

Northwest Groundwater Conference – March 18 & 19, 2024 Presenter Professional Bios

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, Oregon Water Resources Department, Pendleton, OR

Chris Kowitz is the North Central Region Manager for the Oregon Water Resources Department. The North Central Region consists of four district offices in The Dalles, Condon, Milton-Freewater, and Pendleton. In this role, he oversees regulatory and policy matters for the region which include surface and groundwater resources in the Hood, Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla, and Walla Walla River watersheds. Chris grew up in Northeast Washington and holds a Bachelors of Environmental Science from Western Washington University. His professional experience includes 20 years working in the natural environment, including natural resources management and restoration, water resource planning, applied research, and policy development. He has worked for city, county, and state governments in the Northwest, specializing in program implementation, inter-jurisdictional coordination, environmental systems, and stakeholder engagement.

Patrick Cabbage, IHG, Technical Unit Supervisor, Washington Department of Ecology, Spokane, WA

Patrick Cabbage is a senior hydrogeologist with the Washington State Department of Ecology. Patrick has worked in eastern Washington with Ecology for over ten years in both the Toxics Cleanup and Water Resources Programs. He currently oversees Ecology's groundwater monitoring program in eastern Washington, and provides hydrogeologic analysis to support water rights decisions. Prior to working for Ecology Patrick worked for an environmental consulting firm in Richland, WA.

Jaime Short, Water Resources PM, Washington Department of Ecology, Spokane, WA

Jaime Short serves as the Eastern Regional Section Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology's Water Resources Program. She has been working in the eastern region in various capacities on water issues for 20 years. Before joining the Water Resources team in 2015, she worked as a planner with Ecology's Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program.

Paul Arrington, Executive Director & General Counsel, Idaho Water Users Association, Boise, ID

Paul Arrington is Executive Director and General Counsel for the Idaho Water Users Association. Arrington graduated from Boise State University in 2002 with a Bachelor's of Science, Human Resource Management Emphasis. He then graduated in 2005 from the Gonzaga University School of Law and joined Barker Rosholt & Simpson LLP later that year, where his law practice focused largely on water and natural resource issues in Idaho and throughout the United States. In May, 2017, Arrington took over as the IWUA director.

Maximilian C. Bricker, Associate, Somach Simmons & Dunn, Denver, CO

Maximilian (Max) Bricker is an associate attorney with the law firm of Somach Simmons & Dunn in Boulder, CO. Max will present on legal issues affecting ground water users that pump from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) due to, among other things, the conjunctive management of ground water with the surface waters of the Snake River Basin, the imposition of moratorium orders that prohibit new appropriations, and the preparation of a Ground Water Management Plan. Max's legal practice covers multiple states in the Western U.S., including representing the interests of agricultural and municipal water users in Idaho that pump ground water from the ESPA. Prior to entering the legal field, Max managed water resources and irrigation operations for a large farm near Bakersfield, CA, which included serving as the general manager of Henry Miller Water District and preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. In his free time, Max enjoys traveling, skiing, and attending sports games.

Danielle Squeoachs, PhD, LHG, PE, Hydrogeologist, Yakama Nation Water Resources Program, Toppenish, WA

Danielle Squeoachs is a hydrologist with the Yakama Nation Water Resources Program. She currently focuses on Water Resources issues in Central Washington State. Danielle has specific expertise in the development and implementation of groundwater replenishment projects. Danielle is a licensed geologist (WA), hydrogeologist (WA), and professional engineer (OR, WA). She also has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering through Oregon State University.

Cari Cortez, Special Projects Coordinator, Columbia Basin Conservation District, Moses Lake, WA

Cari Cortez is the Special Projects Coordinator with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) serving Grant and Adams counties in Eastern Washington. She currently manages federal grants awarded to CBCD for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP), a regional effort to implement the Odessa Subarea Special Study FEIS (2012), which is building the necessary infrastructure for farmers to exchange valid state-issued Odessa groundwater rights for Columbia Basin Project water. Additionally, she works with partners to provide administrative support for the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition (CBSWC), which focuses on addressing potable groundwater supply issues by creating locally driven recommendations that influence water management and policy that will direct resources to create sustainable water solutions. She earned a B.A. in Politics-Environmental Studies from Whitman College with a longstanding interest in water resources management.

Amy Sumner, Water Resources Manager, Spokane County, Spokane, WA

Amy Sumner is the Water Resources Manager for Spokane County in Spokane, WA. She is responsible for overseeing the County's water resources activities including the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Long-Term Monitoring Program. She has over 15 years of experience as an environmental professional. She holds a MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University and a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Alaska.

Alyssa Gersdorf, Environmental Specialist, City of Post Falls, Post Falls, ID

Alyssa Gersdorf is the Environmental Specialist for the City of Post Falls in Post Falls, ID. She is responsible for assisting with the City's permitted activities for wastewater, water, pretreatment, stormwater and recycled water. Alyssa is also a member of the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District Board and Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative. She has a MS in Hydrogeology and a Bachelors in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho.

Phil Sirles, Principal Geophysicist/Business Development, Collier Geophysics, Lakewood, CO

Phil Sirles is a Principal Geophysicist for Collier Geophysics located in Denver, Colorado. He has over 38 years' experience supporting geophysical investigations including groundwater, environmental, and civil works/geotechnical projects. He received his MS Thesis at the Mackay School of Mines, showing how borehole seismic measurements could be used to assess soil liquefaction. He has extensive domestic and international consulting experience having worked in 44 states, Kuwait, Finland, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Australia. Mr. Sirles started his career at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for just over 10 years, then moved into consulting where he's performed and managed numerous groundwater investigations throughout the western U.S. deploying a variety of geophysical methods. His consulting activities have grown from performing field data collection, data processing and report generation to crew management, office management and now business development for Collier Geophysics. Mr. Sirles has been a designated SME for the Navy and FHWA.

Kate Ely, Umatilla Basin Hydrologist, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Dept. of Natural Resources-Water Resources, Pendleton, OR

Kate Ely is Umatilla Basin Hydrologist with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) in Umatilla County, Oregon. For 28 years she has worked on diverse local, state, and regional water management and watershed health issues applying technical and policy expertise in water resources planning, monitoring, pre-development, and project implementation. Project activities include groundwater modeling, aquifer testing, wellhead protection, water-quality & water-quantity characterizations, Umatilla Basin and CTUIR TMDL development, Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Task Force, Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA), and education & outreach at community events, conferences, and numerous workshops. Kate received her Bachelor of Science in Geology and Master of Science in Physical Science-Hydrology/Hydrogeology from California State University, Chico. Kate's favorite area of research is sustainable groundwater-resource management through interdisciplinary research, education & outreach, and collaborations.

Ellen Svadlenak, Hydrologic Scientist, Washington Geological Survey, Olympia, WA

Ellen Svadlenak is a hydrologic scientist with the Earth Resource Program at the Survey. This team conducts studies organized around hydrogeology, geothermal resources, and carbon sequestration. Ellen's research is focused on deep groundwater flow paths and chemistry, and the potential impact of water-rock reactions on water quality, geothermal, and carbon sequestration projects. Prior to working for the Survey, Ellen spent several years as a consulting hydrogeologist in Portland, OR. She has also worked as a technician in forestry, agriculture, and laboratory settings, and is passionate about natural resource management. She has a MS in Geology with a specialization in Hydrology from Portland State University and a BS in Earth Science/Geology from Oregon State University.

Edd T. Schofield, Technical Sales Manager - Well Chemicals, Johnson Screens, Laguan Hills, CA

Edd Scholfield is a graduate of California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. He worked in the oilfield on a production rig for Getty Oil while attending college. He graduated with a BS Degree in Business Marketing and a minor in Mechanical Engineering. He was then recruited by Baker Hughes as a Technical Sales Engineer for Oilfield completions. During his tenure, he supervised cement, acid and frac completions both onshore and offshore across the West Coast and Alaska for numerous major oil and gas operators. In 1998 he joined Johnson Screens as a Regional Sales Representative. Since then, he has over 45 years combined in Oil & Gas and Water Well, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. A majority of Edd's experience has been across the Southwest in well drilling and well completions. He was recently promoted to Technical Sales Manager for the Chemical Product line for Johnson Screens.

Kevin Lindsey, Principal Hydrogeologist, GeoEngineers, Inc., Kennewick, WA

Kevin Lindsey has 29 years of technical experience in geology and hydrogeology, including geologic mapping, geologic database construction and modeling, geotechnical, vadose zone and groundwater well logging, hydrogeologic characterization and monitoring of sediment and basalt aquifers, and teaching introductory and upper division geology courses. The majority of Kevin's experience has been gained in the Pacific Northwest working as a project manager and/or senior technical staff member, focusing on projects assessing groundwater quality, quantity, and supply; controls and characteristics of surface water-groundwater continuity; aquifer impacts from shallow groundwater development; and environmental monitoring and permitting from projects with the potential to effect groundwater. Much of this work has included water rights review to ensure project compliance, completion of applications in the event changes are needed, and providing technical support to document impairment or lack of impairment. Additionally, as a principal he has managed a number of large, multiphase hydrogeologic and interdisciplinary investigations, developing skills in staff management, client outreach, and fiscal performance.

Robyn Cook, RG, LG, CWRE, Supervising Hydrogeologist GSI Water Solutions, Portland, OR

Robyn Cook is a supervising hydrogeologist at GSI Water Solutions, Inc., with 17 years of experience in water resources and environmental consulting, in Oregon, Washington, and on the East Coast. Her focus includes municipal drinking water supply, hydrogeologic evaluations, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) feasibility, and water rights. She has extensive experience in groundwater supply well design and construction oversight, and developing technical specifications for public procurements. She manages and supports projects for municipal, agricultural, and private clients, including groundwater assessments, production well construction and rehabilitation, aquifer testing, and water rights transactions. Robyn is a registered geologist in Oregon and Washington, and a certified water rights examiner in Oregon. Robyn earned a B.S. in Geology from Middlebury College and an M.S. in Hydrogeology from the University of Montana.

Matt Kohlbecker, RG, Principal Hydrogeologist, GSI Water Solutions, Portland, OR

Matt Kohlbecker is a principal hydrogeologist at GSI Water Solutions, Inc., with 21 years of experience helping municipalities and businesses solve water resource challenges. He has worked extensively on all stages of groundwater supply development, including well siting studies, preparation of bid specifications, well design, well drilling, and well rehabilitation. In addition, Matt is experienced in using innovative technologies such as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and artificial recharge (AR) to augment water supply. Matt is a registered geologist in Oregon. Matt earned a B.S. in Geology from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and an M.S. in Hydrogeology from the University of Nevada at Reno.

Jared Owen, Lead Programmer, 3RValve LLC, Echo, OR

Jared Owen is a team member of 3R Valve. For the past 15 years he has been involved in all aspects of aquifer injection including research and development for 3R Valve as well as aquifer regeneration technology. Jared also has 17 years of process automation experience with a focus on large agricultural water systems.

Kevin McGillicuddy, PG, Chief Hydrogeologist, Roscoe Moss Company, Los Angeles, CA

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

Jay Pietraszek, LHG, Principal Hydrogeologist, Aspect Consulting, Yakima, WA

Jay Pietraszek is an Associate Hydrogeologist at Aspect Consulting (a Geosyntec Company) in Seattle Washington. With close to 20 years in the field he has a wide range of technical experience in various aspects of water resources. Jay is a licensed Hydrogeologist in Washington and has an MS in Watershed Science from Colorado State University and a BS in Geology from the University of Montana.

Jason Keller, GeoSystems Analysis, Inc., Hood River, OR

Jason Keller is Principal Hydrogeologist with GeoSystems Analysis, Inc. in Hood River, OR. Jason earned a Master of Science in Soil and Water Science from The University of Arizona and has over 20 years of experience performing water balance studies at scales ranging from small field lysimeters to groundwater basins in excess of 200 square miles. Jason's work includes material characterization, monitoring, and modelling to investigate recharge processes at diverse locations ranging from the Pacific Northwest, Great Basin, Rocky Mountains and southwestern deserts in the United States to the Andean mountains and deserts of South America.

Troy Baker, Executive Director, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

Troy Baker has dedicated over 29 years to environmental science and watershed management in Eastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role as Executive Director of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council. He oversees daily watershed council operations, coordinates with agencies, manages projects, and authors grant proposals. With a B.S. in Natural Science from Western Oregon University, Troy has deepened his expertise through specialized training in applying GIS analysis in watershed science. His leadership has been instrumental in the continued success of several Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) sites within the Walla Walla Basin in Oregon, aimed at enhancing groundwater storage to support ecological and agricultural needs.

Alan Kolok, Professor of Ecotoxicology, College of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

Dr. Alan Kolok is a professor of Ecotoxicology at the University of Idaho. Previously held positions include: Founding Director of the Nebraska Watershed Network at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Director of the Center for Environmental Health and Toxicology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Director of the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute at the University of Idaho. Alan has published over 95 scientific papers and has written two books. His non-fiction book, *Modern Poisons*, is a brief introduction to contemporary toxicology, while his science fiction novel, *Twist*, focuses on prions, the proteins responsible for Mad Cow disease, which have gone terribly wrong. His latest book project is tentatively titled, *Generally Regarded As Safe*, and is a non-fiction assessment of chemical safety and regulation during the second industrial revolution.

David Haws, PE, CFM, Yakima County Public Services, Environmental Services Director, Yakima, WA

David Haws brings over 16 years of civil engineering expertise to his role as the Environmental Services Director at Yakima County. With a background spanning both private and public sectors, David has worked in the design and construction of water and wastewater utilities, stormwater management, flood control, water structures, and low-impact development. Throughout his career, David has implemented programs aimed at enhancing water resource management, stormwater control, flood management, and environmental protection in Yakima County, WA.

Alicia Candelaria, Staff Environmental Scientist, GeoEngineers, Kennewick, WA

Alicia Candelaria is an environmental scientist with more than 10 years of experience in groundwater and vadose zone fate and transport modeling. While working towards her degree, Alicia's curriculum and research focused groundwater and numerical modeling of flow in the vadose zone. She has continued to use and apply this knowledge throughout her career. She spent the first half of her career working on contaminated sites in arid southwestern United States before extending her expertise to the Pacific Northwest. She has participated in many facets of work at environmentally impacted sites from data collection, data analysis, model development, site characterization, and preparing technical reports and memos. Alicia has developed fate and transport models using various software packages including GMS ModFlow, SESOIL, HYDRUS, and GeoStudios. She has worked to help characterize fate and transport for a variety of contaminants including VOCs, metals, nitrate, secondary leaching from sodium hydroxide spills, and some radiologicals. Her experience has led her down a path that looks at both saturated and unsaturated conditions. She has worked for and with a variety of government and private sector clients including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Department of Transportation, for the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, and the University of Washington Tacoma.

Ben Lee, PE, Senior Associate Engineer, Landau Associates, Seattle, WA

Ben Lee, PE, CWRE, is a Senior Associate Engineer at Landau Associates, Inc. Ben has 11 years of experience characterizing and modeling groundwater conditions for various purposes, from water resource planning, municipal supply well design, contaminant transport and remediation, and water rights permitting in Washington and Oregon. Ben is the Director of Landau Associates' Water Resources group and is the technical lead for many of their water resources and hydrogeology-focused projects as well as business development, project management, and junior staff mentorship.

Kerri Treinen, Hydrologist, Idaho Water Science Center, USGS, Idaho Falls, ID

Kerri Treinen is a Geochemist at the USGS Idaho National Laboratory Project Office in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Kerri's research focuses on water quality and geochemistry of groundwater and surface water at and near the Idaho National Laboratory. She has a Master's Degree in Geochemistry from the University of New Hampshire.

Allison Trcka, Hydrologist, Idaho Water Science Center, USGS, Idaho Falls, ID

Allison Trcka is a hydrologist at the USGS Idaho National Laboratory Project Office in Idaho Falls, Idaho. All's research is centered on compiling geologic and water quality information to enhance the understanding of groundwater flow in the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer at the INL. She has her Master's Degree in Geology from Portland State University.

Adam Midkiff, VP Payment Sales Director, Layne (a Granite Company) Roanoke, VA

Mr. Midkiff joined Layne in 2023 as a Project Engineer coming in with 7 years of water treatment experience. His responsibilities have included, design of municipal and industrial water and waste water treatment systems, managing projects and their budgets, leading field startup and commissioning work, and leading research and development projects. During his career he had developed strong knowledge in ion exchange, membrane treatment, single use and regenerative use absorptive medias, pressure filtration and biological filtration processes.