



## Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

February 16, 2022 | Speaker Biographies

### **HALLY STREVEY | Executive Director, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed**

Hally is a Colorado native, with a great love of the West. Her family has a cabin on the Poudre River, and she spent much of her childhood fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing in the Poudre watershed. These experiences helped to fuel her passion for a career path in restoration ecology and watershed management. Hally has a diverse background in both wildlife and ecology. She has a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology from Colorado State University and a Master of Science in restoration ecology from Montana State University. Hally has also worked for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the Restoration Ecology lab at Colorado State University, and an ecological consulting firm. When she's not working, Hally enjoys spending time in wild and beautiful places with her husband and dogs, practicing and teaching yoga, identifying plants, and hanging out in downtown Fort Collins.

### **ERIC POTYONDY | Assistant City Attorney, City of Fort Collins**

Eric Potyondy has been practicing water law in Colorado since graduating from the University of Colorado Law School in 2006. After clerking for the Water Judge at the Water Court in Greeley for two years, Eric practiced at a small water law firm for six years before returning to his hometown to work as the in-house water attorney for the City of Fort Collins. Eric now lives in Fort Collins with his wife, two young boys, one old cat, and a small herd of bikes.

### **JEN SHANAHAN | Senior Watershed Planner, City of Fort Collins**

As the Senior Watershed Planner for the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department, Jen works on a variety of projects related to the health of the Departments' floodplain properties, aquatic resources, and management of its water assets. The health of the Cache la Poudre River is her focus as she works to bring science to the decision-making realm, guides river restoration planning with the current concepts and techniques collaborates across the City and with stakeholders across the basin on river and floodplain management issues. Jen has a Master's degree in Rangeland Science from Colorado State University with a focus on riparian restoration. She chose to focus on rivers after teaching environmental education in her early career and realized catching bugs in the creek was by far the most captivating lesson. Jen grew up hiking and camping in the Rockies and the Alps and may have passed the adventure bug onto her kids. When not at work she and her boys are often seen exploring the banks of the Poudre or seeking quiet remote places in the high country.

### **LARRY ROGSTAD | Board President, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition**

Living in Greeley, Larry Rogstad is married to Jan, a registered nurse for our school district, with two adult daughters, both educators. Education and focus on Aldo Leopold's concept of the Land Ethic are central in family life.

Larry was reared in the cultural center of the universe, exploring the diverse streams, prairies and woodlands Oklahoma. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma, focused on aquatic invertebrate ecology, in particular riffle beetles. Moving to Colorado in pursuit of a lifetime dream of becoming a game warden, he enjoyed a 38-year career with Colorado Division of Wildlife, 23 years as District Wildlife Manager in the Greeley North District, and subsequently promoted to Area Wildlife Manager overseeing CPW operations in Boulder, Broomfield, Weld and Larimer Counties.

In retirement, Larry is Restoration Manager at the Poudre Learning Center, a science-based educational facility on the lower Cache la Poudre, tied to our local school districts. He is past president and currently serves as secretary of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition Board, and additionally holds a Seat representing recreational and environmental interests on the South Platte Basin Roundtable. In spare time, Larry continues to explore and learn from the great outdoors.

#### **ANDREW FAYRAM | Source Water Coordinator, City of Loveland**

Andrew has been involved with, and interested in, water quality and aquatic ecosystems for his entire career. He received degrees in Zoology (BS University of Wisconsin), Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (MS University of Washington), and Biological Sciences (minor in Statistics) (PhD University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee). Andrew has worked for federal agencies such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, state agencies such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and non-profit organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund. In addition to his current position with Loveland Water and Power, he teaches several classes for Prescott College as an Associate Faculty member. Originally from Madison, Wisconsin he moved to Fort Collins in 2014 with his wife and three children.

#### **CHRIS CARLSON | Civil Engineer, City of Loveland**

Chris Carlson is a Stormwater Engineer for the City of Loveland and was the City's Project Manager for the 2017 Big Thompson River Corridor Master Plan. As a part of the 2017 Master Plan, Chris facilitated input across multiple City departments to develop a plan that will improve resilience and provide recreational amenities along the river corridor to serve the community. Chris manages the City's stormwater capital improvement program in addition to leading the City's "River Team", which coordinated flood recovery projects following the 2013 Big Thompson River flood.

#### **DOUG SWARTZ | Involved Northern Colorado Resident**

Doug's formal education includes a BS in physics and MS in engineering. His environmental interests led him to a diverse career in energy efficiency with Fort Collins Utilities. Doug has lifelong connections with water, through recreation (including 50+ years of whitewater kayaking and backcountry skiing), usage (as a residential user, gardener, and irrigator), interest, and involvement in riparian habitat (through birding and habitat restoration). He has monitored daily precipitation for the CoCoRaHS program since its inception. For 25 years, Doug has lived in an innovative 30-home neighborhood for which he was a member of the design and development team. This has provided him an opportunity to practice what he preaches, through hands-on water conservation and native species restoration. To irrigate the community garden, he helps maintain a mile of lateral on the Pleasant Valley Lake & Canal system. Now retired, Doug's water-related volunteer activities include serving as a director for Save the Poudre, a member of Poudre Runs Through It, and crew leader for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.

#### **PETE CONOVITZ | Water Resources Specialist, Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Pete joined the Colorado Water Conservation Board in September 2021 as a Water Resource Specialist in the Stream and Lake Protection Section. He is primarily responsible for instream flow (ISF) acquisitions and overseeing the physical protection of ISF appropriated water rights across the state.

Prior to joining the CWCB, Pete was a Water Specialist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife where he helped manage CPW's water rights and water resources portfolio for state parks, wildlife areas and fish hatcheries throughout the South Platte Basin. Pete has extensive experience in the Poudre River Basin including assisting in the development of Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and the Halligan Reservoir Expansion. He is a former participant in the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group and a Fort Collins resident since 1995.

**LAURA FIELDS-SOMMERS | Hydrographer, Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Laura is a Hydrographer for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), working most directly with the Stream and Lake Protection Section. She is responsible for the CWCB's stream gages, measuring streamflow, and various other hydrological field data across the state of Colorado. She has been with CWCB for two years. Before joining the CWCB, Laura worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, New York Water Science Center as a hydrographer. She has also worked for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, developing stream and lake management plans. She received her Master of Science degree in Freshwater Science & Technology from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Sciences, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources. In her free time, she enjoys cycling, hiking, and exploring Colorado.

**DIANA LANE | Director of Sustainable Food and Water Programs, The Nature Conservancy**

Diana Lane leads The Nature Conservancy's thriving rivers and sustainable water supplies strategy in Colorado. The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. In that capacity, she works with partners to create and implement water and watershed management solutions to increase resilience in the face of drought, climate change, and increased water demand. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy in 2019, Diana had a 20-year career in public-sector environmental consulting, where she worked on large-scale ecological restoration projects for state, federal, and foundation clients, including extensive work in the Gulf of Mexico after the BP oil spill in 2010. Diana has expertise in restoration ecology and planning, climate adaptation, and management of public funding. She currently sits on the advisory board for CSU's Center for Collaborative Conservation. Diana holds an MS in Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University and a PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago.