**2012 Water Course - Speaker Biographies**

**Session 1: Water Law & Local Managers - February 9, 2012**

**Mark Hermundstad, Williams, Turner & Holmes, P.C.**

Mark A. Hermundstad practices law in Grand Junction and is a shareholder in the law firm of Williams, Turner & Holmes, P.C. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and received his law degree from the University of Colorado. Mr. Hermundstad is licensed to practice law in Colorado and Utah. His practice concentrates on water rights and real estate matters in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. Mr. Hermundstad’s water rights clients include ranchers, businesses and energy companies, local government entities, irrigation organizations, and individual landowners. He has given numerous presentations on water law, governmental law, and other legal topics to various community, business and professional organizations.

**David A. Reinertsen, Assistant Manager, Clifton Water**

Dave has been with the District since the summer of 1998, and is responsible for the day to day operations of Customer Service, New Construction Coordination, District Safety Programs, and Operational Procedure Administration. He holds a BA from Augustana College in Illinois, and has an MPA in Public Administration from CU. He holds a Class I license in Water Distribution. His affiliations include the following:

* Member, American Water Works Association (AWWA)
* Member, Mesa County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee
* Member, Mesa County Board of Adjustments
* Chair, CWD Safety Committee

**Max Schmidt, General Manager, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District**

Max has been General Manager of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Grand Valley Project since 2009. His responsibilities include:

* Long and short-term operational and maintenance planning and application
* Contract and grant writing
* Supervising pumping and generation plants
* Supervising ditch riders and maintenance crews
* Public and government relations.

Prior to joining the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, Max was a self-employed water consultant from 2006-2009, a Polyacrylamide and Water Consultant for DRI and the US Bureau of Reclamation from 2004-2006, and a Conservation Technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service from 1988-2004.

**Kevin Williams, Manager, Grand Valley Drainage District**

Kevin, a western Colorado native, came to Grand Junction from the Colorado Ski industry in 1979. Since that time, he has  been involved in construction projects throughout the area. He was involved  with the unique development of Battlement Mesa for Exxon USA, worked for Mays Concrete and United Companies of Mesa County for thirteen years, managed Webb Crane Services in Grand Junction, coordinated commercial building projects for Western Constructors, and is now the General Manager for the Grand Valley Drainage District.

He and his wife Jan, who is a graduate of Grand Junction High School and was Budget Director for Mesa State College, have two married children and four grandchildren living here in Grand Junction. Kevin is a past president of the Powderhorn Racing Club, a former board member of Powderhorn  Resort and of the Grand Valley Drainage District. He has a Bachelor of Business degree from Colorado State University.

**Tim Moore, Manager, 5-2-1 Drainage Authority**

Tim Moore has been employed with the City of Grand Junction for fourteen years and currently serves the City as its Public Works and Planning Director.  Additionally, for the last 3 years, Tim has served as Manager for the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority.  Tim initially earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern Colorado, and ended the engineering aspect of his career as the City Engineer in Rifle, Colorado after thirteen years.  In 1991, Tim completed his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Colorado and moved into more administrative positions thereafter.  Tim is a native of Grand Junction and has raised five children now ranging in age from 29 to 14 years, all of whom still reside on the Western Slope.  Tim and his wife, Paula, have also been blessed with six young grandchildren and find themselves quite distracted with them but, whenever possible, they very much enjoy time together motorcycle riding and relaxing at their cabin on the Grand Mesa.

**Session 2: Water Supply and Planning - February 16, 2012**

**Greg Trainor, Director of Street Systems and Utilities, City of Grand Junction & Member, Colorado Basin Roundtable**

Greg is currently the Utility and Street Systems Director for the City of Grand Junction (1986-present). The Utility and Street Systems Department provides water, wastewater and solid waste services to residents of the City of Grand Junction and to portions of Mesa County. Additionally, it is responsible for the stormwater program, street maintenance, and City facilities. Greg also serves on the Colorado River Basin Roundtable, representing Mesa County municipalities and chairing the Energy Committee and is the Past-Board President of United Way of Mesa County, President of Friends of Westwater Canyon, and Treasurer of the Mesa County Water Association. In 1972, Greg graduated from Brigham Young University with a Masters in Public Administration. He has been closely associated with water for most of his career in Colorado municipal government.

**Jim Pokrandt, Communication & Education Specialist, Colorado River Water Conservation District & Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable**

Jim Pokrandt is the education and outreach specialist for the Colorado River District, a position he held since 2005. Prior to joining the Colorado River District, Jim worked in community-level newspapers at all levels for 30 years, the last 13 in various ski resort communities in Western Colorado. In addition to his duties at the River District, Jim is the chair of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, one of nine Roundtables created by the Colorado General Assembly under the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act.

**David Graf, Water Resource Specialist, Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife & Liaison, Western Slope Basin Roundtables**

David has worked as the Regional Water Specialist for CO Parks and Wildlife for nearly 13 years, and in the field of hydrology for more than 20 years, focusing on water rights, hydrology, geomorphology, and in general, river stewardship to meet aquatic resource needs, mainly through engagement of collaborative processes focused on water management.  He spends many hours participating as agency liaison to the 4 west-slope Basin Roundtables, and has been contributing information and ideas to the non-consumptive subcommittees for each of these roundtables since their inception.  He has a BA in Economics and an MS in Watershed Science.

**David Payne, Assistant General Manager, Ute Water**

Dave Payne is the Assistant General Manager at Ute Water Conservancy District. Dave has over 18 years of experience in the water treatment industry and has been with the District for 4 years. Dave has a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado Mesa Univesity, is a certified Class A Water Works operator, an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and is a past recipient of the Rocky Mountain Section AWWA Ralph R. Leinhardt operator of the year award.

**Chuck Mitisek, President, Redlands Water and Power**

In addition to serving as President of Redlands Water and Power, Chuck is a member of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. He has had a career in electrical engineering, working with several power companies, including Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, where he was Project Manager for the Missouri Basin Power Project, and Grand Valley Rural Power Lines, where he served as Manager of Engineering. Chuck has been a member of the Redlands Water and Power Board for over ten years and has also served on the Colorado State Electrical Board and as an officer for the Monument Village Homeowners’ Association, Panorama Improvement District and Grand Junction Lions Club. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. Activities in retirement include hunting/ shooting, fishing, gardening, running an orchard with 60 fruit trees, maintaining old vehicles, photography, remodeling a 1923 farm house, jeeping and traveling in Colorado and Utah. He is married with three sons, two step children and six grandchildren.

**Carlyle Currier, Rancher & Member, Colorado Basin Roundtable and the Inter-basin Compact Committee**

Carlyle is a rancher in the Plateau Valley who also very involved in water policy. He serves on the Colorado Basin Roundtable and as its representative to the statewide Inter-basin Compact Committee. He is also Secretary of the Colorado Farm Bureau and is a member of the Colorado Ag-Water Alliance.

**Cary Denison, Project Coordinator, Trout Unlimited**

Cary works for Trout Unlimited’s Colorado Water Project in the Gunnison Basin. His focus is on working with land and water rights owners, state and federal agencies and local TU chapters to develop on-the-ground stream reconnection and restoration projects. Cary, a graduate of Colorado State University, was raised in the North Fork Gunnison River valley where he worked on farms and ranches and gained valuable knowledge about water use and conservation. He later worked as a water commissioner from 2001 to 2006. After working for the State of Colorado, Cary owned and operated a water and land consulting firm where he managed numerous river improvement, restoration, and water diversion projects. In addition to his work in the water resources field, Cary is an avid rafter and fly fisherman, and he has been a member of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable since 2008.

**Session 3: Water Quality - February 23, 2012**

**Russell Walker, Professor of Environmental Restoration and Head of the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, Colorado Mesa University**

Dr. Walker’s specialties include:

* Restoration and Protections of Aquatic Systems
* Assessment and Cleanup of Contaminated Sites
* Pollution Prevention
* Regulatory Compliance

**Bridget Clayton, Assistant Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office**

As Assistant Field Manager for Energy, Lands and Minerals, Bridget Clayton is responsible for the Fluid and Solid Minerals and the Lands and Realty programs at the Grand Junction Field Office. She has held that position for almost two years.

Bridget has been with the Bureau of Land Management for five years, previously working for the Glenwood Springs Energy Office (2007-2010).

Bridget started her federal career with the US Forest Service research station in Logan, UT working on Mountain Pine beetle research in northern Arizona, Utah and southern Idaho. She then moved to California and worked as an endangered species biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Ventura, California where the highlights involved working on projects involving the federally threatened desert tortoise and writing a recovery plan for the federally endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

Bridget holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies/Geography from Utah State University.

**Dave Kanzer, P.E., Colorado River District, Gunnison Basin & Grand Valley Selenium Task Forces, and Colorado River Salinity Control Forum**

Although he’s not native to Colorado, having been raised in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, Kanzer is acutely aware of the water resource issues facing western Colorado and the arid western US (including the invasion of pesky non-natives). Over the last 17 years, Kanzer has worked on the numerous water quality and quantity issues facing the Colorado River Basin, now as a Senior Water Resources Engineer for the Colorado River Water Conservation District, located in Glenwood Springs.

As part of his current diverse duties, Kanzer focuses on the Gunnison River Basin and has been helping manage the River District’s significant role in the Selenium Task Force since its inception in 1998 and helped develop the cooperative Selenium Management Program. In addition, he represents Colorado on the workgroup of the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum.

Kanzer earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Geological Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. As an avid skier and river enthusiast, he anxiously awaits the snowfall every year not only to replenish our critical water resources.

**Richard (Dick) Parachini, Watershed Program Manager, Water Quality Control Division, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment**

Dick Parachini is the Watershed Program Manager of the Water Quality Control Division in the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and took over this position beginning April 2007. The Watershed Program is comprised the Environmental Data (monitoring and reporting), Standards (water quality critieria, standards, and classifications), and Restoration and Protection (TMDLs, Nonpoint Source, Source Water Protection, and Planning) units.

From November 2001 through March 2007, Dick was the Outreach and Assistance Unit Manager of the Water Quality Control Division. This unit was responsible for Water Quality Planning, Nonpoint Source Management, Source Water Protection, and Wastewater and Drinking Water Grants and Loans.

From September 1997 and through October 2001, Dick worked as the South Platte Watershed Coordinator for the Water Quality Control Division. This position functioned as a point of contact for the division regarding non-point source pollution programs, wellhead and source water drinking water protection programs, regional water quality planning agency coordination, reservoir control regulations, and local watershed initiatives.

From August 1987 to September 1997, Dick worked for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division conducting Superfund site characterization and remediation, and worked primarily on the Eagle and Summitville Mine site.

Dick has a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Masters of Science in Range Ecology from Colorado State University.

Dick is a fourth generation Coloradoan from a farming/ranching family in western Morgan County.

**Tim Moore, Manager, 5-2-1 Drainage Authority**

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**Dan Tonello, City of Grand Junction Wastewater Services Manager**

Dan has served the City of Grand Junction for 28 years, including:

* 8 years as a Wastewater Plant Operator
* 12 years as Industrial Pretreatment Supervisor
* 8 years as Wastewater Services Manager

Previously, Dan spent 4 years as a part-time Contract Operations Specialist for the EPA/CDPHE. He holds a BS in Organizational Management and is a licensed State of Colorado Operator for: Wastewater, Water, Industrial Wastewater, Collections & Water Distribution systems. Dan is Past Chairman of the Colorado Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Association and a member of the Rocky Mountain Water Pollution Control Association and the Water Environment Federation.

**Steve Glazer, High Country Citizens Alliance**

As a resident of Crested Butte since 1969, Steve Glazer has been interested in protecting the water of the Upper Gunnison/East/and Slate Rivers since his arrival. He is the retiring Director of the Water Program for High Country Citizens’ Alliance (HCCA), a position he has held since 1991. He also serves as the Vice President of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and is President of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition which he helped form in 2003. His focus has been on both water resource management and water quality protection. He was involved in helping to form the Selenium Task Force in the late 1990s. He has also been the Sierra Club’s Water and Aquatic Resources Committee of the Rocky Mountain Chapter since 1994. He has participated in the Colorado Water Quality Forum since its inception in 1991. He has participated in numerous state water quality rulemakings for both statewide standards and basin standards including the up-coming nutrient rulemaking in March.

**Bruce Talbott, Vice President, Talbott Farms**

Bruce Talbott, Vice President overseeing orchards and vineyards, is responsible for managing the horticultural production aspect of the business. He also went to college in Ottawa, Kansas, and later studied in England at the University of London. It was while studying horticulture in England that he gained a full appreciation for how uniquely suited our fruit growing area is for raising premium fruits. Several years were spent traveling in Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. Within the scope of his traveling, he constantly keyed in on things horticultural. He observed fruit orchards, gardens, fruit varieties and unique pruning techniques. He serves or has served on numerous boards, Child and Migrant Services, the Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation, the Cross Orchards Museum, the CSU Western Colorado Regional Advisory and the local volunteer fire department as fire chief, to name but a few of the organizations he actively supports.