



## Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

March 30, 2022 | Speaker Biographies

### **ANN HUTCHISON | President and CEO, Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce**

Ann Hutchison, CAE, became President & CEO of the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce on January 1, 2021. She started with the Chamber in 2003 as Policy Committee Coordinator and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 2005. Before moving into the CEO role, Hutchison directly managed the communications and event departments, assisted in the day-to-day operation of the Chamber, and managed issues and political advocacy as well as the Chamber's Leadership Fort Collins and Leadership Northern Colorado programs. Most recently, she has been a key leader in the community pandemic economic Response, Recovery, and Reignite efforts.

### **PATRICK MCMEEKIN | President of Land Development, Hartford Homes**

Patrick began his real estate career in 2004 interning for Water Valley Land Company in Windsor, CO. In 2005, Patrick accepted a full-time position with Water Valley Land Company as the Director of Development. In this position, Patrick was responsible for the entitlement and construction of both residential and commercial projects located throughout Northern Colorado.

In 2012 Patrick was promoted to Chief Operating Officer at Water Valley Land Company. In this role, Patrick helped negotiate numerous public/private partnerships with local municipalities for the construction of regional infrastructure and negotiated raw water dedications to municipalities to secure potable water sources for future projects. As COO Patrick oversaw the real estate and resource assets of the corporation.

In 2016, Patrick joined Hartford Homes as the VP of Land Development. In 2020 Patrick was promoted to the President of Land. Patrick's responsibilities with Hartford entail managing the acquisition and entitlement of new development projects, overseeing horizontal construction, managing the HOA's/Metro Districts of the company, and management of the company's water rights portfolio. In his career, Patrick has entitled roughly 5,000 residential units.

Patrick is a graduate of Colorado State University and enjoys skiing and golfing with his wife Kate and their 2 boys.

### **JIM YAHN | General Manager, North Stirling Irrigation District**

Jim Yahn is the manager of the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs, a position that he has held for nearly 30 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. Prior to his employment with North Sterling and Prewitt he worked as a private consulting engineer in Fort Collins for 5 years. He is a native of Colorado growing up on a family ranch, which used water from the North Sterling Reservoir System. In June of 2016, Jim was appointed by the Governor to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to serve as the South Platte Director and served for 5 years, one year as Chair. Jim has been a member of the South Platte Basin Roundtable since its inception in 2005, served as chair from 2009 to 2012, and currently serves as the roundtable's representative to the Interbasin Compact Committee. Jim and his wife Tracy farm and ranch in their spare time and are the parents of two grown children, Hannah and Austin.

### **STEVE MALERS | CEO and CTO, Open Water Foundation**

Steve Malers is the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Technology Officer of the Open Water Foundation (OWF), a nonprofit social enterprise that focuses on developing open-source software and open data solutions to help organizations make better decisions about water. He is also a partner in TriLynx Systems, which provides a real-time environmental data management system focusing on flood warning. Steve grew up in La Junta, CO, has BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, and is a Water Education Colorado Water Leader alumnus. He lives in Fort Collins and previously served on the Fort Collins Water Board. He is a member of the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group. Steve has worked for over twenty-five years developing and supporting Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS) software. Steve lives in Fort Collins where 3 of the 6 Malers family work in the water sector.

**ANN CASTLE | Senior Fellow, Getches-Wilkinson Center, University of Colorado**

Anne Castle is a senior fellow at the [Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment](#) at the University of Colorado Law School, focusing on western water issues, including Colorado River policy and management. She is a founding member of the [Water Policy Group](#). She has authored papers on a variety of water policy topics including a legal and hydrological risk assessment in the Colorado River Basin, a roadmap for integration of land use decisions with water planning, and other arcana that the world of water wonks specializes in. From 2009 to 2014, Castle was the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior where she oversaw water and science policy for the Department and had responsibility for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey. While at Interior, Castle spearheaded the Department's [WaterSMART](#) program, which provides federal leadership and funding to support sustainable water supplies. She was the driving force behind the [2010 Memorandum of Understanding](#) among Interior, the Department of Energy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers addressing the development of sustainable hydropower, the oldest, largest, least respected, and most vilified form of renewable energy in the country. Castle also launched the federal [Open Water Data Initiative](#) in an attempt to make the fragmented world of water data more integrated and accessible. Castle provided hands-on leadership on Colorado River issues and was the Chair of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group and a champion of Minute 319 between the US and Mexico. Castle is a recovering lawyer, having practiced law for 28 years in Denver, Colorado with the Rocky Mountain-based law firm of Holland & Hart LLP, specializing in water issues. She was elected in 2001 to chair the law firm's management committee and served in that position until 2004. She also chaired the firm's natural resources law department. She serves on far too many boards and committees including the [Colorado Water Trust](#), [Western Resource Advocates](#), [Airborne Snow Observatories](#), Stanford University's [Water in the West](#) program, and the [Colorado River Water and Tribes Initiative](#), where she is co-leading an [initiative on universal access to clean drinking water on Indian reservations](#). Castle received a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado, College of Engineering, primarily to prove to her father that girls could be good at math. Her J.D. was also from the University of Colorado, qualifying her as a "Double Buff."