



## 2023 Water Leaders Class Bios and Photos

### Amber Pacheco - Deputy General Manager, Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Amber Pacheco serves as the Deputy General Manager for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Prior to serving in this role, she helped form six water management sub districts under the District and managed the daily administration of three of the groundwater management subdistricts. In her current role, she is responsible for the delivery of services to District users and the coordination of District functions with all agencies including, but not limited to local, county, state and federal entities. Mrs. Pacheco has been with the District for eighteen years and she enjoys being involved in helping the water community find solutions to the water issues the San Luis Valley is faced with. She holds both a B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting and an M.B.A. in Public Administration from Adams State University. She is a lifelong resident of the San Luis Valley.

Amber loves to spend time with her husband of twenty-five years, her three children and three grandchildren. She enjoys spending her free time helping out with all her daughter's school activities. Every chance she gets, she loves spending time outdoors camping, hiking and fishing. She is also traveling and trying new things in new places with her family.

### Ariel Hacker - District Engineer, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District

Ariel Hacker is the district engineer for a water and sanitation district near Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she manages district projects, programs, and developments. She served as president and vice president for the Pikes Peak Section Society of Women Engineers for four years and continues volunteering with the society as a mentor for the SWENext high school group. Additionally, she is excited to support river and infrastructure projects and to serve as a voice for water users in her recently-appointed position as El Paso County Representative on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.



Ariel was not born in a barn, but she got to one as fast as she could. She has a lifelong horse obsession and enjoys volunteering her time to animal rescue efforts. After she witnessed her rescued Westphalian mare, Narnia, jump a six foot paddock fence like it was no big deal, Ariel thought it would be fun for both of them to transition to the hunter/jumper riding style. They are currently learning to jump fences as a team - and loving it! When she is not horsing around or "nerding out" on water law, she loves adventuring with her wonderful man and his son, hiking, traveling, cuddling with her kitty to a historical non-fiction, or spending time on one of too many creative projects.

## **Brandy Logan - Water Resources Specialist, Colorado Water Conservation Board**



Brandy Logan is a Water Resource Specialist for the Instream Flow (ISF) Program with the CWCB. She conducts hydrologic investigations and evaluates the supporting science for ISFs and natural lake levels (NLL). She also helps manage the Wild and Scenic River Fund and assists stakeholder groups working on Wild and Scenic issues. Throughout her career, Brandy has had the privilege of working in diverse areas of stream and river science, ranging from population surveys of endangered Colorado River fish species to stream restoration projects in Montana. She has also been actively involved in laboratory experiments and hydraulic modeling as a USGS research scientist.

As a board member of the Colorado Watershed Assembly, Brandy enjoys helping local groups take action to improve their watersheds through the Healthy Rivers Fund. She grew up skiing, rafting, and camping in the western U.S., and she continues that tradition with her husband and two boys.

## **Cameron Wilkins - Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

Cameron Wilkins is a unit manager for the Field Services Section of the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). CDPHE Field Services primarily conducts sanitary surveys of public drinking water systems, compliance evaluation inspections for permitted dischargers, as well as spill response. Cameron's unit geographically covers most of the western slope and San Luis Valley. Prior to becoming a manager in 2020, Cameron was a Senior Field Engineer for almost nine years, conducting over 300 inspections for drinking water and wastewater facilities, mostly in Chaffee, Lake, Summit, Gunnison, Park, and Saguache counties.



Cameron currently resides in Salida, and along with his wife, are raising two children, one in high school, the other in middle school. You won't find Cameron in the summer, for when he isn't working, he will be exploring all the greatness Colorado has to offer, from boating, to rafting, to dirt bike riding, to just a good ole Sunday drive. Come winter, Cameron can be mostly found at a wrestling tournament, whether it be high school, middle school, or youth.

## Chris Muller - Senior Water Resources Engineer, South Metro Water Supply Authority



Chris has 16 years of experience working as a civil engineer on Colorado water and wastewater systems. He graduated from Colorado State University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. For the first 9 years of his career, he worked at consulting firms focused on the design and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure. In 2016, he joined South Metro Water Supply Authority to help with the commissioning of the initial phase of construction and startup for the WISE (Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency) Project. Chris now leads the engineering and operations of the WISE system including but not limited to setting the yearly budget, managing capital projects, coordinating system operation, optimizing water deliveries, overseeing system compliance, rate negotiations, delivery agreement negotiations, operational agreement negotiations, and coordinating with members and partners.

Chris was born and raised in the southern suburbs of Denver. Colorado has always been home, and he takes great pride in working to solve water supply and quality issues to help meet the future needs of the state. When he is not working, he enjoys traveling, spending time with his dog Bandit, and playing golf.

## Cristy Radabaugh - Vice President/Principal Engineer, Martin and Wood Water Consultants

I am an engineer and vice president at Martin and Wood Water Consultants, a small company in Golden that specializes in water supply planning and technical aspects of water rights. I received my undergraduate degree in engineering from Vanderbilt University in 2000 and quickly began my career out west. After six years, I transitioned from environmental work at a large company (Parsons) into water resources and water rights work at a small company (Martin and Wood). I am fortunate to have learned a lot about life, water, and people from my mentors Joe Tom Wood and Phil Martin, among others. I am currently an owner of Martin and Wood and often spend my days in meetings talking about water issues and evaluating options. I am a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado, a certified Engineering Expert Witness by the American Council of Engineering Companies and have testified as an expert witness in Division 1 Water Court.



I was born in Michigan and moved to the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina in sixth grade. It was in the Smokies living along the Tuckasegee River that I really began to appreciate and connect with water. After college, I moved to Denver seeking adventure in the west, and for the first time, I was in a place where the bluegrass had to be watered. Nowadays, I love raising two daughters with my husband Pat, enjoy skiing under blue and/or snow-filled skies, occasionally hike to waterfalls, and like to plan trips to places near and far.



## Donnie Dustin - Water Resources Engineer II, City of Fort Collins Utilities



My name is Donnie Dustin and I am currently a water resources engineer for the City of Fort Collins Utilities. I have a BS in Geology from James Madison University and a MS in Civil Engineering (Water Resources and Planning focus) from Colorado State University. I have been with Fort Collins for 25 years mostly with the Water Resources Division and recently went back to a contributor role after leading the Division for over 10 years. I'm currently acting as the Halligan Water Supply Project permitting coordinator while new staff. I have been the Larimer County municipal representative for the South Platte Basin Roundtable for a couple of years and have sat on several local irrigation company boards.

I grew up in rural Maryland and am the youngest of 5 kids. I moved to Colorado in 1991 right after college. I worked in Denver for a couple of years doing consulting before living the ski life for a couple of years in Summit County where I met my wife of almost 26 years. We have two teenagers that keep us fairly busy now. When I can I enjoy seeing live music, mountain biking, fly fishing, skiing, hiking, and mostly just hanging with friends with some cocktails. I'm very much looking forward to the Water Leaders Program.

## Holly Kirkpatrick - Public Information & External Affairs Manager, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

*Holly Kirkpatrick has served as the Public Information & External Affairs Manager for the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District in Steamboat Springs since 2019. Holly's work with the District keeps her involved in working groups addressing water issues in the Yampa River Basin as well as managing education and outreach to the District's constituents. Prior to joining the District, Holly worked as a research assistant in ecosystems science and management at the University of Wyoming. Holly has a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Western Carolina University and a M.S. in Agricultural Economics and Environment & Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming. Aside from the four years spent in Wyoming, Holly has called the Yampa Valley home for over 16 years.*



*When Holly isn't nerding out or talking about water, you can find her in the woods or the desert with her four-legged sidekick, Tulie, camping, hiking, and floating rivers. As a lover of travel, culture and learning, you can also find Holly off the beaten path getting to know locals and asking tons of questions.*

## Jenny McCarty - Water Resources Specialist, St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District



Jenny McCarty is the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District's Water Resources Specialist. She provides project management oversight, partner support, and ecological expertise across several of the District's projects and programs. She also represents the District's interests in many regional collaborative groups, in communications with the District's Board of Directors, and as a Director for the Watershed Center. Outside of her assigned role, Jenny makes colleagues think about wild mushrooms at least once a week (whether they want to or not) and ensures the kitchen chocolate supply is always dwindling.

Jenny grew up near Evergreen, Colorado and now lives in Gunbarrel. She spends her free time at home and abroad with her husband and friends, seeking mountain biking, skiing, and river paddling adventures. She enjoys painting, pottery and is an avid reader. Let her know your top three recommended

reads and she'll like you forever...probably.

## Jessica DiToro - Project Manager, LRE Water

Born and raised in Vermont, Jessica moved to Colorado in 2013 to pursue a graduate degree in environmental engineering at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. After graduating she began working at LRE Water as a staff engineer where she has progressed her career over the last nine years to the role of Project Manager. In this role, Jessica oversees projects for both public and private entities that encompass a broad range of topics related to environmental compliance and permitting including Colorado Water Quality Control Commission rulemaking hearings, wastewater treatment, dewatering, and stormwater permits, National Environmental Policy Act, CERCLA (superfund), 303(d) Listings, water quality sampling and data analysis, and water supply resource planning.



In 2020, Jessica and her partner moved to the Town of Eagle, where she works remotely when not commuting to the LRE offices in Glenwood Springs or Denver. In 2022, she had the honor of joining the Board of Directors of the local nonprofit group, the Eagle River Watershed Council. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, backcountry and alpine skiing, Crossfitting, sailing, biking, traveling, and reading. She is also a proud fur mom to three amazing shelter dogs.

## Justin Zeisler - Engineer IV, Colorado Springs Utilities



Justin Zeisler started his career in the water resources field with an internship at Colorado Springs Utilities in the Water Planning & Design department, while studying mechanical engineering at UCCS. After graduating in 2009, he landed a position at Colorado DNR's Division of Water Resources and continued to learn about the vast complexities of water rights and administration. Within a few years he found his way back to Colorado Springs Utilities, first as a water planning engineer, now as the water planning supervisor. He leverages technical skills and collaboration to move forward the water projects that will secure a robust, resilient, and reliable water supply for future generations.

Living in Colorado Springs for the past 21 years, Justin has developed a strong connection to the state and a deep appreciation for its unique water challenges. Free time is spent hiking, biking, backpacking, camping, rafting, skiing, fishing, gardening, foraging, cooking, playing with his kids, visiting the dog park, and non-fiction audiobooks. He's been known to be quite sensible and reserved, also finding enjoyment in hard work, perhaps stemming from a childhood in rural midwest.

## Kayli Foulk - Water Quality Specialist, Grand County

Kayli Foulk is Grand County's water quality specialist. She plays a fundamental role in planning efforts to support monitoring aquatic conditions, preparing for drought resiliency, and helping maintain water-related data collected throughout Grand County and the larger Colorado River Basin.

Kayli supports and provides technical assistance to several stakeholder groups to ensure that adequate supplies of clean, abundant water is available for all water users in the County. Additionally, she is also responsible for the implementation of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, Windy Gap Firming Project agreements, and the update to the Grand County Stream Management Plan.

When she is not advocating for Grand County and West Slope water interests, Kayli can be found paddle boarding with her fiancé on the Upper Colorado River, hiking with her pups Ava and Bruce, or winding down with yoga. She has lived in the beautiful Fraser Valley for the past 11 years.





## Kimberly Mihelich - Source Water Protection Specialist, Northern CO Water Conservancy District



Kimberly Mihelich is a source water protection specialist for Northern Water and is responsible for leading its source water protection program. This program supports Northern Water's goals of protecting and providing high quality water for over one million people and thousands of irrigated acres along Colorado's Northern Front Range. Kimberly's role involves coordination with multiple departments internally and collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholders on the Front Range and West Slope on a variety of watershed and forest health initiatives. In the fall of 2020, Kimberly's role expanded to include postfire recovery work following the East Troublesome Fire which burned a large majority of Northern Water's collection system in Grand County. This has involved project management and leading coordination efforts with the multitude of partners involved in postfire watershed recovery. Kimberly currently lives in Fort Collins with her husband

and two young children.

## Logan Hartle - Manager and Operator in Responsible Charge, Elbert Creek Water Company

My name is Logan Hartle, and I am very excited to be joining other water professionals in the Water Leaders Program. I am currently the manager and Operator in Responsible Charge for Elbert Creek Water Company near Durango Colorado. I grew up on Colorado's western slope where I gained a deep respect for and fascination with water in the West. My education and work experience has since been focused on water quality in Colorado. I have been working in the water/wastewater industry for nine years and I currently hold my Wastewater Treatment A and Collections 2, and Water Treatment A and Distribution 4 licenses. I completed my bachelor's degree in geology with an earth science focus at Fort Lewis College and obtained a graduate certificate in water resources from Colorado State University.



I love living in Durango and take advantage of all the outdoor sports southwest Colorado has to offer. I am an avid whitewater kayaker and river recreator. I enjoy spending time outside with my wife and two dogs.

## Mary Huisenga - Senior Natural Resource Team Lead, SWCA Environmental Consultants



Mary Huisenga is a Senior Natural Resource Team Lead at SWCA Environmental Consultants in Broomfield, Colorado. She manages teams with diverse skill sets, such as watershed and wildfire planners, restoration engineers, geospatial data engineers, ecologists, hydrologists, and economists to achieve project objectives. While she also supports permitting energy projects, her favorite projects focus on watershed assessments, developing management plans, wildfire planning and assessments, and restoration planning.

Mary grew up in Iowa and moved to Colorado in 2006. One of her first jobs in Colorado was sampling source water in the mountains and conducting receiving water and mixing zone studies in the Front Range. It was a great way to learn about water quality and quantity issues in Colorado. When not working, Mary enjoys traveling with her family, trail runs, and generally being outside as much as possible.

## Quinn Donnelly - Upper CO Regional Leader, RiverRestoration.org, LLC

Quinn is a project manager and river engineer with 17 years of experience working on a broad range of water resource projects. For the past nine years he has been working on restoration projects on rivers and streams with RiverRestoration. Quinn's areas of expertise include open channel hydraulics, aquatic habitat and fish passage, recreational hydraulics, stream restoration, bank stabilization, and stormwater management. His technical skills include site assessment and hydrographic survey, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, construction document production, and construction observation. Quinn worked for the US Geological Survey and the US Air Force prior to his current career and attended school at the University of Virginia and University of Washington. Quinn works out of RiverRestoration's Carbondale office and is a registered Professional Engineer in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Iowa.



Quinn spent the first 30 years of his life on the move and has lived in 11 different states and Europe. Since getting into engineering in 2006, the moves have slowed down with time in Oregon and Colorado. Quinn enjoys the outdoors, spending time with his wife and friends rafting, camping, and fly fishing. He also enjoys traveling. Quinn tries to stay active in his community, currently participating in the Buddy Program and serving on the Town of Carbondale's Environmental Board.



## Rachel Pence - Water Resources Engineer, Denver Water



Rachel Pence is a Water Resource Engineer in the Water Resource Planning section at Denver Water and has 8 years of experience in Colorado water. She specializes in long-range planning, utilizing scenario and integrated resource planning to develop an adaptive plan for the next 50 years. As a leader in long-range planning, she is managing Denver Water's next iteration of their Integrated Resource Plan. Additionally, Rachel focuses on aquifer storage and recovery, regional planning projects, and Colorado River issues.

In her free time, Rachel enjoys everything Colorado has to offer. On the weekends, you can find her hiking, backpacking, skiing, and biking. When she isn't in the mountains, she enjoys gardening, cooking, baking, and woodworking.

## Rachel Zerowin - Community Programs Director, High Country Conservation Center

Rachel's background includes marketing and events with a deep emphasis on communications—a diverse skill set honed through her role with the Breckenridge Tourism Office. Her passion for resource conservation is rooted in her love of the outdoors, and the expansion of her family fueled that passion even further. While she is known to recharge with solo time outside, she loves working and connecting with people across the community. Her very first high altitude gardening experience was thanks to a High Country Conservation Center (HC3) community garden plot, and today she is thrilled to share her enthusiasm for sustainable food, water conservation and waste reduction as the Community Programs Director for HC3.



## Steven Barrett - Principal Water Resources Specialist, HRS Water Consultants, Inc.



I grew up in Overland Park, Kansas but always enjoyed the mountains of Colorado from an early age. Shortly after graduating from the University of Kansas, I moved to Crested Butte, Colorado to live in the mountains and explore the area's many recreational opportunities (i.e. skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, camping, etc.). That was over 25 years ago and I still enjoy these same activities, though things are slightly different these days with a wife, two kids, and two dogs. Fortunately, my family and friends enjoy these activities as well. We try fit in as much as possible between school, work, and other activities.

After two years of "ski bumming" in Crested Butte, I started my career in water resources as a part time Deputy Water Commissioner with the Colorado Division of Water Resources in the Durango/Division 7 Office. I worked two summers in Durango on the Animas River where I got exposure to a variety of water users from the Silverton area to the New Mexico/CO Stateline. After two years in Division 7, I accepted a full-time position as an Engineering Technician in Denver at the State Engineer's Office. I worked for a few years in the Denver Office before taking a Hydrographer position in the Greeley/Division 1 Office. I worked as a Hydrographer for three years on the South Platte River and several of its tributaries and then entered the private sector accepting a position with HRS Water Consultants, Inc., where I still work almost 15 years later. I am now a Principal Water Resources Specialist at HRS and I assist clients with a variety of projects including augmentation plans, change of use cases, water rights accounting, water rights valuations, stream depletion/accretion analysis, GIS analyses, and general water resources planning.

## Teresa Patterson - Watershed Manager, South Platte River, Mile High Flood District

*I like pina coladas... And getting caught in the rain. ...so much so that I've made a career of it.* I am a Watershed Manager with the Mile High Flood District with over 20 years of engineering experience mostly focused in stormwater design and floodplain management. I've dedicated my career to serving the public and innovating engineering practices that embrace natural processes in the built environment.

I was born and raised in western Nebraska. After graduating from the University of Wyoming in 1999, my future husband and I moved to the Denver area and we haven't looked back. I once dreamt of being a college professor, but after pursuing my Masters Degree at the Colorado School of Mines, I realized that I was better off sticking to applied engineering over theoretical research. However, as a mentor and overall evangelist of the work we do, I always look for the teachable moments that present themselves everyday.

