

# WESTCAS 2019 Fall Conference

## Guest Speaker Biographies



*“The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West”*

### **Kelly Collins, PG, CHG, BCES, Managing Principal, Geology/Hydrogeology, Brown and Caldwell**

Ms. Collins is a Senior Water Resources Planner and Permitting Specialist at Brown and Caldwell. She has a BS in Geology from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California and an MS in Water Resource Management from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Kelly has 40 years of experience engaging in environmental projects. She has managed state water planning, water resource evaluations and master planning for water, wastewater, water reuse, and stormwater services for cities and counties.

Ms. Collins is on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Municipal League Environmental Quality Association, as well as WESTCAS as its Immediate Past President. Kelly currently lives in Buena Vista Colorado where she enjoys hiking with her husband and four dogs.

### **Lowry Crook, Esq., Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP**

Lowry Crook advises and represents public and private clients on water infrastructure, the Clean Water Act, environmental review and permitting, ecosystem restoration, and disaster resilience and recovery issues. He is a partner in the Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Washington, D.C. office. Lowry works with cities, counties, water districts, flood control districts and private entities to develop and advance water infrastructure and ecosystem restoration projects, expedite environmental reviews and permitting, resolve water operation and regulatory issues, and prepare for — and recover from — natural disasters.

Lowry has served in senior positions at the White House and federal agencies governing a wide range of environmental, natural resources, infrastructure, energy, land management and transportation issues. He served as a senior leader and counsel overseeing the Army Corps of Engineers, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Federal Maritime Commission. Prior to his government service, Lowry worked for 10 years as a litigation and government investigations attorney at the law firm WilmerHale in Washington, D.C. His education includes University of Texas, J.D., high honors, LBJ School of Public Affairs, M.P. Aff., and University of Texas, B.A., Plan II Honors Program specialization in government. Lowry holds admissions in District of Columbia and Texas.



**David Fitzsimmons, Cartoonist, Humor Columnist, Editorial Writer, The Arizona Daily Star**

Cartoonist, humor columnist and editorial writer for The Arizona Daily Star, Fitz is syndicated to over 800 newspapers around the world-- which is timely since there are only 800 newspapers left in the world today. A one-time Pulitzer Finalist, his award-winning cartoons have drawn fire, death threats and praise since Geronimo was a paperboy way back in 1986.

When he is not at his drawing board slinging ink or editorials, David is entertaining audiences with his “Fastest draw west of the Potomac” shtick. Fitz has performed his chalk talks in every casino, conference, resort meeting room, theatre, school, and clubhouse west of the San Pedro.

With 3 kids, a glorious dame on his arm, 2 cats and a dog with an IQ that rivals the overnight low in Flagstaff this flaming moderate grandfather at the fringe of America’s center is one snappy dresser. When Fitz is not reading hate mail from readers, he enjoys making his kids laugh, and cursing the television like a crazy person.

**William (Billy) Kovacs, Director of Outreach for Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, Member of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy & Water Appropriations**

Billy Kovacs is currently the Outreach Director for Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick representing the 2nd District in Congress. Mr. Kovacs oversees 12 interest areas in the district office including water, land, and natural resources and works with community groups and stakeholders to help navigate problems and find solutions. As an Appropriator, Rep. Kirkpatrick's position gives Southern Arizona a fierce advocate in Washington to champion and deliver on public land, water and natural resources issues in Arizona.

Mr. Kovacs was a Fellow at the Flinn-Brown Arizona Center for Civic Leadership and has previously held positions as an Ambassador for both Tech Launch Arizona at the University of Arizona as well as The Arizona Technology Council.

**Renee Lani, American Chemistry Council**

Renée M. Lani is a Manager in the American Chemistry Council’s (ACC) Chemical Products and Technology Division. In her role, she oversees and supports self-funded sector groups, including the FluoroCouncil, which is a global organization representing the world’s leading manufacturers of FluoroTechnology products (e.g. fluoropolymers, fluoroelastomers, and fluototelomer-based products).

Renée holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Energy, Business, & Finance, both from the Pennsylvania State University. Renée also has her Juris Doctor from the Maryland Carey School of Law where she completed certificate programs in both Business and Environmental law. She is a member in good standing of the Maryland bar.

**Corin A. Marron, P.E., Associate, Carollo Engineers, Inc.**

Corin Marron is an Associate with Carollo Engineers, Inc. where she leads the Tucson office. Ms. Marron has over 9 years of experience in the planning, design, and startup of municipal water, wastewater, and advanced water treatment facilities across the Southwestern United States.

A graduate of the Ohio State University and University of Texas at Austin, Corin is a registered Professional Environmental Engineer. Corin currently serves as the At-Large Trustee for WateReuse Arizona Board of Trustees and Chair of the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee. Corin is a Udall Scholar and American Council of Engineering Companies Young Professional of the Year Award Recipient.

**John McCray, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, Colorado School of Mines**

John McCray is a Professor in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, and the Founding Director of the Hydrologic Science and Engineering Graduate Program, at Colorado School of Mines. He is a recent member of the US EPA Science Advisory Board. Dr. McCray is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a Fellow of the ASCE Environmental and Water Resources Institute. Recently, Prof. McCray was a Fulbright Scholar to Chile for water resources investigations. He is currently principal investigator at CSM for the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center. ReNUWIt, on "Reinventing America's Urban Water Infrastructure". He earned the 2013 Rudolph Hering Medal from ASCE for the top paper in environmental engineering for work on groundwater contamination and remediation. He has served as Associate Editor on many journals, including Ground Water, Water Resources Research, Journal of Contaminant Hydrology, Vadose Zone Journal, and JAWRA.

Dr. McCray's current research interests include urban hydrology, watershed-scale geochemical transport, groundwater transport and remediation, mine water reclamation using engineered natural systems, wastewater reclamation using soils and other natural systems, and watershed planning. He teaches courses in contaminant hydrology, environmental and water engineering, and fluid mechanics.

**Chelsey McGuire, MPH, REHS/RS, Technical Assistance Liaison, Water Quality Division, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**

Chelsey McGuire is an Environmental Scientist in the Drinking Water Program with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Division. She is the Program's lead for unregulated and emerging contaminants, including PFOA and PFOS, and evaluates the impacts to public water systems. She develops collaborative partnerships with other state agencies and associations to identify potential risks of drinking water contaminants to human health in Arizona. Additionally, she leads work associated with the Lead and Copper Rule where she provides technical and regulatory expertise in managing lead or copper release in public water systems. Her work entails assessing the need for corrosion control treatment and/or evaluation for corrosion control modifications through water quality evaluation.



Chelsey graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a B.S. in Environmental Health Science and earned a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Science, with an emphasis in Emergency Response & Preparedness with the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is a registered Sanitarian with the State of Arizona

**Scott Schladweiler, P. E., Director, Marana Water**

Scott Schladweiler is currently the Director of Marana Water and has over 21 years of experience in the design, construction and operation of water and water reclamation systems. He joined the Town of Marana in 2014 where he has served for over five years as the Utilities Engineer and Deputy Water prior to being appointed Director. Before to joining Marana, Scott spent over a decade at Tucson Water where he was responsible for the design and construction of numerous infrastructure programs and recharge facilities, and administrative and policy related programs. Additionally, he spent over six years as a consulting engineer prior to joining Tucson Water.

Scott is a registered professional civil engineer in the State of Arizona and has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona.

**Jeremy Stapleton, Director of Climate Resilience, Sonoran Institute**

Jeremy Stapleton joined the Sonoran Institute in 2016. He is the Director of Climate Resilience, and works with the Resilient Communities and Watersheds, a joint program between the Sonoran Institute and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. The program addresses a fundamental lack of integration between land use planning and water management in the western United States. Jeremy's work aims to reconnect neighbors and nature and help people live lighter on the land and each other.

Jeremy's philosophy and strategies are inspired by over a decade in the fields of urban design, planning and landscape architecture and as a backcountry guide in Grand Canyon and throughout the world. He is currently Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission for the City of Phoenix and spends any remaining free time in his garden or wandering off into the wild to recharge with his family.