



# QUALITY COLLABORATIONS

*Coming together to  
ensure clean water for  
a healthy, working river*

Each year, the Poudre River Forum brings together those who farm, deliver clean potable water, drink beer, recreate, and advocate for river health to learn from one another and to explore how we can move from conflict to collaboration.

## February 28, 2020

8:00am-4:30pm

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center

4705 Clydesdale Parkway

Loveland, CO



[www.PoudreForum.com](http://www.PoudreForum.com) | [#PoudreRiverForum](https://twitter.com/PoudreRiverForum) | [PoudreRiverForum@gmail.com](mailto:PoudreRiverForum@gmail.com)

## GOALS FOR THE 2020 POUDRE RIVER FORUM

**LEARN:** Gain an understanding of water quality challenges

**RELATE:** Appreciate a differing perspective on water quality and understand that we can find solutions together

**CONNECT:** Create new partnerships, cultivate existing collaborations, and meet new friends

**ACT:** Plan your impact to help keep our watershed healthy and clean for all

## WHAT IS A HEALTHY WORKING RIVER?

The PRTI Study/Action Work Group's definition of a healthy, working river is one that supplies the goods and services demanded by our complex society, within the existing and evolving water rights system and honoring existing property rights, while maintaining and improving ecological integrity and resilience.



*A special thank you to our generous sponsors, presenters, display hosts, Emcee Sean Cronin, City of Fort Collins TV and photography, and to all who volunteered their time to make this event possible!*



8:00 – 9:00 **REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, COFFEE, CONVERSATION,  
& VIEW DISPLAYS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
*East Foyer*

### WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S PROGRAM

*Pinyon Pine and River Birch A-C*

9:00 – 9:25 **Welcome & Framing the Day**  
*Reagan Waskom, Director, Colorado Water Center*

**Who's Here Today?**  
*Emcee, Sean Cronin, Executive Director, St. Vrain  
and Left Hand Water Conservancy District*

### KEEPING IT CLEAN FROM HEADWATERS TO CONFLUENCE

*Pinyon Pine and River Birch A-C*

9:25 – 9:40 **A Historical Perspective of Water Quality in the  
Poudre River Basin**  
*Karen Scopel, Environmental Planner, City of Greeley Natural  
Areas & Trails Division; Board Member, Poudre Heritage Alliance*

9:40 – 10:05 **Water Quality 101: A Basin-Wide Perspective**  
*Pat Pfaltzgraff, Director of the Water Quality Control Division,  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

10:05 – 10:30 **Implementation of Basinwide Water Quality Solutions**  
*Mazdak Arabi, Professor, Department of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University*

10:30 – 10:50 **BREAK & VIEW DISPLAYS**  
*East Foyer*

### ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY

*Pinyon Pine and River Birch A-C*

10:50 – 11:15 **Physical Drivers of River Health:  
Water, Sediment, and Large Wood**  
*Ellen Wohl, Professor, Department of Geosciences  
at Colorado State University*

11:15 – 11:40 **Post Fire Impacts to Water Quality**  
*Chuck Rhoades, Research Biogeochemist,  
Rocky Mountain Research Station, USFS*

## LUNCH, ANNUAL POUFRE BASIN ECONOMIC UPDATE, & POUFRE PIONEER AWARD

High Meadows Ballroom

11:40 – 12:50 **LUNCH**

### Annual Economic Update: State of the Poudre's Water Market

Brett Bovee, Intermountain Regional Director, WestWater Research

### 2020 Poudre Pioneer Award

Presented by Carol Cochran, Owner, Horse and Dragon Brewing Company; Poudre Runs Through It

## QUALITY COLLABORATIONS FOR A HEALTHY, WORKING RIVER

Pinyon Pine and River Birch A-C

1:00 – 1:30 **Collaborative Opportunities in the Poudre Basin: Northern Integrated Supply Project Adaptive Management Process**

Pete Conovitz, Water Resources Specialist, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Poudre Runs Through It

Esther Vincent, Director of Environmental Services, Northern Water

1:30 – 2:50 **Partnering on Water Quality Across Our Watershed**

Moderated by Sean Chambers, Director, City of Greeley Water & Sewer Department

Mike Hungenberg, Owner, Hungenberg Produce

Jon Slutsky, Partner and General Manager, LaLuna Dairy

Dana Winkelman, Unit Leader, Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Jill Oropeza, Director of Sciences, City of Fort Collins Utilities Water Quality Services Division

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pinyon Pine and River Birch A-C

2:50 – 3:30 **Achieving More Together: Fostering Collaborations for Healthy, Working River**

Josh Goldstein, Director of the Bridge Collaborative, The Nature Conservancy

3:30 – 4:30 **CLOSING, RECEPTION, & DISPLAYS**

High Meadows Ballroom and East Foyer

Special thanks to our reception sponsor, Odell Brewing Company!

The Forum is brought to you by the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group (PRTI) and the Poudre River Forum Committee. PRTI brings together those who are most concerned about the Poudre as a working river – delivering urban and agricultural economic benefits – and those concerned about the river's health. Building relationships and finding common ground for action has led to this annual event.

## 2020 POUFRE RIVER FORUM COMMITTEE

Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins Parks Department

Eric Brown, Northern Water

Emma Enebo, Colorado Water Center

Les Gelvin, Agri Enterprises

Angelique Giraud, Colorado Water Center

Aaron Goldman, City of Greeley

Julie Kallenberger, Colorado Water Center

Patrick McMeekin, Harford Homes and Poudre Runs Through It

Corey Odell, Odell Brewing Company

Karen Scopel, City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails Division and Poudre Heritage Alliance

Deborah Shulman, Community Stakeholder and Poudre Heritage Alliance

Gus Sidwell, Weld County Farmer

John Stokes, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Poudre Runs Through It

## THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S POUDRE RIVER FORUM DISPLAYERS



## ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**Reagan Waskom** serves as the Director of the Colorado Water Center and is a member of the Soil & Crop Sciences Department at CSU where he has worked on water-related research and outreach projects for the past 33 years. Reagan has conducted educational and applied research programs on water quality and quantity, water policy, and natural resource issues related to water use. Reagan teaches the Center's graduate seminar and oversees the CSU Extension Water Outreach Program. His current research interests include the integrated use of surface and groundwater, the impacts of shale gas development on water resources, climate smart agriculture, irrigation innovation, and agricultural water conservation.

**Sean Cronin** is the Executive Director for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District. He has over 20 years of experience in water resource planning and policy. Sean is a leader in the Colorado water community having won awards from both Water Education Colorado and Colorado Water Congress. He serves on both the Loveland Utilities Commission and the Interbasin Compact Committee as a representative from the South Platte Basin. When Sean isn't spending time with his wife and two children, you can find him on a river mastering the art of making a trout rise.

**Karen Scopel** is an Environmental Planner with Greeley's Natural Areas & Trails Division and serves on the Board of Directors for the Poudre Heritage Alliance. Karen has devoted her 43-year career to preserving quality of life in Northern Colorado through stewardship of the region's amazing natural resources. The granddaughter of Weld County homesteaders, she is passionate about engaging everyone to address the health of our lands, waters, and wildlife to benefit current and future generations. Karen believes this will be accomplished through learning from history, leading by example, and leveraging opportunities.

**Patrick Pfaltzgraff** serves as the Director of the state's Water Quality Control Division where he oversees all water quality activities and compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. While serving in the Attorney General's Office, Patrick provided legal advice on environmental law and policy issues, supported Water Quality Control Commission rule-making actions, and assisted with environmental statutory and regulatory changes. He strives to build consensus with regulated entities and public interest groups as documented by his settlement of several complex environmental issues involving multiple parties.

**Mazdak Arabi** is a Professor in CSU's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering where he develops scientific approaches, hydrologic assessments, watershed models, and tools that enable integrated water resource management in a changing world. Mazdak serves as the Director of the One Water Solutions Institute which coordinates synergistic activities of the Urban Water Innovation Network, the CLEAN Nutrient Center, and the Water and Climate Sustainability Center. He is the lead developer of the open-source software, environmental Resource Assessment and Management System (eRAMS) enabling development of scalable and accessible tools for sustainable management of land, water, and energy resources.

## THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S POUDRE RIVER FORUM DISPLAYERS

**Ellen Wohl** is a Professor in the Geosciences Department at CSU. Ellen grew up outside of Cleveland, Ohio near the Cuyahoga River, which caught fire three times during the mid-20th century, prompting awareness of human alterations of rivers. Her university studies in Arizona, where once-perennial rivers that hosted beavers are now dry most of the time, further increased her awareness of environmental change. Since coming to Colorado in 1989, Ellen enjoys exploring mountain streams and has directed her research toward restoring and protecting streams as ecosystems.

**Chuck Rhoades** is a research biogeochemist for the U.S. Forest Service. He grew up on the Front Range working in Colorado forests while attending CSU in the early 1980s. He serves on Colorado's Forest Health Advisory Council and contributes as a watershed researcher with the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station since 2003. Chuck's research evaluates how land management and ecosystem disturbances such as wildfires and insect outbreaks influence nutrient retention and release and impact soil and water quality.

**Brett Bovee** is the Intermountain Regional Director for WestWater Research. In this role, Brett is lucky enough to work on questions like "how much are my water rights worth?" and "should I buy this water right?" Believe it or not, the answers can be "not much" and "no". He focused on the economics of water after spending a decade assisting Native American tribes with water rights claims and water management challenges. Brett just completed ten years of service on the Ft. Collins Water Board. Growing up he moved around everywhere, from Hawaii to New Jersey, which provided him with a good perspective on why Northern Colorado is so special.

**Pete Cononitz** is the Water Resources Specialist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Northeast Region where he is responsible for the management and administration of water rights and water resources on state wildlife areas and fish hatcheries throughout the South Platte Basin. This includes new water appropriations, water accounting and administration, habitat development, and providing technical assistance to field staff on all things water. Pete has called the Poudre River Basin home for the past 25 years.

**Esther Vincent** serves as the Director of Environmental Services with Northern Water, where she has spent her entire career. She spent much of the last 15 years working on water quality issues in the Upper Colorado River and in the South Platte tributaries. She "fell" into the adaptive management process through her involvement with Learning By Doing and Grand Lake Clarity Adaptive Management. Esther is inspired by the opportunities that are shaping up to make a difference for the Cache la Poudre River via the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Adaptive Management Program and other emerging collaborative efforts.





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[lib.colostate.edu/water](http://lib.colostate.edu/water)



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## ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS, Cont.

**Sean Chambers** serves as the City of Greeley's Water and Sewer Department Director and leads a dynamic team of water and wastewater planning, engineering, and operations professionals. Sean joined the City in 2018 and brings a vision for increased collaboration and regional resiliency through planning and demand management. His expertise focuses on water-resource development, applied natural resource economics, infrastructure project financing, and water resource and contract litigation.

**Mike Hungenberg** owns Hungenberg Produce with his brother Paul. Hungenberg Produce farms 5,000 acres in the Greeley area, harvesting 1,500 acres of conventional and organic carrots. Clean water is critical to the production and processing of their carrot crop and Mike works hard to supply their farm with the highest quality water possible. He serves as President of The New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Company and The Cache la Poudre Reservoir Company. Mike also serves as Vice President of the Cache la Poudre Water Users Association.

**Jon Slutsky** is a partner and General Manager of La Luna Dairy near Wellington Colorado. John was a member of both the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission and the Water Quality Control Commission from 2007 to 2018. His membership in these commissions and other boards allows him to advocate for responsible production practices benefiting our air and waterways and support best management practices already applied by Colorado agricultural producers.

**Dana Winkelman** is the Unit Leader of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at CSU. Dana's career has focused on fish population ecology. He grew up in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin of Nevada, where he developed his love for nature. Recently, Dana and his students examined the effects of wastewater effluent on fish populations in the South Platte River Basin.

**Jill Oropeza** is the Director of Sciences for the Ft. Collins Utilities Water Quality Services Division. Over the past 13 years, no fire, drought or flood has deterred her from pursuing solutions to some of the Utilities' most difficult water quality issues. In her role today, Jill manages the City's certified drinking water and wastewater laboratories and oversees the Utilities Source Watershed Program. She delights in the dual opportunities to engage with partners in monitoring and protecting the Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds and to help ensure the protection of public health and the environment through regulatory compliance.

**Josh Goldstein** serves on the Global Science Team at The Nature Conservancy and is the Director of the Bridge Collaborative, a partnership driving a fundamental shift in how we think, plan, fund, and work across the environment, human health, and development communities. In his role, Josh engages practitioners, researchers, and leaders to achieve lasting collaborative evidence-based outcomes for people and the world we share. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Josh was an assistant professor of ecological economics in the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at CSU.

## 2020 POUDRE PIONEER AWARD

Each fall, the PRTI and the Poudre River Forum Committee seek nominations for their annual Poudre Pioneer Award. This year, three individuals were selected for their substantial contributions to the goal of making the Cache la Poudre River the world's best example of a healthy, working river.

**Congratulations to this year's awardees for their  
pioneering work on the Poudre River Whitewater Park!**

**Jeff Burley, Ben Loeffler, and Tim O'Hara**



Photo credit Grant Smith

As private citizens, Jeff, Ben, and Tim dedicated seven years of their own time as volunteers to help plan, advocate for, fund, and bring about the private/public partnership now known as the Poudre River Whitewater Park. They also advocated for the inclusion of the Whitewater Park in the Poudre River Downtown Master Plan and the City's Capital Improvement Program, along with contributing tireless fundraising efforts. The Park itself not only provides recreational value but also includes flood plain reestablishment and improved fish migration.

Together with City of Fort Collins' staff, City Council, numerous stakeholders, business owners, consultants, and members of the public, this project exemplifies how we can all work together for many benefits for the river.

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### Previous Poudre Pioneer Award Recipients

2019: Loren Maxey

Tom Shoemaker

2018: Colorado Senator Peggy Reeves

U.S. Senator Hank Brown

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[poudreheritage.org](http://poudreheritage.org)



opening doors to the past  
[poudrelandmarks.org](http://poudrelandmarks.org)

*Thank you to all our nominees and those who submitted nominations.  
The PRTI and Poudre Forum Committee will solicit nominations for the 2021  
award this coming fall. Please consider nominating those you know who are  
making contributions to the work-health balance we seek for the Poudre River.*



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[rockymtnflycasters.org](http://rockymtnflycasters.org)



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[streamtracker.org](http://streamtracker.org)



[sustainablelivingassociation.org](http://sustainablelivingassociation.org)

## WHAT IS THE POUDRE RUNS THROUGH IT STUDY/ACTION WORK GROUP?

PRTI is comprised of about two dozen citizen experts who represent a diversity of interests throughout the Poudre River Watershed -- agricultural, urban, environmental -- selected to study the Poudre and formulate cooperative actions based on what they learn. PRTI was formed in 2012 to build relationships and to put in action the initiatives they have identified, "to make the Poudre River the world's best example of a healthy, working river." Learn more at [watercenter.colostate.edu/prti](http://watercenter.colostate.edu/prti) and find us on Facebook @PRTIworkgroup

PRTI Participants are chosen for their expertise related to the Poudre River, including those from the agricultural, environmental, municipal, industrial, recreational, business, development, and other sectors. PRTI intentionally seeks to include individuals associated with a wide diversity of organizations with interests in the Poudre. Those chosen must embrace the value of collaboration.

### Conveners / Facilitators

Reagan Waskom,  
Colorado Water Center

Julie Kallenberger,  
Colorado Water Center

### Previous PRTI Participants

Diana Aungst	Dennis Harmon	Rich Shannon
John Bartholow	Scott Hummer	MaryLou Smith
Brian Bledsoe	Wynne Odell	Steve Smith
Jeffery Boring	Eric Reckentine	Bob Streeter
Tim Brown	Jim Reidhead	George Varra
John Bustos, Jr.	Doug Robotham	Robert Ward
Sean Cronin	John Sanderson	
April Getchius	Bill Sears	



Photo credit Stephen Smith



## PRTI Participants

**Dan Brown**, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett & Gunn, P.C.\*

**Ray Caraway**, Community Foundation of Northern Colorado

**Carol Cochran**, Horse and Dragon Brewing Company

**Pete Conovitz**, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Meegan Flenniken**, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

**Don Frick**, Water Supply and Storage Company

**Rob Graves**, Morning Fresh Dairy Farm

**Rob Johnson**, A. Bruce Johnson & Associates, Land Resource Specialists

**Ken Kehmeier**, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, *retired* \*

**Greg Kernohan**, Ducks Unlimited

**Heather Knight**, Center for Collaborative Conservation

**Mark Koleber**, City of Thornton

**Jennifer Kovecses**, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

**Steve Malers**, Open Water Foundation

**Chris Matkins**, Fort Collins-Loveland Water District

**Patrick McMeekin**, Hartford Homes

**Brad Modesitt**, Mountain Whitewater

**Jennifer Petrzeka**, City of Greeley Water and Sewer Department \*

**Richard Raines**, Tri-Districts Water Resources

**Matt Robenalt**, Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority

**Troy Seaworth**, Seaworth Ag Enterprises

**Mark Simpson**, Colorado State Engineer's Office

**Susan Smolnik**, City of Fort Collins Utilities

**John Stokes**, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department \*

**Doug Swartz**, City of Fort Collins Utilities, *retired*

**Zach Thode**, Roberts Ranch

**Dale Trowbridge**, New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Co. & Cache La Poudre Reservoir Co.\*

**Wade Willis**, Town of Windsor

**Brad Wind**, Northern Water

*\* PRTI Steering Committee*



Photo credit Elena Elisseeva

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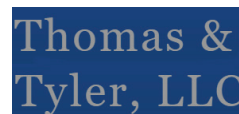
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