

# **Thomas C. Sorensen Seminar: National Climate Change Legislation and Opportunities for Nebraska**

## **Panelists**

### **David Hawkins**

*Director, Climate Programs  
Natural Resources Defense Council*

David Hawkins is the director of NRDC's climate center. He joined NRDC as an attorney in 1971 and worked on air pollution issues until 1977, when he was appointed assistant administrator for Air, Noise and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency during the Carter administration. David returned to NRDC in 1981 and worked throughout the next decade primarily on reauthorizing the Clean Air Act. David was the director of NRDC's air and energy program from 1990 to 2001, until he became director of the newly-created climate center. David is a recognized expert on advanced coal technologies and carbon capture and storage, and is working with Congress to design a legislative mechanism to reduce global warming emissions. David has an English degree from Yale College and a law degree from Columbia University.

### **John C. McClure**

*Vice President & General Counsel  
Nebraska Public Power District*

John McClure is Vice President and General Counsel for Nebraska Public Power District. He joined Nebraska Public Power District in 1980 following graduation from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and spent his first 13 years in the General Counsel's office. In 1993, John was asked by NPPD's CEO to lead the utility's strategic planning. He held several other senior management positions over the next 10 years involving industry deregulation, governmental affairs, corporate communications, and environmental and water issues. In 2004, he was selected by NPPD's Board of Directors to become General Counsel. He is currently responsible for legal, governmental, environmental, water resource, and corporate communication functions at NPPD.

### **Sarah Dempsey**

*Vice President of Educational Services  
Northeast Community College*

Sarah Dempsey has been Vice President of Educational Services at Northeast Community College for the past two and a half years. She has held administrative positions at community colleges in four states over the past 25 years. She currently serves as Chair of the Chief Instructional Officers Council for Nebraska community colleges, co-chair of the Nebraska Ethanol Training Advisory Board, and is the lead administrator for a \$2 million statewide ethanol production training project funded by the Department of Labor.

Her campus has become a leader in Nebraska for providing renewable energy programs, the newest being a \$100,000 grant for wind energy training funded by the Walmart Workforce Economic Initiative. One of only 20 grants in the country funded by this initiative, this project will develop curriculum to support Nebraska's expanding interests in providing alternative energy sources to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil imports.

**David Dittloff**

*Regional Outreach Coordinator  
National Wildlife Federation*

Dad Dittloff is the Regional Outreach Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation's Rocky Mountain Natural Resource Center based in Boulder, Colorado. In this position David works on many aspects related to climate change and wildlife, including educational activities, media relations, public organizing, and direct lobbying.

Before coming to the National Wildlife Federation four years ago, David worked for the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Five Valleys Land Trust.

David has a B.A. in economics and political science from the University of Wisconsin and an MPA from the University of Montana. David enjoys fishing, hiking and camping with his wife (Annie) and two daughters (Maya and Chloe). The NWF's mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

**Jim Jenkins**

*Chair  
Nebraska Ethanol Board*

Jim Jenkins is a rancher, restaurant operator and actively involved in the wind energy industry and the ethanol industry. In addition to his role as managing partner for his family's Custer County ranching operations, Jim is president of Spring Creek Management, Inc, which operates three Skeeter Barnes restaurants and one Pane Bello restaurant.

Jim is also president of Renewable Resource Associates, LLC, a wind energy easement consulting company. Presently Jim serves as chairman of the Nebraska Ethanol Board and is a board member and past president of the Nebraska Restaurant Association board of directors. Jim has also been active in grassland issues within Nebraska, having served as a board member of the Nebraska Grazing Lands coalition for nine years and as a member of the advisory board to the Center for Grassland Studies at the University of Nebraska.

Jim received a bachelor's degree from Principia College and did graduate work at Northwestern Kellogg School of Business in Chicago.

**Cliff Mesner**

*Economic Development Director  
City of Central City*

Cliff Mesner is an attorney in Central City, Nebraska. Cliff also serves as the Economic Development Director for the City of Central City. In that position he spearheaded the recruitment of Platte Valley Fuel Ethanol to Central City and was heavily involved in resolving permitting issues. He was the liaison with the city for land acquisition, zoning, utility extensions, Tax Increment Financing and all other local issues for the plant. After recruitment of the plant, Cliff was asked to serve as Chairman of the Boards of Platte Valley Fuel Ethanol, LLC in Central City, NE and Val-E Ethanol in Ord, NE.

Recently Cliff and other individuals from the wind and ethanol industries have formed a wind development company to help communities organize to develop wind farms in their region.

### **John Bourne**

*International Representative, 11th District  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

John F. Bourne currently works as an International Representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) representing construction and railroad local unions throughout the Midwest. He served as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IBEW Local #22 in Omaha NE for 12 years and has worked fervently to implement new training initiatives to advance the industry. He also served on the State of Nebraska Worker Training Board, the State of Nebraska Unemployment Advisory Board, and the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board. Bourne serves as secretary on the Nebraska Food Bank Board of Directors, in addition to various other community service efforts.

### **Tim Hemsath**

*Architect/Assistant Professor, College of Architecture  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Tim Hemsath has worked professionally in Philadelphia and Omaha as a project architect and currently runs a small collaborative design practice. In the fall of 2007 he joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Architecture as an assistant professor, filling its first digital design position and providing leadership in the realm of digital fabrication. Recently, he has presented at the American Institute of Architects National Convention in addition to coauthoring an American Institute of Architects' white paper on the Future of Architectural Education. Tim currently serves on the board of directors for the Nebraska Flatwater Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. The chapter's mission is to serve as a catalyst for the change in the state of Nebraska by promoting green building practices, technologies, policies and standards through partnerships with other organizations. As current chair of this organization, he has given numerous presentations statewide on issues related to green building and sustainability.

### **Greg Kunkel**

*Vice President of Environmental Affairs  
Tenaska, Inc.*

As the Vice-President of Environmental Affairs for Tenaska, Dr. Kunkel is involved directly in the strategic response of the company to major environmental challenges, such as climate change, and directs environmental compliance, permitting, and water resource development activities for Tenaska energy projects. Dr. Kunkel also directs environmental commodity transactions for Tenaska affiliates, including emission allowance and emission reduction credits; domestic and international carbon credits; and development of carbon dioxide offset, capture, sequestration, and delivery arrangements.

Dr. Kunkel joined Tenaska in 1995, having worked with the organization in a consulting capacity since 1989. He has more than 30 years of experience as an environmental scientist, manager, analyst, and advisor in the energy industry. Dr. Kunkel earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received his doctorate from the University of California at Davis. Dr. Kunkel is a member of the Air and Waste

Management Association and is the incoming President-elect of the Fontenelle Nature Association.