

# Karin McGowan

Recognized leader in management, policy, partnerships and communications. Ability to leverage facilitation, negotiation and communications skills to accomplish an organization's strategic, educational and advocacy goals.

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## Key Skills

- \*Vision and Mission Development
- \*Crisis Management
- \*Strategic Planning
- \*Problem Solving
- \*Process and Quality Improvement
- \*Change Leadership
- \*Communications
- \*Policy and Legislative Development
- \*Facilitation/Negotiation
- \*Consensus Building
- \*Strategic Partnerships
- \*Decision-making

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## Professional Experience

### Colorado Department of Natural Resources

07/20 -- present

Commissioner, Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (formerly the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission)

Full-time Commissioner appointed by the Governor, representing public health. The Commission guides policy and regulatory oversight of oil and gas development in a manner that protects public health, welfare, safety, environment and wildlife for the state.

#### Key Results:

- Transitioned Colorado's oil and gas portfolio from solely fostering oil and gas development to regulating it in a manner that is protective of public health, safety, welfare, environment and wildlife
- Created new rules that offer more transparency, community inclusion and permitting efficiencies
- Implemented "first of their kind" more protective rules such as 2,000 foot setbacks from schools and residences, and consideration of environmental, wildlife and visual/noise impacts from oil and gas activity
- Paved the way for the oil and gas industry to continue as one of the state's essential economic drivers while protecting the health and environment of future Coloradans
- Brokered balanced policies between disparate interests that resulted in model regulations now replicated in other states
- Led Commission efforts to improve integration of equity, diversity and inclusion in policies and processes

### Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), Denver

10-09 — 07/20

*Interim Executive Director*

09/18 — 01/20

*Deputy Executive Director*

04/13 — 07/20

*Interim Executive Director*

07/13 — 10/13

*Director, Community Relations*

07/11 — 04/13

*Director of Policy, External Affairs and Planning*

10/09 — 07/11

Multi-faceted leadership team-member for state department (1,300 employees, \$530M budget) whose mission is to protect and improve the health of Colorado's people and the quality of its environment. Responsible for strategic oversight of the Department's planning and partnerships, communications, policy and legislative agenda, emergency response and preparedness, quality improvement and health equity programs.

#### Key Results:

- Secured funding for state's first-ever marijuana public education and prevention program, state reference and certification lab, and surveillance data collection
- Successful crisis management -- including September 2013 flood, state toxicology lab closure, Gold King Mine Spill and COVID
- Achieved first-time public health accreditation from PHAB, which measures health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards
- Successful strategic alignment and change management leadership for three governors and five executive directors

**Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Denver**

**03/01 – 10/09**

*Director of Policy Development and Communications*

Member of executive management team for 56-member board comprised of the region's mayors and county commissioners whose main responsibilities are to guide the region's growth and development; develop the region's long-range transportation, water quality and aging services plans; and advocate for the region on issues including transportation, aging, environment and growth. Responsible for policy and legislative agenda, communications, strategic planning and partnerships.

*Key Results:*

- Successfully negotiated MOU with Department of Transportation to increase DRCOG's funding share from 28% to 38% of state and federal funding
- Organized state's first Front Range Transportation Forum resulting in agreement from transportation leaders of the state's four Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Cheyenne MPO and CDOT to create a comprehensive planning vision for the Front Range – integrating transportation, land use, air quality and economic viability
- Developed DRCOG's first governance policy for Web 2.0 and oversaw rebranding of DRCOG

**Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Denver**

**10/98 – 03/01**

*Assistant Director for External Affairs*

Great Outdoors Colorado (a trust fund and grant organization) receives funding annually from lottery proceeds and directs those funds to projects that protect and enhance Colorado's parks, wildlife, trails, rivers and open space. Responsible for partnership-building and policy and legislative strategy.

**Governor's Office (Gov. Roy Romer), Denver**

**1/96 – 10/98**

*Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Initiatives*

*6/98 – 10/98*

*Legislative Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs*

*1/98 – 10/98*

*Policy Advisor, Office of Policy and Initiatives*

*1/96 – 5/98*

The Governor's Office serves to support the goals, mission and strategic initiatives of the Governor through policy and legislative development, coalition building, budgeting and strategic partnerships. Progressive increase in responsibilities ranging from speechwriting, bill review and analysis, lobbying, and policy advisement.

**Education**

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Master of Public Affairs, concentration in Environmental and Natural Resource Management.

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, concentration in French Area Studies.

Institute Des Etudes Politiques, Aix-en-Provence, France. Certificate of Political Science (a one-year diploma for foreign students accredited by the French Ministry of Education).

### **Professional/Other**

- Co-founder of non-profit, *Anya's Friends* (2006-present)
- Lean green-belt certified (six sigma process improvement program)