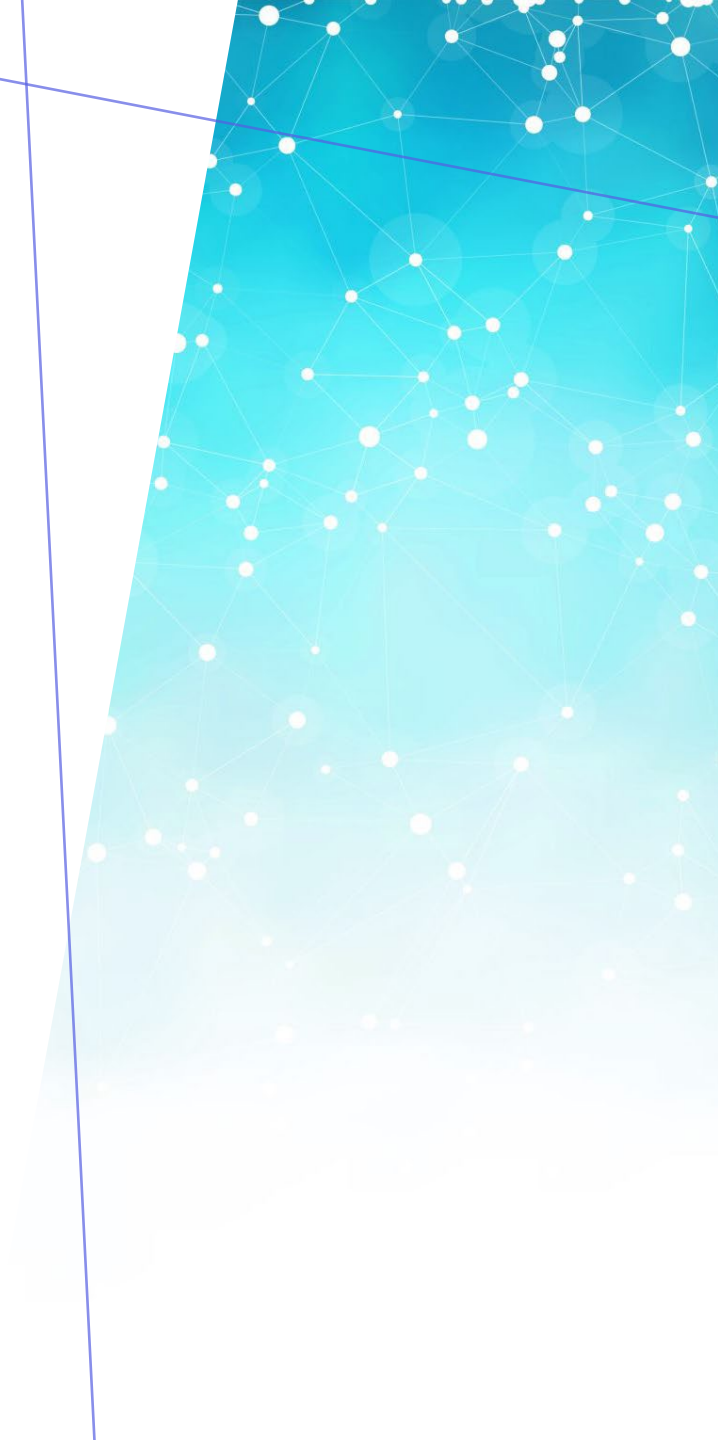


NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

AUGUST 21, 2024

*ACWA 2024
AWARDS
CEREMONY*





Barbara Bennett

Colorado Department of Public Health
& Environment

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Barbara Bennett is co-chair of the Watershed Committee starting earlier this year. She currently oversees the TMDL program for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and she previously worked in the Water Quality Standards program. Since 2011, Barbara has supported Colorado's efforts on adopting new water quality standards, discharger specific variances, assessment thresholds for sediment, feasibility studies and TMDLs. She holds a Master of Science degree from the Colorado School of Mines in hydrology and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University in Environmental Science.

*EMERGING
LEADER
AWARD*



Jennifer Zygmunt

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Jennifer Zygmunt has been the Water Quality Division Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality since August 2021. She began her career with the DEQ after graduating from the University of Wyoming in 2003 with a B.S. in Botany and a concentration in Environment and Natural Resources. After serving an internship with the Land Quality Division, she transferred to the Water Quality Division where she worked as a permit writer for the WYPDES Program for nearly six years. She then managed the Nonpoint Source Program for eleven years, during which time she provided testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. She then transitioned to supervising the Integrated Management Services section of the Water Quality Division, where she led initiatives related to efficiency, streamlining, and digital records management prior to assuming the role of administrator. A native of Casper, she grew up mostly in New Mexico before finding her way back to Wyoming, where she is privileged to work with her exceptional staff and people across the state to protect its water resources.

Shelly Lemon has worked for the Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for 20 years, which includes periods of time on the TMDL and Assessment, Monitoring, and Municipal teams and serving as the Monitoring, Assessment and Standards Program Manager before becoming the Bureau Chief in 2017. As Bureau Chief, Ms. Lemon currently manages and oversees three technical teams that fulfill the state's responsibilities under both the federal Clean Water Act and state Water Quality Act, such as developing and revising water quality standards, collecting and assessing water quality data, managing and reducing nonpoint source pollution, protecting and restoring wetlands, and implementing surface water protection regulations related to point source discharges. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Lemon was a high school and middle school science teacher, outdoor educator, and dive master. Ms. Lemon earned a bachelor's degree in Biology and a master's degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona.

Shelly Lemon

New Mexico Environment Department

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD





Jennifer Dodd

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Jenny received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Warren Wilson College (a hippie work college outside of Asheville, NC). She then did an internship at Brookhaven National Lab's Chemical Oceanography lab, where she determined that she did not want to be an oceanographer. This led to Jenny completing a master's degree at Virginia Tech's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where her research focused on potential disinfection byproducts on the International Space Station. In the late 90s, Jenny worked for ERG, an environmental consulting firm outside of Washington DC. She largely worked on projects for EPA and the US Navy. For the last 24 years, Jenny worked for the Tennessee Division of Water Resources. She started in the pretreatment program, finishing her career with the division as a deputy director and then director. At the end of April, Jenny returned to ERG and is now working on the WaterTA Engineering Support initiative.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Marla Stelk is the Executive Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) where she has worked on wetland policy and management issues since 2013. Marla has over 30 years of experience working on wetland, water, and wildlife issues, climate change, environmental policy and research, land use planning, communications and organizational leadership. Marla has led research at NAWM on topics such as ecosystem service valuation for wetland restoration, the role of wetlands in floodplain and natural hazard management, wetlands and watershed health, wetland mapping and communications. Prior to coming to NAWM, Marla worked for a variety of environmental and social nonprofit organizations helping to build organizational capacity, manage projects and improve internal processes. Marla currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program and the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. Marla earned her MA in Community Planning and Development with a focus on Land Use and the Environment at the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service and her BA in Environmental Issues from Colorado College.



Marla Stelk

National Association of Wetland Managers

ENVIRONMENTAL STATESMAN AWARD

Mary Anne Nelson is the Surface and Wastewater Division Administrator for the Department of Environmental Quality, providing assistance, guidance, and regulatory control for surface water and wastewater discharge activities in Idaho. With over 20 years working at DEQ, Mary Anne is experienced in tackling complex environmental issues that require understanding and communication among diverse groups with varying interests. She spent 4 years leading Idaho's efforts to gain delegated authority for the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program, which was approved in June 2018 and this year will complete transferring permit authority from EPA.

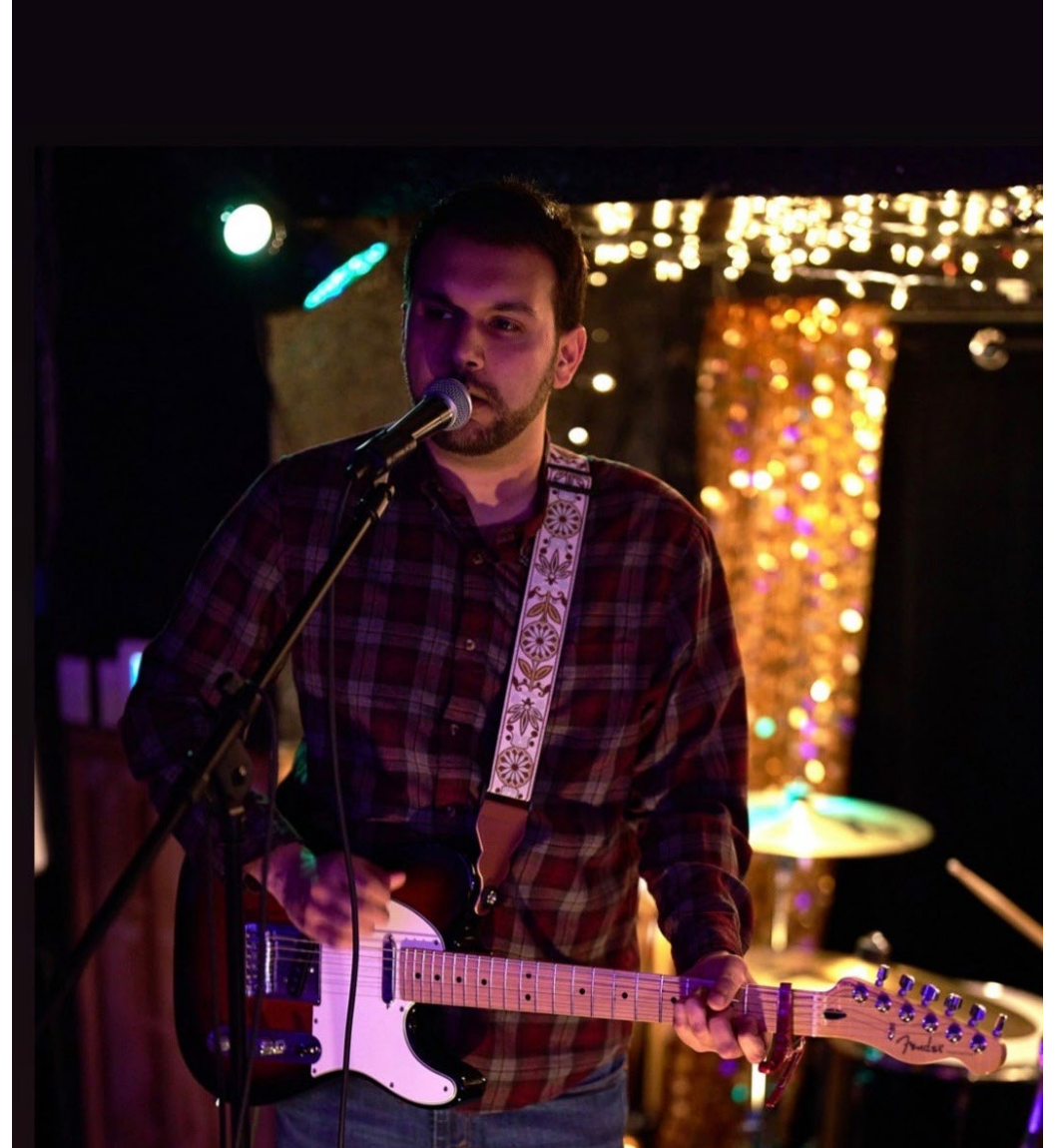
Mary Anne is native of Salmon, Idaho, and holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She is also a certified public manager.



Mary Anne Nelson
Idaho Department of Environmental
Quality

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jasper Hobbs joined ACWA in July 2019 as an Environmental Program Manager. He manages the association's work on TMDL Development & Implementation, Water Quality Standards, Monitoring, Assessment, Environmental Justice, and Water Quality Modeling; and previously, 319, Nutrients, and Wetlands. Jasper came to ACWA with an M.S in geology from Kansas State University and a B.A. in earth science from Boston University. He previously worked for NEIWPCC, and as an adjunct professor of environmental science at Bunker Hill Community College.



Jasper Hobbs

Association of Clean Water Administrators