



**COLORADO  
WATER CENTER**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN COLORADO**

## Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

April 10, 2024 | Speaker Biographies

### **JUSTIN SCHARTON | Natural Areas & Trails Division Manager, City of Greeley**

Justin Scharton is a dedicated natural resource professional with eclectic professional experience and a strong skillset in a variety of environmental and natural resource management topics including open space, water rights, volunteer management, research, wildlife management, GIS and urban nature integration. Justin leads the Natural Areas & Trails team for the City of Greeley, with primary roles including strategic planning, team oversight and culture-building, budget planning and funding development, land conservation efforts, policy and enforcement, capital project development and oversight, community engagement, and advocating and planning for division growth.

### **WADE WILLIS | Open Space & Trails Manager, Town of Windsor**

Wade Willis is the Open Space and Trails Manager for the Town of Windsor. Wade grew up in Windsor, is a CSU graduate, and has worked for the Town for over 20 years. Wade was around 11 years old when he remembers seeing an article in the Greeley Tribune "Poudre Trail to Connect Fort Collins to Greeley." As an avid bicyclist, he was incredibly excited. Wade is involved in many Poudre River efforts including serving as the past Chair of the Poudre Heritage Alliance Board of Directors, a participant in the Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group, and the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. Wade met his wife leading a volunteer effort on the Poudre Trail near the Poudre Learning Center.

### **MATTHEW REDDY | Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.**

Matt has worked on wetland and waterfowl conservation in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and the Dakotas for over 30 years. As Regional Biologist, Reddy is responsible for the development, funding, and implementation of conservation programs and projects that restore and protect important waterfowl habitats throughout Colorado and our neighboring states. Reddy works with public agencies, partner organizations, and DU's bio-engineering team to design, permit, fund, and deliver large-scale habitat and recreation improvement projects. These efforts require a close understanding of how the physical and administrative distribution of water in our basins impacts habitat quality, the life cycle success of targeted wildlife species, and the availability of high-quality recreation sites for millions of Colorado's citizens. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife, son, and daughter.

### **ERIK ANGLUND | Water Operations Manager, Occidental Petroleum Corporation**

Erik Anglund is a native Colorado farm kid and Water Operations Manager for Occidental Petroleum Corporation. He works on all things water related for the company's operations in the Rockies, including activities for construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, production, disposal and recycle. He has spent his career working with agricultural, municipal and industrial water rights, regulations, permitting and projects in Colorado and Wyoming. Erik also serves on the boards of the South Platte Water Related

Activities Program, the Colorado Water Congress, and the Colorado Produced Water Consortium. He has degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Organizational Leadership; and is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

**ERIK NIELSEN | Associate General Counsel, Leprino Foods Company**

Erik Nielsen is Associate General Counsel at Leprino Foods Company, one of the largest dairy-products companies in the world. Erik's work focuses on resolving complex environmental, land-use, real estate, construction, and other related legal issues for Leprino. Prior to relocating to Colorado in 2014, Erik worked as an attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, clerked for a Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court, and spent two years in a boutique-regulatory firm in Vermont. Erik has a B.A. from Rutgers in Urban Planning and Public Policy, and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

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

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. Diana has expertise in restoration ecology and planning, climate adaptation, and management of public funding. She participated in the 2022 Water Leaders program from Water Education Colorado. 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