



MEET THE 2023-2024 WATER
LITERATE LEADERS COHORT



MICHAEL BELLUS | Market President, Bank of Colorado

Michael Bellus is currently a Market President at Bank of Colorado. Michael has over 30 years of banking experience and first joined Bank of Colorado in late 2007. He attended Colorado State University, and the Graduate School of Bank at CU.

Throughout his time in Fort Collins he has been active in many facets of the Northern Colorado community, most dear to his heart was serving a 7-year board term with the local non-profit, Respite Care, which is still active with on various committees, including their Long Range Planning Committee. Currently, Michael also serves on the Impact Committee at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, and was previously a board member on the Loveland Center for Business Development, the Northern Colorado United for Youth (Unify), the CSU Liberal Arts Advocacy Council, the Loveland Business Partnership and

Engaging Loveland. He has also participated in the Leadership Fort Collins and Leadership Loveland programs, and was a two-time Rotarian of the year with the Mountain View Rotary Club.

Michael is married to his wife, Lindsay, who have a son, Marek, who is 16. They enjoy skiing, golfing, PSD Stars Hockey, and traveling.



TATUM COCHRAN | General Manager, Horse & Dragon Brewing Company

I have lived and worked in Fort Collins for the past 10+ years, and have been visiting this area since I was born to see family. My professional career has consisted primarily of event planning and craft beverage jobs, and I now manage Horse & Dragon Brewing Company. I truly enjoy the community I've gotten to join here in Northern Colorado and can't wait to learn more from this experience! In my spare time I love to cook, play with my dog, crochet, and play board games (and enjoy a craft beer or two). My current favorite games are Azul, Jurassic Park Escape, and Magic the Gathering - if you have a suggestion or want to set up a game day please let me know!



NICK COMBS | Communications & Marketing Manager, Fort Collins Utilities

Nick is the Communications & Marketing Manager for Fort Collins Utilities. Born and raised in Kansas City, Nick and his partner enjoy hiking, mountain biking, camping, and generally taking any excuse to be outside. Outside of work, Nick's a musician who primarily plays drums, but is also learning piano and guitar. He went to Central Missouri State University many years ago, and his partner is currently getting their PhD in Anthropology at CSU. They have one older child of the four-legged fluffy meowing variety, and recently adopted a 2nd fuzzy meowing 3-month old to terrorize their household even more. Nick is a lifelong local politics aficionado and will happily talk urban planning, infrastructure, utilities, and government communications

with you all day long. He's thrilled to be a part of Water Literate Leaders and is looking forward to many interesting conversations about water in Northern Colorado.



STACY COONS | Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, City of Greeley

I was born and raised on the East Coast. I did both my undergrad and graduate work in the capitol region of upstate New York, finishing with two bachelors and a masters degree in bioethics. After finishing school, I accepted an appointment from the NYS House Speaker writing language legislation for the state legislature. My issue areas were health, mental health, and drugs & alcohol. In 2015, I was reappointed by the House Speaker to lead the newly formed Office of Ethics & Compliance. I chose to leave the public sector in 2017 after being offered a position with a global public affairs firm out of Manhattan. While there I worked in the media, public relations, and government relations spaces for both US clients and international governments.

After COVID I was seeking a change, and in January of last year I accepted a position with the City of Greeley. A couple months later I made the move to CO. I am the Intergovernmental Affairs Officer for the city, and work across each of the departments on legislative and policy issues at the local, state and federal levels. Because policy touches water so deeply, I work extensively with the water team and I am very eager to learn as much as I can to be the best that I can in that space.



DEB DEBOUZEZ | Greeley City Councilmember, City of Greeley

Hello, what a pleasure to be included in the 2023-2024 Water Literate Leaders class with all of you! I'm almost a Colorado native having lived here since 1977. Came here by way of Texas, moved to Missoula, MT, then moved to Colorado Springs, Evergreen, a stint in Missouri for college and back to Evergreen and ended up in Greeley in 1994 because of the University of Northern Colorado. Been there ever since.

I'm a passionate advocate for the underserved and the environment. In fact, my entire career has been about serving both. I was an assistant director at a local homeless shelter, but then became a lobbyist in Denver for almost ten years. Liked my job, loved my co-workers, hated the commute, so quit that job in 2007 and began working for the City of Greeley in the Community

Development department. I was a community liaison in the Neighborhood Resource Office where I helped residents with various needs including mediation, neighbor labor, advocacy. Ready for a different challenge, I ran for, and won, a seat on the Greeley City Council in 2021.

To me, this is a perfect time to be on the Council because of the explosive population growth in Colorado and northern Colorado, in particular. I feel we need to share this wonderful state with others, but we need to do it strategically in order to preserve what we love. I suspect water will be the driving/limiting force of growth in our state, thus I want to learn as much as I can about it.



MARK DRISCOLL | Retired, Former Market President, FNBO CO

Mark was raised in southeastern Colorado near the banks of the Arkansas River. Driscoll graduated from Colorado State University with two degrees (BS and MS) from the College of Business. He was employed two different times at CSU, as an assistant football coach and as Director of Athletics.

Mark spent 37 years in the banking business in Northern Colorado, all at First National Bank, now FNBO. His early career focused on Commercial lending and business banking services. He was named President of the bank in 1994. Of the 37 years at FNBO, Driscoll was President of the bank for 23 years. He retired from the bank in 2020.

During his career Driscoll had the opportunity to serve on numerous non-profit and community boards. He currently serves on the Food Bank for Larimer County board and is an advisor to a private foundation. He recently completed a four-year term on the board of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. Mark developed a genuine interest in water resources from his years in banking and community service.

Mark has been married to Neyla (a CSU graduate) for 48 years. The couple have three grown children and five grandchildren.



JULIE DUBIN | Executive Director, Peaks to People Water Fund

Julie Dubin is a nonprofit professional with more than 20 years of leadership experience. A graduate of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment with a Masters in Environmental Management, Julie has dedicated the majority of her career to creating meaningful opportunities for US youth to connect with environmental and cultural initiatives in many diverse and threatened ecosystems around the world. As a Colorado native, long-term Fort Collins resident and engaged community member, she has recently shifted her focus to supporting our own threatened ecosystems right here at home. Through her work with Peaks to People Water Fund, she is passionate about building connections and harnessing our collective efforts to make a crucial difference to our watershed health at this critical time.



DAVID EISENBRAUN | Senior City Planner, Town of Windsor

David is a landscape architect and certified planner and alumni of the University of Colorado, Denver. As a small business owner of a development firm and a senior city planner in Windsor, he is responsible for large regional developments, the creation of intergovernmental agreements and citywide master plan initiatives. He is skilled at working with key account developers, long-range planning projects and a wide variety community engagement efforts. David was born and raised in North Dakota and is married with three young children.



ELLEN HILBIG | Utilities Director, Town of Johnstown

I am a Colorado State University graduate in the field of Environmental Engineering who was born and raised in Loveland, Colorado. I graduated in 2011 and found employment in the oilfield which allowed me to experience many different cultures and places: Tumen Russia, Abu Dabhi UAE, Shreveport Louisiana, Houston Texas, and Bakersfield California. I returned to Colorado in 2014 to be with my partner who was teaching on the Western Slope of Colorado. Here I got my first municipal job as the City Engineer for Delta, CO. It was a crash course into the services Cities and Towns provide to residents from water and sewer to streets maintenance. In 2017, my Partner and I were married and 2 days later moved back to Northern Colorado to start a new Engineering job for Longmont Colorado. We had the joy of

starting a family with a baby girl in 2020 and gave birth to her at the same hospital I was born. A twist of fate in 2021 had me accepting a Deputy Public Works position that led to Utilities Director at the Town of Johnstown where I am currently at today. We expanded that family with another little girl in 2022.



LAUREN HILLMER | Stormwater Quality Administrator, City of Greeley

Lauren is the Stormwater Quality Administrator at the City of Greeley and has over 10 years' experience in the environmental and natural resources field. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Science and Land Management from Montana State University-Bozeman and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Lauren is also a Board of Directors member of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition where she has served for 4 years. She is passionate about surface water protection, watershed management, forest health, and post-fire recovery. Lauren lives in Berthoud with her husband, Daniel, and rough collie and in her free time she enjoys skiing, mountain biking, and hiking in her local watershed.



JESSICA HUMPHRIES | Administrative Services Director, Town of Windsor

I am a tried-and-true public servant with a passion for community, collaboration and communication. I have over 24 years of public sector experience ranging from finance, administration, public safety, emergency management, communications, strategic planning, and organizational development. My focus is on building strong relationships, providing efficient services and clear, transparent communication. I am currently the Administrative Services Director for the Town of Windsor. I reside in Greeley with her husband and three

children. As a family we enjoy travel, good food, and all things related to aerospace.



JULIE JENSEN | CEO, Greeley Area Realtor Association

Julie Jensen is a seasoned professional in the real estate industry, with over two decades of experience. She is the CEO at the Greeley Area Realtor Association (GARA), which has a substantial membership of over 500 Realtors and Affiliates. As the head of GARA, Julie passionately advocates for personal property rights and home ownership, collaborating closely with local, state, and federal governments to shape policies that empower citizens in their property transactions and foster community development.

Julie's commitment to her community extends beyond her role at GARA. She has played vital roles in various City of Greeley workgroups, contributing to the city's long-term comprehensive plans, participating in planning and development committees, and lending her leadership to

the Greeley Unexpected campaign. Notably, Julie has made history as the Chair of the Greeley Stampede committee, becoming only the third woman in a century to hold this position, after serving 5 years as the Vendor Chair.

Julie is deeply involved in charitable endeavors, volunteering her time and expertise to organizations such as the Women's Fund of Weld County, the Rodarte Community Center Advisory Board, Senior Resource Services, and Junior Achievement.

Julie has been married 30 years to husband, Jim Glass, and they have 2 cats.



DAVID KATZ | Senior Broker, Waypoint Real Estate

As an active member in the Northern Colorado real estate market since 2012, David's focus is on investment sales, multi-family, industrial, and land that is in the path of development. Always being on the forefront of industry shifts, David realizes the future of land development will largely hinge on the availability and cost of water. With his insight he dove (pun intended) into learning the water markets of Northern Colorado and been brokering deals ever since.

Additionally, he has been a member of the Mile-High Exchanger's Group since becoming a licensed broker, which has provided him with a robust platform to present and procure off-market investment opportunities. David has earned his CCIM designation which remains the "Gold Standard" for Commercial real estate professionals and is held by less than 10% of industry brokers.

David has been an appointed Chair of the Fort Collins Planning and Zoning Commission and a member since 2019. In this position he takes his professional experiences and contributes back to shaping the community he loves.

David grew up in Michigan and is a passionate fly-fisherman and backcountry skier.



WESLEY LAVANCHY | Town Administrator, Town of Eaton

I was born in Jacksonville Florida and attended college, seminary and graduate school in the south, Midwest, and east coast. I transplanted to Colorado in the late 90's and I have worked in Colorado local government for the past 25 years. I began my local government career at the City of Broomfield in their finance department where I was first exposed to the Windy Gap water project and the Colorado Big Thompson water project. As I have had the opportunity to grow in my professional career, up to the City Manager's office, I have been exposed to a variety of water sources, uses and infrastructure demands, needs and constraints. I have had the opportunity to work for and with multiple communities along the Front range and Western Slope, as well as Water District's and Water Authorities. I have been married to my lovely wife for 27 years and we have 3 adult sons and a daughter-in-law. All my sons are

either currently in college or graduate school (hence my need for continued employment!!). In my spare time, I love to read and to fly fish in the Western United States. For me, water is one of our most precious resources and as a local government manager, I am called to stewardship on this issue.



JASON MAXEY | Director, Oil & Gas Energy Department, Weld County

Jason Maxey has spent over 15 years in the energy industry, including oil and gas regulatory, electric utility and consulting experience.

As Director of the Weld County OGED, Jason oversees the daily operations of a department designed to firmly establish local control over mineral resources in Weld County — a delegation included in Senate Bill 19-181 and accepted by the Weld County Commissioners upon the bill becoming law on April 16, 2019. Part of the daily responsibilities of the department include processing location assessment permits for both oil and gas locations, including large pipelines. Jason provides residents with information related to oil and gas development in Weld County and serves as a technical resource and liaison between residents and various stakeholders.

Prior to becoming Director, Jason served in various leadership roles with multiple organizations, including the Weld County Planning Commission, Weld County Board of Adjustment, Weld County Board of Health, Platte Valley RE-7 School Board, the South East Weld Chamber of Commerce, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce and the Kersey Community Church. In 2014, he was named Leadership Person of the Year by the Metro North Chamber of Commerce.



LAURA QUATTRINI | Executive Director, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

Laura brings over 20 years of experience working for conservation non-profits and an educational background in Wildlife Biology. During this time, she has focused on applying science to natural resource management and engaging in collaborative conservation efforts with a wide range of stakeholders, partners, and landowners. Through this work, she has become deeply embedded in many conservation initiatives in Colorado and acutely familiar with the watershed and forestry issues facing western communities. She is excited to work on these issues at a more localized level in the Big Thompson watershed.

DENIS SYMES | Associate Board Director, Fort Collins-Loveland Water District

Denis Symes was born in Washington, DC in 1941 and raised in College Park, Maryland. Graduating from the University of Maryland, he coordinated oil shipments for Mobil Oil Corporation in New York, followed by 17 years with the US Department of Transportation as an R&D Program Manager with projects in communication, navigation, and vehicle development.

In 1983, he accepted a position with Volvo Bus Corporation as Director of Sales and Marketing, Western Hemisphere. Following this, he worked as a transportation and business development consultant. In 1992, he returned to the Department of Transportation focusing on advanced communications and navigation and, autonomous vehicles.

He rounded-out his professional career as a Legislative and Policy Analyst with the General Services Administration in Washington, retiring in 2013. Following retirement, he has worked at 3 golf courses (great job – free golf, minimum wage and, no responsibility!!!).

College summer jobs included 2 summers working on trail crews in Glacier National Park and 3 Summers working in Idaho for the US Forest Service as a Smokejumper. Moving to Fort Collins in 2015, he has realized the value of water and the need for responsible use.



ETHNIE TREICK | President, Whitewood Limited Partnership

Ethnie Treick is a candidate to represent House District 52 in the Colorado State Legislature. She works for Whitewood Limited Partnership, a company with investments in real estate. Previously, she worked in the utility industry and for Governor Jim Doyle and Senator Tom Daschle. Ethnie is a longtime community volunteer and advocate, with a focus on women and children. She regularly volunteers at the Junior League of Fort Collins Career Closet; as a member of the Poudre School District Advisory Board; on the board of the Parent Teacher Student Organization at her boys' schools; and at the Center for Work, Education and Employment. During the 2022 election, she successfully led the Fair Council Pay campaign to increase City Council pay in Fort Collins. Ethnie previously served on the City of Fort Collins Human Services and Housing Funding Board, the Board of the Larimer County Democrats, and in leadership for the Junior League of Fort Collins and the Colorado BlueFlower

Fund. Ethnie lives in southwest Fort Collins with her husband and their two boys.



NICHOLAS WHARTON | Town Manager, Town of Severance

Nicholas J. Wharton, MPA, ICMA-CM, earned a graduate certificate in Historic Preservation, an MA in Public History, and an MPA with a concentration in local government from the University of Colorado at Denver. Nicholas started his career in local government as a DOLA Best and Brightest Intern for the Town of Severance in January 2014. He was promoted to Assistant Town Administrator in June 2014. In June 2018, he was given the opportunity to become Town Manager for Severance, where he is currently employed.



JENNIFER WOODS | Planning Director, Town of Hudson

Jennifer has enjoyed her 15-year planning career as an AICP-accredited planner in a wide array of places from the desert southwest, to the Pacific Northwest, down to the Gulf Coast, though she's originally from Garland, Texas. She earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Texas Tech University and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University, during which time she also served with the Peace Corps in Albania as a Masters Internationalist. She is currently the Planning Director for the Town of Hudson and her experience ranges from development services, long-range planning, affordable housing, and economic development to coordinated planning agreements.