



April 24 – 25, 2019

Pueblo Convention Center

*Speaker and Presenter Biographies*

## Keynote Speakers

### **U.S. Senator Cory Gardner**

Senator Cory Gardner is a fifth-generation Coloradan who was born and raised in Yuma, a small town on the Eastern Plains of Colorado where his family has owned a farm implement dealership for over a century. He lives in the same house his great-grandparents lived in. Cory graduated summa cum laude from Colorado State University and received his law degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. After working at his family implement business and the National Corn Growers Association, Cory took a position as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and quickly advanced to his Legislative Director.

He began serving in the Colorado House of Representatives in 2005 where he spent time as the Minority Whip and became known for his expertise in natural resource and agriculture policy. Cory was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010.

In the Senate, Cory continues to pursue common sense energy policy as a member of the Senate Energy & Natural Resource Committee and Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee. In addition, Cory serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. He also serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy. As Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, Cory led the effort to impose broad new sanctions against North Korea, as the regime continues to be a leading abuser of human rights and its reckless advancement of nuclear weapons threatens our national security.

In 2017, Cory was ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> most bipartisan Senator by The Lugar Center and was awarded the Legislative Action Award by the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in 2018 for his work to build consensus, elevate the tenor of the debate, practice civility, and advance legislation on pressing issues.

Cory is focused on expanding the economy, creating jobs, and making life better for all Coloradans. He lives in Yuma with his wife Jaime and their three children: Alyson, Thatcher, and Caitlyn.



## **Don Ament – Retired, Colorado Agriculture Commissioner**

Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament retired from public service January 3, 2007. Ament farms and ranches on his family farm near the town of Iliff in northeastern Colorado. "Serving as Colorado agriculture's principal advocate has been the most rewarding part of my career," Ament once stated. "I hope I have made some measure of difference for a brighter and more prosperous future for Colorado's farmers and ranchers."

Ament was appointed to the state's top ag post in 1999 by Governor Bill Owens and had served in the position continuously since. As commissioner, Ament focused on helping Colorado residents understand the role agriculture plays in preserving the quality of life in the state. He is often found on the road, still traveling across Colorado talking to people about agriculture and broadening their understanding of the vital industry. He is also a water and property rights expert.

Prior to serving in Owens' cabinet, Ament was a twelve-year veteran of the Colorado General Assembly serving four years in the state House of Representatives and eight as a state senator. In the Senate, Ament served as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, he chaired the Capitol Development Committee, and served on the Senate Education Committee.

Ament is regarded as one of the state's top water experts and has been an outspoken advocate for development of Colorado's natural resources, such as timber, coal, and water.

Ament served as president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) and chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of NASDA.

## **Closing Remarks**

### **John Stulp, Governor's Advisor on Water, retired**

John Stulp is a farmer and rancher from Prowers County who served the State of Colorado as Commissioner of Agriculture from 2007-2011. For thirteen years he served as a Prowers County Commissioner and also served on numerous other state boards and commissions; highlights included the State Board of Agriculture, State Wildlife Commission, the Connect Colorado Technology Committee, the State Land Board, and the Colorado Ag Development Authority & Value Added Board. Most recently, he served as the Interbasin Compact Committee Director and Special Policy Advisor for Water to Governor Hickenlooper.



## *Forum Presenters in Alphabetical Order*

### **Rena Brand – Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Rena is a Water Resources Specialist for Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Southeast Region, covering the Arkansas and South Republican River basins. Since 2016, she has managed CPW SE Region's water rights, and advocates for the agency's interests in clean water for fish, wildlife, and recreation. Rena's background is in Geology, GIS, and water resources. She has previous experience in Federal Environmental Regulations. She is originally from Omaha, Nebraska, and attended University of Colorado at Denver.

### **Jim Broderick – Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District**

Jim Broderick is serving a two-year term as President of the Colorado River Water Users Association, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides a forum to exchange ideas and perspectives on the Colorado River. Its members include Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and the Ten Tribes Partnership. The group also works closely with Mexico.

Broderick has been executive director of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District since November 1, 2002. The Southeastern District is the state authority for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which was created by an Act of Congress in 1962. Its primary purpose is to deliver a supplemental supply of water to the Arkansas River basin from the upper reaches of the Colorado River.

Prior to joining the Southeastern District, Broderick was the Business Administration for Tucson Water in Tucson, Arizona.

Broderick is past president of the Colorado Water Congress and Arkansas Basin Roundtable. He is also a member of the National Water Resources Association and Family Farm Alliance.

He lives in Pueblo, Colorado, where he was born. He has a masters degree in public management and environmental resource planning. He and his wife Cindy have a daughter, Amy.

### **Nolan Doesken – Colorado Water Center and Colorado Climate Center**

Nolan is currently works part-time for the Colorado Water Center and the Colorado Climate Center. He retired as State Climatologist for Colorado at Colorado State University in 2017. After obtaining degrees from the Univ. of Michigan and Univ. of Illinois in the 1970s,



Nolan began his work as a climatologist at CSU in 1977 and was appointed State Climatologist in 2006. He has long been fascinated with climate monitoring and long-term climate trends but pays particularly close attention to precipitation including floods and drought. After the Fort Collins flash flood of 1997, Nolan established a volunteer rain gauge network to track and map the local variations in northern Colorado precipitation. This project -- the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS) -- has since grown internationally and involves thousands of volunteers across many parts of North America. Nolan is a past president of the American Association of State Climatologists and was a founding board member of the Citizen Science Association.

### **Todd Doherty – Western Water Partnerships**

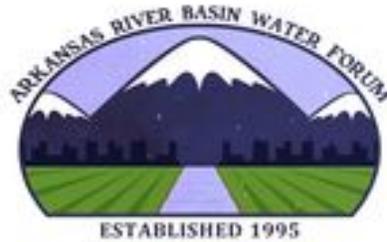
Todd is the president and founder of Western Water Partnerships (WWP), a Colorado Public Benefit Corporation with the mission of preserving irrigated agricultural lands by facilitating water sharing agreements between farmers, ranchers, municipal and industrial water providers, open space departments and local governments. He has nearly 20 years of experience in western water management and policy at the state and local level. Using market-based approaches, WWP provides a vehicle for entities to help create a West where cities and farms/ranches coexist while supporting local agricultural production and sustainable communities. WWP's clients include municipalities, land conservation organizations, farmers and ranchers.

### **Michael Fink – City of Fountain Water Utility**

Michael Fink is the Water Superintendent for the City of Fountain Water Utility. He previously served the City as Water Resource Engineer. He currently holds Professional Engineering licenses in ten states, including Colorado. His undergraduate degree in civil engineering is from Valparaiso University (Indiana) and his masters in civil engineering is from Illinois Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow in the National Society of Professional Engineers and a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

### **Taryn Finessey – Senior Climate Specialist, State of Colorado**

Taryn serves as the Senior Climate Change Specialist for the State of Colorado and is housed within the Department of Natural Resources. She is responsible for the implementation of HB 13-1293, overseeing Colorado's climate change efforts, and works across state agencies to integrate scientific and policy innovations that increase Colorado's ability to address climate change impacts and reduce emissions. She is also responsible for compliance with the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan and has helped to establish Colorado as a national and international leader on drought resilience. Prior to her time at the State she worked in the nonprofit sector seeking cost effective approaches to the balance between human water



demands and protection of the natural environment. She holds a B.A. in Earth and Environmental Science from Wesleyan University, and a M.A. in Global Environmental Policy from American University.

### **Alexander Funk – Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Alexander is the new Agricultural Water Resources Specialist at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Alexander grew up working on a dairy farm and has a working background in agriculture policy. Alexander serves as a CWCB liaison to Colorado's agricultural community on water resources issues impacting the state's agricultural industry. At CWCB, he also manages the Alternative Transfer Methods Grant Program and Colorado Water Plan Grants furthering the plan's agricultural viability goals. Alexander previously served as the Western Policy Director with the National Young Farmers Coalition where he focused on federal and state policy issues concerning western water management, drought adaptation, and other challenges affecting next generation farmers and ranchers. Alex also was the Lapham Conservation Fellow with American Rivers where he worked with Colorado ranchers to develop multi-purpose projects improving irrigation infrastructure and enhancing river health. Alex received a B.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Tech and his Juris Doctorate degree from Vermont Law School.

### **Julia Gallucci – Colorado Springs Utilities**

Julia has been with Colorado Springs Utilities for ten years and serves as the Water Conservation Supervisor. In this capacity she's responsible for supporting the goals of the Water Use Efficiency Plan and the Integrated Water Resources Plan with the goal of acquiring 11-13,000 acre-feet of water through conservation measures by 2070. She also is responsible for improving value perceptions about water through education, community collaboration and partnerships. Julia is a Board Secretary for the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum and holds a B.A. with honors from the University of Michigan.

### **Jack Goble, P.E. – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District**

Jack is a professionally-licensed water resource engineer with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District. In this position, he manages several water-related projects and studies within the Arkansas River Basin, including the Catlin Canal Following-Leasing Pilot Project and two Irrigation Improvement Plans that include over 260 center pivot sprinklers. He also serves as the Arkansas River Basin Representative on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He received his degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University.



### **Bob Hamel - Arkansas River Outfitters Association**

Bob is the President of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Board and the Executive Director of the Arkansas River Outfitters Association. He serves as a Vice-Chairman on the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable, represents recreation interests and serves as the chairman of the Enviro- Rec Committee. Bob also chairs the Arkansas River Headwaters Recreation Area Citizen's Task Force.

### **Matt Heimerich - Palmer Land Trust**

Matt has been working with the Palmer Land Trust since November 2014. His work is focused on preserving working ranches, and offering alternatives to farmers faced with pressures to separate water rights from the land. He served as a three-term county commissioner for Crowley County from 1999-2011. Matt and his wife's family farm approximately 1,100 irrigated acres. He serves on the board of directors of the Colorado Canal Company and the Lake Meredith Reservoir Company.

### **Luke Javernick – River Science**

Luke is the Executive Director of the nonprofit River Science whose mission is to *“achieve greater conservation impacts through education and technology”*. Luke has a doctorate in civil engineering and recently completed a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. Luke's past research and continued work at River Science focuses on quantifying and improving river restoration and management through greater data and information.

### **Carly Jerla- Bureau of Reclamation**

Carly is an Operations Research Analyst for the Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region in the Boulder Canyon Operations Office. She is currently stationed at CADSWES. Carly obtained BS Degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University in 2002. She also earned her MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado in 2005. Carly leads the Region's research and development of modeling applications and decision support for water operations and planning. She was Reclamation's Study Manager for the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.

### **Kimberly Kerschke - Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District**

Kimberly is the Administrative Assistant for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District. She also assists with the District's education and outreach efforts. Kimberly was first introduced to the water community at the 2016 Forum held in Salida, where she attended as an interested citizen with an eagerness to learn more. That experience only proved to whet her appetite and in 2018 she jumped at the opportunity to shift the focus of her work and join the staff of the UAWCD.



### **Emily Logan – Pueblo Water**

Emily is the water resources engineer for Pueblo Water responsible for daily accounting, obtaining and administering of raw water leases as well as correspondence with the state. Prior to moving to Colorado, she was an engineer in a Public Works department in Illinois where water resources is very different. As a new water resources engineer to Colorado, Emily can see how rapidly the water world changes here and how much there is to learn. Emily has a degree in statistics from the University of Chicago and masters in environmental engineering from Northwestern University.

### **Scott Lorenz – Colorado Springs Utilities**

Scott is a Colorado native, born and raised on a farm in the San Luis Valley. He has worked as a Senior Project Manager for Colorado Springs Utilities for 4 years as part of the Water Resource Planning Department. Prior to that he served as the General Manager of AGUA, a well augmentation company in the Lower Arkansas Valley. He and his family live on a ranch in Beulah, Colorado.

### **Kimberly Mihelich – Colorado Rural Water Association**

Kimberly is a Source Water Specialist with CRWA, with 10 years of experience assisting community drinking water providers on the development and implementation of source water protection plans for their drinking water systems.

### **Matt Montgomery - Hill & Robbins, P.C.**

Matt is a partner at Hill & Robbins, P.C. where his father, Dennis, also once practiced. His practice emphasizes water and natural resource law. Matt received a B.S. in chemistry from Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 2002 and a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Colorado in 2008. Matt received his J.D. from the University of Colorado in 2011, graduating Order of the Coif. Matt is a native of Denver, Colorado.

### **Monique Mullis – Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Monique is the Manager at Lake Pueblo State Park and has spent the bulk of her career as a Park Ranger working at Pueblo: Colorado's most visited state park (2.4 million visitors in 2018). Starting as a gate attendant at the park the day after high school graduation, she worked through the field ranks, spent 4 years helping open Cheyenne Mountain State Park in Colorado Springs and came back home to become operations manager and finally The Big Kahuna Park Manager in 2014. Monique hangs out with her two crazy dogs, runs a small hobby business with her sister and teaches fiber arts in her spare time.



### **Josh Nehring – Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Josh was raised in Montrose Colorado and spent most of his younger years outdoors enjoying nature. He graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelors degree in Fishery Biology. For 10 years Josh worked for a fishery and water quality consulting firm out of Denver before coming to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. He was the Area Aquatic Biologist for the Rio Grande basin and area 14 near Colorado Springs prior to his current position as the southeast Senior Aquatic Biologist.

### **Brent Newman – Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Brent oversees all programmatic areas of the Interstate, Federal, and Water Information section, and is responsible for directing and coordinating the work of section staff members with legal, water resource or administrative coordination expertise. He is responsible for activities relating to the Colorado River Compact, Upper Colorado River Compact and Arkansas River Compact. Brent manages projects and funding associated with section programming and provides section direction, input, and guidance on the implementation of Colorado's Water Plan. Brent attended the University of Mississippi for undergraduate and law school, and earned an LL.M. in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy from the University of Denver.

### **Chelsey Nutter – Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative**

Chelsey is the Executive Director for the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative. Charged with assisting Arkansas Basin communities in addressing locally identified watershed issues for economic, ecological, and social benefit, she helps develop and manage a diverse portfolio of multi-stakeholder projects across the Basin. Prior to ARWC, Chelsey was the Projects Manager for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District. She is a member of the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable and is the Chair of the Needs Assessment Committee. She received her B.S. in Land Use and Geographic Information Systems in 2012 from Metro State University and is currently pursuing her Master's in Business Administration from Adams State.

### **Abby Ortega – Colorado Springs Utilities**

Abby is the Manager of the Water Resource Management group at Colorado Springs Utilities and in that capacity leads the water resource and watershed planning and conveyance teams which serve nearly a half-million people in the Pikes Peak region. Abby has worked for Colorado Springs Utilities for 15 years and has been in the water resources industry for 23 years. Abby's work has given her a diverse and thorough knowledge of Colorado Water Law, a strong understanding of the unique water-related opportunities and challenges we all face, and a deep knowledge of water resource issues in the Arkansas, Colorado and South Platte River Basins. Abby's engaging style and unquestioned integrity has allowed her to build relationships throughout the state. She has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University and is a



licensed Professional Engineer. Abby has served on the Twin Lakes and Colorado Canal Company Boards, the Fountain Valley Authority Board and represents Utilities on a number of additional committees.

### **Alex Rudney – U.S. Forest Service**

Alex is currently employed as a Certified Forest Service Silviculturist for the Pike-San Isabel National Forest in Salida, Colorado. Alex has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Vegetation Management, Fire and Fuels Management and Contract Administration for 29 years in Colorado and California, 15 of those years in Salida. Alex received a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from Colorado State University in 1992.

### **Kevin Salter – Kansas Division of Water Resources**

Kevin is a licensed professional engineer and has been working for the Kansas Division of Water Resources since 1993. He serves as an Interstate Water Engineer with primary responsibilities related to the Arkansas River Compact between Kansas and Colorado (Compact). Kevin is an integral part of a team that is responsible for securing and distributing the available Arkansas River surface water supply to Kansas irrigation ditches located in Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, and Gray Counties.

Kevin provided technical support in the U.S. Supreme Court *Kansas v. Colorado* case and continues to monitor Colorado's compliance with the *Kansas v. Colorado* decree and the Compact. He serves as the Assistant Operations Secretary for the Arkansas River Compact Administration, which is an interstate body, composed of Colorado and Kansas Representatives.

He has a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Kansas State University and a master's degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Nebraska. He has previous employment experience with a large agricultural processing company and with a small engineering consulting firm. He has lived in four different States, including Kansas for the last 30 years.

### **Terry Scanga – Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District**

Terry became General Manager of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District in 2001 after serving on the Board of Directors for 11 ½ years and co-chairman for 3 years. He graduated with a Bachelor's in Economics and French from Adams State and served 4 years with the U.S. Coast Guard. A lifelong resident of Chaffee County, Terry also co-owns Scanga Meat Company.



### **Russ Schumacher - Colorado State Climatologist**

Along with his faculty position in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, Russ serves as the Colorado State Climatologist and Director of the Colorado Climate Center. Russ Schumacher received his B.S. with majors in meteorology and humanities from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 2001. He received his M.S. in 2003 and Ph.D. in 2008 from the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. His research interests include extreme precipitation, weather systems, mesoscale meteorology, and the climatology of precipitation. From 2009-11, Russ was Assistant Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University. He has been a member of the CSU faculty since August 2011.

### **Paul Shreve- Colorado Rural Water Association**

Paul is a Training Specialist with CRWA, with 17 years of experience providing training and technical assistance to small systems in Colorado. He also has an additional 30 years operating water and wastewater systems from very small systems to medium size systems. He holds Class A certifications in water and wastewater, and Level 4 certifications in distribution and collection.

### **Tom Simpson – Aurora Water**

Tom is the Arkansas Valley Range Project manager for Aurora Water located in Rocky Ford. Tom has tremendous history in the Arkansas Basin both with his long tenure with Aurora Water and formerly as a Division 2 office Hydrologist and then River Operations Manager. Prior to that Tom was the staff engineer at SECWCD.

### **Kate Spinelli - Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative**

Kate studied community social work before moving to Colorado in 2012 to pursue conservation. She has worked for local organizations to develop community-based environmental education programming in the Arkansas River Valley. In 2014 Kate joined San Isabel Land Protection Trust to develop the organization's Stewardship Program. There, Kate developed public land health workshops and projects, located grants and coordinated technical assistance to implement restoration projects for forest and watershed health, fire mitigation and recovery, sustainable agricultural practices, and more. Today, Kate is a fire recovery coordinator and works with state and local organizations to build community-based recovery coalitions and leverage funding to increase the scale and impact of Hayden Pass Fire recovery activities.



### **Chris Sturm – Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Chris obtained his bachelors and master's degrees from the University of Georgia. He worked for several years in education around natural resources, until he landed at the City of Thornton, where he served as a Senior Water Resources Analyst for seven years. That job led him to his current position with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, an entity formed in 1937 to engage in water policy formation and water planning for the state. At the CWCB, Chris serves as the Stream Restoration Coordinator, a position he has held since 2007. In this capacity, he leads the CWCB's activities related to watershed restoration and flood protection.

### **Bill Tyner – Colorado Division of Water Resources**

Bill has served as a Professional Engineer employed by the State of Colorado since 1985 and by the Colorado Division of Water Resources since 1996. He became the Division Engineer in Division 2 on July 1, 2018. He previously served as Lead Engineer of the Ground Water Information Team in the Arkansas River Basin. He has also served as an expert witness in the Kansas vs. Colorado Supreme Court case. Bill received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in 1982.

### **Mike Weber – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District**

Mike is an employee at the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (Lower Ark) working towards his professional engineer license under Jack Goble and focused on various projects. Projects that Mike is involved in include Rule 10, Super Ditch and Lease Following, and Water Quality and Regulation 85. Mike is looking at the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Lower Arkansas Valley and their effect on reducing selenium and nutrients at the river before entering Kansas. Along with being an employee of Lower Ark, Mike serves as the Arkansas Basin Roundtable as the Consumptive Vice-Chair, Ogallala Commons Board, and Fountain Creek Watershed and Greenway District.

### **Brad Udall – Colorado Water Institute**

Brad is a Senior Water and Climate Research Scientist/Scholar at Colorado State University's Colorado Water Institute. Brad's expertise includes climate change, hydrology and related policy issues of the American West with a focus on the Colorado River. He was a contributing author to the 2014 IPCC climate change report and is was a co-author of the 2018 U.S. National Climate Change Assessment. In 2017, with co-author Jonathan Overpeck, he wrote an influential paper on the ongoing Colorado River 'hot' drought. He spent 6 months in Australia studying their water reforms after their Millennium Drought. Brad has testified to Congress, provided input to several National Academy of Science panels, and has given hundreds of talks on climate change impacts to water resources, water law, and water policy. Brad was formerly the Director of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and Environment at



the University of Colorado Law School and Director of the University of Colorado - NOAA Western Water Assessment.

### **Beth Van Vurst - Fairfield and Woods, P.C.**

Beth is an attorney with the law firm of Fairfield and Woods, P.C. and serves as outside general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Beth also currently represents water users in water court and transactional matters in Water Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 5, and serves as a member of Colorado's legal advisory committee for the Upper Colorado River Commission. Beth obtained her undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Colorado in 2001 and a J.D. (also from CU) in 2005. Prior to being in private practice, Beth worked in both the Federal and Interstate Water Unit and the Intrastate Water Unit of the Colorado Attorney General's Office. During that time, Beth represented several agencies within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, including serving as lead water rights counsel for the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife towards the end of her tenure.

### **Rob White – Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Rob has been Park Manager of Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area since 2000, providing leadership and direction in the management of the recreation area on a day-to-day basis. He received a BS in Park & Recreation Administration/Biology with a Secondary Teaching Certificate from Central Michigan University, and a MS in Park Administration/Fisheries & Wildlife Management from Michigan State University. Rob has two wonderful daughters, Kayla & Meghan, who, along with Rob, love to explore and experience the beauty of the Arkansas River and other special places in Colorado whenever possible.

### **Chris Woodka -Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District**

Chris Woodka, 64, joined the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District in Pueblo, Colo., as Issues Management Program Coordinator in September 2016. His present duties involve project management, communications, governmental liaisons and strategic planning. He previously worked as an editor and reporter for The Pueblo Chieftain for 31 years, primarily focusing on all phases of water reporting, including water resources, water quality, watershed management, and natural events such as snowpack, drought and floods. During the course of his career, he won numerous awards for his reporting on these topics. Woodka worked at newspapers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Indiana prior to joining The Chieftain in 1985. He is a 1977 graduate of Northern Arizona University, where he was named Outstanding Senior Journalist.