

# 2024 Director Candidate Profiles

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## Colleen McCormick Arriba Candidate

I grew up in the Arriba area and has lived there most of my life. My husband Mike and I farm and ranch north of Arriba. We have two children, Sophia (14) and Connor (12) that attend Limon School.

I graduated from Colorado State University in 1999 with a B.A. in Economics. Upon graduation I obtained my Series 6, 7, and 63 licenses while working at Charles Schwab in Denver. In 2001 I moved to San Francisco to work at Morgan Stanley on the institutional bond sales desk. I then returned to the farm in Colorado and 2005 and became a Certified General appraiser licensed in Colorado and Kansas. Mike and I continue to farm and ranch in Lincoln and Washington counties.

I joined the Board of Directors in 2021 representing the Arriba exchange. I am proud to be part of ESRTA and of their continued efforts to bring connectivity to all its current and future patrons. I hope to see the cooperative continue to progressively move ahead in these rapidly changing times while continuing to provide reliable support and service to the communities it serves.

### Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Board of Directors

**Tom Sauter - President, Bennett**

**Curtis Dutro - Secretary, Karval**

**Bill Bledsoe - Director, Kit Carson**

**Gary Elrick - Director, Flagler**

**Shane Lessenden - Director, Haswell**

**Roger Saffer - Vice President, Eads**

**John Higgins - Treasurer, Genoa**

**Rich Chenoweth - Director, Woodrow**

**Wade Hollowell - Director, Hugo**

**Colleen McCormick - Director, Arriba**

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## Wade Hollowell Hugo Candidate

My name is Wade Hollowell. I am the incumbent running for the Hugo exchange position, which I have served the last 6 years. I was born and raised on a farm and ranch southwest of Hugo and graduated from Genoa-Hugo School in 2000. I received a double BS in Agricultural Business/Soil and Crop Sciences from Colorado State University in 2004. After college, I worked for my family and neighbors for around a year before starting my own farming operation. I am currently operating my own farm and ranch business. I have previously served on the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association Board and was an alternate on the High Plains Millet Association Board. I am currently serving on the Lincoln County Stockman's Association, Lincoln County FSA County Committee and the Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association Board of Directors. I believe it is important to serve your community through work done on Boards. Being a member of other cooperatives, I understand the value of operating for the benefit of the members. Even with the complexities of dealing with government, competition and constantly changing technology, I am excited to see where rural phone and broadband are headed. These are a few reasons why I am running and I would appreciate the chance to continue to work for you, the cooperative members and with the other board members, management and staff at ESRTA.

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## **Curtis Dutro Karval Candidate**

I currently reside with my wife Mindy and our three children Beau, Blake, and Della at our farm and ranch north of Karval. A Karval native, I graduated from Karval High School in 2006. After receiving my Business Degree in Accounting from Colorado State University, I bought the farm and ranch where I currently live. My first job after college was working for Eastern Slope Rural Telephone installing fiber optics in the Flagler exchange. After that summer I spent the next 4 summers farming for Mike and Colleen Luft of Arriba, while continuing to work on our own farm and ranch. In 2017, my parents and I consolidated our farming and ranching operations, forming D&D Farms GP. I was elected to the Eastern Slope Board of Directors in 2021 after having served on other various boards and committees in Karval and Lincoln County. While serving as a director for Eastern Slope I have served on the General Manager/CEO Hiring Committee and the 2024 Scholarship Committee.

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