



IDAHO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

2025 Annual Meeting

June 12 & 13, 2025

The Coeur d'Alene Inn ~ 506 West Appleway Avenue~ Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

Biographical Sketches

Jessica Spoja, MPA, Executive Officer, Idaho Division of Occupational Licenses

Jessica serves as the Licensing Program Manager and Executive Officer for the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors at the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. She is passionate about advancing professional standards while ensuring responsive, effective public service. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Boise State University and a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Long Beach. With a strong background in public administration and regulatory operations, Jessica brings a solutions-focused, people-centered approach to streamlining licensing processes.

Don Morse, Investigations Supervisor, Idaho Division of Occupational Licenses

Don serves as the Investigations Supervisor for Building, Construction, & Real Estate at the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. He has worked with the State of Idaho for over 18 years with the Idaho Real Estate Commission and DOPL. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Boise State University.

Sean Urann, PE, Avista Corporation, Inc.

Sean is a Civil Engineer graduate from Gonzaga University, who grew up in Spokane, WA. Sean has worked for Avista Utilities for 8+ years, in the generation facility supporting 8 Dams and 4 Thermal Plants. His career has been split serving the dam safety team and project delivery team at Avista.

Jerin Tilson, PE, Avista Corporation, Inc.

Jerin is a senior Civil Engineer and is the Surveillance and Monitoring Program Coordinator at Avista. He has been a part of the dam safety team for about a year and a half. He also has 9 years of experience in civil engineering design of residential and commercial development projects. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Washington State University in 2011 and 2013 and his P.E. in Washington in 2018.

Ben Weymouth, PE, District Manager, East Side Highway District

Ben serves as East Side Highway District's Director of Highways and has over 29 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, including planning, design, and

construction management of roadways, parks, irrigation systems, water and wastewater systems, and land development. Ben also serves as a T2 Center Board Member and ISPMC Executive Committee Vice Chair. He is a University of Idaho graduate and lives in the Coeur d'Alene area with his wife and three very active and involved kids.

Angie Comstock, PE

As the lead for J-U-B's Transportation Services Group, Angie's main focus is making sure clients have access to experts from project funding through permitting, design & construction. She spent the first decade of her career as a geotechnical engineer and continues to bring value to teams she is on through her focus on materials-related risk management and her active communication and project management style.

Chris Comstock, PE

Chris has worked across the Inland northwest, specializing in constructible geotechnical solutions, for over 25 years. He is a University of Idaho graduate and enjoys outdoor recreation (basically anything that includes the ability to bring cool rocks home), time with his family (talking about or looking at rocks) and presenting to elementary schools as "Mr. Rock Licker". His passion for geology and knowledge of how it affects project design and how to overcome a wide variety of challenges is a value on any project.

John Finnegan, PE, Budinger & Associates, Inc.

John Finnegan is a senior geotechnical engineer for Budinger & Associates, Inc. with 34 years of experience in Wahington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. His favorite projects include Porcupine Bay landslide, several buried CSO tanks the size of a football field to reduce overflows to the Spokane River, recent residential towers in Coeur d'Alene and Spokane, and helping to save Grant County Bridge 202 from collapse. He's served the local ASCE Section in various positions and is currently on the continuing education committee. He and his wonderful wife, Katrina, have 3 fantastic kids aged 11 to 21; they do volleyball, soccer, golf, and flying, along with occasional studying.

Sam Sommers, PE

Samuel has 13 years of experience leading geotechnical investigations and design for a wide spectrum of projects throughout the Inland Northwest. His work spans design-build transportation corridors, multi-million dollar custom residences, municipal infrastructure, and large-scale commercial sites. He founded his own geotechnical consulting firm, Inland Empire Geotech, in March of this year and focuses on a commitment to high-quality service and educating the industry on the critical importance of preserving the role of the geotechnical Engineer of Record.

Morgan McArthur, PE

Morgan is a Principal Geotechnical Engineer at GeoEngineers, with more than 19 years of experience supporting a variety of projects throughout the Western US, including transportation projects for ITD, LHTAC and WSDOT, energy transmission and distribution for BPA, Idaho Power, PacifiCorp, and NV Energy, along with a variety of municipal,

industrial and development projects throughout the region. Morgan manages GeoEngineers' geotechnical group between their Spokane and Boise offices and leads the company's geotechnical growth efforts throughout the Intermountain West region. Morgan lives in the pine trees of Northern Kootenai County with his wife and three daughters, and enjoys outdoor activities including camping, fishing, boating, and gardening.

Collin McCormick, PE, Budinger & Associates, Inc.

Collin is a senior geotechnical engineer with Budinger & Associates with over 12 years of experience in the Pacific Northwest including projects in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. He is a civil engineering graduate of Oregon State University with a Master's in geotechnical engineering from the University of Washington. His experience includes geotechnical site characterization, foundation design, ground improvement, earth retaining structures, landslide and rockfall mitigation, and geotechnical instrumentation. He has provided geotechnical consulting services on a variety of civil infrastructure projects for local, state, and federal agencies, commercial developers, and public utility districts.

Brian Malm, PE, F.NSPE, Principal Engineer, Bolton & Menk, Inc

Brian is a Principal Engineer with Bolton & Menk, Inc., and is currently serving as President for the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). He has been an active member of NSPE for 24 years and has served in a variety of leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national level. He began his civil engineering career in 1996 and has spent the majority of that time as a municipal consulting engineer. Brian works in Bolton & Menk's Rochester, Minnesota office, serves as the consultant city engineer for several cities in southeast Minnesota, and serves as the Principal-in-Charge of People and Culture for Bolton & Menk's Municipal Division.

Pete Stayton, PE, District Manager, South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District

Pete is the District Manager of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District and Principal Engineer at Stayton Engineering, PLLC. Pete is a licensed engineer (ID) and Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering with 18 years of experience in water resources engineering and management.

John Falk, PE, Idaho Department of Water Resources

John has managed the IDWR Idaho Dam Safety Program since 2007, following 14 years in a similar role with the State of Oregon. He has served on the ASDSO Board of Directors and contributed to Idaho's 2012 and 2019 Infrastructure Report Cards through ASCE. His diverse background includes work in cement manufacturing, mining, public works, and consulting. A licensed professional engineer in four states, he holds degrees from the Colorado School of Mines and Colorado State University, and enjoys ranching, music, and outdoor adventures.

Gregory F. Brands P.E. F. NSPE

Gregory F. Brands, P.E., F.NSPE, is a retired civil and structural engineer with over 40 years of experience across the Western U.S. and Alaska. A 1982 graduate of Washington State University, he held leadership roles in both public and private sectors, including with Kiewit Pacific Co., R.W. Beck, SCI, Inc., and the Idaho Transportation Department. Greg is a strong advocate for engineering ethics. He co-founded the North Idaho Engineer's Association, later the Northern Chapter of the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers. He also served as NSPE Western & Pacific Regional Director, chaired the Standards of Professionalism Task Force, and was Board Liaison to the NSPE Board of Ethical Review. He became an NSPE Fellow in 2014.

Dan McCracken, PE, Regional Administrator, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Dan is the Regional Administrator for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene, overseeing environmental programs across North Idaho, including air and water quality, waste management, and cleanup of the Coeur d'Alene Basin. A civil engineering graduate from Washington State University, he previously spent 11 years with TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, focusing on water infrastructure, remediation, and mine reclamation. Dan joined DEQ as the Remediation Program Manager and has served as Regional Administrator since 2020. He enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife, two teenagers, and their dogs.

Steve Walker, PE, Principal, Walker Engineering, PC

Steve is Principal of Walker Engineering with over 40 years of experience in design, construction, and project management across multiple industries. His expertise spans project planning, contractor coordination, and complex engineering design, including heat transfer, stress analysis, and hydraulic systems. Steve holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Idaho and is a licensed PE in six states. He is an active member of ASHRAE, NSPE, and RETA, and has held leadership roles in ISPE and on the Idaho State University Engineering Advisory Council.

Dakotah Stearns, PE, Project Manager, Walker Engineering, PC

Dakotah is a Project Manager at Walker Engineering with seven years of experience across multiple industries. His expertise includes HVAC and ammonia refrigeration design, pressure vessel and piping systems, control systems, and stress analysis using solid modeling and FEA tools. Dakotah holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Idaho State University and is a licensed PE in Idaho. He is an active member of ASME, ISPE, and NSPE.

Dan Jones, PE, Transportation Business Group Manager, HDR, Inc.

Dan is HDR's Idaho Transportation Business Group Manager with over 20 years of experience in transportation design and planning. He has led a wide range of projects—from local to large Federal-aid efforts—including interchanges, highways, intersections, and asset management. Dan holds a Master's in Civil Engineering from Utah State

University and has worked extensively with local agencies and ITD. Outside of work, he enjoys time with his wife and five kids, traveling, and improving his golf game.

Ray Watkins, PE

Ray is an Emeritus member of the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, serving from 2015 to 2025. He has over 30 years of electrical engineering experience and leads the Electrical Engineering Group at J-U-B Engineers in Coeur d'Alene. Ray began his career with Chevron, then spent 25 years as a consulting engineer for municipalities and agencies across the Western U.S. A 1989 BSEE graduate from the University of Idaho and licensed since 1994, he holds registrations in Idaho and nine other states. He has also served as president of WSPE Spokane and Chair of IEEE's Industrial Applications Society in Spokane.