



**WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION
and
UPPER MISSOURI
WATER ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE**

October 24-26, 2023

CAM-PLEX Energy Hall - Gillette, Wyoming

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

8:00 am-9:00 am	Registration - Main Entrance
8:00 am-9:00 am	Set-up for Vendors - Keyhole Banquet Room
9:00 am-10:30 am	Wyoming Water Association Board of Directors Meeting - Gillette Meeting Room
9:00 am-10:30 am	Upper Missouri Water Association Board of Directors Meeting - Coal Conference Room
10:30 am-11:00 am	Welcome - Wyoming Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks from Andy Strike, WWA and Jeff Cowley, UMWA• Mayor of Gillette (Invited)
11:00 am-11:45 am	Collaboration for Water Resiliency - Wyoming Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brent Esplin, Bureau of Reclamation What lessons can we learn from other basins in the western United States and how can the Missouri Basin increase water resiliency in the future?
12:00 pm-1:15 pm	Luncheon with Representative Albert Sommers - Keyhole Banquet Room <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative Albert Sommers, Speaker of the House Member of the Select Water Committee and member of the Wyoming Colorado River Advisory Committee, Rep. Sommers will discuss current water issues facing Wyoming and hold a Q&A Session with conference attendees.
1:30 pm-3:00 pm	Bureau of Reclamation Area Managers' Panel - Wyoming Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dani Fettig, North Dakota• Ryan Newman, Montana• Lyle Myler, Wyoming Discussion of current issues the Bureau of Reclamation is dealing with in Upper Missouri River Basin states.
3:00 pm-3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm-4:45 pm	State Water Development Panel - Wyoming Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clay Carufel, North Dakota Department of Water Resources• Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer's Office• Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation Report on current water development projects in North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana.
5:30-9:00 pm	Social/Silent Auction - Keyhole Banquet Room
6:30 pm	Joint Awards Program and Dinner - Keyhole Banquet Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 7:30 am-8:00 am** **Breakfast** - Keyhole Banquet Room
- 8:00 am-9:30 am** **Bureau of Reclamation Customer Meetings**
- Coal Conference Room
- 8:00 am-9:30 am** **Wyoming State Advisors Updates** - Wyoming Classroom
- *Jenifer Scoggin, Office of State Lands and Investments*
 - *Alan Osterland, Game and Fish Department*
 - *Doug Miyamoto, Department of Agriculture*
 - *Jack Morey, State Engineer's Office*
 - *Jennifer Zygmunt, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality*
 - *Jason Mead, Water Development Office*
 - *Tom Kropatsch, Oil and Gas Conservation Commission*
- Agency updates and current topics related to water resources and management.
- 9:30 am-9:45 am** **Break**
- 9:45 am-11:15 am** **Colorado River Panel Discussion** - Wyoming Classroom
- *Keith Burron, The Burron Firm, P.C.*
 - *Jen Lamb, The Nature Conservancy*
 - *Mike Henn, Sublette County Conservation District*
 - *Cory Toye, Trout Unlimited (Moderator)*
- Current topics and considerations for water users in the Colorado River Basin such as the one-fill reservoir rule, water banking, demand management, and conservation programs.
- 11:15 am-11:45 am** **Congressional Updates** - Wyoming Classroom
- *Senator John Barrasso, recorded message*
 - *Senator Cynthia Lummis, recorded message*
 - *Representative Harriet Hageman, recorded message*
- 12:00 pm-1:15 pm** **Luncheon with National Water Resources Association**
- Keyhole Banquet Room
- *Dale Nellor, Executive Vice President / Secretary, NWRA Board of Directors*
- 1:30 pm-2:20 pm** **Federal Funding for Water Projects** - Wyoming Classroom
- *Abby Ritz, AE2S*
- Opportunities to develop and support water systems with federal programs.
- 2:30 pm-3:00 pm** **Water Recycling by Industry Partners** - Wyoming Classroom
- *Beau Hill, Devon Energy*
 - *Derrick Thompson, WWA Board, TriHydro (Moderator)*
- Water conservation through recycling programs in the energy sector.

3:10 pm-3:40 pm

Coal Bed Methane - Lessons Learned - Wyoming Classroom

- *Tom Kropatsch, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission*
- *Jason Thomas, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality*
- *Dave Schroeder, Wyoming State Engineer's Office*
- *Jeremy Manley, Wyoming State Engineer's Office*
- *Andy Strike, WWA President, Strike Consulting Group (Moderator)*

Thoughts and reflections on CBM/CBNG development in the Powder River Basin.

3:50 pm-4:20 pm

Water Management Across State Lines

- Wyoming Classroom

- *Dave Schroeder, Wyoming State Engineer's Office*
Managing water flow in WY Division II adjacent to Montana and South Dakota.

4:30 pm-5:00 pm

Cathodic Protection for Municipal Water Supplies

- Wyoming Classroom

- *Shannon Stefanik, City of Gillette*
Protecting municipal water supply and infrastructure.

5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Social Hour - Keyhole Banquet Room

Dinner on your own

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30 am-8:00 am

Breakfast - Keyhole Banquet Room

8:00 am-10:00 am

University of Wyoming Office of Water Programs

- Wyoming Classroom

- *Samir Badhathoki*, Evaluation of Critical Minerals (CMs) Deposits, Mainly Lithium (Li) and Rare Earth Elements (REEs), in Wyoming as well as the Economic Viability of Mining these Resources.
- *Kristi Hansen*, Economic Impacts of Curtailment and Demand Management in the Wyoming Colorado River Basin.
- *Salar Jarhan*, Improving Hydrologic Predictions in Wyoming's Headwaters Through Detailed Quantification of Snowmelt.

10:00 am-10:15 am

Break

10:15 am-11:30 am

Wyoming Water Association Business Meeting

- Wyoming Classroom

11:30 am-12:00 pm

Concluding Remarks - Wyoming Classroom

WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Don & Pearl Brosz Scholarship

Each year, the Wyoming Water Association awards up to three scholarships to members' children or grandchildren to attend higher learning institutions. The \$1,500 scholarships further our goals of educating citizens on the importance of Wyoming's water resources.

This year's essay topic: *What, if any, developments should be allowed in floodplain areas given our understanding and history of floods in Wyoming? How do you think a changing climate will impact flood flows in the future?*

Elizabeth Stump

Elizabeth graduated with distinction from Cheyenne Central High School in 2023. She is a National Merit Scholar Finalist, earned the AP Capstone diploma, and is the former chair of the Cheyenne Mayor's Youth Council. Throughout high school she danced at En Avant Dance Studio and was a member of both the French Honor Society and the National Honor Society. Elizabeth attends Washington University in St. Louis where she intends to major in International Affairs and eventually pursue a law degree.

Taylor Erickson

Taylor enrolled at the University of Wyoming after a year at Southern Virginia University. A graduate of Star Valley High School, Taylor received the President's Education Award Program and the Science Department Award while participating in National Honor Society. She was a collegiate golfer at Southern Virginia University after receiving all-state and all-conference recognition and serving as the golf team captain in high school. She recently completed humanitarian work in Uganda and is an active member in her community.

Josette Dziardziel

Josette attends the University of Wyoming and is studying accounting in the Department of Accounting and Finance. She is actively involved in Future Business Leaders of America, Botany Club, and various community and civic groups. Originally from Douglas and graduating from Douglas High School, she continues to excel academically at Eastern Wyoming College and at the University of Wyoming. She was recently awarded "Outstanding Junior" by the Wyoming Society of CPAs through the UW College of Business.

UPPER MISSOURI WATER ASSOCIATION

AWARD WINNERS

The Upper Missouri Water Association's Distinguished Service Award is given to four individuals each year. One each from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. It is given "in recognition of distinguished service in the field of water resource development and a quality environment."

To see a list of past Distinguished Service Award recipients, go to ndwater.org/organizations/upper-missouri-water-association.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Ron Gillen is a registered professional engineer licensed in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. With more than four decades of experience in civil engineering, he has made significant contributions to various communities, counties, and rural areas throughout the region. Presently, he serves on the board of directors of the National Rural Water Association, on the executive committee for the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), and as president of Aurora-Brule Rural Water. In addition, he is a past-president of SDARWS. Ron retired as a senior principal at Brosz Engineering.

NORTH DAKOTA

Duane DeKrey started his employment for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in Carrington in March 2014 and assumed duties as general manager on January 1, 2015. He oversees a staff of 29 and reports directly to a 28-member board of directors. Garrison Diversion has an annual budget of \$159 million. Duane is the secretary/treasurer of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority, an organization representing local city and rural water systems in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Prior to Garrison Diversion, DeKrey served as the deputy director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. He has also served 10 sessions in the legislature, including as chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Duane received an education at North Dakota State University, majoring in agriculture education with minors in military science and general science. He is a retired member of the North Dakota National Guard.

Duane is active in the Carrington community, serving as president of the Kiwanis Club and as president of the Federated Church board. He is a lifetime member of the American Legion and the American Veterans Club. Duane and his wife, Jan, have three grown children, all residing in North Dakota.

MONTANA

Jim Forseth was nominated for the Distinguished Service for the dedication he has shown to irrigation development over his career at the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Jim has been a tireless advocate for Montana irrigation districts, taking on his own USBR team when needed to assure that the irrigators and water users of Montana have been treated fairly and their work could be done without unnecessary interference and red-tape delays.

Jim was born and raised in Montana. In addition to a long career in the U.S. military, Jim has worked for several federal government agencies including the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He joined the USBR in 2005 and in 2008 started with what is now the WaterSMART grants program, where he has served irrigation district across Montana.

Jim is respected throughout the Montana irrigation community for his advocacy on their behalf and the tenacity in which he fights for them. He may have started as a regulator and technical expert in for our irrigation community, but he's ending his career as a trusted and valued friend of irrigators across our state.

WYOMING

Dayton Alsaker, works for Dowl Engineering of Sheridan. Dayton has a 30-plus year career in water resources consulting engineering. As a senior design engineer for Dowl in Sheridan, Dayton provides consulting engineering services in the field of municipal and rural water supply and water systems. He specializes in the planning, design, phasing, and operation of water systems, particularly water supply and transmission facilities and developing overall plans to deliver water throughout larger, complex systems.

Dayton has served on numerous boards including the Wyoming Water Association, Forward Sheridan, and as a technical advisor to Sheridan Area Water Supply (SAWS). In fact, Dayton and his firm have been instrumental in the design and construction of the SAWS distribution network, much to the benefit of thousands of residents of Sheridan County, who now have access to treated water. He has led numerous Wyoming Water Development Office planning and construction projects and served as Dowl's Wyoming Regional Business Leader.

Thank You **SPONSORS**

City of
GILLETTE
WYOMING

