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CONTACT: Jeff Stahla

Public Information Coordinator

970-622-2331/970-203-5716

jstahla@northernwater.org

Brad Wind named Northern Water general manager

BERTHOUD – Colorado native Brad Wind has been chosen to lead Northern Water as the organization’s sixth general manager in its 81-year history.

Wind, who most recently had served as the assistant general manager, Administration Division, was formally named to the position April 6 by the Northern Water Board of Directors.

Wind joined Northern Water in 1994 as an engineer and previously served as the organization’s assistant general manager, Operations Division. Wind holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Colorado State University, a master’s degree in agricultural engineering from University of California at Davis and bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering and agricultural engineering from Colorado State University.



Wind grew up in Northeastern Colorado, the area served by Northern Water. He was raised on a farm in Washington County and graduated from Brush High School.

“Brad Wind has 25 years of experience built on the Northern Water tradition of teamwork and continual improvement,” said Board President Mike Applegate.

“The Board is confident he will provide excellent leadership and vision as we move forward in service to the region,” he added.

Wind takes over for previous General Manager Eric Wilkinson, who retired in April. Wilkinson will continue to work on a part-time role as a policy adviser for Northern Water.

“I am thrilled to be named Northern Water’s next general manager, and I appreciate the legacy Eric has left us all,” Wind said.

“We have a lot on our plate and our staff is up to the challenges of maintaining a reliable water supply and pursuing additional storage for northeastern Colorado,” he added.

Previous Northern Water general managers include:

J.M. Dille: 1939-1958

J.R. “Bob” Barkley: 1958-1974

E.F. Phipps: 1974-1982

Larry Simpson: 1982-1993

Eric Wilkinson: 1994-2018

About Northern Water:

Northern Water, a public agency created in 1937, provides water for agricultural, municipal, domestic and industrial uses to an eight-county service area with a population of nearly 960,000. Northern Water and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation operate the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which collects water on the West Slope and delivers it to Northeastern Colorado through a 13-mile tunnel beneath Rocky Mountain National Park. It and the Municipal Subdistrict are currently developing the Windy Gap Firming Project and the Northern Integrated Supply Project to enhance Front Range water supplies for the future.