

WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP LIST April 1, 2026

OFFICERS

Chair - **Julie Cunningham**
Vice-Chair - **Earl Lewis**
Secretary-Treasurer - **Candice Hasenyager**

STAFF

Executive Director - **J.D. Strong**
Deputy Director/General Counsel - **Michelle Bushman**
Office Manager - **Julie Groat**
Policy Analyst - **Elysse Campbell**
Data Analyst/Hydroinformatics Specialist - **Ryan James**
WestFAST Federal Liaison - **Jason Olive**

Staff E-mail: jdstrong@wswc.utah.gov
mbushman@wswc.utah.gov
jgroat@wswc.utah.gov
elyssecampbell@wswc.utah.gov
rjames@wswc.utah.gov
jasonolive@wswc.utah.gov

Address: 682 East Vine Street, Suite 7
Murray, UT 84107
(801) 685-2555

ARIZONA

***Honorable Katie Hobbs**
Governor of Arizona
Statehouse
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-4331

****Thomas Buschatzke**, Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-8426
tbuschatzke@azwater.gov

Trevor Baggione, Director
Arizona Water Quality Division
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-2321
baggione.trevor@azdeq.gov

Ayesha Vohra, Deputy Counsel
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-8472
avohra@azwater.gov

Kelly Brown, Deputy Counsel (Alt.)
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-8646
kbrown@azwater.gov

†Trent Blomberg (Alt.)
Chief Legislative Liaison
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-8489
tblomberg@azwater.gov

CALIFORNIA

***Honorable Gavin Newsom**
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841

****Jeanine Jones**, P.E. (Alt.)
Interstate Resources Manager
California Department of Water Resources
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 902-7173
jeanine.jones@water.ca.gov

Karla Nemeth, Director
California Department of Water Resources
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5791
knemeth@water.ca.gov

*Ex-Officio Member

**Executive Committee Member

†Council members denoted by this symbol are listed by virtue of their office, pending receipt of a letter of appointment by their Governor.

Betty H. Olson, Professor
Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of California, Irvine
1361 SE II, Code: 7070
Irvine, CA 92697-7070
(949) 824-7171
bholson@uci.edu

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
(916) 341-5161
joaquin.esquivel@waterboards.ca.gov

COLORADO

***Honorable Jared Polis**
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-2471

****Lauren Ris**, Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441
lauren.ris@state.co.us

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer
Colorado Division of Water Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 318
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441
jason.ullmann@state.co.us

Nicole Rowan, Director
Water Quality Control Division
Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, A-5
Denver, CO 80246-1530
(720) 916-8937
nicole.rowan@state.co.us

Rebecca Mitchell (Alt.)
State of Colorado Commissioner
Upper Colorado River Commission
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441
rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us

Nate Pearson (Alt.)
Assistant Director of Water Policy
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3311
nate.pearson@state.co.us

Scott Steinbrecher (Alt.)
Deputy Attorney General
Natural Resources and Environment Section
Colorado Department of Law
1300 Broadway, 9th Floor
Denver, CO 80203
(720) 508-6287
scott.steinbrecher@coag.gov

IDAHO

***Honorable Brad Little**
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 334-2100

****Mathew Weaver**, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
The Idaho Water Center
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098
(208) 287-4800
mathew.weaver@idwr.idaho.gov

Jerry R. Rigby
Rigby, Andrus & Rigby Law, PLLC
553 East 4th South
Rexburg, ID 83440
(208) 356-3633
jrigby@rex-law.com

John Simpson, Partner
IdaH2O PLLC
4354 N. Hackberry Way
P.O. Box 152
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 724-2580
jks@idahowaters.com

†Mary Anne Nelson
Surface and Wastewater Div. Administrator
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Statehouse Mail
1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, ID 83706-1255
(208) 373-0291
mary.anne.nelson@deq.idaho.gov

KANSAS

***Honorable Laura Kelly**
Governor of Kansas
State Capitol, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1590
(785) 296-3232

****Earl Lewis**, Chief Engineer
Division of Water Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 564-6658
earl.lewis@ks.gov

Connie Owen, Director
Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-3185
connie.owen@kwo.ks.gov

†Stephanie Kramer, Chief Counsel
Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 564-6700
stephanie.kramer@ks.gov

Chris W. Beightel (Alt.)
Water Management Services Program Manager
Division of Water Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 564-6659
chris.beightel@kda.ks.gov

Matt Unruh, Assistant Director (Alt.)
Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-3185
matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov

MONTANA

***Honorable Greg Gianforte**
Governor of Montana
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3111

****Anna Pakenham Stevenson**
Administrator, Water Resources Division
MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601
(406) 444-0559
anna.pakenhamstevenson@mt.gov

†Molly Kelly, Attorney
Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation
1539 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-5785
molly.kelly2@mt.gov

†Lindsey Krywaruchka, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-1601
(406) 444-4632
lkrywaruchka@mt.gov

Jay Weiner (Alt.)
Administrative Law Judge
MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
1539 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-1510
jay.weiner@mt.gov

NEBRASKA

***Honorable Jim Pillen**
Governor of Nebraska
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-2244

****Jesse Bradley**, Director
NE Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment
245 Fallbrook, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68521-6729
(402) 219-1357
jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov

Justin Lavene, Bureau Chief
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
1445 K Street, Room 2115
P.O. Box 98920
(402) 471-2682
justin.lavene@nebraska.gov

†Matt Manning, Chief Water Officer
NE Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment
245 Fallbrook, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68521-6729
(402) 937-4447
matt.manning@nebraska.gov

NEVADA

***Honorable Joe Lombardo**
Governor of Nevada
State Capitol
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 687-5670

****Jennifer Carr**, Administrator
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, NV 89701-5249
(775) 687-9302
jcarr@ndep.nv.gov

James Bolotin (Alt.)
Deputy Administrator
Nevada Division of Water Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701-9965
(775) 684-2894
j.bolotin@water.nv.gov

Cathy Erskine, Sr. Policy Advisor (Alt.)
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-2700
c.erskine@dcnr.nv.gov

James Settelmeyer, Director (Alt.)
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-2700
jsettelmeyer@dcnr.nv.gov

Chad Stephens, Deputy Director (Alt.)
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-2700
cstephens@dcnr.nv.gov

Chris Thorson, Deputy Administrator (Alt.)
Nevada Division of Water Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701-9965
(775) 684-2800
cthorsen@water.nv.gov

NEW MEXICO

***Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham**
Governor of New Mexico
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 476-2200

****Tayna Trujillo**, Deputy State Engineer
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Concha Ortiz y Pino Building
130 South Capitol Street
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102
(505) 487-6083
tanya.trujillo@ose.nm.gov

Nathaniel Chakeres, General Counsel
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Concha Ortiz y Pino Building
130 South Capitol Street
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102
(505) 827-6150
nathaniel.chakeres@state.nm.us

John Rhoderick
Deputy Cabinet Secretary - Administration
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Suite N-4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 819-8284
john.rhoderick@env.nm.gov

NORTH DAKOTA

***Honorable Kelly Armstrong**
Governor of North Dakota
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 224-2200

****Reice Haase**, Director
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 328-4940
rehaase@nd.gov

L. David Glatt, Director
North Dakota Dept. of Environmental Quality
4201 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324
(701) 328-5152
dglatt@nd.gov

Jennifer Verleger, General Counsel
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 328-3442
jiverleger@nd.gov

Patrick Fridgen (Alt.)
Deputy Director
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 328-4964
pfridgen@nd.gov

OKLAHOMA

***Honorable Kevin Stitt**
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-2342

****Julie Cunningham**, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 530-8800
julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Robert Singletary, Executive Director
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-7172
robert.singletary@deq.ok.gov

Sara Gibson, General Counsel (Alt.)
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 530-8800
sara.gibson@owrb.ok.gov

OREGON

***Honorable Tina Kotek**
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3100

****Doug Woodcock**
Deputy Director, Water Management
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
(503) 383-5573
douglas.e.woodcock@water.oregon.gov

Racquel Rancier, Deputy Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
(503) 302-9235
racquel.r.rancier@water.oregon.gov

Jennifer Wigal
Water Quality Program Manager
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5323
wigal.jennifer@deq.state.or.us

SOUTH DAKOTA

***Honorable Larry Rhoden**
Governor of South Dakota
State Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3212

****Hunter Roberts**, Secretary
SD Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3181
(605) 773-5559
hunter.roberts@state.sd.us

Nakaila Steen, Natural Resources Engineer
SD Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3352
nakaila.steen@state.sd.us

TEXAS

***Honorable Gregory W. Abbott**
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 463-2000

****Brooke Paup**, Chairwoman
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, MC 100
Austin, TX 78711-3087
(512) 239-5505
brooke.paup@tceq.texas.gov

L'Oreal Stepney, Chairwoman
Texas Water Development Board
1700 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, TX 78711-3231
(512) 463-7847
loreal.stepney@twdb.texas.gov

UTAH

***Honorable Spencer Cox**
Governor of Utah
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(801) 538-1000

****Joel Williams**, Director
Division of Water Resources
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 310
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 538-7249
joelwilliams@utah.gov

Candice Hasenyager, Director
Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
195 North 1950 West
P. O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(385) 214-8679
chasenyager@utah.gov

Teresa Wilhelmsen, P.E.
State Engineer/Division Director
Division of Water Rights
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220
P.O. Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300
(801) 538-7240
teresawilhelmsen@utah.gov

Leanna Littler-Woolf (Alt.)
Assistant Director, Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
195 North 1950 West
P. O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(385) 443-0381
lnlittler@utah.gov

Todd Stonely (Alt.)
Assistant Director of Planning
Division of Water Resources
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 310
Salt Lake City UT, 84116
(801) 538-7277
toddstonely@utah.gov

Mark Stratford (Alt)
Legal Counsel
Division of Water Rights
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220
P.O. Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300
(801) 538-7240
mstratford@utah.gov

WASHINGTON

***Honorable Bob Ferguson**
Governor of Washington
State Capitol
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 753-6780

****Ria Berns**
Program Manager, Water Resources
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(425) 495-3917
ria.berns@ecy.wa.gov

Stephen North
Assistant Attorney General, Ecology Division
Washington State Attorney General's Office
1125 Washington Street, SE
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504- 0100
(360) 586-3509
stephen.north@atg.wa.gov

Leslie Connelly, Manager (Alt.)
Water Quality Program Strategic Planning
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(360) 628-4381
leslie.connelly@ecy.wa.gov

WYOMING

***Honorable Mark Gordon**

Governor of Wyoming
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-7434

****Brandon Gebhart**

Wyoming State Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 2nd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6150
brandon.gebhart1@wyo.gov

Christopher Brown

Senior Assistant Attorney General
Water and Natural Resources Division
Wyoming Attorney General's Office
123 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-3406
chris.brown@wyo.gov

Todd Parfitt, Director

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th Street, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7555
todd.parfitt@wyo.gov

Jeff Cowley (Alt.)

Administrator, Interstate Streams
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 2nd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-1942
jeff.cowley@wyo.gov

Jennifer Zygmunt, Administrator (Alt.)

Water Quality Division
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th Street, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7072
jennifer.zygmunt@wyo.gov

WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas Buschatzke - Arizona
Jeanine Jones - California
Lauren Ris - Colorado
Mat Weaver - Idaho
Jerry Rigby - Idaho
(Alternate)
Earl Lewis - Kansas
(**Vice-Chair**)
Anna Pakenham Stevenson - Montana
Jesse Bradley - Nebraska
Jennifer Carr - Nevada
Tanya Trujillo - New Mexico
Reice Haase - North Dakota
Jennifer Verleger - North Dakota
(Alternate)
Julie Cunningham - Oklahoma
(**Chair**)
Sara Gibson - Oklahoma
(Alternate)*
Doug Woodcock - Oregon
Hunter Roberts - South Dakota
Nakaila Steen- South Dakota
(Alternate)*
Brooke Paup - Texas
Joel Williams - Utah
Candice Hasenyager - Utah
(Alternate)*
Teresa Wilhelmsen - Utah
(Alternate)*
Ria Berns - Washington
Brandon Gebhart - Wyoming
Jeff Cowley - Wyoming
(Alternate)*

Management Subcommittee

Julie Cunningham
(**Chair**)
Earl Lewis
(**Vice-Chair**)
Candice Hasenyager
(**Secretary/Treasurer**)
J.D. Strong
(**Executive Director**)
Jennifer Verleger
(**Former Chair**)

Ex-Officio Representatives

*For purposes of Committee rosters, the designation as an "alternate" only reflect the person's function on the Committee.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Ayesha Vohra - Arizona
Kelly Brown - Arizona
(Alternate)*
Jeanine Jones - California
Jason Ullmann - Colorado
Jerry Rigby - Idaho
John Simpson - Idaho
(Alternate)*
Vacant - Kansas
Jay Weiner - Montana
Justin Lavene - Nebraska
Vacant - Nevada
Nathaniel Chakeres - New Mexico
Jennifer Verleger - North Dakota
Sara Gibson - Oklahoma
(Vice-Chair)
Vacant - Oregon
Nakaila Steen - South Dakota
Hunter Roberts - South Dakota
(Alternate)*
Vacant - Texas
Teresa Wilhelmsen - Utah
Mark Stratford - Utah
(Alternate)*
Stephen North - Washington
Chris Brown - Wyoming
(Chair)

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Trevor Baggiore - Arizona
E. Joaquin Esquivel - California
Nicole Rowan - Colorado
Mary Anne Nelson - Idaho
Vacant - Kansas
Lindsey Krywaruchka - Montana
Vacant - Nebraska
Jennifer Carr - Nevada
John Rhoderick - New Mexico
David Glatt - North Dakota
Robert Singletary - Oklahoma
Jennifer Wigal - Oregon
Nakaila Steen - South Dakota
Brooke Paup - Texas
Candice Hasenyager - Utah
Leanna Littler-Woolf - Utah
(Alternate)*
Leslie Connelly - Washington
Jennifer Zygmunt - Wyoming
(Chair)
Todd Parfitt - Wyoming
(Alternate)*

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thomas Buschatzke - Arizona
Trent Blomberg - Arizona
(Alternate)*
Jeanine Jones - California
Rebecca Mitchell - Colorado
Mat Weaver - Idaho
John Simpson - Idaho
(Alternate)*
Chris Beightel - Kansas
Anna Pakenham Stevenson - Montana
(Chair)
Vacant - Nebraska
Vacant - Nevada
Tayna Trujillo - New Mexico
Reice Haase - North Dakota
Julie Cunningham - Oklahoma
Doug Woodcock - Oregon
Racquel Rancier - Oregon
(Alternate)*
Nakaila Steen - South Dakota
L'Oreal Stepney - Texas
Joel Williams - Utah
Todd Stonely - Utah
(Alternate)*
Ria Berns - Washington
Brandon Gebhart - Wyoming
Jeff Cowley - Wyoming
(Alternate)*