

Wednesday, September 10	8:45 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.	1.1				Opening	
	9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	1.2	Kelley	Dearing-Smith	Louisville Water	Keynote	
	10:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.	1.3				Awards	
	10:35 A.M. - 11: 05 A.M.	1.4			AWWA	Visiting Officer	
	11:10 A.M. - 11:40 A.M.	1.5	David	Cornwell	Cornwell Engineering Group	Finding the Source of Lead in Blood	Over the last few years we have been researching and reporting on the use of high precision isotopes to locate the source of lead in water and pipes. The next logical step was to expand the research to find the source of lead in blood. In this presentation we will explain the technique, show case study results, and how public health officials, researchers and utilities could use it. In these cases after identifying the source and removing it, the children's BLL dropped.
	1:45 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.	2.1	Olivia	Olsztyn-Budry	Great Lakes Water Authority	Surgery while running a marathon: Inservice Inspection and renewal planning of a 120-inch Transmission Main	Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) operates and maintains one of the largest prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP) inventories in North America. In August 2022, GLWA experienced a failure on its largest transmission main in the system, a 120-inch PCCP which serves 1 million people. Once the repair was made and the transmission main returned to service, GLWA faced the challenge of investigating why the transmission main failed, and how to evaluate the condition of the 26 miles of pipeline to proactively identify distressed pipe sections for future renewal and repair to avoid another catastrophic failure in the future. Planning began shortly after the break in 2022 and took about three years to get to the point of performing the condition assessment. This presentation will focus on the emergency repair, the forensic investigation and the planning steps that GLWA took to perform a full in-service electromagnetic condition assessment of the 120-inch to gain an understanding of the overall condition of the transmission main as well as a discussion of the risk review and risk mitigation planning.
	2:20 P.M. - 2:50 P.M.	2.2	Brian	Phillips	Fishbeck	Planning for Tomorrow While Delivering Today: How Holland BPW Is Preparing Its Water System for the Next Generation	HBPW is implementing a coordinated planning effort to address aging infrastructure, rising demand, and increasing variability in water use across its service area. Major evaluations, including a second Lake Michigan intake study, pretreatment basin study, and filtration system assessment, are helping define where strategic reinvestment is needed to maintain long term performance. At the same time, HBPW is completing targeted improvements such as high service pump station modernization and a new parallel transmission main to strengthen near term reliability. Demand side strategies, including advanced metering analytics, irrigation education, and new tiered and seasonal rate structures, are reducing peak usage and supporting financial sustainability. Together, these initiatives form a balanced, system wide roadmap that prepares HBPW's water system to reliably serve the community today and well into the future.
	2:55 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.	2.3	Eric	Van Orman, PE	AECOM	Engineering and Construction Sequencing Gymnastics: Replacing Yard Piping, Valves, and Meters at GLWA's Water Works Park	As Detroit's oldest water treatment facility site, Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant has undergone numerous piping reconfigurations over its 165 year lifespan. The front yard high service piping system—dating as far back as the 1870s—includes RCP, PCCP, riveted steel, and cast and ductile iron pipe ranging from 12 to 72 inches in diameter, with more than 15 transmission mains serving multiple pressure districts. This presentation details the engineering, hydraulic modeling, and complex construction sequencing required to replace and commission this extensive piping network while maintaining uninterrupted water service. Participants will also gain insight into the site's historical significance and the unique challenges of executing a project of this scale and complexity.
	3:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.	2.4	James	Christopher, PE, BCEE	Tetra Tech	Dual Use GAC Filtration for Iron and PFAS Removal	The City of Kalamazoo evaluated replacing spent iron filter media with granular activated carbon (GAC) to address both iron removal and newly regulated PFOS and PFOA in groundwater-supplied treatment facilities. A pilot study was conducted at one of the City's largest pumping stations to assess whether GAC could effectively remove oxidized iron particulates while adsorbing PFAS to below regulatory limits under existing hydraulic and backwash constraints. Testing compared the existing 30-inch media depth with a deeper 4.5-foot GAC bed to evaluate PFAS removal efficiency, empty bed contact time, turbidity performance, and operational feasibility. An additional pilot adsorption column using pre-filtered water was included to evaluate PFAS removal performance if retrofit of the gravity filters proved impractical. The presentation summarizes the pilot design, operating conditions, sampling program, and results, including PFAS and turbidity removal, projected media life, and implications for full-scale implementation.
	1:45 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.	3.1	Joe	Shepley	Usalco	How Genesee County Used AI-Based Digital Twin Modeling to Optimize Lake Huron Water Treatment	Water utilities are increasingly exploring AI-based tools to improve treatment performance and manage operational costs. Genesee County, Michigan implemented a digital twin decision-support system to help operators optimize treatment at its Lake Huron surface water plant. The system integrates predictive modules for TOC monitoring, disinfection performance, DBP formation, and corrosion control, along with a chemical dosing simulator that allows operators to evaluate treatment scenarios in minutes. Since implementation, the utility has improved understanding of organic carbon impacts on treatment performance, reduced system DBP levels by 10 percent, and optimized chemical dosing. This presentation will highlight the role of operator engagement and predictive modeling in improving treatment plant decision-making.
	2:20 P.M. - 2:50 P.M.	3.2	Susan	Knepper	OHM Advisors	Growth Might Be Back? Can Infrastructure Keep Up?	In 2024, the City of Ann Arbor began a Water Distribution Plan and model update to assess long-term system performance and resiliency. At the same time, the City was developing a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, redefining population projections, density targets, and redevelopment priorities. Concurrently, the City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Facility Plan was already well underway and further advanced, grounding treatment capacity decisions in defined regulatory and operational realities. These overlapping but independently initiated efforts underscored a key challenge: growth policy can shift quickly, while water infrastructure requires decades to plan, fund, and construct. By integrating evolving growth projections directly into hydraulic modeling and infrastructure planning, the City aligned its land use and water distribution plans in real time. This presentation highlights how coordinated policy and infrastructure planning can reshape capital investment strategies, strengthen cross-department collaboration, and position utilities to proactively—and realistically—support community growth.

2:55 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.	3.3	Mark	Parsley	Fishbeck	Design and Delivery of the Grand Rapids—to—Caledonia Wholesale Supply: A Case Study in Multi Agency Planning, Design, and Transition Execution	Caledonia Township successfully transitioned the north half of its water system from groundwater to a wholesale surface water supply from the City of Grand Rapids on March 10, 2026, following extensive multi agency coordination. Early planning began with the 2020 Preliminary Evaluation and shared hydraulic modeling, supported by the Grand Rapids Utility Finance Team's development of a wholesale rate setting framework with Caledonia Township and the City of Grand Rapids. Fishbeck and VK Civil led coordinated design efforts for the booster station, transmission improvements, and receiving system, while the City aligned the project within its FY2024 DWSRF planning and 2025 Comprehensive Master Plan. The 2026 VK Civil led Transition Plan established the operational, water quality, and regulatory steps that enabled a safe and stable cutover to Grand Rapids water. Looking ahead, a \$2 million federal community grant will help fund the 2028 Kraft Trunkline, which will enable the south system transition using the same structured, collaborative model demonstrated in the 2026 effort.
3:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.	3.4	Dave	Baar	Fishbeck	Master Planning the Next Century of Service for the Saginaw Water System	Our presentation will walk attendees through the City of Saginaw's comprehensive Water Treatment Plant Master Plan, developed to address aging infrastructure, regulatory pressures, and long term system resilience. Presenters will explain how the City, Fishbeck, and Hazen partnered to evaluate treatment, site, and phasing alternatives using a structured multi criteria decision making process. The session will highlight how condition assessments, risk evaluation, and treatment technology comparisons informed the decision to reinvest at the historic existing site. Key recommendations—including advanced treatment integration, phased construction at an operating plant, and improvements to system redundancy—will also be discussed. Attendees will gain practical planning frameworks and tools they can apply directly to their own reinvestment and master planning initiatives.
1:45 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.	4.1	Angie	Goodman	Lansing Board of Water & Light	Community Water Fluoridation in Today's Environment: Tools for Michigan Water Systems, Health Professionals, and Communities	Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) remains one of the most effective public health measures, yet many communities face increasing technical, regulatory, and communication challenges. To support Michigan communities, a statewide committee developed a CWF Toolkit for water systems, health professionals, and local decision-makers. The toolkit includes Michigan-specific guidance on operations, regulations, communication, and governance. This session will highlight key resources and lessons from the toolkit's development. Attendees will gain practical tools to help confidently support and manage fluoridation programs in their communities.
2:20 P.M. - 2:50 P.M.	4.2	Elin	Betanzo	Safe Water Engineering, LLC	Building Trust, Replacing Lead: When Big LSLR Plans Hit Ground Level Challenges	Large scale lead service line replacement (LSLR) programs promise major public health benefits, but their success depends on trust, field ready systems, and consistent execution—not just engineering plans. This presentation examines lessons learned from implementing an ambitious, community centered LSLR program in Highland Park, Michigan, where political constraints, limited budgets, and operational gaps challenged even the best designed plans. From these challenges, we outline eight key lessons for utilities launching or scaling LSLR programs. The presentation concludes with recommendations for what to have in place before mobilization, including readiness tested recordkeeping and SOPs, outreach planning and budgets, contractor training, and resident facing transparency tools. Collectively, these insights offer a practical roadmap for utilities seeking to build trust, safeguard public health, and successfully execute large, complex LSLR programs.
2:55 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.	4.3	Ken	Jewison, PE	Stantec	After 20 years of planning, you land a major industrial user. Now what?! PART 2	With most construction now complete, this session revisits the City of Marshall's MAJOR Campus megasite through a post construction lens, focusing on what it actually took to turn an accelerated vision into functioning infrastructure. Building on the planning and pursuit story, Part 2 examines the realities of delivery—where early assumptions were tested, designs evolved, and competing priorities collided in real time. Attendees will hear an honest account of the challenges encountered during execution, including significant design modifications, construction conflicts, and the unavoidable role of politics in high profile public infrastructure projects.
3:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.	4.4	Mark	De Haan	Life Giving Water International	Water Quality Review of Rural Systems in Chambo, Chimborazo, Ecuador	Since 2018, three communities in the canton (= county, more or less) of Chambo, Ecuador have partnered with SWIE's partner organization, CODEINSE, to improve their water sources, distribution networks, and water treatment methods. Building on the successes of those projects, Chambo's water department requested a water quality study of all15 rural communities in Chambo, which was completed in March of 2026 with help from students from Calvin University. This presentation will provide an overview of the testing methods, the water quality that was observed, the current practices of treatment, and potential recommendations to the canton.
4:20 P.M. - 4:50 P.M.	5.1	Aaron	Davenport, PE	Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd	The BC Wellfield Trilogy, Part III: The One Where We Finally Finish the Wells, Chase Down the TTHMs, Restore Public Confidence, and Retire Our Record for Longest Conference Presentation Titles	Following last year's audience favorite MI-AWWA presentation, "Drill, Baby, Drill...The Continuing Saga of Battle Creek's Wellfield Rehabilitation Project and Inadvertently Proving Why It Was So Critical," Perry Hart and Aaron Davenport return with the exciting conclusion of this groundbreaking project. Join them as they share insights from the construction and proceeding into production of 21 new 16-inch diameter, Type-I drinking water wells. They'll take the audience through the challenges and triumphs that have shaped this massive wellfield rehabilitation project. Perry and Aaron will present pre and post project water quality data and share best practices, lessons learned, and the City's approach to managing the total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) crisis. This session promises to be both insightful and entertaining, a must-see for water professionals, engineers, and anyone invested in groundwater protection and sustainable water management.