



**COLORADO
WATER CENTER**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

November 17, 2021 | Speaker Biographies

SEAN CHAMBERS | Director, Water and Sewer Department, City of Greeley

Sean Chambers is director of water & sewer for the city of Greeley and leads a dynamic team of water and wastewater planning, engineering, and operations professionals. Chambers joined the city in 2018 and brings a vision for increased collaboration, regional resiliency through planning and demand management. Greeley has one of the most robust and resilient surface water-collection systems in the West, with resources from four major river basins and balance between trans-mountain and native Poudre and Big Thompson water resources. Chambers is passionate about leadership, change management, takes great pride in the stewardship of a proud organization with more than 125 years of service.

Chambers is experienced in water-resource development, applied natural resource economics, strategic planning, infrastructure project financing, executive team building, collaborative partnership development, and water resource and contract litigation. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University in agriculture and natural resource economics and is an alumnus of the Water Education Colorado Water Leaders program.

JIM BECKLENBERG | City Manager, City of Evans

Jim Becklenberg has served as the Evans City Manager since February 2017. Originally from northwest Indiana, he holds a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas. Over the past 22 years, he has served four other municipalities, spanning the western United States, including Kansas, Colorado, and California. Prior to his arrival in Evans, he worked as the Assistant City and County Manager in Broomfield. Broomfield and Evans are very different communities from the perspective of water systems, which has given him additional perspective on Colorado water.

Jim is a proud graduate of the 2018-2019 Water Literate Leaders class and very pleased to be back!

When not working, Jim enjoys spending time with his wife and kids, ages 19 and 16, watching sports, and singing with the Greeley Chorale.

TODD HANLIN | Water Resources Manager, City of Loveland

Todd Hanlin has served as Loveland's Water Resources Manager since December 2020. Originally, from Wyoming, he holds a Bachelor and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming. Todd and his family moved south in 2000 fleeing Laramie's harsh winters. Todd's previous experience is

all in the consulting world where he accumulated 35 years specializing in water resources engineering, infrastructure development and tribal water right settlement negotiations.

SHANE HALE | Town Manager, Town of Windsor

Shane is a fourth generation Coloradoan, a Navy veteran, husband, and father of two. He has been working in Colorado local government for 20 years, which includes time as an intern in Poncha Springs, Town Manager for the Town of Grand Lake, City Manager for the City of Cortez, and his current position as Town Manager in Windsor. With a lot of time working on the western slope and a passion for fly fishing, he works to balance the need to preserve water as a natural resource while realizing that water serves as one of the building blocks for economic prosperity.

BOB GOWING | Public Works Director, Town of Wellington

Bob Gowing serves as the Director of Public Works for the Town of Wellington, where he leads the great team of professionals who manage the water and wastewater utilities, town engineering, and public works of all types for the Town. His diverse career includes 12 years in municipal government as an engineering manager and 22 years in the consulting and construction industries, with 15 of those years as a small business owner.

LIESEL HANS | Water Conservation Manager, City of Fort Collins

Liesel Hans is a behavioral economist motivated by water, the environment, and human behavior. She is currently serving the community of Fort Collins, Colorado as the Interim Deputy Director of Water Resources & Treatment for Fort Collins Utilities. Her “normal” job is the Water Conservation Manager and includes implementing their Water Efficiency Plan and other water demand management and planning efforts. She and her incredible team provide services, education, incentives, and passionate enthusiasm to help people do more with less. She previously worked for the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and earned her doctorate in Economics from Colorado State University.

ERIC RECKENTINE | District Manager, North Weld County Water District

Eric Reckentine is the North Weld County Water District General Manager and serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority. Prior to his current position, he was the Deputy Director of Water Resources for the City of Greeley, a Resource and General Manager for an international mining company, and an environmental geologist for a national geotechnical and environmental consulting firm. He has served on the board of directors for several municipal ditches and local non-profit groups and is an Army Veteran. He has a B.S. in Geology from the State University of New York and a Master’s of Business Administration from Colorado State University. Eric moved to Colorado from New York 25 years ago and has been a resident of Fort Collins for 15 years.

MIKE SCHEID | General Manager, East Larimer County Water District

Mike Scheid is the General Manager for the East Larimer County (ELCO) Water District, a Title 32 special

district created in 1962 that provides domestic water service to a population of approximately 20,000 in an area north and east of the city of Fort Collins. Mike grew up and worked on an irrigated farm in Weld County, which is where he developed his initial appreciation for water in the west. During his 19+ years with ELCO, Mike has been heavily involved with the development of water rights for domestic supply and has seen the effects that increasing price and decreasing availability of water has had on development in northern Colorado.

CHRIS MATKINS | District Manager, Fort Collins-Loveland Water District & South Fort Collins Sanitation District

Chris Matkins is the District Manager for two Enterprises: The Fort Collins – Loveland Water District and the South Fort Collins Sanitation District. He has B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Civil Engineering and enjoys the challenges these roles bring, including anticipating increasing regulatory requirements and increasing water scarcity that the Northern Colorado region faces. Chris has worked tirelessly to build a staff that is able to exceed the mission and values of the Districts. He also serves as Chair on the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority Board and collaborates with municipal partners when the opportunities arise.

Chris hails from South Dakota with a background in dryland farming. He moved to Fort Collins twenty years ago to enjoy Colorado's natural beauty and work with water. His passion for water and environmental stewardship is evident in his everyday work.

LISA DARLING | Executive Director, South Metro Water Supply Authority

Lisa is the Executive Director of the South Metro Water Supply Authority, a regional water authority that formed in 2004 and is comprised of 13 members that collectively serve about 80% of the population of Douglas County and 10% of Arapahoe County. Lisa has more than 25 years of experience in Colorado water resources. She previously managed the South Platte River Program and the Prairie Waters Project for Aurora Water, the state's third-largest water utility. In that role, she worked closely with SMWSA on the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency Partnership (WISE), a key component of the south metro region's plan to transition to renewable water supplies. Among Lisa's many leadership roles, she has served on Water Education Colorado's board since 2012 and is the current board of trustee president.