings a wealth of expertise to his role. He holds a degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado Boulder, where he honed his skills and passion for technology. Brandon is committed to enhancing cybersecurity measures and contributing to the advancement of the industry.

Dave Gochis



Dave Gochis has conducted extensive field and modeling research in hydrometeorology for over 25 years. He holds degrees in both hydrology and atmospheric sciences from the University of Kansas (BS), Oregon State University (MS) and the University of Arizona (PhD). Prior to joining ASO, Inc., Dr. Gochis worked for over 20 years at the National Science Foundation's National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, retiring as a Senior Scientist in late 2023. While at NCAR, Dave was the original developer and lead scientist of the community WRF-Hydro modeling system overseeing the implementation of multiple domestic U.S. and international instances of WRF-Hydro as an operational water forecasting system, most notably for the U.S. National Weather Service's first National Water Model. Dave also has conducted extensive field research in multiple aspects of hydrology, snowpack dynamics and hydrometeorology specializing in terrestrial land surface flux measurements in high mountain watersheds and in developing critical, novel observations important to improving model forecasts of water resources and flooding.



Scott Griebeling

Scott grew up backpacking into Colorado lakes and rafting down Colorado rivers which led him study civil engineering at CU Boulder. He spent time in the Northwest working on river restoration and internationally working in water and sanitation before returning to CU Boulder for his MS in water resources engineering. Scott joined the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District in 2021 and focuses on collaborative approaches to meet diverse stakeholders' water needs. He draws on a background of integrated hydrologic modeling and hydrologic systems monitoring and particularly enjoys the human element of water and the connections it brings.



James Heath

James Heath is a professional engineer for the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) and holds the position of Division Engineer for the Division 5 office located in Glenwood Springs. He started his career in 2001 in the private sector working as a consulting engineer at TZA Water Engineers and Leonard Rice Engineers. He joined DWR in 2010 as the Lead Modeler for the Rio Grande Basin on the Modeling and Decision Support Systems Team in the Denver office. As the Lead Modeler, his primary role was as the project manager for the Rio Grande Decision Support System, which is the model and technical basis for the rules promulgated by the State Engineer to administer groundwater use within the Rio Grande Basin. In 2014, he took the knowledge gained through his position on the Modeling Team to the field office in Alamosa and held the position of Assistant Division Engineer for Division 3. As the Assistant Division Engineer, he administered surface and groundwater rights on a daily basis according to the principles of the Prior Appropriation Doctrine and the Rio Grande Compact. He also participated in the Water Court process, where he provided expert witness testimony in water court cases including the case defending the Groundwater Use Rules, which were affirmed in 2019. At the beginning of 2019, he became the Lead Assistant Division Engineer in Division 5 working out of the Glenwood Springs office administering the water rights on the Colorado River. He was appointed to the Division Engineer position within Division 5 in 2021.

James is a 4th generation Coloradan with ties back to the Grand Mesa within the Colorado River Basin.



Eric Hecox

As the Senior Vice President of Operations Mr. Hecox is engaged in everything from business operations and project implementation to strategic visioning and political outreach in pursuit of Shea Properties' sustained success. He leads complex rezoning and entitlement efforts, and is involved in market analysis, legal processes, finance, construction, and special district oversight. An expert in water resources and supply, Eric is heavily involved in many of Shea Properties' water issues.

Mr. Hecox joined Shea Properties Colorado in 2016 as a Vice President and the General Manager for multiple Title 32 special districts including the Goldsmith Metro District in the Denver Tech Center and Meridian Metro District, Meridian Village Metro District, and Lyons Ridge Metro District.

Mr. Hecox is on the boards of the Denver South Economic Development Partnership, Southeast Public Improvement Metro District, and Water Education Colorado and is an active member of the Denver Metro Chamber and Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Hecox received his B.A. in biology from Lawrence University and prior to graduate school was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Zimbabwe. He earned a Masters of Science in Environmental Science in Water Resources and a Masters of Public Affairs from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.



Troy Heithecker

Troy Heithecker is the regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, where he leads more than 2,000 permanent and seasonal employees and shares stewardship of 22 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands with partners and forty-eight affiliated tribes in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Previously, Heithecker served as the Forest Service's associate deputy chief for the National Forest System over national programs for forest and rangeland, vegetation, lands, minerals and geology, as well as the National Partnership Office and the NFS Equity/J40 Team. He has served in numerous leadership positions throughout his career with the Forest Service including forest supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, Arkansas; deputy forest supervisor and acting forest supervisor on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska; and acting deputy regional forester in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Heithecker started his career with the Forest Service in 1997 as a volunteer with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Juneau, Alaska, working as a field technician in research silviculture. While in college, Heithecker spent his summers implementing research silviculture projects on the Tongass National Forest as well as on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, in Washington, where he learned the complex dynamics of managing public lands for multiple uses.

A native Texan, Heithecker earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Colorado State University and a master's degree in forest ecology from the University of Washington. He enjoys all things outdoors, playing music and spending time with his wife and two kids.



Lauren Hix

Lauren E. Hix, CIC, CRM is a fourth-generation insurance professional, with almost 20 years' experience representing water and business entities in Colorado. She grew up in northern Colorado, and studied business, English, political science, psychology and sociology at Western State and CU Boulder. Her great-grandfather started a farm agency in Estes Park, and her father, Charles F. Hix, III, developed an insurance program for water entities in Colorado in the 1980's. Being just as passionate about water and Colorado's agriculture, Lauren has continued his legacy. Specializing in Risk Management Consulting and Risk Transfer, Lauren obtained her Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation in 2016, her Certified Risk Manager (CRM) designation in 2021, and was awarded Young Insurance Professional of the Year in 2013 by Trusted Choice of Colorado for her expertise, thirst for knowledge, outstanding client service, and extensive involvement/volunteering in the water and insurance community. She has taken a number of Water Law classes with Justice Hobbs over the years and has been nominated a number of times for Colorado's Water Leader's Program. Lauren hosts various niche insurance coverage and education classes, as well as presentations for Colorado State entities throughout the year. She truly loves being immersed in the water community and events that help educate fellow Coloradans; she volunteers a multitude of hours annually to Colorado's Water Plan, local water conventions/events, stream/river cleanup and restorations projects, stewardship programs, and roundtables. She began teaching cyber security classes throughout the state during its emergence in 2012 and has continued to try to educate anyone that will listen!



Hannah Holm

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Southwest Region, American Rivers

Hannah joined American Rivers in April of 2022. American Rivers works across the United States to protect and restore rivers for people and nature. Prior to joining American Rivers, Hannah co-founded and directed the Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University from 2011-2022. The Center promotes research, education and dialogue to address the water challenges facing the Upper Colorado River Basin. Hannah previously facilitated the Grand Valley and Lower Gunnison Wise Water Use Council, advocated for stronger drinking water protections with Western Colorado Congress, and served on her local watershed group board in Pennsylvania. Earlier in her career, she worked for the North Carolina General Assembly, where she co-staffed committees on the Environment, Natural Resources, Sustainable Agriculture and Smart Growth. Hannah has a joint master's degree in Community & Regional Planning and Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.



Emily Hunt

Emily Hunt has worked on Colorado water issues for over 30 years. 25 of those years have been with the City of Thornton, where she began as a Water Resources Analyst and is currently the Deputy Utilities Director. Thornton is the third largest water utility in the metro area and provides water service to over 160,000 of the most efficient water customers in the state. Emily is a champion for innovation and collaboration, especially when it comes to seemingly intractable water challenges. These days, she is excited about the completion of the Thornton Water Project and implementing Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Emily is on the Metro Roundtable and the Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors. She participated in the Water Education Colorado's first Water Leader's Program in 2006. Emily is a second-generation Front-Ranger, earning her bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, her master's degree in Fluvial Geomorphology from the University of Denver. When not at work, Emily enjoys being outside and growing spicy things.



Susan Hunter

As the Vice President of Energy Resources, Susan oversees Tri-State's procurement and management of long-term resources. This includes the negotiation and administration of contracts related to these resources and the operational integration of them into Tri-State's resource portfolio. She also oversees other power supply opportunities including long-term power sales and merchant transmission agreements with multiple transmission providers. Additionally, Susan works closely with Tri-State members in the implementation of self-supply opportunities available to them under Tri-State's wholesale, all-requirements contracts with its members.

John Hunyadi

Assistant State Engineer for Public Safety & Systems

John Hunyadi, Assistant State Engineer for Safety and Systems supports the scientists, technicians and engineers that form the Dam Safety, Hydrography, Well Metering, and Water Information Teams. The Water Information Team is responsible for managing the data and tools that the Division of Water Resources provides to the public through the HydroBase, GIS, Records, and Modeling groups. This position also serves as the State Engineer's representative on the Board of Examiners for Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors.

John has worked for DWR since 2010, first as a Dam Safety Engineer covering the Arkansas, South Platte, and Upper Colorado River basins, followed by three years as Chief Engineer of the statewide Dam Safety Program. During his time as Chief Engineer, he sharply focused prioritization of risk informed decision making in dam regulation to benefit dam owners, water users, and the citizens of Colorado. Prior to coming to the DWR, John worked for consulting engineering firms executing subsurface modeling, design, and construction of civil infrastructure. John is a native of Colorado and a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines.





Bob Hurford

Bob Hurford has been with the Colorado Division of Water Resources since 2007 and has been the Division Engineer for Division 4 since 2009. The main office is located in Montrose, with a field office in Cedaredge. Bob manages twenty-eight employees in the administration of water rights and implementation of the Hydrography, Dam Safety, and Well Permitting programs, as well as working directly with the water court and the general public. Bob received his civil engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California.



Doug Kemper

Doug served as Executive Director of the Colorado Water Congress in 2005 through September 2024. Active involvement with the Colorado Water Congress spanned most of his career including leadership positions on the CWC Board. Doug's professional experience includes 20 years of direct responsibility for planning, development, and operation of a Aurora's municipal raw water supply system as well as 4 years in water resources consulting. His proficiencies include water policy development, surface and ground water resources management, and collaborative negotiations. Doug has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil/Water Resources Engineering. His Master's work focused on agricultural irrigation efficiency and water quality studies. He is a Colorado registered Professional Engineer.



Paul Kehmeier

Paul Kehmeier is the western Colorado Salinity Program Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Paul's job is to help ditch companies put together funding packages to improve their irrigation systems and decrease the amount of salt going into the Colorado River

Paul runs his family's farm on the Surface Creek Mesa north of Delta, Colorado. He holds a Master's Degree in Range Science.



Wendell Koontz

Wendell is a Delta County Commissioner representing District 3 and has been reelected for a second term. Prior public service includes Town of Hotchkiss Trustee from 2006 thru 2010 and followed by two terms as Mayor from 2010 thru 2018. He has served as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for 2023. His additional roles include Chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, Club 20 Executive Team Member, Board of Directors for Colorado Counties, Inc., a founding member of JOLT, and a member of the Delta Health Foundation Board.

Wendell is a Registered Professional Geologist and a Registered Member of SME with over 25 years of mining experience. His professional experience includes mining geology, reserve evaluations, federal coal permitting and leasing, exploration drilling, and property acquisitions. Wendell is the recipient of the 2023 Dr. James A. Pendleton Award for mined land reclamation from the Colorado Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety.

Wendell has been married to his wife Esther for over 34 years and resides in the beautiful North Fork Valley of Delta County.



Tracy Kosloff

Tracy Kosloff is a professional engineer, with bachelors and masters degrees from UCLA. She worked as a consulting engineer for 10 years before joining the Colorado Division of Water Resources in 2010. Among her assignments at the State Engineer's Office, Tracy acted as an Engineer on the Designated Groundwater Team, team leader for South Platte River water supply issues, and Deputy State Engineer focusing on areas of well permitting, legislation and water court. She is now the Deputy Director for the State Engineer's Office working on interstate compacts and operations of the agency.



Adam Kremers

Adam Kremers is a water resources engineer at Brown and Caldwell. Adam brings over 15 years of experience navigating our complex water administration and operational practices in Colorado, helping clients and partners prepare for a resilient water-focused future in our arid state. Adam grew up in Kansas and moved to Colorado in the early 2000s, where he received his bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from CSU. He has been studying, playing, and navigating Colorado's plethora of beautiful waterways ever since. His interest in regenerative agriculture is due to the recent trajectory of the industry and the benefits it brings to our farmers, farming practices, and consumers. As a father of young children, Adam sees the practical benefits and greater resilience that sustainable farming practices bring to our agricultural community, thereby supporting future generations in Colorado.



Erin Light

Erin Light received her bachelors of science – civil engineering degree from Colorado State University in 1993 and her masters of science – civil engineering degree with emphasis in hydraulics and hydrology also from Colorado State University in 1998. Ms. Light started her engineering career in consulting working for Muller Engineer Company in Lakewood, CO and then went on to work with the United State Bureau of Reclamation also in Lakewood before joining the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) in 2001. With DWR, Ms. Light began working as the hydrographer and eventually took on the duties of the assistant division engineer in Division 6. Ms. Light was appointed division engineer for Division 6 in August 2006. Ms. Light lives in Steamboat Springs with her husband and daughter.



Kevin Lock

Mr. Lock is a Senior Project Manager and Engineer for Northern Water. He is currently the Project Manager for the Colorado River Connectivity Channel (CRCC) and Glade Reservoir. Prior to these roles he served as Project Engineer for the Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project. Mr. Lock has been with Northern Water for over seven years, focusing on the design, construction, and implementation of major water infrastructure in Northern Colorado; including the CRCC, Chimney Hollow Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). He earned his degree from Colorado School of Mines in Geological Engineering. Prior to coming to Northern Water Mr. Lock worked as an engineering consult focused on geotechnical engineering, heavy civil design, and construction for the mining industry.

Kelsea Macilroy



Kelsea Macilroy is a sociologist with extensive experience as a researcher (formerly with her LLC, Macilroy Research and Consulting) and as a facilitator and public engagement specialist with The Langdon Group. Over the last 13 years, she has interviewed or engaged with hundreds of stakeholders and parties around water use and agriculture in Colorado and the Colorado River Basin, which has culminated in a variety of publications and presentations. Some of her publications include “Demand Management” and Injustice in Rural Agriculture on Colorado’s Western Slope: An Anatomy of Ambivalence (2022) and Lessons Learned from Colorado Experiences with Interstate Compact Administration (2021) with Hannah Holm. Kelsea likes water and food a lot.



Riley May

Riley May comes from a ranching and farming family from Prowers County. Like many farm kids, he started working at the family operation at a young age, raising and selling purebred cattle and raising irrigated alfalfa and corn. He now has his own irrigated farm and continues working daily in the family ranch and farming operation, as well as managing his own farm.

May has served on the State Veterinary Board and CDA's Soil Health Advisory Committee and sits on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program State Council. May Ranch holds an Audubon Conservation Ranching Certification and participates in a carbon offset program through the Cool Effect. May is also an active member of Colorado Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.



John McClow

John McClow is general counsel for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy. He is past President (2014) of the Colorado Water Congress, and is Vice-Chair of the State Affairs Committee. He serves on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He served 2013-2014 as Colorado's Commissioner on the Upper Colorado River Commission, and Colorado's representative to negotiations among the Colorado River Basin states, the United States, and Mexico. He represents Colorado in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group.



Melissa McCoy

Melissa McCoy is currently the Manager of the NEPA Branch of the U.S. EPA, Region 8, where she is charged with the EPA's responsibilities, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to review and publicly comment on federal agencies' Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments. Prior to her time in Region 8, Melissa was an Environmental Program Manager for the Association of Clean Water Administrators and a Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. EPA's Office of Water. Melissa holds a J.D. with a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law, a Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology, and a B.S. in Biology and Music.



Jennifer Mele

Jen Mele is the First Assistant Attorney General for the Water Conservation Unit at the Office of the Attorney General.



John Miller

John was raised on a cattle ranch near Hotchkiss Colorado where he still lives with his wife and daughter. Mr. Miller led the Delta Conservation District's Irrigation Water Management Program for over a decade where he learned to design and troubleshoot various types of irrigation systems and gained expertise that he uses to promote efficient water usage and sustainable agricultural practices. In his current position with the Colorado Dept. Of Agriculture John manages the Colorado Soil Health Program (HB21-1181) and is part of a team working to implement the new Ag Stewardship Tax Credit (HB24-1249). These two pieces of legislation are major achievements for sustainable agriculture practices in Colorado and provide support to farmers and ranchers working to implement those practices.

Elena Miller-ter Kuile



Elena Miller-ter Kuile is a 6th generation farmer working on the original lands of her Hispano ancestors. Her farm Cactus Hill Farm still uses some of the oldest water rights in Colorado established in 1867. Elena raises sheep for grass fed meat as well as value-added wool products such as yarn and other products for fiber artists. She sells both online and in person. Her farm also produces organic grains, and hay. Elena studied interdisciplinary studies in Agriculture from Cornell University and graduated with honors.

Elena served as the vice-chair of the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition and currently serves on Rural Women-Led Business Fund at the First Southwest Bank of Colorado. She recently worked for Adams State University supporting students from a migrant agricultural background to achieve their education. She has also been involved in many water rights battles for her community over the years. She is currently serving on the board of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association and is a member of the Colorado Agricultural Commission.



Becky Mitchell

Rebecca Mitchell (Becky) is the State of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. Mitchell took on this upgraded role in July 2023 to enhance the state's position in Colorado River interstate issues and negotiations on the operations of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. She is an accomplished water leader with over 20 years of experience in the water sector and is highly knowledgeable in Colorado water law. Mitchell was also appointed Director of the Inter-Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) in October 2023. Mitchell's appointment has strengthened and integrated water policy discussions happening across the state and the Colorado River Basin.

Previously, Mitchell was the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and played a significant role in developing the Colorado Water Plan, working with the state's nine basin roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the public.

She has worked as a consulting engineer in both the public and private sectors. She received her B.S. and M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines.



Ben Moline

Ben Moline is the Director of Water Resources and Environmental Policy for Molson Coors Beverage Company (MCBC), located in Golden, Colorado, USA. In this position, he oversees the Water Rights portfolio along Clear Creek for MCBC with regards to legal protection of the water rights portfolio, environmental aspects of water quality, continued water deliveries to the brewery, and corporate responsibility. With regards to Environmental Policy, he helps to develop programs that are used globally to drive efficiency within each brewery and with legal and supply chain members in an effort to reduce the water and energy footprints of MCBC's global network of breweries. Project also include development of renewable energy opportunities.

Ben also manages and oversees environmental projects, including Clear Creek water quality and reclamation of a coal mine for Coors Energy Company. He works extensively with federal, state and local environmental agencies to ensure compliance to regulations and betterment of the watershed.

Outside of work, Ben is an avid biker, skier, and climber. He was also a volunteer Captain with the Golden Fire Department.

Ben grew up along the banks of the Mississippi River in Fort Madison, Iowa. This is where he started to develop his passion for water and environmental causes.



Amy Moyer

Amy serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Colorado River District who oversees the District's Community Funding Partnership following the passage of Ballot Question 7A. In addition, Amy facilitates partnerships and policy discussions to support West Slope water users from all sectors. She has been with the District since March 2021.

Amy previously worked at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as the Assistant Director for Water, where she developed and implemented water policy for the State of Colorado. Prior to that Amy served as the Department of Natural Resources as a Policy Advisor covering federal lands issues and as a budget analyst. Before joining DNR, Amy worked at the City and County of Denver to develop the city's first Climate Adaptation Plan.

Amy holds masters' degrees in public policy and economics from the University of Denver and a bachelor's degree in communications from the College of Charleston.



Andy Mueller

Andy Mueller is the General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Prior to taking the helm at the Colorado River District he spent 23 years in private law practice on the West Slope of Colorado. His work ranged across the breadth of critical western Colorado topics: water, natural resource, land use and community issues

For nine years from 2006-15, he was Ouray County's Director on the Colorado River District Board, his last two as Board President. His combined experience prepared him to lead the River District, whose work is to lead in the protection, conservation, use and development of the waters of the Colorado River for the residents of the West Slope and to safeguard for all of Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled. Andy also serves on the advisory board of the Family Farm Alliance and as an ex-officio member of the Water for Tribes Initiative Advisory Board.

Andy earned his law degree from University of Colorado in 1995 after earning his BA in history from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. When he is not delving deep into Colorado River issues or spending time outdoors with his daughters, he is actively engaged with his community, serving on various community boards.



Amber Pacheco

Amber Pacheco is the Deputy General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, where she brings over two decades of experience and dedication to water resource management. In her previous role, she played a pivotal part in establishing six groundwater management subdistricts and overseeing the daily operations of three of these groundwater management subdistricts, contributing significantly to sustainable water solutions in the region.

As Deputy General Manager, Amber oversees the delivery of public services to the District's constituents and coordinates the District's functions with local, county, state, and federal agencies. Her commitment to collaboration and innovative problem-solving helps address the complex water challenges facing the San Luis Valley.

A lifelong resident of the San Luis Valley, Amber holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration in Public Administration, both from Adams State University. Passionate about preserving her community's water resources, she is proud to be a part of efforts to safeguard the Valley's future.



Dave Payne

Dave Payne is the Assistant General Manager at Ute Water Conservancy District, the largest water provider on the west slope of Colorado. Dave has over 31 years of experience in the water treatment industry and has been with the Ute Water for 17 years. Dave is responsible for managing the operation of Ute Water's 34 million-gallon-per-day conventional water treatment facility and utilization of their source water portfolio including the Plateau Creek and Colorado River systems. Dave has a Bachelor of Science degree in the biological and agricultural sciences from Colorado Mesa University, is a certified Class A Water Works operator, a member of the Colorado Ground Water Commission, an active member of Colorado Water Congress and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and is a past recipient of the Rocky Mountain Section AWWA Ralph R. Leinhardt Operator of the Year award.



Ed Perlmutter

Edwin George Perlmutter is a Denver native, American lawyer, and politician who served as the U.S. representative for Colorado's 7th congressional district from 2007 to 2023. A member of the Democratic Party, his district was located in the northern and western suburbs of the Denver metropolitan area. He previously served as the Colorado state senator from the 20th district from 1995 to 2003.



Kevin Reidy

Kevin received his Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in Recreation Resources Management and an M.S. degree in Forest Ecology and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Presently, he is the Senior State Water Efficiency Specialist at the Colorado Water Conservation Board and has worked in this position since 2009. He provides technical and financial assistance to water providers across Colorado for water efficiency planning and implementation, integration of land use and water efficiency, works on long range statewide water supply and demand forecasting.



Matt Rice

Michael Regan is the Program Manager for the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Federal Technical Assistance Program. He has worked for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources for more than 20 years in a variety of budget and policy roles. He worked previously for the DNR Executive Director's Office and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Jeffery Rieker

Jeff Rieker is the Area Manager for the Eastern Colorado Area Office within the Missouri Basin Region of the Bureau of Reclamation. In this capacity he oversees Reclamation's two major water supply projects on Colorado's front range: the Colorado Big-Thompson Project and the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project.



Jeff began his career with Reclamation in 1999 as a hydraulic engineer in Denver. Since that time, he has overseen a variety of water resource planning and management issues for Reclamation in Carson City and Sacramento, as well as Washington D.C. where he served as the California-Great Basin Region's liaison and representative in the Commissioner's Office. Most recently he was the Operations Manager for Reclamation's Central Valley Operations Office, where he was responsible for the day-to-day water and power operations of Reclamation's Central Valley Project.

Jeff holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, a Master's degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Water Resources Planning and Management from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in the same subject from Colorado State University. Jeff is also a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Nevada.



Lauren Ris

Lauren Ris is the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. As a water policy expert focused on water resilience, Ris' priorities include continuing the momentum of the Colorado Water Plan and collaborating with partners across the state to find creative solutions to water challenges.

Ris holds a Bachelors in English and Environmental Science from Willamette University and a Masters in Natural Resource Policy and Conservation Biology from the University of Michigan. She previously worked as a Committee and Policy Staff Fiscal Analyst for the Colorado Legislative Council, a Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Assistant Director for Water in the DNR, and the Deputy Director of the CWCB.



John Ritten

Dr. John Ritten is an agricultural economist at CSU and a member of the AgNext team. He received a BS in Marketing from Arizona State University, an MBA from New Mexico State University, and a PhD in Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University. His research interests include the intersection of agricultural production and natural resource management. Prior to joining AgNext, John served as the University of Wyoming's state Agricultural Systems Extension specialist for 14 years.

Siri Roman

Siri Roman is the General Manager of Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, the largest water provider and wastewater treatment operator in the Upper Colorado Basin.



Siri is a Professional Engineer with a degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder. She started her career as a design engineer, designing and managing water, wastewater and bridge infrastructure projects across the western slope. After several years working in design and project management she moved into operations. First, overseeing wastewater and in-stream water quality programs, and then evolving into overseeing District-wide operations including reservoir operations, distribution and collection systems and water and wastewater treatment systems.

Siri feels fortunate to be leading the talented and dedicated District team who serve the community and protect the Eagle River watershed - especially when creative, thoughtful, collaborative, and data-driven solutions are needed to meet today's water challenges.



Kristine Root

Kristine Root is the Chief Marketing Officer at Regenified, where she advances regenerative agriculture and food systems. With over 20 years' experience in marketing and a deep commitment to the natural and organic sector, she is a passionate advocate for the role of food in driving positive change.

Her strategic work at Regenified has been pivotal in advancing the company's mission, supporting farmers, and enhancing transparency in the food industry. Kristine also serves on several industry boards promoting good food practices and regularly contributes editorial to a variety of publications. As a frequent speaker at events, she champions the importance of regenerative agriculture, encouraging thoughtful discussion and action across the industry.



James Rosenblum

Dr. James Rosenblum is a research assistant professor at Colorado School of Mines, leading their Water Technology Hub. His research focuses on water reuse of municipal and industrial sources using biological to membrane-based processes, and their assessment through chemical characterization to in-vitro bioassays. Dr. Rosenblum's research also involves data science to evaluate the chemical risks and hazards associated with drinking water. He earned his PhD in Environmental Health Science at The Ohio State Universities College of Public Health and has worked as a water reuse consultant (CH2M) to being the founder of an industrial water treatment company that focuses on the reuse produced water inside and outside the oil field.



Robert Sakata

Robert Sakata is just a farmer.



Karen Schlatter

Karen Schlatter is the interim director of the Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University, joining the Center as associate director in January 2023. Schlatter brings academic, nonprofit, and public sector experiences in managing complex water challenges with a deep commitment to building partnerships with diverse stakeholder groups. Before coming to CSU, she facilitated multi-stakeholder/academic teams at the University of Florida Water Institute to achieve shared goals around water management through collaborative, interdisciplinary research. Schlatter also previously led landscape-scale ecological restoration in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico and co-chaired the Binational Science Team under Minutes 319 and 323 for nearly a decade. At the Colorado Water Center, Schlatter is focused on expanding water education, workforce development, community engagement, and transdisciplinary research initiatives to promote sustainable, equitable water management for the benefit of Colorado communities. Schlatter has a BS in biology from McGill University and an MS in environmental studies from the University of Colorado Boulder. She served as an agricultural extension volunteer in the Peace Corps in South America.



Mark Shea

Mark, a Colorado native, has spent his 20-year career working in the fields of Colorado water law, natural resources management, and related policy. As Colorado Springs Utilities' Watershed Planning Supervisor since 2010, Mark has promoted the importance of the relationship between watershed health and the protection of water quality and water supplies. Mark has served as the chairman of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable since 2019 helping lead the 2022 update of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and contributing to the 2023 Colorado Water Plan on behalf of the water community in southeastern Colorado.



Erik Skeie

Erik Skeie works as a Special Projects Coordinator with the Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). He has been working with CWCB since 2013, and has been fortunate enough to work with the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurements Group since its inception.

Zach Thode

Zach Thode has spent most of his life working through problems and developing innovative solutions. From growing up on a low budget ranch to managing multi-million dollar water infrastructure projects, I have had some very interesting opportunities to learn new things to solve the complex problems of today. Zach received a Bachelors and Masters degree from CSU in Agricultural Engineering focused on water resources. This education has helped him understand super complex water rights and water infrastructure problems along with simple livestock water and crop irrigation optimization. With the blessing of a young family of 6 it is very important that we stay grounded, so he went back to ranching and farming in 2013 and now owns and manages 25,000 acres with 700 irrigated acres and 600 cows in Livermore CO. Building a better community is important, so Zach volunteers time for several boards including: Larimer County Ag Advisory Board, Larimer Conservation District, Colorado Ag Water Alliance, Poudre Runs Through it Work Group, and his local 4h Club.



Meghan Trubee

Meg Trubee manages Denver Water's communications and outreach for the utility's largest initiative, the Lead Reduction Program. Prior to joining Denver Water, Meg managed the communications and special projects team at the Water Quality Control Division in the Colorado Department of Health & Environment for five years. She holds over 20 years of resource management and community engagement experience including water resources policy negotiation and management, environmental and community advocacy. Meg was also Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, West Africa (many moons ago). She holds a B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management with a focus on public administration and conflict resolution.

Hollie Velasquez



Serves as the Regional Vice President of State Affairs and Community Relations for Xcel Energy-Colorado. With an impressive 13-year tenure at Xcel Energy, Hollie has held numerous leadership positions, focusing on customer advocacy, operational excellence, partnership building, conflict resolution, economic development, energy policy, and social investments.

In her current role, Hollie oversees a team of directors, managers, analysts, and lobbyists. Her team is responsible for managing relationships with state, city, and county political, business, and community stakeholders to achieve the strategic objectives of Xcel Energy's Colorado operations. This includes coordinating operational efforts with local governments, managing emergency response for wildfires and storm restorations, driving local economic development initiatives, shaping Colorado's wholesale energy market strategy, and advancing public policies related to energy, business, and customers. Additionally, Hollie leads Xcel Energy's philanthropic efforts in Colorado, including foundation grants, employee volunteerism, and corporate sponsorships. Her responsibilities extend to a team that delivers education and outreach for customer programs and products to Colorado's most vulnerable communities and customers.

Hollie is actively engaged in her community, holding various leadership positions on non-profit and economic boards. She is a board member of the Denver Health Authority, Downtown Denver Partnership Inc., Visit Denver, Aurora Economic Development Corporation, and the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado.

A proud native of Colorado, Hollie cherishes and embraces all that her home state has to offer.



Jason Ullmann

Jason Ullmann was appointed as Colorado's 21st State Engineer in March of 2024. As State Engineer, Jason directs the Division of Water Resources in the performance of its responsibilities, which include administration of water rights in Colorado, ensuring that Colorado meets its obligations under interstate compacts, issuing well permits, performing administrative approvals for water use, administering programs that ensure the safety of dams and the safe construction of water wells, and providing information and education resources to the public. Increasing demand, including protecting water in streams for environmental and recreational uses, paired with decreasing supply, has added to the complexity and challenges that DWR faces in fulfilling this role. Jason is excited to lead DWR's over 270 dedicated staff around Colorado in tackling these challenges. Jason has worked for the Division of Water Resources since 2010, first as the Assistant Division Engineer in Division 4 (Gunnison and San Miguel Basins) for eleven years followed by three years as a Deputy State Engineer. Prior to coming to the Division of Water Resources, Jason served as City Engineer for the City of Montrose, and before that, worked for consulting firms designing raw water infrastructure for many ditch and reservoir companies throughout Colorado. Jason is a native of Colorado and a graduate of Colorado State University. Jason recently relocated to the Front Range from Montrose, where he spent the previous 17 years raising three kids with his wife Jessica.



Esther Vincent

Esther Vincent holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the Grenoble Institute of Technology in France and is a registered professional engineer in Colorado. She is also an alumna of the WeCo Water Leaders program. Esther has been with Northern Water since 1999, gaining experience in water quality, watershed management, water supply planning, environmental permitting and regulations, source water protection, forest health and water conservation.

In recent years, she has been leading Northern Water's watershed restoration efforts in the wake of the 2020 East Troublesome Fire. Additionally, she oversees the organization's water quality, water efficiency, and flow monitoring programs, along with environmental planning, compliance, and environmental data management systems. Esther's work supports Northern Water's ongoing commitment to managing water and protecting water resources.



Dick Wadhams

Dick Wadhams is a Republican political consultant who served as Colorado Republican state chairman from 2007 to 2011. He is also a columnist for the Denver Gazette and Colorado Springs Gazette and he is a political analyst for KCNC-TV/CBS Colorado.

He worked for U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong for nine years before managing campaigns for U.S. Senator Hank Brown in 1990 and for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard in 1996 and 2002.

Wadhams was campaign manager for Governor Bill Owens in 1998 when Owens became the first Republican governor to be elected in 28 years and Owens remains the only Republican governor in the past 54 years.

He was campaign manager for U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota in 2004 when Thune unseated Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle which was the first time a Senate leader had been defeated for reelection in 52 years.

He worked for U.S. Senator Conrad Burns of Montana in 1994 when Burns became the first Republican senator to be reelected in Montana history.

Wadhams is a native of Las Animas in southeastern Colorado and a graduate of Colorado State University-Pueblo.



Carole Walker

Carole Walker has served as Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Insurance Association (RMIA) since 1998. RMIA is a non-profit state trade organization that represents auto, home and business insurance companies in the Rocky Mountain Region.

The RMIA office, headquartered in Denver, is an insurance industry resource for consumer information on insurance, loss prevention and safety issues. Walker serves as an industry spokesperson and advocate in the four-state region of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Walker has been at the forefront of insurance industry catastrophe and wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for more than two decades—acting as a liaison and building alliances between government agencies, fire and emergency management officials, regulators and private sector partners on public policy, mitigation, community programs, education, and risk reduction.

RMIA leads an extensive grassroots legislative network and spearheads key industry legislative and educational initiatives. Walker serves on a variety of boards and stakeholder groups, including the Colorado FAIR Plan, Colorado Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee, Colorado Fire Commission, Colorado State Recovery Task Force, Colorado Forest Health Council, Colorado Division of Insurance Producer Advisory Council, Boulder County's Wildfire Partners, Colorado Society of Association Executives, Colorado Young Drivers Alliance, and the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership. Walker also served for ten years on the Colorado Automobile Prevention Authority.



Page Weil

Page Weil is a water resources modeler with LRE Water. He works with local, state and federal entities to develop models that integrate complex information from streamflow forecasts, to demands, water rights, reservoir operations, environmental flows, transmountain diversions, and the impacts of a changing climate. Over the last 5 years he has helped the Colorado Airborne Snow Monitoring (CASM) program expand to provide high resolution snowpack measurements to nearly 50% of the mountain headwaters of Colorado. When he isn't at his desk, you can find Page in the mountains with his two boys or responding to Mountain Rescue calls in Boulder County.



Pat Wells

Pat Wells has over 25 years of experience working in the environmental, water resources, and engineering disciplines. He joined Northern Water in 2023 as a Water Strategy Specialist where he currently oversees or advises on a wide range of projects and initiatives involving the Colorado River, preservation of base water supplies, water & natural resource management, and regional water collaboration. Prior to joining Northern Water, Pat served as the General Manager of Water Resources & Demand Management for Colorado Springs Utilities, the second largest municipal water utility in Colorado. He holds a bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and currently serves as a Governor's Appointee to the Interbasin Compact Committee.



Kaylea White

Kaylea M. White, M.S., J.D.; CWCB Stream and Lake Protection Section; Legal Protection and Water Rights Acquisition Specialist. Kaylea has been working in this role for 16 years. She previously worked as a water rights attorney in Colorado, as a second career after graduating from Vermont Law School. For the 15 years prior to venturing into law, she worked both for the California Department of Water Resources, and as a consulting hydrologist/hydrogeologist in water supply planning in California. Kaylea feels quite fortunate to combine her science and law background to help preserve and improve the natural environment in the natural lakes and streams throughout Colorado.



Erin Wilson

Erin has 25 years of experience in basin-wide water resources planning and modeling, and is the principal owner of Wilson Water Group. She has a strong background in water resource planning, consumptive use modeling, and surface water allocation modeling. Erin's expertise in basin-wide consumptive use and surface water modeling is widely recognized, and she frequently provides training to state and federal staff, non-profit organizations, and other water resource consultants. Erin is a Colorado native with degrees in Geophysical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and Civil Engineering from Colorado State University. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado.



Taylor Winchell

Taylor Winchell manages the climate change adaptation program at Denver Water, where he focuses on translating climate change threats to on-the-ground adaptation efforts. Taylor's work incorporates many areas of water resource planning, including climate and drought planning, water supply analysis, and long-range integrated resource planning. He received his MS in water resource engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his BS in environmental engineering science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Scott Winter

Scott is an experienced professional with over 20 years of expertise in water demand management, resource planning, and water loss control. With a strong foundation in data-driven decision-making, he excels at leveraging advanced analysis and modeling to generate actionable insights. Drawing on his early career working in botanical gardens, Scott brings a unique perspective to water resource management, integrating his knowledge of horticulture with analytical expertise. His dedication to advancing sustainable water practices and delivering impactful, long-lasting solutions has established him as a trusted leader in the field.



Alexis Woodrow

Alexis Woodrow currently serves as Denver Water's Lead Reduction Program Manager and has worked for Denver Water since 2007 in multiple roles, including water resource planner, process improvement facilitator, and community relations.

Alexis is a registered Project Management Professional (PMP, 2015) and received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of Colorado Boulder, a Master of Engineering in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver.



Rachel Zancanella

Rachel Zancanella is the Division Engineer for the Arkansas River Basin, (Division 2) with the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Rachel is originally from Glenwood Springs, CO where she lived before completing her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 2008 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. After graduation she spent a couple years in water resources consulting with URS Corporation before she began her career with DWR in 2011 as a Deputy Water Commissioner in Colorado Springs. After passing the PE, Ms. Zancanella joined the Pueblo Division 2 office in 2014 as a Water Resources Engineer leading the Groundwater Team. She later became the Assistant Division Engineer for Litigation in 2016 and then the Deputy Division Engineer for Engineering Operations in 2018. In December 2022, Ms. Zancanella was appointed to her current position of Division Engineer. She currently lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her husband and four young children.

Workshops

Wednesday, January 29
8:30 to 11:45 am

Around Colorado with the State Engineer & Division Engineers

Aurora Ballroom

8:30 – 11:00 am

Moderator: Jason Ullmann, State Engineer

Speakers:

Tracy Kosloff - Deputy Director

Sarah Brucker - Deputy State Engineer

John Hunyadi - Assistant State Engineer for Safety and Systems

Division 1 Engineer - Corey DeAngelis

Division 2 Engineer - Rachel Zancanella

Division 3 Engineer - Craig Cotten

Division 4 Engineer - Bob Hurford

Division 5 Engineer - James Heath

Division 6 Engineer - Erin Light

Division 7 Engineer - Rob Genualdi

USGS and Bureau of Reclamation: Opportunities and Partnerships Boosted by Infrastructure Funding

Conference Room I

9:00 – 11:30 am

Moderators:

Brent Esplin, Bureau of Reclamation

Jeffery Rieker, Bureau of Reclamation

Meghan Bell, United States Geological Survey

CWCB Instream Flow Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting

Conference Room V

9:00 – 11:30 am

Speakers: Kaylea White, Colorado Water Conservation Board Stream and Lake Protection Section & Jennifer Mele, First Assistant Attorney General

Introduce yourself to the many students and the CWC 2025 Career Accelerator recipients! You can locate them by looking for name badges with light blue background.

Building a Vibrant Future: The Essential Nexus of Water Conservation and Resource Planning

Conference Room II

9:00 – 11:30 am

Moderators: Jenna Battson, Colorado Water Conservation Board & Julia Gallucci, Colorado Springs Utilities

Speakers:

Jen Dial, City of Fort Collins

Pat Wells, Northern Water

Meryl Corbin, Growing Water Smart

Scott Winter, Colorado Springs Utilities

Kevin Reidy, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Melissa W. McCoy, NEPA Branch, U.S. EPA, Region 8

The Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Program (CASM) - Program development, implementation, and capacity building

Conference Room VII

9:00 – 11:30 am

Moderator: Jeff Deems, Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.

Speakers:

Erik Skeie, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Dave Gochis, Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.

Page Weil, Leonard Rice Engineers

Taylor Winchell, Denver Water

Nathan Coombs, Conejos Water Conservancy District

Ken Curtis, Dolores River Water Conservancy District

Emily Carbone, Northern Water

Raquel Flinker, Colorado River District

Scott Griebing, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy

Kate Burchenal, Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.

Thank our volunteers!

You can locate them by looking for name badges with light yellow background.

Annual Convention - Wednesday, January 29

All sessions in Aurora Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

12:00 pm Opening General Session

Lunch

Aurora Ballroom and Conference Rooms III and IV

Sponsored by: Ute Water Conservancy District

12:45 pm CWC Town Hall – Live Polling

Welcome

Christine Arbogast, CWC Board President and Kogovsek & Associates

City of Aurora Welcome

Marshall Brown, City of Aurora - Aurora Water

1:15 pm Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: A Historical Boost for Western Water

Mat Marcieri, Bureau of Reclamation

1:45 pm Reflecting on Progress: 20 Years since the Passage of the Water for the 21st Century Act & 10 Years of the Colorado Water Plan

Moderator: Russ George

Speakers: Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado River Commissioner & Eric Hecox, Shea Properties

2:15 pm 2025 Aspinall Award Presentation Conversation with Senator Hank Brown

3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority Board Meeting
Conference Room VI

3:15 pm General Session 2

What's Next for the Basin Roundtables?

Moderator: Lauren Ris, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Speakers:

Sean Chambers, City of Greeley and South Platte Basin Roundtable Chair

Amber Pacheco, Rio Grande Water Conservation District and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair

Lisa Darling, South Metro Water Supply Authority and Metro Basin Roundtable Chair
Wendell Koontz, Delta County and Gunnison Basin Roundtable Chair

Mark Shea, Colorado Springs Utilities and Arkansas Basin Roundtable Chair

Ken Brenner

4:15 pm Regional Forester - Challenges for Sustainable Watershed Health

Troy Heithecker, Rocky Mountain Region 2

5:00 pm POND Reception

Casino Night

Grab a beverage and light snack and join POND for their annual event. POND is bringing back the popular casino night! Many of the Water Congress Board members will serve as dealers.

Sponsored by: Molson Coors Beverage Company

SCAN ME!



CLE
FORM

Use your camera to access.

Annual Convention - Thursday, January 30

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 am Registration, Networking & Breakfast

Co-Sponsored by: Aurora Water & Brown and Caldwell

Breakfast will be available from 6:30-8:30am near registration. Seating is available in Conference Rm III, Conference Rm IV, and the Café Lounge.

7:25 am General Session 3

Morning Welcome

Chané Polo, Colorado Water Congress

Introduction of Career Accelerator Award Winners and CSU Water Fellows

Emily Hunt, CWC EDI Committee Chair and City of Thornton

2025 Legislative Priorities: Dialogue with Colorado Legislators

Moderators: John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and CWC State Affairs Chair & Ben Moline, Molson Coors Beverage Company and CWC State Affairs Vice Chair

Legislators:

Senator Dylan Roberts, Chair of Senate Ag Committee

Senator Byron Pelton

Rep. Karen McCormick (tentative)

Rep. Dusty Johnson

Rep. Tisha Mauro, Vice Chair of House Ag

8:15 am Exploring the Water / Energy Nexus

Moderator: Jackie Brown, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association

Speakers:

Susan Hunter, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

Jerry Gibbens, P.E., Northern Water

Dr. James Rosenblum, Colorado School of Mines

9:15 am Break

9:30 am General Session 4

The 119th Congress and Trump 2.0

Moderator: Dick Wadhams, Political Consultant

Speakers: Former Representatives Ed Perlmutter and Ken Buck

10:15 am The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Lauren Connell, Partners for Fish and Wildlife

10:45 am Paul Formisano, Adams State University

11:00 am Break for Concurrent Sessions – Block A

11:15 am Concurrent Session A1

Aurora Ballroom

Navigating Water Supply Challenges with Scenario Planning

Speakers:

Sarah Dominick, Hazen and Sawyer

Greg Gates, Hazen and Sawyer

Concurrent Session A2

Conference Room II

Maximizing the Ecosystem Benefits of Landscape Transformation

Jenna Battson, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Concurrent Session A3

Conference Room VIII

How to Talk with an Irrigator

Speakers:

Paul Kehmeier, Keh-Land Farm, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Robert Sakata, Sakata Farms, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Elena Miller-ter Kuile, Cactus Hill Farm, Colorado Agricultural Commission

Riley May, May Ranch, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Annual Convention - Thursday, January 30

Concurrent Session A4

Conference Room VII

Water Education and Workforce Development in Colorado

Karen Schlatter, Colorado Water Center

12:00 pm Lunch

Sponsored by: Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority

12:45 pm Congressman Gabe Evans, 8th Congressional District

1:00 pm General Session 5

Colorado River State of Mind: What Now?

Speakers:

Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado River Commissioner

Anne Castle, U.S. Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission

Jason Ullmann, Colorado State Engineer

1:45 pm Upper Colorado Conserved Consumptive Use Project

Moderator: Hannah Holm, American Rivers

Speakers:

Perry Cabot, Ph.D., Colorado State University

John Ritten, Ph. D., Colorado State University

Kelsea MacIlroy, Ph.D., The Langdon Group

Aaron Derwingson, The Nature Conservancy

2:30 pm Break

3:00 pm General Session 6

Accelerating Projects and Capacity through Federal Funding

Moderator: Amy Moyer, Colorado River District

Speakers:

Michael Regan, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Alex Funk, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP)

Kayli Foulk, Grand County

Grace Brofman, Farmers Conservation Alliance

3:45 pm Equity in Denver Water's Lead Reduction Program: From funding to community partnerships while addressing new regulations

Moderator: Meg Trubee, Denver Water

Speakers:

Angela Bricmont, Denver Water

Stacey Chesney, Denver Water

Alexis Woodrow, Denver Water

4:15 pm General Session 7

Is Colorado on the Same Wildfire Trajectory as California?

Moderators: Esther Vincent, Northern Water and Tricia Waddell, Institute for Science & Policy, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Institute for Science and Policy

Speakers:

Carole Walker, Rocky Mountain Insurance Association

Connor Hall, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry (OREC) (tentative)

Hollie Velasquez, Xcel Energy

5:00 pm Adjourn for the day

Are you receiving our Member Updates via email? Do you want to ensure your information in our database is up-to-date? Do you know how to log into our member info hub? Reach out to our Member Services Manager, AnnaLee Taylor (ataylor@cowatercongress.org) and she can be sure you are entered into our email database, you receive your create your login credentials link, and send you information on how to access our member info hub!

Annual Convention - Friday, January 31

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

6:45 am Networking & Breakfast

Sponsored by: United Water and Sanitation District

7:30 am General Session 8

Acknowledging Existing Beneficial Farming Practices and Shaping the Future of Regenerative Agriculture

Moderator: Adam Kremers, Brown and Caldwell

Speakers:

Kristine Root, Regenified

Zach Thode, farmer in Livermore, CO

John Miller, Colorado Department of Agriculture

8:30 am The Role of the Federal Government in Groundwater: PCAST and TX v. NM, a Contrast and Comparison of Approaches

Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Barncastle Law Firm

9:00 am Shoshone Water Rights – Motivation and Benefits

Moderator: Dave Payne, Ute Water Conservancy District

Speakers:

Andy Mueller, Colorado River District

Siri Roman, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District

Matt Rice, American Rivers

Bobbie Daniel, Mesa County

9:45 am Colorado River Connectivity Channel

Moderator: Jeff Drager, Northern Water

Speakers: Kevin Lock, Northern Water
Ed Moyer, Grand County

10:15 Break

10:45 am General Session 9

Cybersecurity in the Water Sector: How Big is the Threat?

Moderator: Lauren Hix, Hix Risk Consultants, LLC.

Speakers:

Traci Dowd, Hi-Tech Crimes Unit – Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Brandon Glant, Coalition Insurance Solutions, Inc.

Sarah Casale, Bureau of Reclamation

11:15 am Congressman Jeff Hurd, 3rd Congressional District

11:30 am General Session 10

Delegation Staff (All 10 Delegation offices invited)

Moderator: Andy Colosimo, Colorado Springs Utilities

Kathleen Foley, Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen (CO-07)

Patrick Donovan, Senator Bennet

Jake Nemmers, Senator Hickenlooper

Eliseo Gonzalez, Congressman Gabe Evans (CO-08)

Drew Sexton, Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-04)

Greg Mills, Congressman Gabe Evans (CO-08)

12:30 pm Closing Remarks

Christine Arbogast, CWC Board President and Kogovsek & Associates

Chané Polo, Colorado Water Congress

Do you know that you are a member of the National Water Resources Association if you are a member of the Colorado Water Congress? You can find more information in our member update emails and our member info hub!

Our Water Buffalo Sponsors



Our Sponsors

- AECOM
- Alyson Scott Law, LLC
- Aurora Water
- BBA Water Consultants, Inc.
- Black & Veatch Corporation
- Brown and Caldwell
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
- City of Thornton
- Colorado Special Districts Pool
- Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority
- Ducks Unlimited
- FCS, a Bowman company
- Freese and Nichols, Inc.
- Hamre, Rodriguez, Ostrander & Prescott, P.C.
- Harvey Economics
- Hazen and Sawyer
- HDR, Inc.
- Hix Risk
- JHL Constructors
- Kogovsek and Associates, Inc.
- LRE Water
- Martin and Wood Water Consultants, Inc.
- Meridian Metropolitan District
- Molson Coors Beverage Company
- Northern Water
- Platte Valley Water Partnership
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District
- RJH Consultants, Inc.
- San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
- South Metro Water Supply Authority
- Southwestern Water Conservation District
- Special District Association of Colorado
- Tetra Tech, Inc.
- Tri-County Water Conservancy District
- United Water and Sanitation District
- Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
- Ute Water Conservancy District
- W.W. Wheeler and Associates, Inc.
- Walton Family Foundation
- Wilson Water Group
- Wright Water Engineers, Inc.

2025 Summer Conference



Our Exhibitors

- AssetGuard
- Brown and Caldwell
- Colorado Retirement Association
- Colorado Special Districts Pool
- Colorado Water Center
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority
- Convergent
- Emrgy, Inc.
- ERO Resources Corporation
- FCS, a Bowman company
- GEI Consultants
- HDR, Inc.
- Hix Risk
- Intera, Inc.
- JHL Constructors
- LRE Water
- Ninyo & Moore
- Northern Water
- Obermeyer Hydro Inc.
- Olsson
- Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
- Schnabel Engineering
- SGM
- SGS
- Special District Association of Colorado
- Stantec
- Stewardship West
- United Water and Sanitation District
- W.W. Wheeler and Associates, Inc.
- Windy Gap Environmental Fund

2025 Career Accelerator Recipients



Alessandra Desiderio



Shannon Francis



Nikki Hernandez



Rachael Stein

