

Utah Groundwater Conference – August 15 & 16, 2023

Presenter Bios (alphabetical order)

Derek Bruton, PE, Project Engineer and Planner, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Orem, UT



Derek is a project engineer and planner and has been with Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) for six years. Originally from Duchesne, Utah he obtained a bachelor's degree from BYU in Mechanical Engineering with Minors in Mathematics and Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge in Engineering for Sustainable Development. Derek and his wife Jen live in Provo and are avid gardeners, love renovating/restoring their 1911 home, and are the parents of four energetic boys.

Neil Burk, PG, Senior Project Manager/Hydrogeologist, LRE, Salt Lake City, UT



Neil is a licensed Professional Geologist (P.G.) in the State of Utah and has more than 20 years of hydrogeology experience. Throughout his career, he has worked on more than 40 Utah public supply well projects, 25+ of which he served as Project Manager. Neil's current focus has been working with Utah water districts to find solutions for sustainable groundwater use through groundwater management plan evaluations and permitting strategies to provide favorable conditions for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects in Utah. Neil is committed to finding solutions that balance high growth demands, extreme drought conditions and aquifer management.

Mark Chandler, PE, PG, CFM, Principal, CRS Engineering and Surveying, Salt Lake City, UT



Mark Chandler is a Utah native and graduated from both Utah State University (Civil Engineering) and the University of Utah (Geological Engineering) and is a Professional Engineer and Professional Geologist. He oversees the water department at CRS engineers and has worked on groundwater development projects throughout the State of Utah. Mark works regularly with other industry professionals throughout the area to provide the best possible solutions to his clients. His experience with groundwater modeling, water rights, drilling, development and pump station design has helped him to better understand some of the challenges faced in each of these challenging aspects.

Sara Chudnoff, PG, Program Director/Hydrogeologist, American Ground Water Trust, Pinetop, AZ



Sara recently joined the American Ground Water Trust. She has been working in the water resources and environmental field in New Mexico since the early 2000s. As a consulting scientist, she worked on projects from methane monitoring and reporting to hydrogeologic investigations and well design. In 2009, Sara left her regulatory role with the State and started working with Bernalillo County. In this position, she worked with hundreds of residents monitoring water levels and promoting outreach and education. At the New Mexico Bureau of Geology, she took this model to work on a State-Wide Groundwater Level Monitoring Network. Sara facilitates educational outreach for watershed health with the local school district and provides water resource consulting in New Mexico. She has a B.S. in Geology from New Mexico Tech and a M.S. in Water Resources from the University of New Mexico.

Jonathan S. Clyde, JD, Of Counsel, Clyde Snow, Salt Lake City, UT



Mr. Clyde is an attorney with Clyde Snow, focusing on natural resources and environmental matters. He provides legal solutions for individuals, corporations, and municipalities. Mr. Clyde advises clients on a variety of matters including water rights and resources, water quality, adjudications, land use planning, and compliance with federal, state and local regulations including NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. He has a Juris Doctor from Willamette University College of Law and a BS in Marketing from the University of Utah.

Dane Crowton, Public Programs Coordinator, Natural History Museum of Utah, Logan, UT



Dane has worked at the Natural History Museum of Utah for over 6 years, most recently as Public Programs Coordinator. He has experience creating curriculum, working with adults and children in informal learning situations, curating guest experiences and tours, and providing competent and willing support to colleagues in order to reach institutional goals. Dane has a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from Utah State University and Associates of Science from Snow College.

Chuck Cullom, Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission, Midway, UT



Since January 2022, Chuck Cullom has served as the Executive Director of the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC). Prior to joining the UCRC, he was the Colorado River Programs Manager for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. He has a MS from Northern Arizona University and a BS from the University of Arkansas. Chuck has more than 30 years of experience in assessing risks and vulnerabilities to Colorado River resources as well as developing and implementing projects, programs and policies to improve water supply resiliency. His work experience includes modeling surface and groundwater systems, developing and implementing water efficiency and conservation programs, implementing habitat conservation and endangered species protection programs, binational (Mexico – U.S.) water conservation and desalination projects, and transboundary water management. He has served as a water resources advisor serving in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

R. Jeffrey Davis, PE, CGWP, Principal, Integral Consulting Inc., Salt Lake City, UT



R. Jeffrey Davis - a Civil & Environmental Engineer by degree and a Hydrogeologist by practice. With almost 3 decades of experience across the United States and abroad I am passionate about solving groundwater problems. My team solves clients' problems as if they were our own. I live for innovation and growth in my personal and professional life. I'm a leader and a lifelong learner. My holy place is on the top of a mountain.

Robert DeBirk, Associate, Clyde Snow, Salt Lake City, UT



Mr. DeBirk's practice focuses on water, natural resources and environmental law. Mr. DeBirk clerked with the Salt Lake City Attorney's Office from 2018 to 2021, assisting the Department of Public Utilities with water law and water quality matters, including the ongoing General Adjudication before the Third District. In addition to water and natural resource issues, Mr. DeBirk assisted Salt Lake City in land use and planning items ranging from updating groundwater source and watershed protective ordinances to creating assistance programs for low-income residents. Mr. DeBirk graduated from the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2021. Before attending the College of Law, Mr. DeBirk spent a decade acting as a Policy Director for Utah based non-profit organizations focusing on land use planning, watershed health, and air quality, and earned a Master of Arts in the Humanities from the University of Utah.

Christopher DeKover, PG, Sr. Hydrogeologist, Bowen Collins & Associates, Draper, UT



Chris is a graduate from the University of Utah in Geological Engineering and is a Professional Geologist in Utah and Idaho. His focus is on hydrogeology and groundwater resources, specifically well design. His career has taken him all over the western United States and has been the hydrogeologist at Bowen Collins & Associates for the last 15 years. Chris has over 19 years of experience in providing groundwater consulting services for wells and springs in siting, construction oversight, drilling, design, source protection, and well/spring development and re-development.

Joel Ferry, Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, UT



Joel Ferry was appointed DNR executive director in June 2022 by Gov. Spencer J. Cox, and confirmed by the Utah Senate in September. He leads an agency of about 1,400 employees from eight divisions and two offices, including Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Oil, Gas and Mining; State Parks; Outdoor Recreation; Utah Geological Survey; Water Resources; Water Rights; Wildlife Resources, the Office of Energy Development and the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office. Ferry holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from Utah State University.

Hannah Freeze, Ag Program Optimization Program Manager, Utah Dept. of Ag and Food, Taylorsville, UT



Hannah is employed by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as the AgVIP Program Manager. She works with land owners to develop and implement nutrient management plans on their operations. Soil health is an integral part of nutrient management and working closely with the Utah Soil Health Partnership has provided Hannah an avenue to bring more soil health information and best management practices to the producers she serves. Hannah sits as a technical assistance member on the Utah Soil Health Advisory Committee to represent the animal agriculture community.

Lynn de Freitas, Executive Director, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT



Lynn began her involvement with FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake shortly after it was founded in 1994. She became president of the board in 1997 and executive director in 2002. She is a full-time volunteer. She especially enjoys working on developing policies that address the unique role and characteristics of the Great Salt Lake to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Greg Gavin, GIT, Hydrogeologist, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT



Gavin is a Geologist and Hydrogeologist with the Groundwater & Wetlands Program at the Utah Geological Survey. He has a B.S. in environmental geoscience and a graduate studies in hydrology and water resources from The University of Utah College and Mines and Earth Sciences. He spent several years in consulting working on projects throughout the intermountain west focused on ground and surface water quality, hydrology, and water-well drilling before joining the UGS in May 2022. Greg is passionate about tying together the threads of land use, hydrogeology, and water resources. His work with the UGS focuses on surface hydrology and groundwater issues, including water budgets, hydrogeologic characterization, and monitoring hydrologic effects of large-scale watershed restoration projects. In his free time Greg also volunteers with the UGS helping to site, design, and install new geological interpretive signage throughout Utah.

John Greer, PG, Sr. Hydrogeologist, Barr Engineering, Minneapolis, MN



John Greer is a Sr. Hydrogeologist at Barr Engineering Co. He has been with Barr since 1986. His expertise includes groundwater sustainability, hydrogeologic and environmental site characterization, ASR and enhanced groundwater-recharge studies, groundwater flow modeling, water source investigations, well field siting, assessment of surface water/groundwater interaction, wellhead protection plan development, and solute transport evaluation. John is a licensed professional geologist in UT and 9 other states and a licensed professional hydrogeologist in WA state.

Shawn Harkness, Account Manager, CV Strategies, Inc., Phoenix, AZ



Shawn is a communications consultant for the Inland Empire's largest strategic communications firm, with offices across the state of California. He works with multiple clients covering public water agencies, city governments, special districts and large-scale solar operators. Shawn perform account management services including: news releases, speech writing, event promotion, media relations, strategic planning and crisis management. As a television journalist and newsroom leader, Shawn knows how to tailor a message so it resonates with audiences. His career took him to newsrooms around the country, with hands-on and management roles in big cities such as Chicago, and rural areas including Montana and West Virginia. Shawn most recently served as News Director at the NBC and Univision stations in Palm Springs. He is well versed in translating detailed, industry-specific information into easy to understand and engaging messages that the wider public can understand. Shawn received his BA in Communication from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.

Noah Heller, PG, President, 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. In total, he has received 16 patents and has patents pending as well. Since 2005, Noah has focused much of his time 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.

Norman Howard, Western Sales and Technical Support, Cotey Chemical Corporation, Yermo, CA

Norman V. Howard, has over 40 years of experience in the groundwater industry. CA C-57, C-61/D-21 contractor license holder. His experience includes water wells from 2" environmental to 2000' plus high capacity production water wells. Norman has previously worked for Howard Pump, Beylik Drilling, Layne Christensen, Mitchell Lewis and is currently a sales consultant for Cotey Chemical Corp.

Hugh Hurlow, Senior Scientist/Program Manager, Groundwater and Wetlands Program, Utah Dept. of Natural Resources, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT

Hugh has served as a Senior Scientist/Program Manager with the Utah Geological Survey for over 28 years. The focus of his work includes hydrogeologic and watershed studies, hydrogeology of groundwater basins, hydrologic monitoring of environment restoration projects, groundwater and surface water monitoring, and structural geology and geophysics. Hugh also authored several studies including Malad-Lower Bear Basin Hydrogeology, Snake Valley Hydrogeology & Groundwater Monitoring, and Weber River Basin Aquifer Storage & Recovery Pilot Project. Hugh earned his PhD in Geology from the University of Washington, MS in Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences, and ScB in Geological Sciences from Brown University.

John Jansen, PG, PGp, PhD, Principal Geophysicist/Hydrogeologist, Collier Geophysics, West Bend, WI



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 McElhiney 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.

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.

Kathryn Ladig, Hydrogeologist, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT

Kathryn Ladig is a hydrogeologist with the UGS Groundwater & Wetlands Program. She received a B.A. in geology and environmental studies from Gustavus Adolphus College and a M.S. in earth science from the University of Maine. Prior to working at UGS, Kathryn was employed by the National Park Service. Her current projects include studying evapotranspiration through eddy covariance and water-budge analyses.

Bill Loughlin, PG, Loughlin Water Associates, LLC, Park City, UT



Bill Loughlin, PG is Principal Hydrogeologist & Founder of Loughlin Water Associates, LLC & has more than 40 years of water resource & hydrogeologic consulting experience including groundwater development, management, & protection; water well & spring troubleshooting & rehabilitation; technical support & expert witness testimony for water right & water-related litigation. Bill serves on the Board of Gorgoza Mutual Water Company & has served on the Board of the Utah Geological Survey & as Chair of the State Geological Mapping Advisory Committee.

Melissa Masbruch, Hydrologist, USGS-Utah Water Science Center, Salt Lake City, UT



Melissa has worked at the Utah Water Science Center for 16 years. In that time, she has worked on many regional and local-scale groundwater studies in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau. These studies included estimating and developing conceptual groundwater budget, and groundwater modeling. Currently, she is working on a regional, integrated surface-water/groundwater model of the entire Upper Colorado River Basin extending from the headwaters to the entrance of the Grand Canyon, and including the Green River, San Juan, and Little Colorado River basins.

Olivia Miller, Hydrologist, USGS-Utah Water Science Center, Salt Lake City, UT



Olivia Miller is a Research Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Utah Water Science Center. Her research focuses on water quantity and quality modeling, evaluation of past, present, and future impacts of climate change on hydrologic systems, and regional and continental water availability assessments. She received a PhD and MS in Geology from the University of Utah and a BA in Earth and Environmental Science from Wesleyan University.

Steve Nelson, Professor, College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, BYU, Provo, UT



Steve Nelson is a Professor of Geochemistry at Brigham Young University. He attended BYU for his BS and MS degrees and obtained his PhD from UCLA, where he also worked as a postdoctoral researcher. His training is in isotope geochemistry applied to igneous rocks, but he became interested in environmental applications during a 4-year stint in the nuclear waste industry (Yucca Mountain). At BYU, his research has focused on interbasin flow of groundwater, the role of faults in controlling groundwater flow and discharge, weathering rates in mafic terranes and associated *Mycobacterium* infection risks.

Sarah Page, PhD, Lead Drinking Water Treatment Specialist, Division of Drinking Water, Salt Lake City, UT



Sarah currently works at the Utah Department of Environment Quality as the Lead Drinking Water Treatment Specialist. Previously, she served the Drinking Water Quality Manager for the City of Ann Arbor and for almost 3 years where she was the leader in the PFAS research and response and managed water quality from source to tap. She is passionate about making advances in drinking water quality and treatment through applied research and about communicating the world of drinking water to all audiences in a relatable and understandable way. Her current areas of research interest are PFAS, biofiltration, nitrification, softening, and implementing data science tools for water utility data. Sarah earned her PhD in Chemistry, Master of Science in Chemistry and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She also earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management.

Zach Renstrom, General Manager, Washington County Water Conservation District, St. George, UT



Zach Renstrom is the general manager for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. In this capacity, he oversees all operational and financial activities for the district and its employees. Prior to joining the district in 2019, Renstrom served as a Washington County Commissioner, attorney and principal owner at a local engineering firm. He has more than 20 years of experience as an attorney and licensed professional and structural engineer. Renstrom is a graduate of the University of Utah and Washburn Law School.

Britt Strottman, Partner, Singleton Schreiber, LLP, Sacramento, CA



Britt Strottman is a partner in the Sacramento office of Singleton Schreiber and leads the firm's Public Entity Environmental Practice Group specializing in litigation against corporations for wrongdoing. Ms. Strottman's in-house counsel experience includes serving as a Deputy City Attorney at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office; Senior Assistant Attorney General at the Ohio Attorney General's Office; and as a Deputy District Attorney at the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Strottman graduated in 2000 from the University of San Francisco School of Law and received her B.A. in English from Vanderbilt University in 1997.

Cathy Swanson, Groundwater Remediation Specialist, Purolite LLC, an Ecolab Company, Fullerton, CA



Based in Southern California, Cathy has specialized in groundwater treatment with ion exchange for over 15 years, including perchlorate, nitrate, arsenic, uranium, and now PFAS systems. She has also worked on technologies ranging from GAC to biological to reverse osmosis. Her project portfolio includes both remediation and drinking water sites. She received her BS in Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University in the Chicago area and her MBA from UNC Chapel Hill. Previous employment in the field of chemistry and water treatment has been with Evoqua, Airliquide, GS Polymers and Dow Corning.

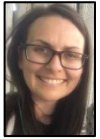
Clayton Thayer, Business Development, KP Ventures Drilling & Pump, Cottonwood, AZ

Clayton Thayer has worked in the drilling industry for 17 years. He currently serves in the role of Business Development for KP Ventures Drilling & Pump, serving the Southwestern US. Clayton holds drilling and pump installers licenses in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Texas and Kansas. He is a licensed contractor in the State of New Mexico for underground construction. He is also an MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) Safety Instructor. He has served as project manager, driller, or account manager for drilling projects at National Labs, Superfund Sites, Transuranic Waste Facilities, municipal well projects at most of the larger municipalities in the Southwestern US, residential wells and horizontal drilling projects. Clayton has a BS in Agronomy and a BA in French.

Alyssa Thompson, Graduate Student, Geology Dept., Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Alyssa Thompson is a graduate student at Brigham Young University studying Geology. She earned a B.S. degree in geology at BYU. Alyssa looks forward to better understanding the dust sources in Utah and how they influence our health and water resources.

Kate Vitti, Community Outreach Coordinator, Natural History Museum of Utah, Logan, UT



Katie has worked at the Natural History Museum of Utah for almost 5 years, most recently as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the past 19 months. Previously, she was the STEAM Facilitator for over 3 years. Prior to joining the Natural History Museum, she was the Communications Manager at Friends of Alta. Katie received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Westminster College.

Theresa Wilhelmsen, PE, State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights, DNR, Salt Lake City, UT



Teresa was appointed Utah State Engineer in 2020 by Governor Gary Herbert. She is responsible for the general administrative supervision of all waters of Utah and the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of those waters. She is also the Director of the Division of Water Rights. Wilhelmsen joined the Division of Water Rights in 1997. Prior to her appointment, she most recently served as an Assistant State Engineer and the Division's administrative hearing officer. She was the Regional Engineer for the Utah Lake and Jordan River Regional Office, and managed the Division's adjudication program. By Gubernatorial appointment, she is currently an Alternate Commissioner for the Upper Colorado River Commission and a Utah Council Member for the Western States Water Council. She also serves as a commissioner for the Bear River Commission and is chair of Utah's delegation to facilitate the compact.

Wilhelmsen is a Utah native and lifelong student of the west, focusing especially on water. She is an advocate of the prior appropriation doctrine and its adaptability to current water issues. Throughout her decades long career of public service, she has become recognized for creatively resolving increasingly complex competing demands for our limited water resources. At the Division, she has managed the use, measurement and distribution of both surface and groundwater. She is leading Utah's team to finalize the Utah Navajo Water Rights settlement and is working on other federal reserve water rights settlements. She is a trusted partner with water managers, lawmakers, agricultural producers, tribal negotiators and environmental stakeholders to shape Utah water rights laws, ensure compliance with interstate river compacts and agreements, and help Utah prepare for the future. She associates with various professional organizations to teach the principles of water rights law in Utah and makes time to meet with water users. Before joining the division, Wilhelmsen worked for the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and Utah Division of Forestry. She is a professional engineer and graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in civil and environmental engineering.

Tyler Yoklavich, Senior Environmental Geoscience Student, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Tyler is an undergraduate studying environmental geoscience at the University of Utah with course work focused on water resources, hydrogeology, and contaminant fate and transport. He works for the Utah National Guard Environmental Resource office in drinking water related program areas. He is also a research assistant for the McPherson lab at the Energy and Geoscience Institute at the U, where he studies nanoconfined fluid dynamics and supercritical CO2 injection. He was awarded the College of Mines and Earth Science Outstanding Environmental Geoscience Student for 2023. After his undergraduate degree, Tyler plans to pursue a graduate program in hydrogeology.