

17th Water Assembly: Managing the River to Failure --Is There A Better Way? Speaker Biographies

Kevin Bean received his liberal arts degree from UNM in 1987, but found his real calling when he got involved with the Public Interest Research Group (now known as *Environment New Mexico*). After an 8-year stint as PIRG director working on bottle bills and other environmental and consumer issues, including groundwater contamination, he took a job with Albuquerque's newly created water resources division. While there he worked with water conservation officer Jean Witherspoon and division director Norman Gaume to develop and implement water conservation and water resources programs. Kevin's city contract work ended in 2000, but he has stayed involved in water and environmental issues through his affiliation with the Water Assembly and other organizations. His most recent project was leading a workshop and forming a creation care committee at his local church in response to Pope Francis' call to action in his encyclical entitled *Laudato Si*.

Reed D. Benson is Dickason Chair and Professor at the UNM School of Law, where he teaches courses relating to water law, natural resources, and administrative law, and chairs the school's Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program. Prof. Benson has published nearly 30 articles on western water law and policy, focusing largely on environmental issues and federal water project operations, and he is a co-author of the *Water Resource Management* casebook from Foundation Press. He spent 4 months in 2015 as a Fulbright Scholar, serving as Visiting Chair in Water & the Environment at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, where he did research on dam operations in southern Alberta. He served from 2002-08 on the University of Wyoming law faculty. Before he began teaching, Prof. Benson worked in Oregon for the nonprofit conservation group *WaterWatch*, including 5 years as executive director. He has also worked as an attorney for a Boulder, Colorado law firm, for the U.S. EPA in Wash., DC, and for the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies (now Western Resource Advocates). He earned a B.S. with honors in economics and environmental studies from Iowa State, and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Michigan.

John Fleck is Professor of Practice in Water Policy and Governance in the University of New Mexico Department of Economics and director of the university's Water Resources Program, where he co-teaches classes in contemporary water policy issues, modeling, and technical communication for water managers. A science journalist with 30 years of newspaper experience, he first wrote about water in the 1980s as a beat reporter covering the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He is the author of the book *Water is for Fighting Over and Other Myths About Water in the West*, an exploration of solutions to the Colorado River Basin's water problems, published by Island Press.

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.

Sterling Grogan is a watershed ecologist with Carpe Diem West. He worked for 40 years rehabilitating damaged ecosystems in New Mexico, Latin America, and Central Asia. His projects included land reclamation, industrial ecology, wildlife protection, irrigation management, research, and teaching in ecology and environmental policy. He is a co-author of New Mexico's first Watershed Protection and Alternative Energy plans. As the MRG Conservancy District's first biologist, he served on Federal recovery teams for the endangered Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. He also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Brazil and as a soldier in Viet Nam.

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 today.

While **Janet Jarratt's** education was in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, after a few years she found the call of the land too strong. Janet lives and raised her children on the same family farm she grew up on in Valencia County, immediately adjacent to the Rio Grande and part of the Nicolas Duran de Chavez Grant. Farming is the sole income for her family, and home to 3 generations. As a native New Mexican having spent her life engaged in not only making a living on the land, but in stewardship of that land, Janet has been very involved in land use, water availability and water quality issues. Having a deep commitment to the Middle Valley, over the years Janet has filled a number of roles, including: leads in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program; first woman

Chair and President of the MRGCD; service on the Governor's Eminent Domain Task Force, as well as having held a leadership roles in various NGO's focused on land use, water, and agriculture. Additionally, Janet has served as an expert to various members of the NM legislature, testifying in committee as well as being a citizen advocate for issues and legislation. Over the years, she has been acknowledged with various awards and speaking opportunities.

For 25 years, **Michael Jensen** has worked on US foreign aid project development in areas such as non-traditional agriculture, environmental policy, and small business; a program to improve US science and technology competitiveness; NM transportation collaboration across agencies and development of the state's first regional transit district; and the last 12 years - river and water issues focused on the MRG.

J. Phillip King is the John Clark Distinguished Professor and Associate Department Head in the Civil Engineering Department at New Mexico State University. His research includes river and groundwater system modeling and management, optimization and decision theory, basin-scale management and policy, and hydrologic forecasting. His activities also include National Science Foundation (NSF) funded projects to enhance the diversity of the country's STEM workforce, including his current role as director of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. Dr. King has worked with government agencies, irrigators, municipalities, Native American tribes, and environmental groups to develop new and innovative approaches to water management and education. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi, Africa, and as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the NSF. Dr. King has a Ph.D. from Colorado State University, a B.S. from UC Berkeley, and an M.B.A. from NMSU. He is a registered Professional Engineer in New Mexico.

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. Prior to employment at Reclamation, she worked for 22 years at S. S. Papadopoulos & Associates, a firm that specializes in quantitative analysis of groundwater and surface water, in its Washington DC office, and as the manager of the firm's Albuquerque office. 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.

Thomas E. Luebben, Esq., is a geophysical engineer (Colorado School of Mines - 1966) and an attorney (J.D., New York University School of Law Root-Tilden Program in Public Interest Law - 1969) primarily representing Native Americans. Mr. Luebben's practice focuses on tribal government representation and protection and recovery of tribal land, tribal water rights and other natural resources. He has represented Indian tribes, organizations and individuals throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, since 1971, and has served as counsel for numerous western Native American tribes and indigenous groups. He has taught as adjunct professor of law at the University of New Mexico, guest lectured at the University of Arizona School of Law and has written texts and taught seminars on issues regarding tribal lands, jurisdiction, claims, water rights and mineral development on Indian lands.

Santiago Maestas, *Pajarito Acequia Comisionado*, President South Valley Regional Association of *Acequias*, and member of the New Mexico *Acequia* Association *Concilio*. President of the Board of Directors, La Plazita Institute, Inc., Secretary of the Board of Directors of CESOSS, Center for Social Sustainable Systems. Retired, farming, and living our *Acequia Vida, Cultura y Tradición*.

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.

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 Assembly. Chair of the Las Vegas Utility Advisory Committee and President of the Las Vegas Community Water Board.