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Zachariah Hildebrand, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, Infinity Water Solutions, El Paso, TX

Dr. Zacariah L. Hildebrand is the Chief Scientific Officer at Infinity Water Solutions, a role that allows him to further his unconventional research in environmental stewardship within the energy sector. With a distinguished career spanning multiple roles, he has made significant contributions to research and academia, specifically in water science and reclamation. His work spans two decades and three continents. In addition to his role at Infinity Water Solutions, Dr. Hildebrand is a partner at Medusa Analytical and serves as a director at the Curtis Mathes Corporation (OTC:CMC2). Prior to joining Infinity, he held the esteemed position of Research Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Demonstrating his leadership and commitment to responsible energy practices, Dr. Hildebrand has served as a co-chairman for the EARTHx – Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation’s ‘Responsible Shale Energy Extraction’ Symposium in previous years, as well as the co-chairmanship of the prestigious 2020 Responsible Energy Acquisition Symposium. Over the decade, Dr. Hildebrand’s research has yielded impactful results, including more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and textbook chapters, showcasing his dedication to advancing knowledge in his field. His expertise is further recognized as an editor of the influential textbook ‘Advances in Chemical Pollution, Environmental Management and Protection: Environmental Issues Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing’.

Mike Hightower, PE, Program Director, New Mexico Produced Water Consortium, Las Cruces

Mike is Program Director of the New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium, a joint effort by the NM Environment Department and New Mexico State University. Mike is retired from Sandia National Laboratories where he worked for 38 years in the areas of aerospace, weapons, energy, and natural resources research, analysis, and engineering. Mike holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from New Mexico State University. For the past three decades he has focused on the development of innovative distributed energy and water treatment and desalination technologies to improve critical infrastructure and natural resource security, resiliency, and sustainability.

Mauricio Tarazona, PhD Candidate, NMSU Dept. of Civil Engineering, Las Cruces

Mauricio is a Ph.D. candidate in the Civil Engineering Department at New Mexico State University and his projects are focused on produced water treatment and characterization for beneficial reuse. His doctoral research is pioneering in the evaluation of pilot-scale desalination technologies, conducting comprehensive chemical and toxicological characterizations of raw and treated produced waters, and developing treatment trains to achieve beneficial reuse. Mauricio has led the toxicological characterization of over 150 produced water samples from various basins in the United States, pinpointing critical chemical stressors across basins. His work on produced water has been recognized with seven prestigious honors and awards from respected institutions such as the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association, the Texas Desalination Association, and the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, highlighting his outstanding contributions to the field. Mauricio’s previous work include hydrogen and methane production from municipal and industrial wastewater, and managing leachates from Bordo Poniente, the largest landfill in Latin America.

John Jansen, PG, PGP, PhD, Senior Geophysicist & Hydrogeologist, Collier Geophysics, Lakewood, CO

John has a B.S. in Geology and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Geological Sciences with an emphasis in hydrogeology and geophysics, all from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a Senior Geophysicist and Hydrogeologist for Collier Consulting. John works on a wide variety of ground water projects around the country specializing in high-capacity wells and groundwater resource management. He received the NGWA Keith A Anderson Award in 2012 for service to NGWA and the groundwater industry and was the NGWA McEllhiney Distinguished Lecturer in Water Well Technology in 2013. John was an invited lecturer on managed aquifer recharge and groundwater geophysics for the Geoscience University of China in Beijing in June of 2018.
Ted Stieglitz, PhD, PG, Senior Geophysicist, Collier Geophysics, Lakewood, CO
Ted has over 25 years of experience as an oil and gas exploration geophysicist. He began his career in environmental geophysics and transitioned to oil and gas after pursuing his PhD at Rice University. He has experience in a variety of R&D, business development and operational roles working for both the oil and gas industries and for seismic vendors, including the Hess Corporation, Spectrum Geo, EMGS, Veritas and ION. Ted is an expert in depth imaging and model building. He has broad 2D and 3D experience supporting several world class seismic libraries spanning numerous basins around the world. He believes strongly in the holistic integration of the Earth model through data acquisition, imaging and interpretation. Ted was a founding partner of Agile Seismic LP and has served as a consultant to many domestic and international clients. Ted is a member of the Geophysical Society of Houston and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists where he actively serves on the SEG Finance Committee. He is licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

Katherine Markovich, PhD, Senior Hydrogeologist, INTERA Inc., Albuquerque, NM
Katherine “Katie” Markovich has over 11 years of experience in hydrogeology and environmental science with expertise on the development of conceptual and numerical flow models, model uncertainty and optimization analysis for decision support, and recharge estimation in groundwater systems using a variety of quantitative techniques. Dr. Markovich has applied her decision support modeling expertise in support site closure in the mining industry, groundwater and integrated hydrologic model evaluation and risk modeling for government entities. She has conducted research and hydrogeologic assessments in a variety of geologic and climatic settings including Chile, Cambodia, Kenya, Sweden, and the U.S. Southwest.

James McCord, Principal Hydrogeologic Engineer/Groundwater Lead, Lynker, Albuquerque, NM
Dr. Jim McCord has more than 35 years of diverse professional experience in hydrology, hydrogeology, and water resource investigations across the western hemisphere. Prior to embarking on his water resources consulting career, Dr. McCord was an Assistant Professor of Hydrology at Washington State University (1988 – 1990) and as Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia National Labs from 1990 to 1997, when his graduate student advisor and mentor Dr. Dan Stephens encouraged Jim to give consulting a try, and there has been no looking back since then. Dr. McCord spent a few years with DBS&A, then nearly twenty years with the Hydrosphere - Amec - Wood sequence of increasingly larger companies, and partnering with smaller boutique firms as well. After more than ten years out of NM working principally in South America and California, he now is back in New Mexico to open an office for Lynker. Like his mentor, Jim is a recognized expert in vadose zone hydrology. He has authored numerous technical peer-reviewed papers, and co-authored the textbook, Vadose Zone Processes (CRC Press, 1999).

Kevin Perez, Hydrologist, Neptune and Company, Inc., Denver, CO
Kevin Perez recently joined Neptune and Company. He is a civil and environmental engineer who specializes in hydrology and hydrogeology. Kevin has over ten years of experience and has specific expertise in surface water and groundwater modeling. Kevin was previously employed at Freese and Nichols as an Engineer 1. He received his Master of Science in Water Science and Management from New Mexico State University, Bachelors of Engineering in Environmental Engineering and Civil Engineering from Universidad de Antioquia.

Zohrab Samani, PE, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, NMSU, Las Cruces
Dr. Zohrab Samani is an endowed professor of civil engineering at New Mexico State University, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. His technical skills include Remote Sensing Technology, watershed scale water management, water right adjudication, and groundwater exploration. He has served as expert witness for the Supreme Court. Dr. Samani received his PhD in Civil Engineering – Water Resources from Utah State University, University of Tehran, PhD in Interdisciplinary Engineering from Utah State University, Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Engineering/Water Resources and Irrigation and Urbanization from the University of Tehran. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of New Mexico.

Eric Lindsey, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, UNM, Albuquerque, NM
Eric is an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico, with expertise in the use of geodetic tools (GNSS and InSAR) to monitor ground motion due to tectonic, volcanic, and hydrologic processes. Eric completed his PhD at the University of California San Diego in 2015, then moved to Singapore where he used InSAR to monitor land subsidence across coastal cities worldwide. Since moving to UNM in 2021 he has been using these data to monitor water resources across the southwest.

Dylan Boyle, Hydrogeologist/Environmental Modeler, Neptune and Company, Los Alamos, NM
Dylan Boyle is a Hydrogeologist and Environmental Modeler at Neptune and Company, and lives in Los Alamos, NM. With over 10 years of experience in environmental studies, Dylan’s work has included a broad range of topics including groundwater contamination, hydrogeologic characterization, saturated and unsaturated flow and transport modeling, and site performance for waste disposal. Dylan is currently involved in several projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory, including the Chromium plume investigation and radioactive waste disposal at the Area G site, and several other projects across the DOE complex.

John Shomaker, PhD, President, Senior Principal Hydrogeologist, John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., Albuquerque, NM
Dr. Shomaker has over 50 years of experience in New Mexico geology and hydrogeology, as Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (1965-1969), as Geologist with the (then) New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources (1969-1973), and with John Shomaker & Associates since 1973. He was employed as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Geology (1976-1998) and Adjunct Lecturer in Water Resources Administration (1994-1997) at the University of New Mexico. His groundwater studies have included water- availability studies, well-site selection, consultation as to well- design in support of project engineers, well-construction oversight, interpretation of geophysical logs, aquifer tests and interpretation, prediction of effects of pumping, and design and supervision of monitoring and aquifer- restoration programs. Direct involvement in more than 100 large-capacity water-supply wells, in valley-fill aquifers, Mesozoic-age sedimentary rocks, limestone karst, and fractured igneous rocks. He has experience in groundwater-flow modeling, water planning, water rights and planning, coal-resources studies and has given expert testimony on over 30 cases.
Jeremy Kuhn, Director of North America, Roscoe Moss Company, Phoenix, AZ
Jeremy Kuhn has been involved in the Groundwater Industry for over 20 years. Jeremy started his career as a Drillers Helper and has since held positions as a Driller, Operations Manager, Contracts Manager, and Business Development. He is currently the Director of North America at Roscoe Moss Company. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the American Groundwater Trust, he also serves on the boards of the National Groundwater Association, Arizona Water Well Association, and the Mountain States Groundwater Association.

Andrew Robertson, Hydrologic Assessment and Modeling Unit Chief, New Mexico Water Science Center-USGS, Albuquerque, NM
Andrew Robertson is a hydrologist and a unit chief for the Hydrologic Assessment and Modeling program area at the New Mexico Water Science Center. Andrew received a M.S. degree in Water Resources from the University of New Mexico. Since joining the USGS in 2008, Andrew's work has been focused on using geochemical and isotopic tracers to answer questions relating to groundwater hydrology and contaminant fate and transport. M.S. Water Resources, University of New Mexico and B.S. Chemistry and Physics, Fort Lewis College.

Laila Sturgis, Aquifer Mapping Program Manager, NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM
Ms. Sturgis is currently the Aquifer Mapping Program Manager for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, a division of New Mexico Tech. The Aquifer Mapping Program works collaboratively with homeowners, private industry, municipalities, and government agencies to monitor the groundwater across New Mexico. One ground-breaking project is the development of three-dimensional aquifer maps in ArcGIS, and the release of these map packages to planners and consultants to increase knowledge in the region. From 2003-2019 Ms. Sturgis worked in water resource management and consulting in a variety of roles ranging from field technician to project manager, with a primary focus on Navajo Nation water resources. Laila holds a BS in Geology and an MS in Hydrology from New Mexico Tech.

Corbin Carsrud, PG, County Hydrogeologist, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, NM
Mr. Carsrud is the Bernalillo County Hydrogeologist, specializing in groundwater assessment, 3D modeling and water well construction. He is a licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Texas, holds a B.S. in Geosciences from Texas Tech University and a M.S. from Sul Ross State University. His Master’s thesis focused on the unroofing of an uplifted dome and associated alluvial fanglomerate development. With extensive experience in hydrogeology, Corbin has worked across New Mexico and West Texas, from constructing municipal water supply wells to modeling seepage in mining stockpiles using historic mapping and monitor wells. He is currently focusing on changing water levels in the East Mountain Area of Bernalillo County.

Adrian Oglesby, Director, Utton Transboundary Resources Center, UNM, Albuquerque, NM
Adrian Oglesby began his tenure as the Director of Utton Center in 2014. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and has practiced water law since 2000, including working with the Utton Center on many projects. Adrian's legal career has been focused on river and riparian restoration, agricultural preservation, efficient water management, governmental accountability, and fish and wildlife conservation. He has advised irrigation districts, acequias, Pueblo and tribal governments, farmers, environmental organizations, and local water providers. He established and managed the New Mexico Living Rivers Program for The Nature Conservancy and served as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. He is currently the Chair of the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program. He is a past Vice Chair of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, past Chair of the Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law section of the New Mexico State Bar, and past President of the New Mexico Riparian Council.

Kevin McGillicuddy, PG, Chief Hydrogeologist, Roscoe Moss Company, Los Angeles, CA
Kevin McGillicuddy is Vice President and Chief Hydrogeologist for the Roscoe Moss Company. He joined the Roscoe Moss Company in 1996 and has worked as a technical liaison to municipal water agencies, groundwater consultants, and water well contractors. He has managed and participated in several educational workshops on water well design, testing and rehabilitation. Prior to joining Roscoe Moss Company, he worked as Director of Recharge Operations and as a Senior Hydrogeologist for the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley, CA. Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Boston College and Masters’ of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Southern California. He is a Registered Geologist in California.

Mr. Wolf specializes in applying geochemistry and hydrogeology to water resources and environmental projects and designs, installs, and tests water supply wells for tribes, municipalities, and water districts. For managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects, Mr. Wolf evaluates geochemistry and geochemistry to determine how local hydrogeology will influence water movement and water quality. By applying geochemical methods, he determines water chemistry and compatibility of the recharge source water with groundwater and aquifer sediments, and predicts water quality during MAR operations. Mr. Wolf has a MS in Geochemistry a BS in Geology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Edd T. Schofield, Technical Sales Manager - Well Chemicals, Johnson Screens, Laguna Hills, CA
Edd Schofield is a graduate of California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. He worked in the oilfield on a production rig for Getty Oil while attending college. He graduated with a BS Degree in Business Marketing and a minor in Mechanical Engineering. He was then recruited by Baker Hughes as a Technical Sales Engineer for Oilfield completions. During his tenure, he supervised cement, acid and frac completions both onshore and offshore across the West Coast and Alaska for numerous major oil and gas operators. In 1998 he joined Johnson Screens as a Regional Sales Representative. Since then, he has over 45 years combined in Oil & Gas and Water Well, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. A majority of Edd’s experience has been across the Southwest in well drilling and well completions. He was recently promoted to Technical Sales Manager for the Chemical Product line for Johnson Screens.

Adam Midkiff, Project Engineer, Layne (a Granite Company), Mesa, AZ
Mr. Midkiff joined Layne in 2023 as a Project Engineer coming in with 7 years of water treatment experience. His responsibilities have included, design of municipal and industrial water and waste water treatment systems, managing projects and their budgets, leading field startup and commissioning work, and leading research and development projects. During his career he had developed strong knowledge in ion exchange, membrane treatment, single use and regenerative use absorptive medias, pressure filtration and biological filtration processes. Adam earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Arizona State
Noah Heller, PG, CEO-President/Senior Hydrogeologist, BESST Inc., San Rafael, CA
Noah has been a practicing geologist for the past 35 years, has a MS in Geology and is a California registered geologist. He has received 16 patents and has more pending. Since 2005, Noah has focused on the commercialization and continuing technical development of the Tracer Flowmeter and Depth Dependent Sampler that was initially developed by the USGS and licensed exclusively to BESST. Over the past 15 years, BESST has profiled approximately 1,000 public supply wells, primarily for water quality and has amassed a large database of zonal geochemistry throughout California. BESST has applied this knowledge to better understand subsurface distribution patterns of naturally occurring and anthropogenic compounds. These insights have led to the development of a new application for the technology called Stacked Dynamic Profiling of Long Screened Test Wells. This technology and method are being applied at sites through the US.

Dan Haddock, PE, Director of Water Utility Services, Principal Engineer, INTERA Inc., Sacramento, CA
Dan Haddock’s professional experience has focused on development and management of water infrastructure for utilities and industries. He brings in-depth understanding of utility operations, business, and regulation, including master planning, design and construction, capital program management, and operational support. He has managed all phases of planning, design, permitting, construction, commissioning, and decommissioning of wells, intakes, pipelines, treatment facilities, residuals management, pumping, storage, and water distribution infrastructure. Dan also has experience managing and collaborating with highly technical staff to perform hydrogeological investigations and analysis. His specialty is collaborating with project teams to anticipate the concerns of utilities, regulators, customers, and other stakeholders and to ensure that consulting services address those concerns in a manner that enables confident client decision-making and stakeholder communication. He received a BS from Rice University.

Jean-Luc Cartron, PhD, Senior Biologist, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc., Albuquerque, NM
Jean-Luc Cartron, Ph.D. is a Senior Biologist and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) group leader at Daniel B. Stephens & Associates and also a Research Professor of biology at the University of New Mexico. He has authored or edited several books, in addition to numerous research articles on Southwestern birds, mammals, and ecosystems. His current research focuses on climate change forecasts of bird and mammal habitat and PFAS contamination impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.

Camilla Bustamante, PhD, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 3, Santa Fe, NM
Camilla Bustamante has over 25 years of experience in training, education, emergency response and community development. As project coordinator, team leader, trainer, and educator, she has participated in regional and community planning and economic development activities, as well as worked with county, city, state and federal entities to address community infrastructure and emergency preparedness and response. She has successful experience in grant writing, grant monitoring, and regulatory compliance, and received Los Alamos National Laboratory’s Distinguished Performance Award, as well other awards of recognition for job performance objectives. Camilla developed training and education instructional materials for multiple disciplines, particularly those related to environmental health, risk evaluation and management, and hazardous material emergencies. She is President of Alamoworks LLC and previously worked for Santa Fe Community College, NM State Department of Health, and Northern NM College. Camilla received her PhD, MPH Health Education and Environmental Epidemiology from the University of New Mexico and BS in English and Telecommunications from Northern Arizona University.

Gregory Shaffer, Santa Fe County Manager, Santa Fe, NM
Gregory S. Shaffer was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) to implement Board decisions. The County Manager serves as the legislative function of the Board by providing research, information, and recommendations, and serves as the executive function of the Board by providing management assistance. Gregory is responsible for personnel management, fiscal management and executing policy decisions ordered by the County Manager. He also oversees operations of the county, working with 739 current employees in various departments, like public safety, public works, housing services, human resources and more. Gregory worked for Kirkpatrick and Lockhart LLP. After working as an assistant county attorney, he served as general counsel for the state’s Department of Finance and Administration. Shaffer returned to serve as the county attorney in 2014, then took a judgeship with the First Judicial District Court in 2017. He was employed with the county government after leaving the bench, then found his way back to the county attorney’s chair in 2020. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University before earning his law degree at New York University.

John Fontana, CPG, CWD, President & CEO, Vista GeoScience, Golden, CO
John has served as the President and CEO of Vista GeoScience for over 17 years. He is an AIPG Certified Professional Geologist, NGWA Certified Well Driller, executive level manager, and business owner with over 40 years of experience. Vista GeoScience provides Advanced High-Resolution Site Characterization and Optimized In-Situ Remediation services using a fleet of Geoprobe direct-push/auger combo rigs, Direct-Imaging systems, and custom built in-situ injection/pump systems. He was also a Team Member with Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council for more than six years and a Board Member for the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board. John received his B.S. in Geology, Oceanography and Physics from Humboldt State University.