

18th Water Council: Making the Case for Change Speaker Biographies

Kai-T Blue-Sky is an experienced Wildlife Biologist with a demonstrated history of working in the program development industry and skilled in Environmental Awareness, Natural Resource Management, Public Speaking, Grant Writing, and Environmental Policy. He is a strong research professional with a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.Sc.) focused in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University. Kai-T is a member of the Cochiti Pueblo.

Theresa Cardenas is representing the Union of Concerned Scientist in the New Mexico Climate and Energy Program. Theresa writes, "I have a simple mission; working to create positive change for future generations." In her role she helps advance clean energy, climate and water management policies in a legislative, regulatory and advisory setting. She holds a Bachelors degree from the University of New Mexico in communications and is a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and is currently a Masters student at Arizona State University in Sustainability Leadership. She is a board member of the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates and serves on the HM1 Working Group.

Ecologist **Gina Dello Russo**, a fifth-generation New Mexican, has worked on the Rio Grande for over 32 years -- for both the Bureau of Reclamation (as a hydrologic and survey technician) and the Fish & Wildlife Service (as a riparian ecologist). For nearly 22 years, she also worked to help private landowners benefit from the habitat restoration lessons learned at Bosque del Apache NWR. Gina retired from Bosque del Apache in 2013, but she continues to advise private landowners and local governments as a conservation planner. Gina is a board member of the non-profit Save Our Bosque Task Force. With her many colleagues that work on this stretch of river, and through leading numerous restoration efforts and outreach events, Gina has spent her career helping stakeholders to see their interests, be that land or water, as an important part of a greater system, the Rio Grande ecosystem.

Marcia Beauregard Fernandez, born and raised in Albuquerque, is a mother, grandmother, retired teacher, lives on a small farm in the South Valley, and works with community organizations on water and

sustainability issues, and with neighborhood associations on livability issues.

Norm Gaume is a retired water resources engineer, manager, and planner, former Director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (1997-2002), Water Resources Manager for the City of Albuquerque (1990-1997), and water resources consultant. He received the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government 2016 Dixon award for his citizen advocacy to protect the wild Gila River. He is an avid rafter and whitewater canoeist.

For the past 25 years, **Elaine Hebard** has worked in water-related activities -- including regional water planning, developing water budgets, and increasing water awareness in areas along the US-Mexico border as well as in the middle Rio Grande. She has served on a number of water advisory committees and commissions, both locally and throughout the state, and is a strong promoter of public education about water. Her desire is for our region to focus on how to ensure a resilient water supply so future generations can enjoy choices we get to enjoy today.

Dagmar Llewellyn has served as a hydrologist at the Bureau of Reclamation office in Albuquerque since 2010. At Reclamation, she coordinates projects related to the projection of the impacts of climate change, and to building of resilience to resulting changes in our watersheds and water supply. She provides her expertise to endangered species and other environmental compliance in the Rio Grande Basin, as well as to research and outreach efforts related to water supply and demand challenges in the Rio Grande basin. She is an adjunct faculty at the University of New Mexico, where she has taught hydrogeology in the Civil Engineering Department, and New Mexico Water Management at the Law School, and served on Master's Thesis committees.

Dr. John Mitchiner has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Dartmouth College, Thayer School of Engineering. John joined Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) as a Member of the Technical Staff in 1975, with much of his later work balanced between energy policy modeling and artificial intelligence. Insights that were captured from this work include that skeptical humans need to relate personally to climate change; the effects of climate change occur in a stochastic manner; and third, the constraint on fossil fuel use necessary to combat climate change is interpreted by many to challenge the fundamental economic premise of

continuous exponential growth. John retired in 2014. He continues to consider climate change to be an existential threat to humanity. He is looking for a way in retirement to make a difference resulting in the reduction of the deleterious effects of climate change.

Lynn Montgomery is the mayordomo of Acequia la Rosa de Castilla in Placitas and the chair of Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as a member of the Water Assembly nearly from its inception. He has protested many transfers of water rights from agricultural uses to municipal wells and subdivisions in an attempt to defend our groundwater resources and senior surface rights. He is involved in active conservation on the ground to protect and develop water resources.

Dr. Virginia Necochea has been working in the field of education for over 15 years, completing her doctoral program at UNM's Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies (ETSS) Program. She is also the Executive Director of CESOSS, the Center for Social Sustainable Systems, writing that "it has been one of the most important roles I've had. My primary work is in the field of education and to me, there is nothing more powerful than to use education as a tool for transformation and empowerment. Throughout my life, my abuelitos and mentors taught me the importance of the land and of water. When it is said that water is sacred, it is not just a saying. This is a statement reflecting a deep-rooted philosophy connected to land and water based traditions and that is what I keep at the forefront in the work that I do."

Adrian Oglesby is the Director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center at the UNM School of Law, a research and public service program that works to develop legal and policy solutions for the natural resource challenges facing New Mexico. Adrian has provided legal counsel to tribes, farmers, the State, and NGOs on water and environmental issues in New Mexico. He also served for eight years on the Board of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

Laura Paskus is the environment reporter for NM Political Report, and a correspondent for NM In Focus on KNME-TV. She's been a reporter, covering New Mexico and western water, climate and energy issues since 2002 when she started her journalism career at High Country News. She's written for national and regional magazines like The Progressive and Ms. Magazine, local papers like the Santa Fe Reporter, and reported for

KUNM 89.9 FM.

Judith Phillips is a landscape designer, teacher, garden writer and author with 30 years experience designing arid-adapted and native gardens in the high desert.

Tom Solomon, co-coordinator of 350.org New Mexico, is a retired electrical engineer. During his 34 year career at Intel he led the team which built Intel's Rio Rancho, NM Fab 11X in 2001, the \$2B microprocessor Fab which employed 4,000 people at its peak. He also led the efforts to build Intel's first (10kW) solar array in NM in 2008, and a 100kW solar array in 2011. After retirement in 2011, Tom became a full-time activist. He co-leads 350NM, the NM chapter of 350.org, fighting global warming to ensure a safe climate for his 3 children. 350NM's campaigns include UNM divestment, large public rallies to demand action on climate, public education forums on the need to rapidly convert from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and introducing legislation to expand NM's renewable electricity standard.

Stacy Timmons is a hydrogeologist and program manager at the state geologic survey -- the New Mexico Bureau of Geology. She has lived in New Mexico since 2002 and lives among irrigated farms in Socorro. Stacy is an avid trail runner; she also enjoys rafting, skiing, hiking, and hoppy beer.

Bob Wessely co-founded and served as Technical Director of SciSo, Inc., a systems engineering consulting firm. As a water planner, he was a principal in the leadership team which developed the Regional Water Plan for Sandoval, Bernalillo and Valencia Counties. Among several other water oriented roles, he is currently President of the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, and serves on the NM Water Dialogue Board and the HM1 Working Group.