Speaker Bios

Ryan Golten
Ryan Golten is a Senior Associate with the Consensus Building Institute, where she works with communities, agencies and others to help resolve contentious issues related to water, land, energy and other resources. As a mediator, facilitator, and attorney, Ryan is known for her ability to navigate complex regulatory and technical environments while working to understand and incorporate stakeholder needs, bring parties together to reach broadly supported outcomes, and create a foundation for long-term relationships and problem-solving, particularly in environments with historical tensions and significant emotions. Prior to joining CBI, Ryan worked with CDR Associates (Collaborative Decision Resources) to develop collaborative approaches to natural resources issues and policy. She was the Co-chair of the ABA’s Section of Environmental, Energy and Resources ADA Year-In-Review for 2016, and is a member of the New Mexico Bar Association, and Association for Conflict Resolution. Ryan earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico, magna cum laude, and her B.A. from the University of Michigan, with high honors.

Barbara Green
After earning a BA from Northwestern University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Barbara Green served as Town Manager for Oak Creek and Yampa, and Assistant City Manager for the City of Steamboat Springs. Barbara then earned a J.D. degree from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1985. Barbara is a partner at Sullivan Green, Seavy, LLC where she represents clients in matters involving land use and development, oil and gas development, mining, water development, and water quality. Barbara represented Gunnison County drafting, and then defending, its oil and gas regulations in BDS v. Gunnison County, and the City of Fort Collins in COGA v City of Fort Collins. She has assisted local governments to negotiate operator agreements, and serves as special counsel to various local governments on land use and other regulatory matters in state and federal administrative and court proceedings. Barbara also serves as General Counsel to Northwest Colorado Counsel of Governments, General Counsel to the Rocky Mountain Low-level Radioactive Waste Compact, and Town Attorney for the Towns of Crested Butte and Silver Plume. In 2014, she earned a Masters in Humanities from the University of Colorado.

Mark Gruber
After a thirty-year career as a corporate controller and Chief Financial Officer Mr. Gruber thought he had retired to the quiet of semi-rural Erie which at that time had 12,000 residents. Little did he know that retirement was but a pipe dream when in 2006 he was first appointed to Erie’s Planning Commission. Observing Erie’s growth direction, he knew he could do more to help manage and plan that growth. So in 2010 he ran for and was elected a Trustee of the Town, and for the past 3-1/2 years has served as the Mayor Pro Tem of the Board of Trustees. Continually transitioning his focus on the big issues for this fast growing municipality; first there was economic development, then learning all he could about oil & gas in the state and concurrently schooling him at the state’s environmental science labs about air quality. As the O
& G issue temporarily quieted down in Erie he immersed himself in regional transportation issues where he represents Erie at the North Area Transportation Alliance, The North I-25 Coalition, The Mayors and County Commissioners Highway 36 Coalition and the Highway 7 Coalition.

For two years he served on the Denver Regional Council of Governments Board and has represented Erie for the past 3-1/2 years at the Colorado Municipal Leagues Legislative Policy Committee. He also sits in for Mayor Tina Harris at the Metro Mayors Caucus.

As the Oil and Gas urban interface environment heated up in recent years, along with a fellow Trustee and attorney’s Barbara Green and John Sullivan he successfully negotiated a ground breaking operating agreement with Crestone Peak during 2014. More recently he has been engaged in the development of O & G industry accountability municipal ordinances and conducting meaningful environmental testing during industry drilling operations.

Lisa McKenzie
Lisa McKenzie is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Colorado Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus. Lisa also participates on the Health Effects team of the AirWaterGas Sustainability Research Network. Her research has contributed to the understanding of how air pollutants and other exposures resulting from the unconventional development of oil and gas resources may affect the public’s health. Her studies investigating associations between adverse birth outcomes and childhood cancers and proximity to oil and gas development are among the first epidemiological studies on this topic to appear in the published literature. Her seminal human health risk assessment indicated the potential for respiratory, neurological, and developmental health outcomes resulting from exposure to air pollutants emitted during natural gas development. She has testified before the United States Congress and the Denver Metropolitan Regional Air Quality Council on the public health implications of natural gas development.

Jana Milford
Jana Milford directs the Air Quality team of the AirWaterGas Sustainability Research Network. She has been teaching and doing research in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Environmental Engineering Program at the University of Colorado Boulder since 1994. Her research interests include mathematical modeling and design of control strategies for photochemical air pollution, air pollution exposure assessment, and source apportionment, wildfire behavior modeling and environmental policy analysis. She combines this research with an understanding of air quality policy and regulation augmented with a background in law; she earned a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2004. She is also a member of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission and the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Air Quality Management in the United States.

Kathryn Mutz
Kathryn Mutz leads the Practices and Regulations team for the AirWaterGas Sustainability Research Network. She has a background in both law and natural resources management. Kathryn has worked throughout the West for state and federal governments and private
industry on scientific and public policy issues related to natural resources development. Her legal research has included mineral development (primarily oil and gas), environmental justice, land conservation, forestry, and all aspects of community participation in resource management. She also directs the Intermountain Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Project. Kathryn has a law degree from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Elizabeth Paranhos
Elizabeth Paranhos is a climate change and clean air expert. As a consultant for the Environmental Defense Fund, Elizabeth has successfully lobbied for state, federal and international clean air and climate policies to reduce greenhouse gas and other air pollutant emissions from oil and natural gas activities. She assisted Boulder and Broomfield counties in Colorado to develop regulations to reduce impacts to water and air resources from local oil and gas activities and served as an expert witness on regulations for the oil and gas industry before the New Mexico Environmental Appeals Board. Elizabeth is an attorney at Delone Law and co-founder of Energy Innovation Partners. She is also the co-author of three major studies on the natural gas sector for the Department of Energy. The first focused on the regulatory framework governing unconventional natural gas development. The second focused on the regulatory framework for controlling methane emissions across the natural gas supply chain. The third focused on the extent to which the oil and gas industry is adopting practices characteristic of highly reliable organizations. Elizabeth received a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.S. in Political Science from Vassar College.

Matt Sura
Matt Sura is an oil and gas attorney specializing in the representation of land owners, mineral owners, and local governments. Prior to becoming an attorney, Matt worked for environmental and landowner protections and oil and gas policy reform for twelve years while he was executive director of Western Colorado Congress in Grand Junction, Colorado. Matt is the author of The Colorado Landowner’s Guide to Oil and Gas Development and the co-author of Protecting Source Water in Colorado During Oil and Gas Development. Matt also served as a local government representative on Governor Hickenlooper’s Oil and Gas Task Force from 2014-2015. Matt has a law degree from the University of Colorado Boulder.