

## 2021 Water Leaders Program Participant Bios

**Cole Bedford-** Water Project Loan Program Project Manager, Colorado Water Conservation Board

From 2015 to 2017, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kyrgyzstan helping to extend water service to homes that had previously not had on-site water taps. After the



Peace Corps, I came to Colorado and worked for Bohannon Huston Engineering as a water resources engineer in Englewood. I received my professional engineering license in 2018, then moved to my current role as Water Project Loan Program Project Manager at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. My work involves helping the owners of water infrastructure develop projects that qualify for State grant and loan funding and then supporting the implementation of those projects. I have a BS in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and an MS in Civil Engineering from Michigan

Technological University.

For the past two years, I have been the professional mentor for the CU Boulder Engineers Without Borders Rwanda Team. The students are currently working on a rainwater harvesting system for a community in the northern province of Rwanda. I also have a passion for history—especially water resources history—and am a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers' History Committee. I was recently part of a group that nominated Pathfinder Dam in Wyoming as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. During the summer months I enjoy motorcycle riding and camping with my wife, Emily.

**Emily Meek-** Standards Engineer, American Water Works Association I have worked with health and safety standards in the drinking water industry for ten years. I currently



work with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) as a Standards Engineer to help write, develop, and revise product and management standards that the industry uses daily. Previously, I worked at NSF International, certifying that thousands of products touching water, from reservoir to tap, met the Safe Drinking Water Act and further stringent health standards. One of my greatest passions is education, and I help build this throughout the water industry. I've enjoyed working with groups of all ages, including Water for People, South Metro

Water Supply Authority, AWWA, Denver South High School, BBYO Jewish Youth

Leadership, and worked with Time magazine's first ever Kid of the Year, Gitanjali Rao. These opportunities led me to be proactive in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, working within AWWA, as well as externally with Women in Standards, and Colorado Water Congress' Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee.

I grew up in the Midwest, earning my bachelor's from Michigan State University, and master's degree from Indiana University. I have been in Colorado almost 6 years and love the sunshine and outdoors. Colorado living has gotten me to complete a duathlon for the first time, as well as hiking and gardening more. I'm a decent baker, crafter, and avid lover of books and travel. Thanks to the pandemic, I have spent a lot more time at home with my husband and two-year-old daughter, sharing my love of these things with her.

**Gregor MacGregor**- Volunteer Law Clerk, Colorado Supreme Court

Recently retired from the Army and practicing as a water lawyer. Most of my civilian accomplishments have been related to providing legal services to underserved communities. I began in law school as a student attorney with the Acequia Assistance



Project which assists farmers in the San Luis Valley. I then created the Deputy Director position and implemented a training course for Project leaders behind me and wrote several handbooks. I now serve as a supervising attorney for some highly motivated students. I am currently working on resources for *pro se* parties in water court for the Colorado Supreme Court's Water Court Committee. I'll be headed into a full-time clerkship with Justice Hart in August.

I love being back home in Colorado after my time in the Army. Our family spends lots of time camping, fishing, hiking, and skiing around the state. I also enjoy spending more money than I should, buying more books than I can read, at local bookstores on those trips. In my free time I run a full service home bakery twice a week, and I'm hoping to share that particular interest with you all at our in-person sessions.

**Hattie Johnson**- Southern Rockies Stewardship Director, American Whitewater

From 2012 to 2019, I worked with RiverRestoration, a mission-based engineering firm focused on enhancing and revitalizing the social, economic, and environmental value of rivers and based in Carondale. I worked as a Landscape Architect with the company for six years, gaining an understanding of the connection of western communities to their



waterways. I made a career change at the beginning of 2019, taking the stewardship director position at American Whitewater for our southwestern regional program. For the past couple of years I have been learning a different approach and perspective to protecting and enhancing human relationship with rivers.

I have lived in Colorado for 9 years now and settled in Carbondale for 7 of those years. In my spare time, my family and I enjoy rafting on the incredible desert river canyons of the Colorado Plateau. Spending time outside is an important daily ritual, whether it is mountain biking, skiing, or paddling. However, being on, in, or by a river always brings peace. I deeply love reading. However, work and an infant have led to about 5 half read books lying around the house.

**Ian Philips-** Chief Accountant, Colorado River District

After graduating from Fort Lewis College in May 2006, I accepted a job in Glenwood Springs as a staff accountant at an accounting firm and passed all four sections of the



Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. I joined the Colorado River District in 2011 as an accountant, and was later promoted to the Chief Accountant position in 2017. The projects that the River District is involved with has grown significantly during the past few years. As a result, I have become familiar with the various sources of funding available (both State and Federal), the budgeting/tracking that is involved with these multi-year projects, as well as the reporting requirements to the various funding entities. In the fall of 2020, the District was successful with a ballot measure to increase our tax revenue and to 'de-Bruce',

which has provided us the opportunity to create a funding program for water projects on the west slope.

I was born and raised in Durango Colorado, which helped groom me into a lover of anything outdoors. Growing up paddling the Animas river and skiing at Purgatory, I was able to connect the dots between the snow that fell during the winter and the amount of runoff in the river the following summer. During the summer months, my wife and two young boys (five and three years old) can be found on the trails, either riding bikes (both mountain and dirtbike) or hiking, rafting the local rivers, or camping in this beautiful part of the state.

**Karlyn Armstrong-** Sr. Water Resources Engineer and Water Project Mitigation Coordinator, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the last place I would have expected to end up when I graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado School of Mines in 2010. Alas, after spending 7 years in water resource engineering with the Colorado



Division of Water Resources and pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, I moved to CPW in 2017. I now coordinate CPW's involvement in the development and implementation of Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans for water projects across the state and provide water rights engineering support for CPW water interests. For the last 6 years I also served on the board of the American Water Resources Association Colorado chapter, serving as President as the world shifted to a virtual platform with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I grew up in the Seattle area where water is either salty or falling from the sky. 16 years in Colorado has fostered a deep appreciation for the value of both water and sunny days that allow me to enjoy time outdoors hiking, camping, and fly fishing without living in a raincoat. These days, exploring the outdoors often involves time with my husband and young son running around playgrounds and working in the garden. I also enjoy volunteering and getting lost in a book when time permits.

**Katy Kaproth-Gerecht-** Senior Project Engineer, LRE Water

I joined the Water Innovation and Technology Team at LRE Water in Denver in 2014. As a senior project engineer, I work on and manage a variety of projects including water



resources modeling for decision support, custom tool and code development for data visualization and analysis, and supply and demand optimization for long-term planning. I specialize in transforming complex water resources data into succinct and useful information for stakeholders and became a licensed Professional Engineer in 2016. I also served on the Colorado Water Congress (CWC) POND committee for five years (including as chair for two years) and am now an active member of the CWC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee.

When I'm not working, I can be found in our garden (Dahlias are a favorite, but we grow all kinds of veggies and flowers), learning to watercolor paint, curled up in a hammock

with a book, or trying out a recipe inspired by The Great British Bake Off. At the beginning of the pandemic we gave crosswording a try and are now hooked! We do a crossword or two everyday at lunch and competed in a virtual crossword league and tournament this spring. We're not super speedy (yet!), but it is a really fun way to learn new things and laugh at bad puns.

**Lindsay Rogers-** Water Policy Analyst, Western Resource Advocates

My work is largely focused on supporting cities and municipal water providers to advance their sustainable water programs and policy initiatives in Colorado and other



Basin states. More specifically, I work to advance urban water conservation and efficiency, integrated water and land use planning solutions, green stormwater infrastructure, and alternative transfer methods. I manage hands-on projects in collaboration with utility partners, state and federal policy initiatives, and a wide variety of education and outreach initiatives. I spent five years at WaterNow Alliance, a non-profit network of local municipal decision-makers supporting sustainable water solutions and recently (May 2021!) transitioned into a position with Western Resource

Advocates, a non-profit conservation organization focused on protecting the West's air, land and water. I serve on the Board of Colorado WaterWise and as the Land & Water Chair on the City of Edgewater's Sustainability Board. I have a BS from Tufts University in Environmental Studies and International Relations.

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and my fiancé and I relocated to Denver in 2018. I love all things outdoors including hiking, trail running, skiing, camping and exploring Colorado and the West. I'm an avid reader and I spend every moment that I can with my dog Chaco.

**Maura McGovern-** Clean Water Compliance Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

I have been working at CDPHE in the Water Quality Control Division since 2008. Prior to CDPHE, I worked various positions at the USGS in their mapping division and from there moved into a role at Douglas County in their drainage erosion and sediment control program. I am currently a manager of CDPHE's clean water compliance unit. Our team primarily provides compliance assistance and compliance assurance (inspections) activities to various industrial



dischargers that have Colorado NPDES permits. Since construction stormwater is the largest permit base in Colorado, with over 5,000 active permits at any given time, a vast majority of the program is focused on water quality issues related to construction stormwater.

Although you would never know it, much of my adolescent years were spent in the New York city area. My passion for the outdoors led me to move to Denver in 1999 and I have been here ever since. I enjoy all things outside but most of my free time usually involves something bike related. Like many during the pandemic I have appreciated the opportunity to have more time at home baking, walking my pointer dog and Netflix binges with my husband.

**Ronda Lobato**- Deputy Assessor, Costilla County Assessor

Certified Residential Appraiser, recently appointed as the Chief Appraiser/Deputy Assessor for the Costilla County Assessor’s office. Previous termed Assessor of 8 years. Costilla County



Conservancy District Board Member since 2012. Lead Member of Watershed Assessment Project for the District. She has served on several boards including; Centennial School Board, Colorado Association of School Boards, San Luis Valley BOCES, Colorado Association of Tax Appraisers, and served as the Colorado Assessors Association Representative for the International Association of Assessing Officers.

A 6<sup>th</sup> generation Colorado native, I reside in San Luis the Oldest Town in Colorado with my husband, 3 daughters, and grandson. I enjoy adventures with my family such as, traveling, concert going, and spending time at our family ranch in Chama Canyon, where we camp, fish, and raise timothy/native grass hay. I am an advocate for the preservation and protection of historical water rights and land of the Acequia communities in Costilla County. I am a community leader dedicated to public service.

**Scott Steinbrecher**- Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Colorado Attorney General’s Office



I was born and raised on the Western Slope, but bounced between the coasts for college and law school. I returned to Colorado in 2005 and I’ve been practicing water law ever since. I am currently Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Natural Resources & Environment Section at the Colorado Department of Law. In that role, I advise the Colorado Attorney General on water policy and legislation in Colorado and lead a team of the fifteen attorneys who represent the Colorado State Engineer, Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the State’s compact commissioners in both intra- and interstate water matters. Previously, I represented Colorado in various interstate compact negotiations and disputes,

including in an original action in the Supreme Court of the United States involving disputes over the Republican River Compact. I spent my early career practicing in Colorado Water Courts and representing both state agencies and private parties in hundreds of water court proceedings.

I'm married and we have two young kids. When time allows, I love mountain biking and skiing, especially with my son. My daughter is a very special girl and frequent flyer at Children's Hospital Colorado. To thank CHCO for all they do for our family and to help others, we also spend a lot of time fundraising.

**Stephanie Cecil-** Water Resources Project Engineer, Northern Water



I graduated college from Texas A&M then started work at Freese and Nichols, an engineering consulting firm doing detailed design of water projects for municipalities and water districts. I published a few different papers related to some of the large diameter pipeline projects I worked on. In 2016, I moved to Colorado and started with Northern Water. I have enjoyed getting to implement regional water projects, including recently finishing construction on a 22-mile pipeline from Carter Lake to Boulder Reservoir. I serve as Vice President of the Northern Colorado branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In my off time, I enjoy the great outdoors by hiking, birding (yes, send me a photo of that bird and I can ID it!), gardening, or enjoying a nice local brew on a patio. We love exploring Colorado and all the beauty here. One positive of the last year and working more from home is getting to spend extra time with my husband, 2 yappy mutts, and our son who was born in January 2020.

**Stephanie Phippen-** Lead Scientist/Project Manager, Tetra Tech



I am a geoscientist and project manager with 20 years of environmental consulting experience. Before completing an M.S. in geomorphology at CSU, I explored volcanology as a Fulbright Scholar in Ecuador. During my early career, I evaluated how projects affect geomorphology, hydrology, soils, and other physical resources. Now, I manage complex water projects involving federal, state, and local permitting. I love working with diverse stakeholders—water providers, environmental and resource agencies, Tribes, members of the public, and teams of technical experts. I also lead Tetra Tech's local science team, which includes 50+ talented wetland scientists, wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, archaeologists, geologists, and

environmental planners. I'm engaged in Tetra Tech's Diversity & Inclusion initiatives and lead committees in our global Employee Resource Groups.

Outside of work, I volunteer with a few organizations I admire and head outside when I can. I enjoy traveling, hiking, canoeing, and backpacking with my spouse and two kiddos. I read quite a bit, for learning and for fun. My favorite way to relax is watching professional soccer. I schedule vacation time around the World Cup! I still play soccer occasionally, but after breaking an ankle in a rec game, I'm trying to figure out tennis as an alternative.

**Steve Snyder**- Executive Communications Specialist, Denver Water

I currently manage the executive communications role at Denver Water. I work with our CEO and senior management on speaking engagements and public outreach. I also manage Denver



Water's speakers' bureau and contribute to both internal and external communication efforts. Prior to joining Denver Water, I held senior communication positions at high-profile companies in the public, private and non-profit sectors, including Denver International Airport, Frontier Airlines and Saint Joseph Hospital. I also worked for 10 years as a television news journalist in both Texas and Colorado, garnering local and national awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Award for Journalistic Excellence.

I have a Bachelor and a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I am married with two children and live in Aurora. I'm also active in my community. I was president of the Rotary Club of Aurora and served on several boards, and I also enjoyed coaching my children's sports teams when they were young. I also enjoy playing golf, softball and practicing martial arts.

**Taylor Murphy**- Water Resource Engineer, City of Fountain

I graduated from New Mexico Tech with a Civil Engineering Degree in 2014 but it took me a few years to finally start working in the Industry. I started as a



Construction Project Manager for the NM Highway Department before moving to Colorado and have been working as an engineer for the City of Fountain's Public Water Utility the last 3 years. I do very little true engineering and design work, instead acting more as a Project Manager, Consultant manager, plan reviewer among a multitude of other duties, being that I'm one of only two admin staff for our utility. I primarily oversee all new Planning and Construction of water infrastructure for the City, and act as the liaison and coordinator for private developers. Most of my professional accomplishments relate to successfully overseeing Improvement projects from conceptualization through design and into final completion. Recently,

our Water Utility is going through a period of unprecedented adversity in being faced with explosive growth and uncertain supplies, so I am being pushed into larger planning and decision making roles that have moved me out of my comfort zone



I was born in California but have spent most of my life growing up in Southern New Mexico, which will always be home to me. I moved to Colorado to follow my now-wife and have grown to love it here, although i'll take a 110 Degree day in NM over a 10 Degree Colorado morning in a heartbeat. I'm largely a homebody so I rarely take advantage of the unparalleled natural beauty we have here, with the exception of our fantastic Dog Parks. In my personal life I much prefer a quiet day in watching movies or playing games over going out socializing

**Warren Rider**- Owner/Hydrologist, Rider Resources International, LLC

I have been working on issues related to water resources for 23 years, a career that began in



Mali, West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. I have worked for governments (Pitkin County, the USGS, and the USFS), consulting firms, and industry (primarily mining) and now work for myself as a water resources/hydrology consultant. Primary focus is on modeling, remote monitoring, and regulatory compliance assistance though restoration of natural systems and water rights analysis manages to sneak into my workload as well. I am the coordinator for the Animas Watershed Partnership as well, working to protect and improve water quality and habitat within the Animas River Watershed.

I am a fourth generation Coloradan and when I am not working I play around as an amateur inventor trying to make improvements on old ideas to improve efficiencies. I am often found out and about on skis, a raft, or my mountain bike with my wife, daughter, and son. I have become quite adept at disappearing outside for extended periods of time.