

Resilience in the Rockies Summit

Meet Our Speakers



Lauren Ris is the Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. She previously worked as a Committee and Policy Staff Fiscal Analyst for the Colorado Legislative Council, a Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Assistant Director for Water in the DNR, and the Deputy Director of the CWCB.



Cynthia Koehler, Executive Director at WaterNow, is an environmental attorney and water policy expert with 30 years of experience working on federal and state water and natural resource issues. She served 5 terms as a Board Member of the Marin Municipal Water District and is an appointed member of US EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board. Cynthia previously worked for the Environmental Defense Fund as the California Legislative Director for Water Issues, and served on EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, and Governor Brown's Urban Advisory Group.



Victoria Arling, Colorado Basin Program Director at WaterNow, is a water resources and land use professional with 10 years of experience. She leads the organization's water efficiency and conservation programs throughout Colorado. Victoria also sits on the Board of Colorado WaterWise as co-chair, and is actively engaged with the broader Colorado water conservation community. She graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a Masters in Environmental Management.



Katie Helm, Senior Program Manager at WaterNow, is a sustainability professional with 14 years experience advancing equitable resource management across Colorado. Katie specializes in strategic planning, project management, communications, grant management, and stakeholder engagement. At the core of her work is a focus on equitable solutions and connecting people with the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to manage resources sustainably.



Travis Loop is an award-winning water journalist and founder of waterloop, a nonprofit news outlet exploring solutions for water sustainability. A former communications director at the U.S. EPA and Water Environment Federation, he combines informed reporting, high-end filmmaking, and field-based storytelling to make complex water issues accessible and actionable worldwide.

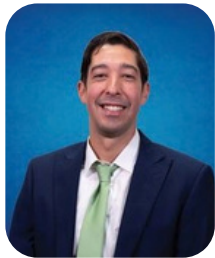


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Emma Donahue is a Legislative and Policy Advocate for the Colorado Municipal League and is responsible for advocating municipal interests before the state legislature. Her issues include elections, natural resources and environment, oil and gas, open meetings and open records, severance tax, sustainability and air quality, utilities, water and wildfires. She also assists in training and answering inquiries for other municipal officials on various topics.



Councillor Adam Barajas began serving on Westminster City Council in December 2025. A former math and science teacher and investor specialist, Adam holds a BS in Chemistry from Regis University and a Master of Education from the University of Notre Dame. He and his wife, Katie, live in Westminster, where he remains active in community service, advocacy, and neighborhood initiatives.



Mayor Claire Carmelia was elected to Westminster City Council in November 2025. With a background in technology project management, environmental studies, and geology, she brings expertise in complex project delivery and a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, equity, and community well-being.



Alex Kalkhofer is a Longmont City Councilmember and supply-chain operations professional. He focuses on practical, community-centered policy involving water, transportation, infrastructure, public safety and responsible growth. Alex is committed to clear public communication and long-term investments that keep Longmont resilient, affordable and livable.



Chris Bowers is the Energy and Sustainability Manager at the University of Northern Colorado, where he leads campus energy, water conservation, and sustainability initiatives. Chris' work focuses on translating ambitious sustainability goals into practical projects through collaboration with students, campus partners, utilities, municipalities, and community organizations.



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Ryan Vlaar is a Horticulture Specialist for the Beyond Lawn program at the Eagle County Conservation District. Using his background in botany and ecology and years of professional experience as a landscaper, he helps Eagle River Valley communities build resilient landscapes suited to a changing mountain climate.



Angela Bricmont is the Chief Financial Officer of Denver Water, where she leads the financial strategy, customer service operations, and organizational performance reporting for a century-old utility serving 1.5 million people. With a focus on financial resilience, transparency, and innovation, she has modernized the organization's funding approach by introducing federal financing tools, securing strategic grants, issuing green bonds, and implementing a new rate structure that advances both affordability and long-term system sustainability.



Rachael Richards has served in elected office for over 30 years as a Pitkin County Commissioner, City Council member, and once again as Aspen Mayor. Working with many partners- she's been a champion of affordable housing, mass transit, childcare, climate mitigation, the arts, and the protection of public lands and water resources, all to support a healthy community in balance with a thriving resort economy.



Jean Lim has served the City and County of Broomfield as a Councilmember since 2019 and is currently the Mayor Pro Tem. In her assignment as Broomfield's representative to Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA), she has chaired the Legislative Committee and has enjoyed learning from many local government environmental advocates. She also represents Council on the Broomfield Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES), where residents serve as a review board for sustainability proposals and implementation.



Shelbie Neff has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Water Resources and Planning Office since 2019, where she coordinates the Drought Response Program under WaterSMART. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works with states, tribes, and local entities to improve water supply and water management. Shelbie graduated from University of Northern Colorado.



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Sean Chambers is the Director of the Water Utilities at the City of Greeley, where he has been leading the Utility since 2018. Mr. Chambers holds a B.S. in Ag & Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State, he is an Alumnus of WECO's Water Leaders Program, a Board Member for the Colorado Water Trust and Past Chair of the South Platte Basin Roundtable.



Rachel James is the Development Services Director for the City of Alamosa, where she leads strategic urban planning, municipal development, and placemaking initiatives. With a background in Landscape Architecture from Colorado State University, she stepped into the role in 2021 as the City's very first Development Services Director to establish and lead its newly formed department.



Kevin Reidy is the Senior State Water Efficiency Specialist at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He provides technical and financial assistance to water providers across Colorado for water efficiency planning and implementation, assists local governments on land use and water efficiency integration, works on long range statewide water supply and demand forecasting and develops statewide water efficiency policy through research and projects.



Joe Taddeucci currently serves as the Director of Utilities for the City of Boulder, a position he has held since 2019. As director, Joe oversees the city's water, wastewater and stormwater and flood utilities. Joe joined the City of Boulder in 2005 as an engineering project manager and was promoted to Water Resources manager in 2012. Prior to joining the city, he was an engineering consultant for 15 years.



Kate Larson is Senior Director of Water Programs at Resource Central, where she leads partnership-driven conservation efforts that help thousands of Coloradans take action each year. Her work focuses on making water conservation easier and more accessible while creating landscapes people value for their beauty, resilience, and benefits to local wildlife.



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Marshall Brown is the General Manager of Aurora Water, leading major initiatives in supply reliability, infrastructure modernization, advanced treatment technologies, and long-range planning. With over three decades of experience, Brown previously led Scottsdale Water and holds engineering degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Arizona.



Mandy Ashley serves as the Executive Director of the Aurora Health Alliance, where she holds strategic and operational responsibility for staff, programs, and community collaboration. In this role, she partners with local businesses, government entities, and residents to strengthen healthcare access and resource distribution across Aurora. Her extensive background in health policy includes previous leadership roles as Manager of Government and Corporate Relations at UCHealth and Senior Privacy Analyst at Colorado Access.



Nina Waters serves as a Summit County Commissioner, first appointed in 2023 and re-elected in 2024, and currently serves as the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. Locally, she serves on the Silverthorne Art Board, and chairs the Summit County Wildfire Council. Regionally, she is Vice President of Colorado Communities for Climate Action, Treasurer of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, and Chair of its Water Quality/Quantity Committee.



Heather Allen is the Community Programs Director for High Country Conservation Center (HC3), where she manages waste diversion and water conservation programs serving Summit County, Colorado. HC3's water efforts focus on reducing waste through education, outreach, and a Water Smart Lawn rebate program. As an outdoor enthusiast, Heather knows how much water shapes the things she loves most about Summit County, from paddleboarding to cross-country skiing and snowboarding.

