

MEET THE 2022-2023 WATER  
LITERATE LEADERS COHORT



**HEIDI PRUESS** | Climate and Sustainability Program Manager, Larimer County, Colorado

Heidi has a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Engineering and is a Certified Environmental Professional through the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals. Heidi has experienced a career as an environmental professional, specializing in sustainability policy since 1994 and has worked across the country in Oregon, Arizona, Ohio, North Carolina, and currently Colorado.

Working in the realm of public policy, community advocacy, strategic planning, and organizational development, entails Heidi's decades of experience working with local governments. In addition to her professional career, Heidi has served as a Park and Recreation Commissioner and a volunteer environmental educator for many years. A detailed profile can be found at [linkedin.com/in/heidipruess](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heidipruess)



**CHRISTIAN J. BORDEWICK** | Market President, Bank of Colorado

Christian started his career with Wells Fargo in 1993 and joined Bank of Colorado in 2005. Christian has over 25 years of lending and management experience. Throughout his career, he has worked with growth companies in business, commercial, and middle market industries. Christian is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and University of Colorado-Denver with a Master's of Science Degree in Finance.

Christian currently serves as a member of the Board & Executive Committee and Treasurer of Colorado Youth Outdoors, Board member of Loveland Community Fund Committee and member of the Advisory Board for McKee Medical Center. He is Past President and board member of Loveland Sertoma and Thompson Valley Rotary, Past Treasurer of Thompson Valley Rotary Foundation and Past Board Member of Childsafe.

Christian resides in Fort Collins with his wife Jamie and three children Abby, Josie, and Jay.



**CAROL DOLLARD** | Energy and Sustainability Program Manager and Engineer

Carol Dollard is an Energy Engineer in Facilities Management and co-chair of the Presidents Sustainability Commission at Colorado State University. In her 23+ years at CSU, she has helped make university operations more sustainable. These efforts include: 29 PV installations totaling over 8,500 kW (with 12 more in construction that will bring the university to over 11,000 kW), one of the largest geoexchange projects in the western US, and more than \$20 million of energy and water efficiency projects.

She is also responsible for water quality on campus as the senior water operator for the CSU water distribution system. In addition, she leads a team that conducts the University's annual greenhouse gas inventory and produces biannual updates to the CSU Climate Action Plan. Every three years, she is part of team that generates the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission, administered by the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), that rates the university on their triple bottom line sustainability performance. Historically, CSU has been one of the highest performers in the STARS rating system.



**BRIAN J. HAYES** | Land Agent for the City of Loveland Parks and Recreation Department

I am a Colorado native and grew up in Denver. I attended Colorado State University and graduated with a degree in Business with concentrations in Real Estate and Finance including a Water Law Course (I still have the book Evolution and Administration of Colorado Water Law 1876-1976).

My goal has always been to work in the real estate field and to cover as many aspects of real estate as I possibly could in my career. So far, I think have succeeded in that goal. I have worked with landowners on Conservation Easements. I have worked on numerous projects that included complex water augmentation and storage issues. I have served on the State of Colorado Conservation Easement Commission which reviews and recommends Conservation Easement Tax Credits. I enjoy hiking and skiing basically anything outdoors. The best management book I have read is called "Quiet Leadership" which is a good description of how I look at work and all partnerships.



**SCOTT BALLSTADT** | Director of Planning, Town of Windsor

As Director of Planning, Scott manages the land use planning, development review and building programs for the Town of Windsor. He has 30 years of professional planning experience beginning with the Panhandle Area Development District in Scottsbluff, Nebraska where he performed a wide variety of planning duties including preparation of plans and ordinances, grant writing and administration, and management of housing rehabilitation programs in several communities. He joined the Weld County Department of Planning Services in 1997 and was promoted to Lead Planner overseeing various county land use processes and other planning and zoning activities.

In 1999, Scott joined the Town of Windsor and has been Director of Planning since 2015. Scott holds a bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2001. Among other boards and committees, Scott has served on the Northern Colorado Energy Star Homes Board of Directors, the Weld RE-4 School District Long Range Facility Planning Committee and the Windsor-Severance Library Foundation Board of Directors. Scott lives in Windsor with his wife Sonja and two pugs.



**JUSTINE SCHOENBACHER** | Water Conservation Coordinator, City of Evans

Justine Schoenbacher is the Water Conservation Coordinator for the City of Evans. In this position she works to reduce municipal water use through both supply- and demand-side initiatives. Justine enjoys the complex nature of western water issues and believes that regional collaboration is key in effective resource management.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Linfield University and is working towards a master's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. With experience in economic analysis, water rights and institutions, and municipal water provision, she looks forward to collaboratively serving Northeastern Colorado's communities.



**JANESE YOUNGER** | Senior Vice President at FirstBank, Northern Colorado

Janese Younger is a Senior Vice President at FirstBank in Northern Colorado and has 11 years' experience in the banking industry. Janese is passionate about giving back to the community which includes serving as past President and current Treasurer of Neighbor to Neighbor as well as Treasurer and President Elect for Commercial Real Estate Women of Northern Colorado. She also is an active volunteer with the Career Closet and Junior Achievement.

Janese is a Colorado native and was born and raised in Fort Collins. She received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Northern Colorado and a graduate certificate in Banking and Leadership from the University of Wisconsin. Her interest in water began when analyzing complex commercial construction projects and the varying water requirements in each community/district across the Front Range. Current issues and projects of interest include Terry Ranch, NISP and Colorado River Compact. Janese currently resides in Fort Collins with her partner and their golden retriever.



**CHERI WITT-BROWN** | Executive Director, Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity

Cheri Witt-Brown joined Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity in 2015 and has served as its Executive Director since May of 2016. Cheri brought to GWHFH 28 years of experience in land development, general contracting, banking, non-profit, and leadership.

Cheri led Greeley-Weld Habitat's team to co-develop with Commonwealth Companies a 12-acre, 95-unit affordable housing community, 27 Habitat homes, and 68 Commonwealth townhomes and cottages to replace half of the affordable homes lost in Evans during the 2013 flood. Cheri and the Greeley-Weld Habitat Development team's next project is a 40-acre affordable community that will bring 491, climate friendly, housing units to Greeley in partnership with Greeley based Richmark Companies. The City of Greeley City Council appointed Cheri in 2021 to serve as a board member on the city of Greeley Water & Sewer board.

Cheri attended Point Loma College in San Diego, CA, and the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. She is a second-generation Coloradan with family roots in agriculture and home building.



**BENJAMIN L. SNOW** | Director of Economic Health and Housing, City of Greeley, Colorado

Mr. Snow is an energetic and driven executive with a passion for connecting people, building networks and gaining new knowledge and insights into how people think, how economies behave, and the role each person and organization has in growing the economy and making a positive difference in the community. He currently serves as Director of Economic Health and Housing for the City of Greeley, Colorado, where he actively works to drive economic development and prosperity for residents of Greeley and Northern Colorado.

He has over 27 years of experience working with leaders in both the public and private sectors, serving in various capacities of commercial real estate acquisitions, development, investment analysis, project management, urban renewal, housing and market research as well as economic development.

He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (Real Estate Emphasis) from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council.



**BRADLEY CURTIS** | Director of Municipal Services, Northern Engineering, City of Greeley, City of Fort Collins, and Northern Colorado

Mr. Bradley Curtis is a Professional Engineer and Certified Public Manager with over 27 years of private and public sector experience as a civil engineer, project manager, development and planning manager, and public works director. He has managed various private, public, and politically sensitive, challenging assignments using traditional and innovative methods requiring modification of standard techniques, strategies, planning, procedures, and criteria. Several capital projects Mr. Curtis managed, which were designed, bid, and constructed by maximizing agency, consultant, and contractor collaboration, have been recognized at a state level.

Brad has been with Northern Engineering since 2019 and serves as Director of Municipal Services in Greeley, Fort Collins, and Northern Colorado. He oversees various public projects and is the Town Engineer for Ault, Pierce, Nunn, Eaton, Platteville, Hudson, and Engineer for the Greeley Irrigation Company (Greeley #3). Additionally, Brad is active in the development and performance of various aspects of engineering, supervision, teamwork, marketing, and management to private and public organizations for the private sector, schools, and non-profits.



**SCOTT BAILY** | Conservation Chair, Rocky Mountain Flycasters

I have lived in Fort Collins since arriving as a CSU Freshman in 1976. I received a BS in Wildlife Biology and worked the temporary job circuit for a few years, and then returned to CSU to study Computer Science. After completing a 32-year Information Technology career at CSU, I retired from the university in 2018. I've lately become more involved in volunteering with the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter of Trout Unlimited, and currently serve as the Conservation Committee Chair and an at-large board member.

My interest in the Water Literate Leaders program stems largely from my activities with TU, as a continuous supply of fresh, clean water is obviously essential to the survival of wild trout populations. I was aware of CSU's Water Institute and the Water Center while working at the university, but never had the spare time to explore what they had to offer. I am looking forward to making up for lost time and really appreciate this opportunity



**CLAIRE BOUCHARD** | Director of Community Engagement & Communications, Community Foundation of Northern Colorado

Claire Bouchard brings seventeen years of Northern Colorado community engagement experience to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and its Director of Community Engagement and Communications role. She started at the Community Foundation in May 2022.

Her work across sectors and layers of the community have fostered a deep understanding of how our community works and where the challenges and opportunities lie in solving some of our community's most pressing issues. Claire has held engagement, communications and community impact positions at the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County and United Way of Larimer County. She was a founding partner of a creative firm and worked as a national marketing director for a community development firm.

Claire graduated from the Leadership Northern Colorado class in 2021. Claire and her husband, Tom Hilbert, love spending time with their large, blended family and friends, attending Colorado State University athletic events, traveling, and exploring gulches and trails in the Larimer County Foothills.



**ALAN "SCOTTY" MACGREGOR** | Retired. Water and Sewer Board Member, Windsor, CO

I retired two years ago and returned to Colorado after 10 years in New Mexico. I worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory on a variety of cleanup projects, focusing on contaminated groundwater, and then for the City of Santa Fe in the Public Utilities Department. Even though I had lived in Colorado for 16 years, it was my time in the "*Land of Enchantment*" that really opened my eyes to the intricacies of water law, water rights, and their effect on how communities grow and prosper. My area was affected by the settlement of the court case settling the water conflict between the local tribal nations and the non-tribal residents. Now serving on the Water Sewer Board for Windsor and the metro board for my neighborhood, water is much more dramatic and real!

A bit of early history, I was born in Illinois but grew up in New Jersey and went to school in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts (a BS from Lehigh and a Masters from MIT, both in Civil Engineering – water resources). I worked in Pennsylvania for the first half of my career, and focused on industrial water pollution control, environmental management, and compliance assurance programs. After a year-long assignment at a refinery in Billings, my wife and I were hooked and worked on finding our way back.



**SHIRLEY PEEL** | Council Member, City of Fort Collins

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself. My name is Shirley Peel. I am a transplanted Texan who has resided in Fort Collins for the past 21 years. I have been happily married to Dr. Kraig Peel for the past 34 years and I was fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom to raise our 4 amazing (I think) children who are now adults and pursuing their own lives and interests. For fun, I enjoy reading, traveling and wine-tasting.

My background is in education, having been an elementary and middle school teacher as well as founder, teacher and administrator of Christian Core Academy here in Fort Collins. During my career as an educator, my passion was training students' minds and teaching writing and grammar skills to the next generation.

Becoming an empty nester has allowed me to turn my attention to serving the City of Fort Collins in the capacity of Councilmember for District 4, where I enjoy working with my fellow councilmembers to create effective policy for the future of our city. My favorite aspect of being a councilmember is helping constituents find solutions to their problems involving the city and learning more and more about our incredible community.





**SALLY BOCCELLA** | Northern Colorado Regional Director, Office of U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper

Sally represents the Northern Colorado region that includes Larimer, Weld, Broomfield, Grand, Summit, Routt and Jackson counties on behalf of the Senator. She connects stakeholders together to create collaboratory partnerships throughout the region and in areas of policy engagement that includes energy and natural resources, agriculture, healthcare, workforce development, wildlife issues and more.

She is a first generation American, and a first generation college graduate from University of Colorado Boulder earning a Bachelor of Arts in 2019. Sally served as an Associate Justice on the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government (CUSG) Judicial Branch. She was an Endangered Species Coalition Fellow where she worked on policy development, grassroots advocacy and research on wildlife corridor strategy.

Married for 19 years to her partner, Brian, where they have created a beautiful life together with their two teenage children and two dogs. They enjoy many Colorado outdoor activities, spending time with family and friends on game nights and conversations around the fire pit.

**MARY BAIRD** | Director, Global Sales & Projects Enablement, Hach



I gained awareness of the critical importance of access to clean water when I found myself boiling water in my childhood home during non-potable drinking water seasons. It was then that my family taught me the costs, technological challenges, and stark reality of the large percentage of the global population who lack access to clean drinking and sanitation water. Fast forward thirty years and I have accumulated invaluable experiences of leading global commercial planning for Hach, the \$1.5B global leader in water quality analytics company owned by Danaher Corporation, and personally spearheading the largest strategic global growth initiative since Hach first introduced pH measurements into the market.

Following college, I served as the Associate Director of a non-profit organization supporting international students. Learning directly from people affected by the global clean water crisis combined with a personal contact serving as a nurse in Ethiopia, called me to see this part of the world. Traveling to Africa opened my eyes to the global water crisis impacting both the young and old. I witnessed first-hand the strength and perseverance of the individuals across rural Ethiopia that lived the very statistics that inspired me to act two years before when I participated in my first fundraising events to support charity: water and Living Water International.



**CARRIE ROSSMAN** | Vice President of Association Advancement for YMCA of the Rockies

I, Carrie Rossman, Vice President of Association Advancement for YMCA of the Rockies, am passionate about a sustainable future for Colorado. I count myself lucky for a nonprofit career that to-date has brought me the opportunity to work for incredible organizations in advancing their respective missions, including the Better Business Bureau (BBB), Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA.

I hold an undergraduate business degree from the University of Denver; and a masters of nonprofit management from Regis University.

Much of my career has been in nonprofit program development and volunteer management; that work led me into fundraising where I've grown and diversified revenue sources, including corporate sponsorships; foundation and government grants; individual and family giving; and earned income. I call it mission magic when a supporter's giving intent aligns with an organizational need. I was part of staff-led green teams at BBB and Habitat for Humanity; and now lead environmental sustainability efforts for YMCA of the Rockies.

I live in southwest Loveland with my husband and children.

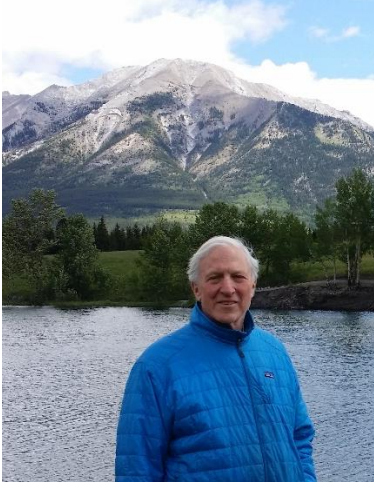
**MITZI MCCOY** | Deputy Town Manager, Johnstown



Mitzi McCoy serves as the Deputy Town Manager in Johnstown, Colorado. She was promoted to this position in June of 2022 after having served as the Town's Finance Director since February 2019. As Finance Director, she oversaw all aspects of the Town's finances, including the development and management of budgets, preparation of financial statements, capital planning, utility financial management, and reporting to the Town Council and the public.

Prior to coming to Johnstown, Mitzi worked in local government for 10 years, helping municipalities define their strategic direction, prepare new business plans, streamline financial and procedural policies, and create improvement, monitoring and accountability systems.

Mitzi holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Business Administration.



**RICHARD ALPER** | President, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

My wife and I moved from the Washington DC area to Fort Collins in 2011. In DC I represented a Maryland County in federal court concerning violations of the Clean Water Act and taught it to superintendents of drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. In Larimer County I have served as chair of the County's Environmental Science Advisory Board and president of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition Board.

I am a graduate of the Fort Collins Leadership Northern Colorado program and served on the Legacy Land Trust Board. At the University of Northern Colorado, I have taught Natural Resources Law and Policy, including Colorado water law. I am experienced in facilitating multi-party land use policy issues and look forward to learning with you and from you.



**DAVID THORPE** | Director of Entitlements, Hartford Homes

Dave Thorpe is the Director of Entitlements for Hartford Homes and in that role coordinates Hartford's design and entitlement teams through the annexation, zoning, site planning, platting, and overall design process. This involves working on Hartford's potable and non-potable irrigation systems, as well as contributing to Hartford's management of its water rights.

Dave has a background in urban planning and has worked in the non-profit and private consulting fields prior to joining Hartford in 2021. He is married and has two kids, ages 4 and 6, and loves camping, swimming, and running in his free time. He is also an oil painter and is using that gift to document Colorado's changing landscape.