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| Friday, September 18, 2026 | 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.   | 13.1 | Eric  | Oswald     | EGLE               | EGLE's Drinking Water and Enviromental Health Division Update           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                            | 9:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.   | 13.2 | Gary  | McLaren    | HydroCorp          | The Future of Cross-Connection Control Compliance in Michigan           | Cross-connection control programs required by EGLE are evolving as utilities adopt new technology and data tools. These innovations help shift programs from reactive enforcement toward proactive protection of potable water systems. Smart water meters capable of detecting reverse flow are providing early indicators of potential cross-connection hazards. At the same time, specialized software used during on-site surveys is improving the accuracy and documentation of field findings. Attendees will gain practical insight into how these tools and administrative strategies can strengthen compliance and improve protection of their public water systems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                            | 9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.  | 13.3 | Anne  | Cron, APR  | HDR                | a.Strategic Approaches to Difficult Water Rate and Budget Conversations | Even at the best of times, talking about money is difficult. For water utilities facing regulatory pressures, aging infrastructure, rising costs, workforce challenges, and public scrutiny, securing public and governing body approval for rates and budgets is critical. While asking for more funding can feel incredibly challenging, water infrastructure investments protect public health, strengthen communities, support local economies, and safeguard the environment. This presentation shares practical, field-tested strategies to help utility leaders make the business case for infrastructure investments through real-world tools and lessons learned. Drawing on case studies from utilities in Minnesota, New Orleans, and Los Angeles County, the session demonstrates how early engagement, transparency, and tailored communication can shift conversations from backlash to understanding, including innovative approaches such as value-based messaging, employee and community partnerships, gamification, equity-centered outreach, and conveying urgency without fear. Importantly, the session acknowledges hard realities—showing that success may mean building trust and improving timing rather than immediate approval—and offers scalable strategies that help utilities of any size align financial needs with community values and approach rate and budget conversations with confidence. |
|                            | 10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. | 13.4 | Mike  | Compagnoni | Midwest Strategies | Policy Update                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                            | 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. | 13.5 | Susan | Knepper    | OHM Advisors       | Episode 1: The Village of Pellston Water System Origin Story            | The Village of Pellston, Michigan, relies entirely on private wells, which were found to contain PFAS above state and federal limits in 2020. Investigations identified the Pellston Regional Airport as a source. Together Emmet County, EGLE, and the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) led remediation efforts. To provide a long-term solution, the Village secured multiple grants—including WIIN, AP, \$32 million from BIL Emerging Contaminants, and \$11.8 million from EGLE RRD—covering the full cost of planning, designing, and constructing a municipal water system without debt. This panel—Episode 1: The Origin Story of the Pellston Water System—highlights contamination, collaborative problem-solving, and funding, with Episode 2 to focus on the design and implementation challenges under grant timelines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                            | 12:00 P.M. - 12:15 P.M. | 13.6 |       |            |                    | Closing and Prizes                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |