

2025 New Mexico Rural Water Association Annual Conference Presenter Biographies

Michael Alvidrez is the owner of Alvidrez Water Operation (AWO), llc. He has more than 40 years' experience in water and wastewater. Mr. Alvidrez holds Water IV, Wastewater III, Distribution III, and a Collections II. He has worked for The City of Westminster; New Mexico Rural Water Association; and he spent eight years as the Utilities Director for The Pueblo of Santa Ana. Mr. Alvidrez has been training operators State Certification for organizations such as: NMRWA, NMWWA, Indian Health Service, USEPA Region IX, VI and Navajo Nation EPA for 15 years and has been the recipient of multiple Instructor of the year awards.

Alvidrez Water Operation, LLC - awollc@outlook.com – 505-379-5974

Presentations: *Water Disinfection – Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:00AM. Seminar*
10 Attributes of W & WW Sustainability – Thursday, 10:30AM – 11:30AM. Bosque
Water Audits / AWWA M-36 - Thursday, 1:00APM – 2:00PM. Bosque

Eddy Balch is currently the Territory Manager for M&H/Kennedy Valve for Colorado, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. Eddy has over 25 years of experience working in the drinking water industry in Colorado. He worked for twelve years as the Water Superintendent for the City of Gunnison, CO before taking the position of Public Works Director for the Town of Crested Butte, Colorado. In 2008, Eddy began working with Colorado Rural Water Association and managed the Source Water Program as well as working in the operator training program for four years. In 2012 he went to work for Kennedy and M&H Valve companies.

M&H/Kennedy Valve - eddy.balch@kvmhsales.com - 970-497-6706

Presentation: *FH Operation, Maintenance, Repair and New Tech. – Tuesday, 9:45AM – 10:45AM, Seminar*

Tom Birkeland is the Director of Project Development for Lemna Environmental Technologies (LET). He previously held project management positions with North American Wetland Engineering, Jacques Whitford, Stantec, and Natural System Utilities, where he was responsible for 35 sustainable, decentralized water and wastewater treatment projects throughout Minnesota. He holds Class C Water and Wastewater licenses and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Lemna Environmental Technologies - tbirkeland@lemnac.com – 612-616-8392

Presentation: *New Standards for Ponds & Lagoons – Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, Manzano*

Fred Black is currently a Circuit Rider for NMRWA. He began his service with Rural Water in June of 2013 as a Circuit Rider for the water program and moved over shortly as a Wastewater Technician. Since moving to New Mexico 32 years ago he has worked for Rio Rancho Utilities, Big Mesa Co-Op, and Entranosa Water and Wastewater Co-Op working with Water and Wastewater. He currently holds Level 3 W and Level 1 WW.

New Mexico Rural Water Association - fred@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentation: *Distribution – Tuesday, 11:00AM – 12:00PM, Seminar*

Lonnie Burke has been working as a consultant on metering and water conservation programs throughout the State of New Mexico for several years. He has been assisting the City of Rio Rancho with their metering and Water Conservation Program since 2004. He has also worked with numerous communities in the state thru Bureau of Reclamation grants help with water conservation programs. In addition, he works with Water Management Inc. (WMI), out of Alexandria, VA, on water conservation projects. While working for WMI, he has worked at several state and federal institutions, all over the country, as well as in the country of Jordan. Lonnie also co-authored an article with Craig Hannah, PE, that was published in the American Water Works Association's "Opflow" titled, *Improve Accuracy with Proper Water Meter Installation.*

Resource Wise, LLC – info@resource-wise.com – 505-453-0027

Presentations: *Cross Connections – Thursday, 9:15AM – 10:15AM, Seminar*
Water Meters and Applications – Thursday, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Seminar

Deborah Carpenter has 30 years combined civilian and military experience in environmental and public health. She has a B.S. in Biology from UTSA and holds level 3 water and wastewater certificates since 2008. Deb has been licensed as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist since 2010.

New Mexico Environment Department/GWQB - Deborah.carpenter@env.nm.gov - 505-531-7430

Presentation: *Fixed Film – Tuesday, 2:PM – 3:45PM, Rio Grande*

Paul Chavez is currently a Water and Wastewater Specialist with New Mexico Rural Water Association. Paul is retired from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority where he was a Wastewater plant operator, Electronic Technician, Control Systems Operator, and an Operations Supervisor. Paul is a State of New Mexico Certified Level 4 Wastewater Operator as well as a Level 3 Water Operator.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – 505-884-1031

Presentations: *Trickling Filters/Fixed Film – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 3:45PM, Rio Grande*

Brittany Coriz is the New Mexico Rural Water Training Specialist with a year and a half of experience in the industry. Though new to the field, she has found deep purpose and passion in her work. Brittany enjoys the challenges and variety each system brings and is committed to helping water systems achieve compliance while empowering operators to succeed on their own. Grateful for the opportunity to serve, she sees this career as a true blessing and is dedicated to supporting as many communities as she can.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – brittany@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentations: *Operator Responsibilities – Tuesday 8:30AM – 9:30AM, Seminar*
Sampler Certification – Thursday 8:00AM – 4:30PM, Manzano

Joseph Cowlshaw is a territory manager for Hose Solutions Inc. He is from a small town in southern Utah and grew up exploring the desert southwest. He is an SUU alumnus and has a diverse entrepreneurial background that spans many disciplines, from transit and telecommunications to business and mining. He joined the Hose Solutions team to contribute to their continued growth in providing safe and efficient solutions for accessing groundwater.

Hose Solutions Inc. - Joseph.Cowlshaw@hosesolutions.com – 480-607-1507

Presentation: *Saving Money Pumping Groundwater – Tuesday, 9:45AM – 10:45AM, Sunrise*

Quintin Cox is currently the Training Coordinator for New Mexico Rural Water Association. He is a State of New Mexico Certified Level 4 Water Operator and has been certified at this level since 1990. Quintin is retired from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) where he worked 25 years in various areas of the water system including: distribution, treatment, facility maintenance, compliance, and training. He was involved in the initial start-up and operator training of ABCWUA's San Juan Chama Surface Water Treatment Plant.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – quintin@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentations: *Excavation Safety – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, Bosque*
Basic / Intermediate Water Math – Thursday, 1:00PM – 4:30PM, Seminar

Ruth Cox retired from the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, after 32 years. She served as the Director of Administration for her last 20 years and managed all aspects of the Administration Division. She received accolades for her management and supervision, including the Executive Office for U.S. Attorney's Director's Award and the United States Attorney's Annual Award, among others. Additionally, Ruth served on Federal Executive Committees, Administrative Officer Working Groups and Mentoring Programs, and as an Administrative Evaluator. For the past 24 years, she has volunteered as a Mediator for the Bernalillo County Metro Court.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – ruth@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentation: *Root Cause Analysis – Thursday, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Sunrise*

Michael DeClercq is an energy efficiency technician for New Mexico Rural Water Association. He had in 2023, retired from the City of Gallup as its Water/Wastewater Superintendent. He has Dual Level 4 certification in both water and wastewater with 2 associate degrees one of which is in Water Technology from New Mexico State University. He also has backgrounds in electronics (US Navy) and 8 years environmental technology experience working with a major environmental company. He is also a former NMWWA president (West Central Section) and instructor.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – mdeclercq@nmrwa.org – 505-690-8979

Presentations: *Lock-out Tag-out* – Tuesday, 2:45PM – 3:45PM, **Bosque**
Confined Space – Tuesday, 4:00PM – 5:00PM, **Bosque**
Recordkeeping & Logs – Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:00AM, **Bosque**

Melanie Delgado has worked for the NM Environment Department for over 25 years. Melanie currently works for the Drinking Water Bureau as the Regional Resiliency Team Lead. In her time at the Bureau, she has worked providing managerial and financial assistance and training to public water systems. She has facilitated discussion and work activities in regions to find ways to collaborate. She has been successful in helping systems find ways to work together, from collaborating to obtaining funding to regional planning and she has assisted in the merging of three water systems. She is a graduate from NM State University with a degree in Agronomy.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - melanie.delgado@env.nm.gov - 505-670-5897

Presentations: *Resiliency and Regional Collaboration* – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, **Mesa**

Dodie Doyle is the Regional Sales Manager for Stenner Pump Company. Prior to Stenner Pump Company she worked as a Sales Representative in the fluid control field for nearly 10-years. In addition to extensive experience in water treatment equipment she has in-depth technical and application knowledge specializing in chemical injection pumps.

Stenner Pump Company – ddoyle@stenner.com – 904-641-1666

Presentation: *Peristaltic Pump Installation & Maintenance.* – Tuesday, 2:45PM – 3:45PM, **Seminar**

Lochlin Farrell has worked with the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau for 10 years and specializes in the oversight of disposal sites and wastewater treatment facilities.

New Mexico Environment Department/GWQB - lochlin.farrell@env.nm.gov - 505-660-8061

Presentation: *Sludge Disposal* – Tuesday, 4:00PM – 5:00PM, **Mesa**

Steven Fuson is a NM level 3 operator, who operates a handful of small water/wastewater treatment plants in the East Mountains. He has more than 30 years of experience in the environmental and educational fields, including: (1) legal roles in environmental enforcement, and environmental permitting; (2) managerial roles in environmental finance; (3) field operations in water/wastewater treatment plant operations, maintenance, and construction; and (4) supervisory and instructional roles in trade and technical education. Steven was part of the legal team that successfully argued a NPDES matter before the **Environmental Appeals Board**. Steven has been recognized as *Instructor of the year* for outstanding classroom instruction.

H2O Water Ops Academy – h2ooperators@gmail.com – 505-250-7046

Presentation: *WW Certification Boot Camp* – Tuesday, 8:30AM – 12:00PM, **Rio Grande**
Nitrification De-nitrification – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 3:45PM, **Manzano**
Basic/Advanced Wastewater Math – Thursday, 8:00AM – 2:00PM, **Rio Grande**

Isaac Garcia started with the Village of Ruidoso in November 1998 as an Operator/Lab Tech at the Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant which was a 2.3 MGD activated sludge plant. After 12 years, he became the Chief Plant Operator and held the position for 6 years in which he was involved with the continuing operation of the activated sludge plant, overseeing new construction, and operations to the current 2.7 MGD MBR facility due to strict NPDES permit limits. He has been the department director for the past 8 years and has 28 years of wastewater experience. Isaac holds a Wastewater Level IV, Water Level IV, and Lab Tech Level II certification.

Ruidoso WWTP – isaacgarcia@ruidoso-nm.gov – 575-258-4343

Presentation: *Wastewater MBR* – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, **Manzano**

Diana Gomez serves as Vice President at Bohannon Huston's Las Cruces office, where she plays a pivotal role in managing projects from inception to completion. Her responsibilities span the entire project lifecycle, from initial funding applications to construction and final closeout. As a trusted Grant Administration support, Diana offers invaluable guidance to clients navigating the complexities of the Capital Improvements Plan. She collaborates with clients to develop strategic approaches for funding applications and provides hands-on assistance throughout the application process. Diana meticulously reviews and ensures the timely submission of all required documentation to funding agencies, safeguarding compliance with deadlines. Leveraging her extensive expertise, Diana has cultivated strong relationships with various funding agencies and remains proactive in attending workshops to stay up to date in changes in the application processes. Diana earned a BS in Computer Science from Western New Mexico University and is a certified Administrative Professional through the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP)

Bohannon, Huston Inc. - dgomez@bhinc.com - 575-532-8670

Presentation: *Funding Source and Applications – Wednesday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, Manzano*

Martha Graham is NMRWA's Source Water Protection Specialist, a position she has held for over 10 years. Source water protection plans proactively identify threats to drinking water sources and implement best practices and other actions to address these threats. Graham has raised awareness of rural public water systems with state and federal agencies in New Mexico. She uses the source water protection plans to build formal and informal coalitions of rural public water systems and groups that share an interest in the water, community, and landscape, especially in the context of wildfires, watershed health, and resiliency in the face of climate change. Graham is a native New Mexican, a weaver, anthropologist, and mediator.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – martha@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentations: *Fire & Water: Before the Fire – Wednesday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, Bosque*

Fire & Water: Post-Fire Resilience – Wednesday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, Bosque

Community Engagement & Tools – Wednesday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM, Bosque

Christine Griego joined the USDA Rural Development in February of 2015 as a Guaranteed Loan Specialist and served in the position until September 2018. As she was promoted into the Community Programs, as a Community Program Loan Specialist then promoted to the Community Program Director position June 2022. During the last several years, Christine has enjoyed helping many accomplish the dream of home ownership and communities improve their Community Facilities, Water and Wastewater facility. Christine has previously worked with the Social Security Administration, the State of New Mexico Human Services Department and US New Mexico Federal Credit Union (now known as US Eagle). She received a Master of Business Administration in 2008 and a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2006, both from the University of Phoenix. She is a native of New Mexico and has ties to Albuquerque, Tohatchi and Laguna. After a day at the office, she enjoys going home to her husband and four boys. In their spare time they enjoy hunting and camping the great outdoors.

USDA – Rural Development – christine.griego@usda.gov – 505-761-4944

Presentation: *USDA RD Apply – Wednesday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM, Manzano*

Andrew Hautzinger is a Water Resource Professional Level IV, charged with helping water systems reduce the burden of supplying their served communities with safe and affordable drinking water. He joined NEMD's Water Protection Division in October of 2024, after a career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, working as a Senior Hydrologist supporting the +570 units within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Andrew has a BS in Watershed Science from Colorado State University and since 1996 has lived in Los Lunas, NM with his best friend and wife (along with their three big dogs and two God Complex cats).

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - andrew.hautzinger@env.nm.gov - 505-469-9064

Presentation: *Sustainability Through Regionalization – Thursday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM, Mesa*

Samuel Hernandez is an advocate for Damage prevention. He has been part of the NM811 since 2021 and been involved in their leadership since 2022 as Membership and Outreach coordinator, Operations coordinator and currently as Contact Center Operations Supervisor. Sam continually participates in discussions with the Pipeline Safety Bureau aimed to improve and expand NM excavation rules and regulations that benefit industry stakeholders, as well as collaborates in multiple programs across the state presenting NM excavation law in both English and Spanish, including online courses currently used by the Public Regulation commission of New Mexico that enhance industry knowledge. Sam enjoys running, fishing and spending time his two exceptional children.

NM811 - shernandez@nm811.org - 505-354-7310

Presentation: *Excavation Law – Tuesday, 11:00AM – 12:00PM, Bosque*

Sonja Jamilla has managed information systems teams at leading infrastructure design and specialized technical services consulting firms. As a manager of applied technology groups, she has coordinated the implementation of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and related information management technology. Sonja has almost 25 years of experience applying data management solutions to local government operations in the areas of planning, engineering, and natural resources. Her project management experience includes assisting with strategic planning activities, solution design, development coordination, and solution implementation. Sonja's familiarity with water and wastewater system mapping stems from having assisted on several master planning and hydraulic modeling projects. Such projects involved developing a system inventory and registry, gathering and compiling system information, preparing for the inventory process, and supporting data collection efforts using GPS technology.

Azurite Professional Community – Sonja.jamilla@azuritepc.com - 575.323.2148

Presentation: *Off-the-Shelf Technology for Utility Organizations – Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, Bosque*

Heather Jennings is a registered professional Civil Engineer and serves as Director for Huma Environmental, a brand of bioremediation products and services offered by Huma Inc. Heather has 20 years' experience in project management, environmental programs, and municipal and industrial facility system analysis. She also has experience in design for both municipal water and wastewater systems. Heather is responsible for managing sales and the research and development efforts of Huma Inc. wastewater treatment products and services. She is a published author in industry journals, a frequent conference speaker, and the host of the *Water Break Podcast*. Heather holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University.

Huma Environmental – heather@huma.us – 480-265-6648

Presentations: *Activated Sludge – Tuesday, 9:45AM – 12:00PM, Manzano*

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream PFAS - Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, Sunrise

Emerging Contaminants: Microplastics - Tuesday, 2:45PM – 3:45PM, Sunrise

Andy Jochems is the Source Water Protection (SWP) Team Lead at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The SWP team works with water systems and communities across the state to develop practical, collaborative strategies to protect drinking water sources. Andy also chairs the NMED Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Technical Group and coordinates statewide investigations of PFAS in source waters. He previously worked for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources conducting geologic mapping and studies of aquifer-hosting materials. Andy holds a MS Geology from Utah State University and a BS Environmental Science from the University of New Mexico.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - Andy.Jochems@env.nm.gov - 505-205-6964

Presentation: *PFAS in New Mexico Drinking Water Regs – Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:00AM, Mesa*

Paul Kennedy's role as a Project Engineer at Souder, Miller & Associates includes planning, design and management of water and wastewater engineering projects. These projects have included the preparation of planning documents for water and wastewater systems, design of structures to house treatment and pumping equipment, water distribution and storage improvements, site development, construction observation, and construction administration. Mr. Kennedy is also the Vice President of Operations for Gallatin Operational Solutions which provides water and wastewater operations support.

Souder-Miller & Associates - paul.kennedy@soudermiller.com - (505) 445-1778

Presentation: *Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER's) – Wednesday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, Manzano*

Jacob Kruse has been working as a Compliance Officer with the Drinking Water Bureau since February 2023. His coverage area includes central and northeastern New Mexico including Bernalillo, Valencia, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Taos, Mora, Harding, Colfax, and Union counties. His main responsibilities include conducting sanitary surveys, reviewing sampling results, and working with water systems on various compliance issues.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – jacob.kruse@env.nm.gov - 505-629-3318

Presentation: *Sanitary Surveys* – Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, **Mesa**

Karen Lithgow joined the NMED Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group in 2016. She holds a B.S. in Geology from Fort Lewis College and a Master of Water Resources Degree from UNM. Ms. Torres has worked as a hydrologist for Santa Fe County to plan and design groundwater wells to use conjunctively with the Buckman Direct Diversion Project water and as an expert in water rights for the Office of the State Engineer.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - karen.lithgow@env.nm.gov - (505) 231-6832

Presentations: *Board Roles & Responsibilities* – Wednesday, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, **Mesa**

Safe Drinking Water Act Overview – Wednesday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, **Mesa**

Rate Setting for Small Systems – Wednesday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, **Mesa**

Starting an Asset Management Inventory – Wednesday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM. **Mesa**

Brandi Littleton is the current Southern Compliance Supervisor for the NMED Drinking Water Bureau. Brandi grew up in Hobbs America and graduated from Lovington High School in Lovington NM. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Texas Tech University. Brandi has worked in the drinking water field for 20 years, beginning her career as a Bacteriologist at the City of Hobbs. She has worked at NMED DWB for the past 13 years as a Compliance Officer in Hobbs, NM then later as a Compliance Supervisor in Las Cruces, NM. She currently supervises five compliance officers in five different field offices. Brandi and her staff provide compliance to approximately 480 drinking water systems in the state.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – brandi.littleton@env.nm.gov – 575-323-4298

Presentation: *LCRR Swift Portal*, Tuesday, 9:45AM – 10:45AM, **Mesa**

Manuel Luna is the Small Local Public Body Coordinator with the Office of the State Auditor. He holds a Master of Public Affairs with a Concentration in Political and Governmental Processes from New Mexico Highlands University. He is the program lead for the OSA's small local public body program, which provides support, training, and education to assist small entities in reporting to the OSA and compliance with Executive Order 2013-006.

Office of the State Auditor – manuel.luna@osa.nm.gov – 505-394-1600

Presentation: *The Audit Act Tiered System of Financial Reporting*, Wednesday, 4:00PM – 5:00PM, **Mesa**

Anders Lundahl has been part of the Regionalization and Resiliency Team in the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group of the Drinking Water Bureau at the New Mexico Environment Department for the past 2 years. Prior to that he worked for 17 years with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission as a hydrologist and water manager working on the Rio Grande and prior to that we worked for 6 years doing agricultural hydrology and water management for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - anders.lundahl@env.nm.gov - 505-490-0165

Presentation: *Resiliency and Regional Collaboration* – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, **Mesa**

Adele Mckenzie is part of the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) Capacity Assistance Team (CAP). The CAP provides public water systems with free technical assistance, resources, recommendations, mitigation ideas, trainings, help with water quality optimization goals, Emergency Response Plan review and suggestions, response efforts during emergencies, and maintaining updated information on the DWB *Emergency Response Information for Public Water Systems in New Mexico* story map [Emergency Response Information](#).

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - adele.mckenzie@env.nm.gov - 505-629-6478

Presentation: *Emergency Preparedness* – Wednesday, 8:00AM – 9:00AM, **Mesa**

Maria Medina has been with the Drinking Water Bureau for over 19 years. She began her career as a Compliance Officer, where she provided oversight and guidance to various public water systems in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties for 7 years. In 2013, she transitioned to the role of Enforcement Coordinator, overseeing compliance enforcement actions and strengthening program integrity. From 2016 to 2023, Maria also served as the Consumer Confidence Report Rule Administrator, while continuing her work as Enforcement Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Eastern New Mexico University.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - maria.medina@env.nm.gov - 505-629-7223

Presentation: *Enforcement Process* – Tuesday, 11:00AM – 12:00M, **Mesa**

Gordon Miller has worked with Public Water Systems throughout New Mexico for over fifteen years. Gordon has been a Compliance Officer with the NMED Drinking Water Bureau since 2022 and has conducted over 60 sanitary surveys during this time. Gordon is also an active participant in the Area Wide Optimization Program that assists with the optimization of surface water treatment plants across New Mexico. Prior to joining NMED, Gordon spent over twelve years mapping drinking water distribution systems in San Juan County New Mexico. Gordon holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Central Arkansas and a Certificate of Business: General Management from San Juan College.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – gordon.miller@env.nm.gov - 505-258-3203

Presentations: *Sanitary Surveys* -Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, **Mesa**

Paul Monahan currently works with NM Tap Master. He has been completing hot taps for 28 years and completing valve insertion and line stops for 15 Years. He has 28 years' experience in the waterworks Industry.

Tap Master Inc. - paul@tapmasterinc.com - 505-377-3933

Presentation: *Intro to Line Stops, Hot Taps, Valve Insertions & Line Freezing* – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, **Sunrise**

Oneva Pena has over 19 years' experience working for the New Mexico Environment Department working with drinking water systems and Federal, State and Local regulatory bodies to include contractors, and environmental not for profit organizations. Oneva recently joined the Construction Programs Bureau as the Administrative Section Manger where she oversees the Loan Grant Tracking System database and leads Bureau participation in conferences to market the loan programs. The Construction Programs Bureau helps New Mexico communities develop sustainable and secure water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure through funding and technical assistance.

New Mexico Environment Department – CPB - oneva.pena@env.nm.gov - 505-469-3274

Presentation: *Construction Programs Bureau Funding* – Thursday, 9:15AM – 10:15AM. **Mesa**

Tom Quammen recently acquired CW Divers of Farmington (2023) and renamed/rebranded the Company to Mountain West Tank Resources, Inc. Tom retired from Tnemec Company in 2017 after 28 years of service – as the Principal Rep of Colorado and spent several years representing Tnemec in New Mexico as well (95-06) Tom's Tnemec career was bookended by 7 years working within two water tank engineering firms, (AEC and KLM Engineers) as both a technician and regional manager. Tom also has several years' experience with positive and negative side waterproofing for concrete having represented both Xypex and Koster technology's as well.

Mountain West Tank Resources, Inc. - tom@mwtankresources.com - 913-291-9076

Presentation: *Common Storage Tank Inspection Methods, Issues & Upgrades* – Wednesday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, **Sunrise**

Ray Ramos began his career in business administration and currently holds a position with New Mexico Rural Water Association as Wastewater Technician. Ray has 19 years of experience in the industry and holds a State of New Mexico Water Level 4 and Wastewater level 3. He has worked in distribution, maintenance, collections and administration, including lead operation of a Roberts Surface Water Systems for many years. In addition, he has operated Lagoon Systems and Extended Aeration Systems in the wastewater field.

New Mexico Rural Water Association – ray@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentations: *WW Pumps & Motors* – Tuesday, 4:00PM – 5:00PM, **Rio Grande**

WW M-Well Sampling / LADS Reporting – Wednesday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM, **Rio Grande**

Lilla Reid, P.E., has over twenty-five years of experience focused on collaborating with communities to improve their water and wastewater systems. She is currently the Rural Utilities Client Community Manager, a Senior Vice-President, Corporate Mentoring Advisor at Souder, Miller & Associates and a Professional Engineer in New Mexico and Arizona. Lilla and her teams have assisted communities in the procurement of funding for projects, having assisted in securing well over \$20 million in funding for wastewater and water system infrastructure projects in New Mexico in the last three years. Lilla leads teams through communication and leadership programs. She led the development and implementation of the SMA Emerging Leaders program and mentorship program which intentionally promotes the importance of how active involvement, future thinking, creativity, challenge, and support allow individual employees and teams to succeed.

Souder-Miller and Associates – lilla.reid@soudermiller.com – 575-644-4575

Presentations: *Leadership Track Presentations – Thursday, 8:00AM – 4:30PM, Sunrise*

Janessa Ruiz was an experienced firefighter and Apparatus Engineer, with a specialized role as her department's Drone Coordinator. This role allowed her to gain significant experience with different types of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), and interagency operations during large scale events. Ruiz values a comprehensive and well-defined plan for drone operation and emphasizes the importance of adequate training for drone pilots. She has worked extensively to ensure all necessary mechanisms are in place to protect drones, pilots, and the organization. In addition, she has worked collaboratively with private organizations and other first-responder agencies to establish robust sUAS programs. Janessa is now working within the Telecom Industry, traveling the country to fly and create 3D photogrammetric images of cell towers. In addition to her sUAS piloting endeavors, Ruiz is an accomplished filmmaker with experience in traditional and new-age media. She understands the significant impact of capturing the perfect shot, recognizing how drones have revolutionized filming sequences. She acknowledges that a superior drone pilot must deeply understand photography and videography principles. Since 2019, she has accumulated over 1000 flight hours in emergency operations and film production, tirelessly honing her piloting skills. Ruiz is enthusiastic about collaborating with other organizations to improve further and extend their drone efforts.

Skies of Enchantment Drone School – thunderrustmedia@gmail.com – 505-489-0198

Presentation: *Using Drones in Your System Inspections – Wednesday, 3:30PM – 4:30PM, Sunrise*

Stephanie Russo-Baca is currently the staff attorney and Ombudsman Program Director at the Utton Transboundary Resources Center located at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In both roles that Russo Baca fulfills, her mission is to support and represent constituents in a fair and unbiased manner. As the Ombudsman Program Director, Stephanie guides the activities of the Joe M. Stell Ombudsman Program, which is a statewide program that provides impartial adjudication information and procedural guidance to unrepresented water right claimants in the State of New Mexico. Stephanie contributes significantly to the Utton Center's overall mission of providing objective research-based public service to New Mexico's communities on issues related to energy, climate change, ecological conservation, food systems, and international natural resource management. She holds both the Indian Law and Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificates from UNM School of Law.

UNM – Utton Center – russobaca@law.unm.edu – 505-277-0551

Presentation: *Water Law 101 – Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:00AM, Seminar*

Melanie Sandoval has been working with the New Mexico Environment Department for over 20 years. She is currently the Industrial Waste Team Lead and Underground Injection Control Coordinator which she has been doing since 2018. Her area of focus is on permitting generating stations, septage/sludge disposal facilities, federal facilities, car washes and UIC general permits. Melanie has a background in environmental science from the University of New Mexico. Melanie loves spending time with her family and can be found around New Mexico's local basketball courts and softball fields cheering her children on.

New Mexico Environment Department/GWQB – melanie.sandoval2@env.nm.gov – 505-660-7892

Presentation: *Discharge Permitting – Wednesday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, Rio Grande*

Bret Sellars is currently a wastewater technician for NMRWA. He is a level 4 wastewater and level 3 water Certified Operator by the State of New Mexico Environment Department. Has been operating water and wastewater systems in various capacities for over 25 years. Brett has operational experience to include: MBR's, SBR, Extend Aeration plants. Fixed leaks, PRV's, etc...

New Mexico Rural Water Association – bret@nmrwa.org – 505-884-1031

Presentation: *Wastewater Review / Practice Exam – Thursday, 2:15PM – 4:30PM, Rio Grande*

Teresa Stevens is a dual 4 water and wastewater operator. Born and raised in a construction family, she has an extensive background with general contracting and project management. She worked for NMRWA as a wastewater technician. Also has had the opportunity to manage a large contract operation of surface water treatment and activated sludge treatment. Currently she operates L&T Services, which contract operates small water and wastewater systems around northwest NM. When she's not working, she's either rodeoing or traveling the world.

Living Water Stewardship – 970-749-9674

Presentations: *Sampler Certification – Thursday 8:00AM – 4:30PM, Manzano*

Sonia Suazo has worked for the state of New Mexico for the past 9 years and is a graduate from New Mexico State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. In her current position with the Drinking Water Bureau, as the regional planning specialist she is focused on providing outreach and support to public water systems. She has facilitated and assisted with efforts that promote regional coordination and collaboration for long term water resiliency. She looks forward to contributing to the overall mission of NMED in her new role.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB - sonia.suazo1@env.nm.gov - 505-670-7382

Presentation: *Resiliency and Regional Collaboration – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, Mesa*

Matthew Thompson is a registered mechanical and electrical engineer in the State of New Mexico and has been with the engineering consulting firm, Bohannon Huston Inc. (BHI), since 1996. He is a senior vice president with BHI and manages their Las Cruces branch office. During that time, he has primarily worked in the drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure construction and is well versed in the various process elements involved with both types of treatment. Specifically, for wastewater disinfection processes he has led and managed projects from initial planning through design and ultimately into commissioning and operating diagnostics. He has had many years of lessons learned to draw upon and help characterize Best Available Technologies and Best Approaches for this vital function.

Bohannon, Huston Inc. – mthompson@bhinc.com – 575-532-8670

Presentation: *Wastewater Disinfection and De-chlorination – Wednesday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, Rio Grande*

Karl Tonander is a New Mexico registered Professional Engineer and registered Professional Geologist and senior Vice-President of Souder-Miller and Associates. With more than 30 years of professional experience, he provides engineering and regulatory oversight for water management, solid waste, mining reclamation, soil and ground water projects. Mr. Tonander has taught classes regularly for water and wastewater operators for more than 20 years on topics such as well design, hydrology, math, pumps and motors and NEPA. He also served as a member of the New Mexico state licensing board for professional engineers and surveyors for 10 years and has led ethics sessions regionally for most of that time.

Souder-Miller and Associates – karl.tonander@soudermiller.com – 575-323-1950

Presentations: *Hydrology: Ground Water & Wells / Pumps & Motors – Wednesday, 1PM – 4:30PM, Seminar*

David Torres is a Source Water Protection Specialist for the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau, Los Lunas Field Office. The Source Water Protection Team works with water systems and communities on source water planning and partners with other state, federal, local entities for special projects that study important source water threats and issues. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental engineering from The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and has worked for the New Mexico Environment Department for 18 years. Previously, he worked for the Office of the State Engineer and the City of Farmington in water rights.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – david.torres@env.nm.gov – 505-259-5048

Presentations: *Source Water Protection and Planning – Thursday, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Mesa*
Drinking Water Bureau On-line Resources – Thursday, 2:15PM – 3:15PM, Mesa

Martin Torrez has an associate degree from Dona Ana Community College in Water and Wastewater Technology and a bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University in Engineering Technology. Mr. Torrez also holds a Level 4 Water Operator Certification. While attending college, Mr. Torrez worked during the summer as an intern at the City of Roswell Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant, assisting in the laboratory and collecting samples. After completing college, Mr. Torrez held multiple positions in the water and wastewater field. His work history has allowed him to work in various roles and gain experience with assisting water systems with funding, technical assistance, water treatment optimization, project management, operations, and emergency response. Mr. Torrez is now the Public Water System Supervision Manager for the Drinking Water Bureau and looks forward to working with water systems around that state.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – martin.torrez@env.nm.gov - 505-469-5207

Presentations: *Sanitary Surveys -Tuesday, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, Mesa*
LCRR – SWIFT Portal - Tuesday, 9:45AM – 10:45AM, Mesa

Tara Trafton is a Senior Account Executive at Energy Systems Group (ESG) and Co-Chair of the New Mexico Energy Services Coalition, with over 15 years of experience in energy systems, project management, and engineering. Tara is excited to highlight practical procurement strategies and case studies to address financial challenges in rural water systems. With a passion for sustainable development and a track record of delivering impactful solutions, she hopes to bring valuable insights to the Conference to support New Mexico's rural communities. Tara holds a BS in Aeronautical Engineering from Purdue University and an MScEng from the Polytechnic University of Turin in Energy and Nuclear Engineering.

Energy Systems Group (ESG) - ttrafton@esg.email - 505-313-2755

Presentation: *Performance Contracting to Fill Funding Gaps in Water Projects – Thursday, 9:15AM – 10:15AM, Bosque*

Claudia Trueblood is the manager of the Emerging Contaminants Program (ECP) under the Water Protection Division in the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The mission of ECP is to collaborate with public water systems (PWSs) in New Mexico to investigate the presence of regulated PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water in small or disadvantaged communities, and to support PWSs with education materials and communication tools for them and the communities they serve. Dr. Trueblood holds a Ph.D. in water science and management, a MA in communication studies, and a BS in economics.

New Mexico Environment Department/WPD – emergingcontam.sdc@state.nm.us - 505-469-8920

Presentation: *Emerging Contaminants Program (ECP) – Thursday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, Mesa*

Tanya Trujillo is the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group (SWIG) Manager. Tanya has worked at the Drinking Water Bureau for over nine years as a Compliance Officer, Lead and Copper Rule Administrator, PWSS (Compliance) Group Manager and now as SWIG Group Manager. The SWIG group includes programs that address utility operator certification, regulatory engineering review, technical capacity assistance, managerial and financial capacity, regionalization, and source water protection.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – tanya.trujillo2@env.nm.gov – 505-372-8273

Presentations: *Utility Operator Certification Regs – Tuesday, 2:45PM – 3:45PM, Mesa*

Aaron Wilberding is an Account Executive at 120Water. In this role Aaron is responsible for assisting utilities across the nation to understand and comply with the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. From assisting with LSLI development, LCR sampling, LSLR planning, and communication outreach, Aaron and the 120Water team ensure that each utility is on the right track to compliance. Aaron has over 17 years of experience working with utilities of varying size across the western parts of the U.S on choosing various software platforms and customized solutions.

120Water – aaron.wilberding@120water.com – 714-348-9018

Presentation: *Lead & Copper Rule Improvements: What Systems Need to Know – Tuesday, 9:45AM – 10:45AM, Bosque*

Kira Witwer has been with Pipestone Equipment since 2013, where she solves puzzles of Packaged Systems, teaches classes in Pipestone Academy, and enjoys wearing lots of hats with the small company. After graduating as a mechanical engineer, she started in the Oil & Gas industry working with high-speed compressors, before transitioning to project management and making the move to the Water and Wastewater Industry. When she's not working, Kira trains for triathlons, attempts new recipes, completes craft projects, and spends as much time outside as she can. As a self-proclaimed Valve Nerd, she loves sharing her knowledge with, and learning from, operators and technicians in the field.

Pipestone Equipment – kwitwer@pipestoneeq.com – 720-301-8035

Presentations: *Air Relief Valves: Installation, Location & Maintenance* – Tuesday, 11:00AM – 12:00PM, **Sunrise**
Valve Applications for the Industry – Tuesday, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, **Seminar**
Water System Hydraulics – Tuesday, 4:00PM – 5:00PM, **Seminar**
Surge Protection – Wednesday, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, **Sunrise**

Emily Worthen is the Drinking Water Bureau Infrastructure Support Team Lead where she oversees an engineering team and an infrastructure funding team. The engineering team performs water system engineering reviews of new construction or modifications at public water systems in accordance with state and adopted federal regulations. The infrastructure funding team co-administers the EPA allocated Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund project submittals and funding process for water infrastructure.

New Mexico Environment Department/DWB – emily.worthen@env.nm.gov - 505-372-8098

Presentation: *Drinking Water Bureau Funding for Public Water Systems* – Wednesday, 9:15AM – 10:15AM, **Mesa**

Exhibitor Demo Session Schedule

Session 1 – 8:00 am – 8:30 am

Session 2 – 8:35 am – 9:05 am

Session 3 – 9:10 am – 9:40 am

Session 4 – 9:45 am – 10:15 am

Break 10:15 am – 10:30 am

Session 5 – 10:30 am – 11:00 am

Session 6 – 11:05 am – 11:35 am