

Thursday,

7:15 A. M. - 8:25 A. M.	6.1				Annual Business Meeting and Awards	
8:25 A.M. - 9:25 A.M.	6.2	Ariana	Wade	Fishbeck	Continuity Under Construction: Wyoming's Regional Emergency Interconnect Plan	Redundancy is built into every step of water treatment and supply, however construction activities commonly affect redundant processes. This was the case with the City of Wyoming's third transmission main project, temporarily limiting the City's treated water supply to eleven water system communities to a single pipe. With coordination between neighboring water systems, Fishbeck used hydraulic modeling to develop a creative, novel emergency plan to supply the Wyoming water system from Grand Rapids and Holland Board of Public Works utilizing existing interconnects and water facilities. This presentation will highlight the key steps of the evaluation process, discuss the vital communication and collaboration efforts made throughout the project, and summarize the final results and findings.
9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	6.3	Dan	Bock	Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC	The Dos and Don'ts of Responding to Environmental Enforcement Communications	Environmental permitting and compliance are part of the job for water works professionals. Unfortunately, even excellent professionals sometimes receive violation notices or other enforcement communications related to state and federal laws or permit requirements. When that happens, having a plan for how to respond is essential to achieving a successful resolution. Dan Bock is a Senior Attorney in the Environment and Water Resources Group at the law firm Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC. Prior to joining FSBP, Dan spent 17 years as an environmental lawyer for the State of Michigan, during which time he served as Assistant Chief of the Attorney General's Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division. Dan's experience gives him unique insight into how to handle enforcement situations in order to ensure the best possible result.
10:15 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.	7.1	Morgan	Saunders, EIT	Arcadis	AWWA Project 108: Tools and Recommendations for Water Systems to Prepare for Upcoming Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (MDBPR) Changes	To comply with anticipated updates to the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rules (MDBPR), Michigan utilities may need to adjust their secondary disinfection protocols to ensure a numeric minimum secondary disinfection residual is maintained throughout the system. Utilities may also be required to adopt more rigorous monitoring practices to expand monitoring throughout the entire distribution system, including difficult-to-maintain locations, and proactively address any deficiencies. This presentation will discuss work undertaken as part of AWWA Project 108, and presents a comprehensive, user-oriented framework, validated through utility surveys, case studies, and expert input, designed to help Michigan utilities navigate these upcoming requirements. The framework equips water systems with a structured approach for evaluating, selecting, and implementing effective strategies for residual maintenance and DBP management including a stepwise decision tree and strategy toolbox to guide systems to solutions best suited for their specific utility. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and a deeper understanding of how to proactively prepare for the upcoming MDBPR numeric minimum residual requirements
10:50 A.M. - 11:20 A.M.	7.2	Knicko	Mojica	CDM Smith	Evaluating Flocculation Technologies for Great Lakes Water Systems – Lessons Learned	CDM Smith conducted a 13-month pilot study that evaluated the feasibility of adopting hydraulic flocculation as an alternative for existing mechanical flocculation methods for the Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant (LHWTP). The study compared hydraulic flocculation performance to the LHWTP's existing pretreatment process by tracking filter effluent water quality throughout Lake Huron's seasonal water quality changes. The results of this pilot study guided the full-scale design of flocculation improvements at the plant.
11:25 A.M. - 11:55 A.M.	7.3	Harrison	Hee	Great Lakes Water Authority	Characterization of Water Quality in Drinking Water Source Intake and Process Units of Five Treatment Plants Operated by Great Lakes Water Authority	A study conducted by the Great Lakes Water Authority Research team analyzed water quality parameters at the three primary source water intakes serving the five GLWA drinking water treatment plants, which draw water from intakes located in either Lake Huron or along the Detroit River (Belle Isle and Fighting Island intakes). Samples were collected on a weekly basis for a 12-month period to evaluate spatial and seasonal variability. Statistical analyses showed significant differences for some parameters while not showing any significant differences for others between water intake sources. Seasonal patterns were also observed across multiple plants, with fall months exhibiting lower TOC and DOC concentrations than other seasons. Improved characterization of these trends can support treatment optimization, inform DBP control strategies, and enhance the ability of utilities to anticipate seasonal shifts and identify emerging water quality trends
10:15 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.	8.1	Brian	Rubel, PE	Tetra Tech	Restoration of Process Pipe Hydraulic Capacity	Adrian's water treatment plant recently observed a loss of hydraulic capacity. A study was conducted to determine the cause resulting in a theory that lime scale was that cause. A process to remove lime scale was developed and that work subsequently undertaken. This effort was successful at removing the scale and restoring the plant's hydraulic capacity.
10:50 A.M. - 11:20 A.M.	8.2	Robbie	Waddell	DLZ Michigan, Inc.	AMI Is More Than a Meter Swap: Preparing Owners for the Operational Shockwave	This session compares two AMI upgrade efforts supported by DLZ: Toledo, Ohio, a large-utility replacement and retrofit program of roughly 120,000 meters, and Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, a smaller program of roughly 8,500 meters that is transitioning to a cellular AMI network. The presentation explains why AMI should be treated as an Owner capacity program, not a meter exchange, because it shifts staff workload toward exception handling, investigations, customer inquiries, field follow-ups, training, and internal data support. Attendees will learn the pre-planning actions that most reduce disruption, including pre-deployment audits, meter-to-cash integration readiness, and disciplined vendor and installer oversight with clear quality-control checkpoints. The discussion summarizes customer-facing practices that protect momentum, including proactive notifications, clear installation expectations, opt-out policy decisions, and prepared responses to privacy and RF concerns. Participants will leave with practical, scalable strategies for rollout pacing, quality control, and Owner readiness that apply to both small and large utilities.
11:25 A.M. - 11:55 A.M.	8.3	Mark	Beatty	UTILITY TECHNOLOGIES, LLC	Proactive Water Loss Prevention Technologies	The benefits of proactive leak monitoring and logging system with night logging can be implemented through a distribution system. The advantages of pressure logging to detect pressure transients and pressure losses on a full time immediate feedback basis will be explained. We'll show how to set up district metering zones in order to calculate water loss in multiple areas of a distribution system. GIS and Asset Management systems can be used to integrate all of the monitoring, metering and logging systems into a useable water loss management program. Various methods of collecting data from these systems including drive-by, Fixed networks, LoRaWan, and NB-IoT will be presented.
2:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.	9.3	Mike	McGill	WaterPIO	PFAS, Lead, and Fluoride Public Communications: How to Stand Firm on Shifting Sands	We live not only in the Instant Information Age but also in the Instant Disinformation Age. A utility's customers are receiving information — and disinformation — they believe is important without having to ask for it. As a result, expectations have risen among water and wastewater customers for their utilities to consistently communicate with them about how they are ensuring their quality of life. When water quality controversies arise, a utility must quickly communicate to reassure the public that it is on top of the issues, or it could suffer long-term damage to its reputation. This presentation will provide attendees with the latest developments concerning PFAS, lead, and fluoride, and how to conduct public communications that keep or instill confidence in their chosen compliance paths.

September 17, 2026	3:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	9.4	Jason	Assouline PE	Carollo Engineers	Achieving Higher Filter Loading Rates through Deep-Bed Filter Media Optimization	A pilot study was conducted to assess retrofitting existing shallow-bed filters with deep-bed media in order to achieve higher loading rates. The duration of the pilot (approximately 18 months) allowed the study to assess seasonal variation of water quality to determine the robustness of the alternative filter configurations. Across all phases of testing, 95th percentile effluent turbidity remained below 0.1 NTU in each pilot column for all loading rates, exceeding regulatory requirements and operational goals. Hydraulic results confirmed that deep-bed configurations provide significantly improved UFRVs compared to the existing shorter-bed media configuration, due to greater particulate storage capacity and slower headloss accumulation. These findings demonstrate that retrofitting existing filters with deeper media can reliably support loading rates of 8–10 gpm/sf, enabling this WTP to meet future capacity needs without new filter construction.
	1:35 P.M. - 2:05 P.M.	10.1	Mike	Smalligan	Michigan DNR	Forest to Mi Faucet	An article in Opflow "Conserving Forests to Protect Water" (May 2004) reported that every 10% increase in forest cover in your source water protection area decreases utility treatment costs by 20%. Does your utility own your entire source water protection area? Do you have any control over land use in your source water protection area? Forest to Mi Faucet is a project to connect 20 conservation organizations in Michigan with their local water utilities to help implement their source water protection plans. Come to this session to meet friends who want to help utilities educate your customers about the importance of land use on water quality and protect forests in your source water protection area.
	2:10 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.	10.2	Cheryl	Louden	Lansing Board of Water & Light	From Recharge to Risk: Understanding Groundwater Vulnerability	The U.S. Geological Survey and the Lansing Board of Water & Light analyzed groundwater geochemistry and aquifer characteristics to identify areas potentially susceptible to surface contamination. Tritium concentrations from 27 wells were used to classify groundwater recharge age, with additional wells classified using statistical methods. Wells with modern recharge exhibited higher sodium, chloride, and chloride-to-bromide ratios, suggesting greater surface connectivity and potential anthropogenic influence from sources such as road salt. Groundwater models identified aquifer geometry—particularly the thickness of confining layers and depth to sandstone—as key predictors of recharge age and geochemical indicators. These findings support wellhead protection planning, pumping strategies, and identification of areas for future well development in the Lansing area.
	2:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.	10.3	Alex	Fleet	Wade Trim	Mount Clemens Connection to GLWA - Funding & Operational Approach	The City of Mount Clemens' existing 8 MGD water filtration plant services portions of 3 communities and the Selfridge Air National Guard Base - however it is in need of major upgrades or replacement. In lieu of replacing the plant, the City will connect to a Great Lakes Water Authority transmission main, build a new pump station and 2 MGD ground storage tank as well as local transmission main to distribute the new water to the system. The project is a design-build delivery with \$42M in DWSRF funding, requires permitting from all levels (federal to local), a water source transition plan and heavy community coordination and engagement.
	3:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	10.4	Abigail	Bergmann	C2AE	Shining a Light on Hidden Disabilities	How does mental health affect the work we do and vice versa. Is there a commonality in how our brains function in the work we have chosen? ADHD, Kinetic learning, a desire to understand the how and why. Longterm struggles vs struggles that come and go. Everyone struggles at some point.
	1:35 P.M. - 2:05 P.M.	11.1	Carmelle	Tremblay, PE	Wade Trim	Squeezing the Pot: Maximizing Value Through CMAR Engagement	Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County partnered to construct a 26-mile 60-inch diameter potable water pipeline through the Brandon Urban Area in southern Hillsborough County, Florida via the Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) delivery method. To counter the escalation of costs of such a large-scale project, and to leverage the advantages of the CMAR project delivery method, several cost saving initiatives were identified through multiple value engineering workshops. The accepted value engineering recommendations included consolidation of individual trenchless crossing designs into a larger single construction package, using horizontal direction drilling to minimize microtunneling lengths, and altering proposed target depth and approaching angles to reduce excavation and shoring costs for shafts at different crossings. This presentation will walk through the benefits of the CMAR project delivery for trenchless applications, the identification of the cost saving alternatives, and the coordination efforts and checkpoints during design between the CMAR and project Engineer to minimize risk while maximizing the value of the available budget. The adopted changes resulted in savings of approximately 10% of costs (about \$8M savings) associated with trenchless components of the project with respect to the projected Guaranteed Maximum Price at 60% design completion.
	2:10 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.	11.2	Robert	Rabeler, PE	ACEC Michigan / ASCE Michigan	The Art of the RFQ: Crafting a Request for Qualifications That Attracts Top-Tier Talent	This comprehensive guide equips water utility owners with actionable strategies for developing effective Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) that attract top-tier engineering and design talent. Grounded in a 2022 study showing that QBS-selected projects achieve lower total costs and faster construction speeds, the session demonstrates how to move beyond generic templates to define strategic project goals and tailored evaluation criteria. Attendees will learn to streamline the procurement process through transparent scoring systems, realistic timelines, and early risk mitigation. By illustrating real-world examples, the presentation identifies how to avoid common pitfalls while fostering innovation and collaboration with design professionals. Participants will leave with the tools necessary to leverage QBS for more predictable costs and a higher likelihood of project success.
	2:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.	11.3	Tarin	Minkel, PE	Dixon Engineering	Water Storage Tank Maintenance and Inspections	Learn the critical components of tank maintenance and inspections, including coating service life planning, rehabilitation strategies, and regulatory compliance. This session will explore the different types of maintenance inspections, the pros and cons of each, and the specific responsibilities of operators. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of how to plan, prioritize, and move forward confidently with their tank maintenance and rehabilitation needs.
	3:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	11.4	Darren	Lytle	Hazen and Sawyer	Predicting and Managing the Impact of Change on the Corrosion of Drinking Water Distribution System Materials	This presentation will introduce a data-driven framework designed to predict corrosion risks in drinking water distribution systems when source water or treatment changes occur. It emphasizes the importance of understanding how shifts in water chemistry can disrupt the established equilibrium between water and distribution materials, potentially leading to adverse outcomes such as material failures and the release of harmful metals. The framework comprises three phases: analyzing current and anticipated water quality, characterizing pipe scale properties through elemental analysis, and comparing water quality changes to scale layer composition. Key water quality parameters, including pH, alkalinity, sulfate, chloride and corrosion inhibitors, are highlighted as critical factors influencing corrosion processes. An example case study demonstrates how the framework can be applied, enabling water utilities to proactively identify and mitigate potential corrosion-related issues.
	4:05 P.M. - 4:35 P.M.	12.1	Rhett	Gronevelt	OHM Advisors	City of Dearborn Lead Service Line Inventory: From PDSMI to CDSMI and beyond	Dearborn's aging water system includes many lead service lines that must be identified and replaced by 2037 under new EPA and EGLE regulations. The City first submitted a Preliminary Distribution System Materials Inventory (PDSMI) in 2020, then completed a full line by line CDSMI in 2024. With support from an \$848,000 DWAM Grant, Dearborn conducted in house inspections, digitized 33,000+ records, built a predictive model, and created a public lead information website. These efforts reduced unknown service line materials from 17,405 to 8,845 and improved overall system transparency. By avoiding thousands of physical verifications, the City has already saved more than \$5 million and continues to use remaining grant funds to further refine data and guide future replacements.