



2025-2026 WBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) is governed by a 13-member board of diverse business leaders dedicated to realizing broad and lasting economic growth. Get to know our current slate of directors, their expertise, and their visions for Wyoming.

WBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS OVERVIEW

| Name | Location | Primary Sector | Key Expertise |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mark Law | Sheridan | Entrepreneurship | Corporate Leadership & Small Business |
| Derek Smith | Gillette | Natural Resources | Sustainable Solutions & Youth Viewpoint |
| Joe Schaffer | Cheyenne | Higher Education | Workforce Development & Leadership |
| Erick Arens | Laramie | Insurance | Risk Management & Ag/Farm Support |
| Melissa Atkinson | Green River | Manufacturing & Education | Workforce Partnerships & Energy Innovation |
| Chuck Brown | Wheatland | Finance & Agriculture | Equipment Leasing & Public Service History |
| Rachel Chadderdon | Casper | Higher Education | Public/Nonprofit Collaboration |

| Name | Location | Primary Sector | Key Expertise |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|---|
| Cassie Crumpton | Pinedale | Social Services | Mental Health & Treatment Courts |
| Randi Downham | Laramie | Banking | Finance & Community Growth |
| Ryan Lance | Cheyenne | Conservation & Agriculture | Land Management & Habitat Banking |
| Jason Nelson | Thayne | Telecommunications | Infrastructure & Tech Talent |
| Bruce Pivic | Rock Springs | Energy & Automation | Electrical Engineering & Industrial Systems |
| Beth Worthen | Casper | Healthcare & Philanthropy | Community Well-being & Public Policy |

WBC BOARD OF DIRECTOR BIOS



MARK LAW, CO-CHAIR | SHERIDAN, WY

- **Expertise:** Entrepreneurship & Corporate Leadership
- **Work:** Lifelong advocate for the Mountain West; transitioned from corporate leadership (Holly Sugar) to full-bore entrepreneurship
- **Vision:** Wyoming must evolve its fiscal policies to reward human productivity and community vitality alongside resource extraction
- **Personal:** Morning coffee with a "mismatched crew" of locals; father and grandfather of six

"If we want a livable, dynamic future for our grandchildren, we'll need to think bigger and act bolder."



DEREK SMITH, VICE CHAIR | GILLETTE, WY

- **Expertise:** Natural Resources/Oil & Gas Exploration
- **Work:** Landman covering the Powder River Basin
- **Vision:** Focuses on helping the state dig in to improve the collective quality of life through a younger viewpoint and sustainable solutions
- **Personal:** Enjoys the "can-do spirit" of Gillette; loves traveling and projects with his wife, Revea

"The can-do spirit and desire by most to really dig in to help one another is something I enjoy the ability to actively participate in."



JOE SCHAFFER, SECRETARY/TREASURER | CHEYENNE, WY

- **Expertise:** Higher Education & Workforce Development
- **Work:** President of Laramie County Community College (LCCC); 14-year Wyoming resident
- **The Vision:** Strategic economic leadership that honors heritage while building a resilient, diversified economy and investing in innovation
- **Personal:** Hunting and fishing fanatic; actively involved in church and local boards with his wife, Brooke

"Wyoming is a place where good ideas, hard work, and genuine leadership can still make a difference."



ERICK ARENS | LARAMIE, WY

- **Expertise:** Insurance & Risk Management
- **Work:** VP for Mountain West Farm Bureau, the state's #1 insurer of farms and ranches
- **Vision:** Creating ample opportunities for future generations to thrive within the Wyoming economy
- **Personal:** Outdoorsman (skiing, fishing, hunting); father of two active student-athletes

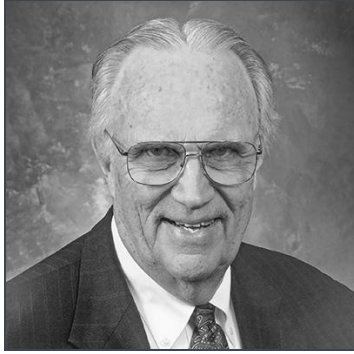
"The organization's willingness to work on complex problems that have large impacts is exciting, challenging, and rewarding."



MELISSA ATKINSON | GREEN RIVER, WY

- **Expertise:** Manufacturing, Workforce Development & Education
- **Work:** Leadership for Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership; expert in student-centered, competency-based learning
- **Vision:** Leading in energy sector innovation and sustainability while equipping young people with skills to remain in-state
- **Personal:** Proud of Wyoming's resilience and community values; mother of three grown children

"My vision is for Wyoming to continue diversifying its economy while holding true to its values of independence, stewardship, and community."



CHUCK BROWN | WHEATLAND, WY

- **Expertise:** Finance, Agriculture & Aviation
- **Work:** Founder of C.H. Brown Co.; former director for the Denver branch of the Federal Reserve Bank
- **Vision:** A firm believer in public service, committed to using talents to better the community and nation
- **Personal:** Long-time pilot and nearly 90 years old; has served on numerous state commissions under five different governors

"People from all walks of life should commit themselves to serving mankind in whatever way best suits their talents, resources, and abilities."



RACHEL CHADDERDON | CASPER, WY

- **Expertise:** Higher Education & Public/Nonprofit Sectors
- **Work:** Dean for the School of Business and Industry at Casper College
- **Vision:** Forward-thinking, strategic communities with the infrastructure to attract and retain a diverse array of families
- **Personal:** Grew up in Casper; loves camping and mountain biking with her "tribe" of lifelong friends

"To have sustainable, resilient, and livable communities, there must be collaboration between local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations."



CASSIE CRUMPTON | PINEDALE, WY

- **Expertise:** Social Services & Mental Health
- **Work:** Treatment Court Coordinator and mental health counselor
- **Vision:** A Wyoming positioned to respond to changes proactively rather than being forced to react to them
- **Personal:** VW Westfalia camper and quilter; appreciates the "second chance" culture of Wyoming

"There is nothing better than seeing the spark of people starting to believe they hold the value others can see in them."



RANDI DOWNHAM | LARAMIE, WY

- **Expertise:** Banking & Commercial Finance
- **Work:** President of ANB Bank in Laramie
- **Vision:** An economic future built on hardworking people creating local opportunities for their children
- **Personal:** Raised in Wyoming; deeply involved in 4-H and family camping trips

"Effort is needed from every corner of the state to balance the desire for the lifestyle we love with the need for

Wyoming's economy to grow."



RYAN LANCE | CHEYENNE, WY

- **Expertise:** Conservation, Law & Land Management
- **Work:** Pathfinder Ranches; manages 640,000 acres of rangeland and the nation's largest sage-grouse habitat bank
- **Vision:** Vibrant communities with storefronts, hospitals, and schools that reflect excellence and entice the next generation to stay or return
- **Personal:** Thermopolis native; Wyoming Cowboys fan and advocate for community colleges

"We have cultural and long-standing, policy-level issues that hold us back from having truly livable and sustainable communities... we have to push for excellence."



JASON NELSON | THAYNE, WY

- **Expertise:** Telecommunications & Infrastructure
- **Work:** Silver Star Communications; focuses on expanding high-speed internet across the state
- **Vision:** Recruiting and retaining talent to allow Wyoming children to build families and careers within the state
- **Personal:** Married for 21 years with four children; enjoys hiking and hunting in the Star Valley mountains

"I want to keep talent here in the State and recruit new talent to come and experience all that Wyoming has to offer."



BRUCE PIVIC | ROCK SPRINGS, WY

- **Expertise:** Electrical Engineering & Industrial Systems
- **Work:** Owner of Infinity Power and Controls
- **Vision:**
- **Personal:**

More information coming soon.



BETH WORTHEN | CASPER, WY

- **Expertise:** Philanthropy, Healthcare & Community Development
- **Work:** CEO of Natrona Collective Health Trust; focuses on early childhood development and mental health
- **Vision:** Healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient communities where health and well-being are top priorities
- **Personal:** Sixth-generation Wyomingite; volunteer Meals on Wheels driver and election judge

"Healthy communities create a stable foundation for economic growth, and in turn, economic prosperity can improve access to healthcare."

THE TEAM OF THOUSANDS: LEADING WITH TRANSPARENCY

The Wyoming Business Council Board of Directors represents a diverse cross-section of our state's industries and regions. These leaders volunteer their time to act as the architects of Wyoming's economic future, ensuring every state investment is tied to measurable results and long-term resilience.

Engage with the Board

While the appointment process for our 2026 seats is currently underway, there are several ways for partners and citizens to stay engaged with our leadership and the work we do together:

- **Public Meetings:** All WBC Board meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to join us to hear firsthand how strategic decisions are made.
- **Transparency & Data:** Review our [2025 Management Audit Report](#) and the Regional Impact Portfolios on our [Regions webpages](#) to see the data-driven outcomes of the board's strategic vision.

Learn More: Visit wbc.pub/WBC_Board to view current member bios, access meeting minutes, and see the impact of this "Team of Thousands" in action.