



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

September 4, 2019 | Speaker Biographies

BRIAN WERNER | Public Information Officer, Northern Water

Brian is a native Coloradoan and water historian who has spent 37 years actively involved in water resources management in Colorado. He is the Public Information Officer and Head of the Communications Department at Northern Water. Brian has spent much of his career giving presentations and educating the public about the history of water development and natural resource issues in Colorado and the American West.

He currently serves on the board of Water Education Colorado. Brian was born and raised in Colorado Springs and attended the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University earning undergraduate and master's degrees in history. Brian will retire at the end of 2019 when he plans to relax and spend more quality time with his wife Tina, three grown daughters and five grandchildren. In addition, he hopes to explore new golf courses, fish Colorado's amazing rivers, watch neglected tv shows and movies, read more, write more and take pictures of exotic animals while travelling to distant lands.

JIM YAHN | Manger, North Sterling Irrigation District

Jim Yahn is the manager of the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs, a position that he has held for over 27 years. He is responsible for overseeing the diversion and distribution of water to over 350 farmers. Together the reservoirs are a source of irrigation water for approximately 70,000 acres. Jim is a registered professional engineer, receiving his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University. In June of 2016, Jim was appointed by the Governor to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to serve as the South Platte Director. He was reappointed in April of 2018 and is the past Chairman of the Board. Jim has been a member of the South Platte Basin Roundtable since its inception in 2005, served as chair from 2009 – 2012, and currently serves as the roundtable's representative to the Interbasin Compact Committee. He is a native of Colorado growing up on a family ranch and continues to ranch in his spare time with his wife Tracy. Jim is the father of two grown children, Hannah and Austin.

CHRIS TREESE | External Affairs Manager, Colorado River District

Chris Treese is the Manager of External Affairs for the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Chris is responsible for the River District's legislative and regulatory lobbying efforts in Denver and D.C. He is also responsible for the District's water education and information efforts. In short, Chris describes his job responsibilities as everything you don't want lawyers and engineers doing, including speaking to leadership groups in NE Colorado. When not working, he pretends his knees can still rock climb, ski, and bike. Chris has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Economics, which he finds largely irrelevant to his current work.

MARTIN CARCASSON | Director, Center for Public Deliberation, Colorado State University

Martín Carcasson is a Professor in the Communication Studies department of Colorado State University, and the founder and director of the CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD). He also serves as a Senior Public Engagement Fellow with Public Agenda, a nationally recognized public engagement firm based in New York, works closely with Colorado State University Extension, serves on the faculty of the Kettering Foundation's Centers for Public Life program, and is on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation. His research focuses on contemporary public affairs, and the interdisciplinary theory and practice of deliberative democracy and collaborative governance.