



**COLORADO
WATER CENTER**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN COLORADO**

Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

March 11, 2020 | Speaker Biographies

WADE WILLIS | Open Space & Trails Manager, Town of Windsor

Wade Willis is the Open Space and Trails Manager for the Town of Windsor. Wade grew up in Windsor, is a CSU graduate, and has worked for the Town for 19 years. Wade was around 11 years old when he remembers seeing an article in the Greeley Tribune “Poudre Trail to Connect Fort Collins to Greeley.” As an avid bicyclist, he was incredibly excited. Wade is involved in many Poudre River efforts including serving as the Chair of the Poudre Heritage Alliance Board of Directors, a participant in the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group, and the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. Wade met my wife leading a volunteer effort on the Poudre Trail near the Poudre Learning Center.

BEN COSTELLO | Director of Fun, Mountain Whitewater & Paddler's Pub

Ben is from the small mountain town of Gunnison, CO. He has been guiding on the Poudre River for the past 20 years, all with Mountain Whitewater. In 2003, he earned a degree in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism from Colorado State University. Ben is the Director of Fun at Mountain Whitewater and has over 15,000 river miles. In his spare time, Ben likes to play golf, ski, mountain bike, enjoy live music and spend time with his dog, JoJo. He is a Swiftwater Rescue Technician and a Wilderness First Responder. Ben was also named Guide of the Year in 2002.

GREG KERNOHAN | Director of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited

Greg Kernohan was born and raised in Ontario Canada and now lives in Fort Collins with his wife Niki and two daughters, Devyn and Meghan. Greg directs Ducks Unlimited’s environmental market programs for the Great Plains Region including supervision of the world’s only certified grassland carbon offset trading, wetland mitigation, and water augmentation programs. Having spent over 20 years with Ducks Unlimited, Greg has developed a breadth of experience in waterfowl research, wetland ecology, habitat management, conservation strategies, ecosystem market development, and environmental policy. Greg attended Sir Sandford Fleming College in Canada where he earned a degree in Terrain and Water Resources and then completed a Bachelor’s of Science in Environmental Science at Oregon State University. Greg most recently graduated summa cum laude with a Master’s degree in Environmental Law and Policy at Vermont Law School.

KATIE WALLACE | Director of Social and Environmental Impact, New Belgium Brewing Company

Katie Wallace is the Director of Social & Environmental Impact at New Belgium Brewing. In her role, she develops an organizational understanding of environmental and social issues that are impacted by and pose risk to business and brewing. She develops and implements New Belgium’s strategy to address these pressing issues, including climate change, land and water protections, and social equity. Her team

works toward these goals through operational sustainability initiatives, philanthropy, policy, company culture, and brand advocacy. Based out of Colorado, Katie sits on the senior leadership team at New Belgium, co-chairs the Brewers Association Sustainability Committee, and co-founded the Glass Recycling Coalition. Before joining the sustainability team at New Belgium, Katie's experience includes water quality, finance, sales & marketing, and supply chain. She holds degrees in Finance and Economics as well as a Masters in Applied Positive Psychology where she studied approaches to advancing a culture of sustainability in organizations.

ERIK ANGLUND | Rockies Water Team Manager, Occidental Petroleum

Erik Anglund is a native Colorado farm kid and is the Rockies Water Team Manager for Occidental Petroleum. He works on all things water-related for the company's operations in the Rockies 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 serves on the board of the Colorado Water Congress, and has served on the boards of the South Platte Basin Roundtable and 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.

ERIK NIELSON | Senior Corporate Counsel, Leprino Foods Company

Erik Nielsen is Senior Corporate Counsel at Leprino Foods Company, one of the largest dairy-products companies in the world. Erik's work focuses on resolving complex environmental, land-use, real estate, construction, and other related legal issues for Leprino. Prior to relocating to Colorado in 2014, Erik worked as an attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, clerked for a Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court, and spent two years in a boutique-regulatory firm in Vermont. Erik has a B.A. from Rutgers in Urban Planning and Public Policy, and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

BILL RITTER JR. | Former Colorado Governor, Founder and Director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University

Bill Ritter, Jr. is the founder and director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University. The Center works directly with governors, legislators, regulators, planners, policymakers, and other decision-makers. It provides technical assistance to help officials create the policies and practices that will facilitate America's transition to a clean-energy economy.

Gov. Ritter was elected as Colorado's 41st governor in 2006. He worked to build consensus to tackle some of the state's biggest challenges. During his four-year term, Ritter established Colorado as a national and international leader in clean energy, by building a new energy economy. He signed 57 new energy bills into law, including a 30% Renewable Portfolio Standard and a Clean Air Clean Jobs Act that replaced nearly a gigawatt of coal-fired generation with natural gas.

Gov. Ritter is the chair of the Board of Directors of the Energy Foundation and serves on the Regis University Board of Trustees. Gov. Ritter is a member of Blackhorn Venture Capital and serves as an advisor to Green Alpha and Millennium Bridge, among others. Ritter earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado State University (1978) and his law degree from the University of Colorado (1981). With his wife Jeannie, he operated a food distribution and nutrition center in Zambia. He then served as Denver's district attorney from 1993 to January 2005.