MICHIGAN water works NEWS

FALL 2024

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The *Michigan Water Works News* is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Section, American Water Works Association.

The deadline for submitting articles for the Winter 2024 issue is November 8, 2024.

Material may be submitted through the website at *www.mi-water.org/publications.*

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FALL 2024

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ADVENTURES OF THE EDITOR

Kelly Gleason, Editor

Hello, my fellow Michiganders! I hope everyone had an amazing summer. I've been thinking, how do I interact with water every day outside of hydrating, bathing, and cooking? And I thought I would share some of my water adventures here with you.

In June, I had the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE) held in Anaheim, California, to represent our great state at the Pipe Tapping competition. Several travelers left Michigan to contend for the national championship titles; see pages 32-33 for details.

My water adventure continued when my husband and I left Anaheim; we headed straight to the ocean. This took us to Huntington Beach. We visited the shops, walked the beach, and checked out the pier; a local told me that Huntington Beach is second to Hawaii for surfers.

A competition was going on, and we watched a few surfers catch waves. We then traveled along Pacific Coast Highway 1 (PCH1) to Long Beach, ventured through town, and drove up Palos Verdes Drive S – there is a sign cautioning drivers of constant movement and land shifts. It appears the road is under construction all the time to repair breaks in the asphalt. All the water mains and I'm pretty sure the sewer mains are above ground through this section – I think it's to ease repair costs; it was the only section we saw like this on our journey. I noticed just after our visit that the city banned the use of two-wheel vehicles for roughly six months down this stretch of road. Once we passed the breaks in the road, we stopped at the Point Vicente Lighthouse.

Here, we were greeted with a 67-foot-tall white cylindrical tower built on the edge of a 130-foot cliff. The views of the Pacific Ocean were breathtaking, and boats were but a tiny dot in the vast waters. We continued up PCH1 and settled at an Airbnb in Playa Del Rey, just one block from the beach.

This is the perfect beach to watch the planes taking off from Los Angeles International Airport. You might be surprised to know on average, one plane takes off about every minute, but they do stop about midnight. Each night, we walked the beach to view the sunset over the ocean. Water wasn't the only thing on my mind; I did get to visit my son, who I hadn't seen in almost a year.

July took me to Fort Myers, Florida. We flew down on Independence Day and watched the fireworks downtown over the Caloosahatchee River.

We hung out for the weekend and checked out the rebuilding progress in the Fort Myers Beach area. Hurricane Ian did a lot of damage in 2022, and my in-laws tell me the city still hasn't decided how to repair the pier.

Point Vicente Lighthouse

Playa Del Rey Beach

It's a much different place, and it may never have the same feel with all the smaller homes and shops washed away. The drive back to Michigan was the best part of this trip. We took our time and visited family in Snellville, Georgia. My auntie lives on Norris Lake in a cute cottage. I found out it's a 5-kilometer walk to the lake's perimeter, and she does it daily with her friends. Our next stop was Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This drive took us down a winding wooded road next to West Prong Little Pigeon River, though part of the great smoky mountains, just amazing views. We popped out of the woods into town – I had no idea this place was so popular! We didn't have enough time to explore, so we'll have to return.

As a mentor in the Deep End cohort, in August, I attended the Government Affairs session held right here in my hometown of Lansing. I learned so much, or should I say I realized that I don't know so much. It sparked my interest in learning more. The group had a great session, and we finished up with a tour of the Capitol! I had no idea we could just visit whenever it's open – you learn something new every day! I, of course, made everyone stop for photos – taking pictures in front of the Capitol is a timeless tradition dating back to the 1800's.

In September, I attended the Section's Annual Conference – MI-ACE24 – held in Grand Rapids this year. My love for golf continues to grow, and I played in the outing held at Mines Golf Club with some great people. The event helped raise money for operator scholarships and Safe Water in Ecuador.

The conference was, as always, amazing! Two and a half days of water information, networking, familiar faces, and plenty of new faces, too. Anyone who didn't attend should make plans for next year; it's always a wonderful event. There is a recap on pages 16-29.

For now, I'll continue to share my water adventures, but I'm curious – what's your water adventure? Please submit pictures, stories, and updates through the Section website at *www.mi-water.org/publications.*

Publishing Schedule:

Winter 2024/25:
Copy due to Editor November 8, 2024 – Published January.

Spring 2025: Copy due to Editor January 24, 2025 – Published March.

Fort Myers Beach Pier

The Deep End Crew

ENSURING ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER FOR ALL

Rick Solle, Chair

Water. What a fitting word to start my first article as the newly elected chair of the section. It's a substance so fundamental to life that it's often taken for granted, especially by those of us in the water industry. From the smallest microorganism to the tallest tree, water is the essential ingredient that sustains life. It's in our bodies, in our food, and in the environment around us. Without it, life as we know it would cease to exist.

But beyond its vital role in sustaining life, water is also a human right. Access to safe, clean, and affordable water is essential for health, sanitation, and overall well-being. It's a basic human need, not a luxury. Yet millions of people around the world, including developed countries, lack access to this precious resource, either because of scarcity, pollution, or the cost.

The issue of water affordability has become increasingly pressing. Rising costs of water treatment (due to PFAS or other emerging contaminants), infrastructure maintenance, and climate change-related impacts are pushing water bills higher. Along with the rising cost of almost everything, this is creating a significant burden for many households, particularly low-income families. When water becomes unaffordable, people are forced to make difficult choices, often compromising their health and hygiene.

It's imperative that we recognize water as both a precious natural resource and a necessity for human life. Yes, it seems so plentiful in our state, but we must work towards ensuring that everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status, has access to clean, safe, and affordable water. This requires a multifaceted approach, including investing in water infrastructure, promoting water conservation, increasing treatment and distribution efficiency, and implementing policies that prioritize affordability.

Technology is a powerful tool in the quest for affordable water. By streamlining processes, improving efficiency, and optimizing the resources available, technological advancements can significantly reduce costs over time.

Some examples of how technology is making a difference in communities right now:

- **Smart water meters:** These devices provide real-time data on water consumption, enabling customers to monitor usage and identify leaks promptly. This can lead to substantial water savings and lower bills.
- **Advanced water treatment systems:** Innovative technologies are making water purification more efficient and cost-effective, reducing the overall price of treated water.

- **Drones and satellite imagery:** These tools can be used to monitor water sources, detect water leaks, and optimize water distribution, resulting in reduced water loss and operational costs.
- **AI and machine learning:** These technologies can analyze vast amounts of data to predict water demand, optimize water treatment processes, and detect anomalies in water quality, leading to improved efficiency and cost savings.

While the initial financial investment in these technologies may be substantial, the long-term benefits in terms of reduced costs, improved water quality, and increased sustainability make them a worthwhile investment for water utilities and communities alike.

By understanding the critical role of water in our lives and recognizing that everyone has a right to access it, we can work together to build a future where water scarcity and affordability are no longer concerns. Let's work togeth er to protect this vital resource for generations to come.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WATER

Christine Spitzley, Director

As we progress through 2024, I'm excited to share some significant updates and insights from both the Association and MI-AWWA, highlighting our recent activities and initiatives.

From the Association

Conference Success and Financial Health

The Association is pleased to report that AWWA ACE in Anaheim was a tremendous success, with attendance and revenue surpassing expectations. A personal highlight was witnessing Michigan's own Cheryl Porter step into her role as AWWA President. I look forward to seeing her leadership, experience, and expertise benefit the entire AWWA membership. Financially, AWWA remains in a robust position, with membership numbers exceeding our 2024 goals.

Water 2050 Initiative

The Water 2050 initiative continues to gain momentum with the formation of five Strategic Implementation Teams (SITs). These SITs are essential in shaping and advancing our future strategies. I am honored to join the Finance and Affordability SIT, chaired by AWWA Executive Director David LaFrance.

Trend Scouting and Community Engagement

I was recently invited to join the American Planning Association's Trend Scouting Foresight Community. This opportunity aligns perfectly with the Association and MI-AWWA's goal to build relationships and engage with external stakeholders. Partnering with the planning community will be crucial as we address issues such as emergency preparedness, security, natural disasters, and infrastructure management.

Source Water Protection

The AWWA 2024 State of the Water Industry Report has ranked Watershed/Source Water Protection as the top concern among water professionals, overtaking aging infrastructure. The executive summary and full report can be downloaded at no cost at *www.awwa.org/professional-development/utility-managers/state-of-the-water-industry#sotwi_report.* The Michigan Section has an active Source Water Committee, which regularly meets to share information and collaborate on source water protection education, strategies, and plans. I encourage you to reach out to the Committee if you're looking to build or renew a source water protection program in your community.

Further supporting source water protection, a recent update from Tracey Mehan of the AWWA Government Office highlighted the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) efforts to identify priority source water protection areas. These maps are now publicly available, and those with source water concerns are encouraged to review and collaborate with their NRCS state conservationist.

Cybersecurity Training

In May, Kevin Morely, AWWA Manager of Federal Relations, with assistance from Tom DeLaura and Randy Roost, presented an invaluable cybersecurity training session for our Section's members. With the increasing threats to our systems, it is imperative that we continue offering these essential training opportunities. I encourage you to take advantage of these sessions to build your knowledge, increase resilience, and strengthen your systems against potential threats.

From MI-AWWA

Strategic Plan

The Michigan Strategic Plan is now complete, approved by the Board in July, and presented to members at MI-AWWA ACE in Grand Rapids in September. Our next step is to couple the strategic plan with an annual business plan that includes measurable goals and objectives to turn our strategies into realities. If you're interested in helping build the next generation of the MI-AWWA business plan, please contact *info@mi-water.org.*

Lead Service Line Replacement

In January, I participated in a convening hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Joyce Foundation, bringing together Midwest stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on lead service line replacement. These discussions resulted in a comprehensive report and a compilation of resources.

As Albert Einstein said, "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." Our industry and our Section continue to face a seemingly constant stream of new challenges. This year has once again demonstrated that the members of this Section excel in using their experience, expertise, and intelligence to find innovative solutions to ongoing and emerging issues.

LOOKING AHEAD

Jonelle Moore, Interim Executive Director

I am honored to step into the role of Interim Executive Director for MI-AWWA during this transition period. As we continue our search for a permanent Executive Director, I want to thank you for the trust you've placed in me to guide our section forward.

MI-AWWA is built on the hard work and passion of our staff, volunteers, and members. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we are in a strong position. I'm excited to learn from each of you and contribute to our organization's ongoing growth and success by supporting our initiatives and fostering an environment where new ideas can thrive.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to stay engaged and involved with MI-AWWA. Your contributions are essential to our success, and I am excited to collaborate with you to bring new opportunities, training, and events that align with the needs of our members. Together, we will continue to build on the solid foundation we have established.

Recognition and Awards

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed your time, energy, and expertise as volunteers. Your commitment has played a crucial role in the success of MI-AWWA, and we are grateful for all that you bring to our organization. Whether you participated in events, served on councils or committees, or supported our initiatives in other ways, your contributions have made a significant impact.

Volunteering is at the heart of what makes our community strong and effective. It provides opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with others who share a commitment to advancing our mission. For those who haven't yet had the chance to get involved, I encourage you to consider volunteering in the coming year. Your unique skills and perspectives can help us continue to make a difference in the water industry and in the communities we serve.

I also want to express our appreciation to everyone who took the time to submit nominations for this year's volunteer recognition. Your efforts in recognizing the hard work of your peers highlight the culture of teamwork that defines our section. These nominations are evidence of the outstanding contributions of our volunteers, and it's an honor to celebrate their achievements.

Staff Engagement

We want to assure you that, despite not having an Executive Director currently, MI-AWWA remains fully on track with our plans and initiatives. Our team of officers, trustees, and volunteers have stepped up to ensure that all operations continue smoothly and that our goals are being met. We are devoted to maintaining the high standards of service and support that our members expect, and we appreciate your continued trust and involvement during this transition.

Leadership Development Programs

Our staff is actively collaborating with members to develop new training programs and events that reflect the values and mission of MI-AWWA. We are focused on creating opportunities that will enhance your professional growth and strengthen our community. Your input is invaluable in this process, and we are excited to bring you offerings that meet your needs and uphold the standards of excellence our organization represents. Stay tuned for more details on these upcoming initiatives!

Database Profile

To guarantee that you receive the most relevant updates and opportunities from MI-AWWA, we kindly ask that you take a moment to update your member profile. Keeping your contact information, professional details, and preferences current helps us better serve your needs and keep you informed about events, training, and important announcements. Please log in to your account and make any necessary changes today. Your engagement is crucial to our community's success!

"I WANT TO EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED YOUR TIME, ENERGY, AND EXPERTISE AS VOLUNTEERS. YOUR COMMITMENT HAS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF MI-AWWA, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU BRING TO OUR ORGANIZATION."

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MI-ACE 2024 RECAP

THE BEST PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW

The Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association held its annual MI-ACE Conference from September 10 to 13, 2024, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year's event provided a comprehensive platform for water industry professionals to engage in technical sessions, networking, and professional development opportunities.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Opening Sessions**: The conference kicked off with a keynote on building high-performing teams by Kenneth Sullivan from Arizona State University. Cheryl Porter, AWWA President, delivered an insightful talk on the state of water in the US.

- **Technical Sessions**: Attendees participated in various concurrent sessions on topics like PFAS treatment, water affordability programs, infrastructure funding, and corrosion control, led by industry experts.

- **Networking and Exhibits**: Several networking events, including the Wednesday night Happy Hour and the Thursday evening "Striking Connections" dinner, fostered connections between professionals. The exhibit hall featured more than 50 companies showcasing the latest innovations in water technology.

- **Recognitions and Awards**: The conference celebrated excellence in the field. Those recognized include:
  - **Raymond J. Faust Award**: Amy Vail and Cheryl Porter were both honored for their significant contributions to the water industry
  - **George Warren Fuller Award**: Cheryl Porter was also named the George Warren Fuller Awardee
  - **Professional Excellence – Individuals**: Richie Garcia, Hillary Caron, and Chris Pillsbury
  - **Professional Excellence – Organization**: Zeeland Board of Public Works
  - **Chuck Van der Kolk Volunteer of the Year:** Samarhia Giffel
  - **Richard Husby Public Awareness Award:** Jaime Fleming
  - **Young Professional of the Year:** Nick Fisher
  - **Operator Meritorious Service Award**: David Bal
  - **Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame**: Randy Roost and Sidney Shank

- **Women on Water (W.O.W)**: The W.O.W. Committee held a session to empower and support women in the water industry, encouraging networking and knowledge sharing among women professionals.

- **SWIE Auction**: In addition to the Annual Golf Outing, attendees supported the Safe Water in Ecuador initiative through a charity auction, with proceeds going to water projects for Indigenous communities in Ecuador.

During the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Breakfast, new leadership for 2024-2025 was announced, including:
- **Chair-Elect**: Molly Maciejewski (Ann Arbor Public Services)
- **Trustees (2024-2027)**: LaShone Bedford (Great Lakes Water Authority) and Alando Chappell (City of East Lansing)
- **Director**: Jaime Fleming (City of Wyoming)

With a strong focus on advancing the water industry in Michigan, MI-ACE 2024 provided attendees with new insights, professional connections, and practical solutions to the challenges facing water management today. The event was a success thanks to the dedication of volunteers, sponsors, and organizers, and it continues to be a critical event for the state's water sector. See you at MI-ACE 2025 in Port Huron!

HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS


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HIGHLIGHTS


Cheryl Porter


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Special thanks to MI-AWWA's annual golf outing fundraiser hole sponsors: **Brock Solutions, Core & Main, EJ, Fishbeck, Gary Wozniak (MI-AWWA 2024 Chair), Havener Tech, HRC, Jones & Henry, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Peterson and Matz, SAK Construction, Spicer,** and **USG Water Solutions**. MI-AWWA would also like to recognize **Dixon Engineering** for their continued support of SWIE and MI-AWWA through ongoing contributions.

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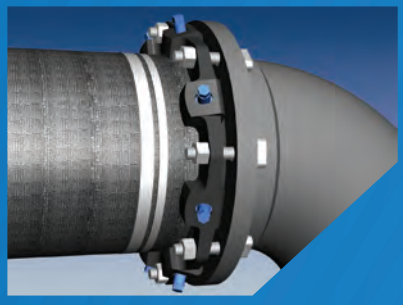

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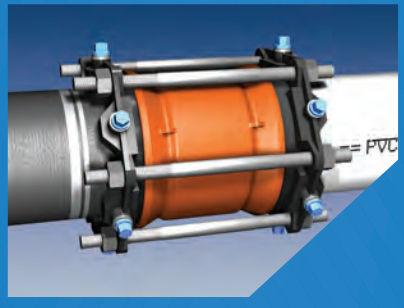

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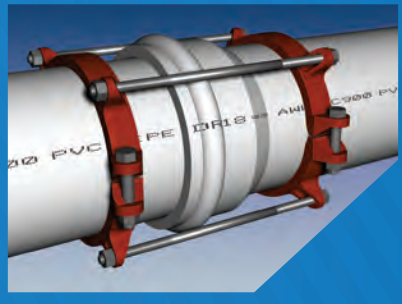

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AWARDS

Amy Vail and Cheryl Porter received the Raymond J. Faust Award.

Cheryl Porter named the George Warren Fuller Awardee.

Professional Excellence – Individuals: Chris Pillsbury, Hillary Caron, and Richie Garcia, pictured with Gary Wozniak.

Professional Excellence – Organization: Zeeland Board of Public Works represented by Mikel Levandoski, pictured with Gary Wozniak.

Nick Fisher named the Young Professional of the Year, pictured with Gary Wozniak.

Samarhia Giffel was named the Chuck Van der Kolk Volunteer of the Year, pictured with Gary Wozniak.

Rick Solle and Greg Alimenti accepting the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame on behalf of Sidney Shank.

Jaime Fleming was named the Richard Husby Public Awareness Awardee, pictured with Gary Wozniak.

Gary Wozniak (left) and Rick Solle (right) presenting the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame to Randy Roost.

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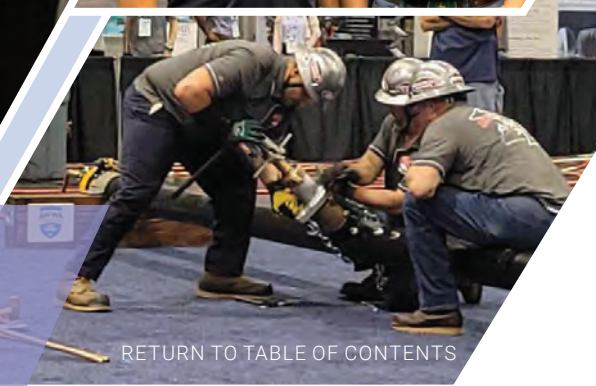
COMPETITIONS AT AWWA ACE24



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This year's AWWA National Competitions were held in Anaheim, California, during the Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE). Michigan had several teams representing our state from Lansing and Battle Creek. The Board of Water & Light's (BWL) Lansing Lethal Ladies and Michigan Tappers represented our great state in the Pipe Tapping arena. A couple of individuals from BWL contended in the Meter Madness lineup, and the City of Battle Creek's men's and women's teams fought the ranks in Hydrant Hysteria.

Pipe Tapping preliminary times were fast and furious, trying to make it to the finals round. After the dust or water settled from preliminary tapping madness, both teams were just shy of advancing to the final round. Both teams finished within the top 10: the ladies ended with 4th place and the men with 7th.

The ladies team members included Stasi Kreiner (Copper), Kelly Gleason (Cranker), Julie Maltby (Set-up), and Remecho Sanders (Coach). The men's team members included Richard 'Mo' Garza (Copper), AJ Puente (Cranker), Jon VanDommelen (Set-up), and Brad Lundquist (Coach).

Also represented by BWL, the Meter Madness preliminary times were close; however, our contenders did not have quite enough oomph to make it to the final round. Both Richard 'Mo' Garza and Jon VanDommelen gave it their all.

The Hydrant Hysteria competition was the busiest competition, with a long list of contending teams. Michigan's very own Battle Creek men's and women's teams tried to work their magic, and after the hydrants were completed and all the tools were down, the men finished 9th, and the women's team finished 4th.

The ladies' team members included Melissa Whitcomb, Amber Whitcomb, and Tara Reniger (Coach). The men's team members included Andrew Matthews, Ben Blaniar, and Mark Olmstead (Coach).

Thank you for representing Michigan at AWWA ACE24! Congratulations to all!

THE HYDRANT HYSTERIA COMPETITION WAS THE BUSIEST COMPETITION, WITH A LONG LIST OF CONTENDING TEAMS.

TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS:

Grand Rapids' Innovative Summer Camp

For three consecutive summers, the City of Grand Rapids has partnered with Grand Rapids Community College to host an impactful three-day summer camp, inspiring young minds to explore diverse and rewarding careers in water, wastewater, and public works. This initiative, known as the Water Careers Camp, targets students in grades six to nine and offers a unique, immersive experience through place-based, student-centered learning.

Hillary Caron, the Water Education and Programs Coordinator at the City of Grand Rapids, passionately facilitates this camp. Her enthusiasm for water is palpable, and this same energy infuses the entire program. The camp's success is a testament to the collaborative efforts of over 50 City staff members, four community partner organizations, and various City departments. Together, they create an unforgettable experience that ignites curiosity and excitement about the many rewarding careers within the Human Water Cycle.

Thanks to strategic funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the camp is accessible to participants at the nominal cost of $25. This affordability ensures that many students can partake in the program, breaking down financial barriers to access this unique educational opportunity.

The Water Careers Camp is structured around the Human Water Cycle, with each day dedicated to a different aspect of water management and conservation.

Day 1: The Water Users – Campers begin their journey by exploring their roles as water users. They learn about the infrastructure and the dedicated

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professionals who ensure clean drinking water flows from their taps. Additionally, they are introduced to public works careers, highlighting the essential roles these professionals play in maintaining the cleanliness of our waterways and cities.

Day 2: From Source to Tap – The second day focuses on the origins and treatment of drinking water. A visit to Lake Michigan allows students to engage in hands-on water quality testing and learn the importance of beach monitoring. At the Grand Rapids Lake Michigan Filtration Plant, campers interact with informative stations, exploring careers in drinking water treatment and gaining a deeper understanding of the processes involved through hands-on activities.

Day 3: The Return to the Environment – The final day delves into wastewater management and the return of water to the environment. At the Grand Rapids Water Resource Recovery Facility, campers discover sewer maintenance techniques and the tools used in this essential work. A career showcase featuring operators, electricians, mechanics, and storekeepers provides inspiration and insight into various roles within the facility. In the afternoon, a visit to a local park for river water quality testing allows campers to don waders and sample macroinvertebrates in the Grand River, exploring stormwater engineering careers and the importance of natural buffers.

The camp's success is rooted in its dynamic combination of field trips, hands-on water quality testing, expert guidance, team challenges, and inspiring guest speakers. This holistic approach ensures that campers not only learn about water management but also develop a genuine interest in pursuing careers in this vital field.

For more information or to learn how to incorporate components of the Water Careers Camp into your own programs, contact Hillary Caron at *hcaron@grcity.us* or 616-456-3930.

GRAND RAPIDS USES DATA-AS-A-SERVICE (DAAS) PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI, maintains a collection system that includes 1,100 miles of sanitary sewer pipe and 385 miles of stormwater pipe. The age of the collection system varies, with some segments over 100 years old. Like the vast majority of collection systems, Grand Rapids is challenged by wet weather events that result in I/I. The City is quite active in determining I/I sources and, through analytics, sets capital improvement project (CIP) priorities.

Collection system performance data is acquired via remote site area-velocity flow meters at pre-determined, targeted locations. The flow meters include non-contact flow sensors connected to meters that house signal processing, memory, and wireless communication capabilities. The systems are set up to acquire data at set intervals of every five minutes on an ongoing basis. Typically, data is transmitted once per day to cloud-based software, where it is stored for viewing and analytics.

The basic principle is to measure collection system flows during dry weather and wet weather for

comparative analysis. Rain gauge data is acquired and can be correlated to flow data during wet weather events to measure duration and intensity. Thus, data is the foundation from which all insights, conclusions, and ensuing actions are derived.

Realizing the importance of consistently obtaining accurate, repeatable, 'quality' data, the City considers variables such as technology employed, monitoring locations, network maintenance, data management, and data analysis. Once determined, the core focus is data.

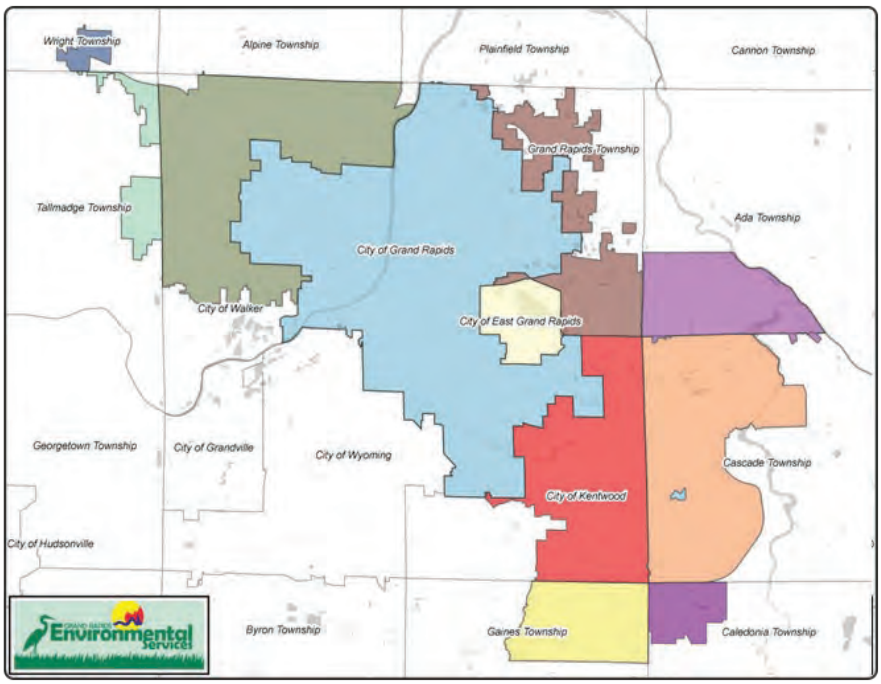
Grand Rapids' earlier approach was to own and maintain its own equipment. However, over the years, it faced continuous challenges of balancing monitoring network maintenance and upkeep with other operational demands.

In 2022, the City pivoted its approach and sought a partner to take responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the monitoring network, including hardware, software, and data preparation. This enabled the City to focus solely on data analytics, thus embracing the data-as-a-service (DaaS) model.

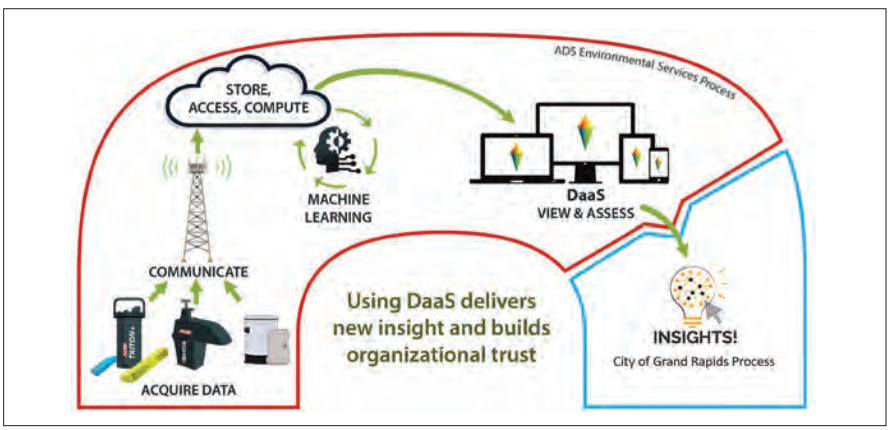
End-to-End DaaS Architecture is a Game Changer

Grand Rapids, through its services provider, ADS Environmental Technologies™, now has 36 flow meters and ten rain gauges deployed in its sanitary sewer and stormwater collection systems. In the stormwater system, the City looks at peak flows in wet weather and flows (possibly illicit) during dry weather.

The City leverages sanitary sewer system data for advanced I/I analysis. For example, base infiltration is calculated to determine the ingress water that occupies a pipe from sources such as groundwater. Another important consideration is seasonality influences, which determine cyclical annual patterns to enable a more accurate analysis of dry day flow patterns. These advanced analytics empower the City to make informed decisions on where, the type, and the priority of capital investments.



Grand Rapids Service Map



Smart Tech Architecture Enabling DaaS

The shift from self-maintained monitoring networks to DaaS with an experienced partner provider yields multiple benefits, including:

- The service provider's in-depth monitoring experience assists with determining monitoring locations and installation methods, assuring that the most relevant data is acquired.
- Equipment operation and up-time are optimized, assuring continuous quality data acquisition.
- City operations can re-focus on projects and tasks utilizing their core capabilities.
- Engineering gains a heightened focus on data and advanced analytics, developing insights and solutions to implement system improvements and upgrades.

Summary

A collection system's flow behavior and performance are best understood through the acquisition of continuous, high-quality data. The City of Grand Rapids, through a partnership with ADS, the leading comprehensive flow services provider, has set up and maintained an end-to-end metering network that embraces the DaaS model to enable an efficient focus on analytics and insights at a low, predictable ongoing cost point.

To learn more about ADS Environmental Technologies™, please call 800-633-7246, email *adssales@idexcorp.com,* or visit *www.adsenv.com.*

Above the Bridge

Get Involved: The Upper Peninsula Conference Committee Needs You

Volunteers are the backbone of the UP Conference Committee at the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association. The Committee is crucial to planning and organizing educational programs and events that support water professionals across the UP of Michigan. By joining the Committee, you'll have the opportunity to help shape the training programs that ensure our region's water systems operate at the highest standards. Volunteers are needed not only to create these educational programs but also to lend a hand at events and assist with outreach efforts that raise awareness of the challenges and solutions in our water systems.

Clean, safe drinking water is one of the most vital resources in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Our unique geography makes the management and delivery of this resource both rewarding and complex. Involvement in the UP Conference Committee means you'll play a role in protecting this precious resource by educating and empowering water professionals who are on the front lines of ensuring every community has access to safe, reliable drinking water. Together, we can ensure that UP's water systems remain strong and resilient for generations to come.

Have an interesting topic or story that deserves to be featured on the Michigan Section's podcast, *The Current?* We'd love to help you tell your story! Reach out to Stacey at *stacey@mi-water.org* to be featured in an upcoming episode. Your experiences can inspire and inform others in the water industry. Get involved today and make a lasting impact on Michigan's clean water future!

2023 COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION 50-YEAR AWARD

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Oral Health Program announced today that the cities of Blissfield, Boyne City, Manchester, New Buffalo, Bangor, Allegan, and Portage Public Water Systems have been awarded the 2023 Community Water Fluoridation 50-Year Award from the American Dental Association (ADA), Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for continuously adjusting and maintaining the amount of fluoride in drinking water for the prevention of tooth decay in adults and children. This award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water for 50 consecutive years, starting in 1973.

For 2023, there were a total of 85 recipients of the 50-year award and four recipients of the 75-year award across 26 states, including the seven in Michigan receiving a 50-year award.

Congratulations to all water systems that have continued to fluoridate and meet challenges head-on for the benefit of residents in our state. The individual water system awards will be coming shortly from the MDHHS Oral Health Program.

As a reminder, the MDHHS Oral Health Program will have a new grant available in December to help provide funding for new fluoridation equipment replacement and startup systems. If you have any questions or concerns or need education for your staff or city council, please contact Sandy Sutton at *suttons2@michigan.gov* for support.

NO WATER, NO HOCKEY

Gary Wozniak, Past Chair

Last summer, while attending the Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, the Ontario Section approached us and requested that we (the Michigan Section) assemble a hockey team for the ACE25 in Denver. I thought at first this sounded like a far-fetched endeavor; however, the Ontario Section has two teams, the Illinois Section has a team, and recently, Wisconsin and Minnesota accepted the challenge, and each Section formed a team. So, was there a possibility?

From the AWWA website: *Water Equation provides funding for workforce advancements, scholarships, students, young professionals, and the Community Engineering Corps. WE is committed to fulfilling the critical need to ensure that the water sector has the necessary workforce to provide clean and safe water to communities in North America. 100% of your donation funds programs to promote employment for the next generation of water professionals.*

Great cause. But a hockey team?

I imagine there must be some water operators in the Detroit area who play pick-up games after their shifts. Or perhaps some Associate Professors at MTU have a weekly league. Or maybe there is a hockey situation that I am not imagining. Either way, let's make this a reality. Let's form a Michigan Section AWWA Hockey Team and play in Denver at ACE in June. Ice time will be provided. The more teams we have, the more games a playoff will yield.

One thing is for sure: The Section will not be able to provide any funding for this venture – it's just not in the budget. But if you love to play hockey and want to attend ACE in Denver next June and get free ice time, then call me at 517-702-6624 or email me at *gary.wozniak@lbwl.com,* and let's get a hockey team together!

THE US SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT AT 50: A PILLAR OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION AND SOURCE WATER SECURITY

Matt Lane, Manager, Charges Outreach & Modeling – Great Lakes Water Authority

The United States *Safe Drinking Water Act* (SDWA) of 1974, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has been a cornerstone in ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water for Americans. This landmark legislation has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health and addressing historical water contamination issues while emphasizing the critical importance of source water protection. The Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) has been instrumental in implementing and supporting the SDWA at the state level since the law's passage.

Before the SDWA, the nation grappled with alarming water contamination issues, prompting a groundswell of public awareness and calls for regulatory action. The Act emerged as a response to the urgent need for a comprehensive framework to protect the quality of drinking water, as Peter Gleick discusses in his book *Water Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resource.*

Enacted through a rigorous legislative process, the SDWA empowered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set standards for contaminants. This paved the way for a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting, ensuring a proactive stance in safeguarding the nation's water sources, including lakes, rivers, and aquifers that provide drinking water.

The SDWA's primary provisions include guidelines on acceptable contaminant levels and stringent monitoring requirements, which are integral to the nation's water management system, according to a summary of the Act provided by the Congressional Research Service. These provisions underscore the Act's commitment to maintaining high water quality standards and protecting source waters from pollution and degradation.

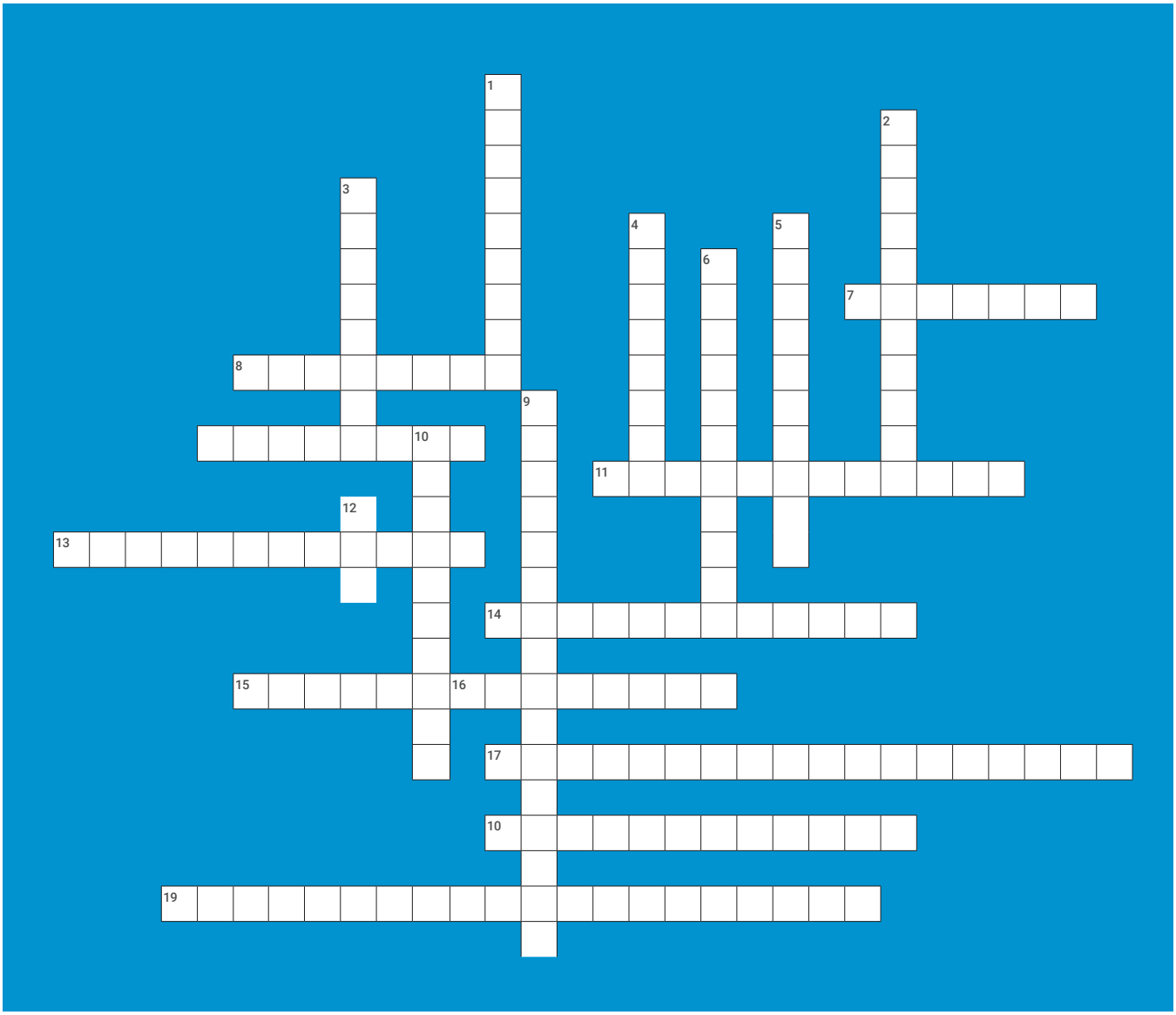
Over the past 50 years, the SDWA has undergone crucial amendments to adapt to emerging challenges and enhance regulatory frameworks. These amendments reflect an ongoing commitment to addressing new contaminants and refining the Act's effectiveness. Notably, amendments such as the *1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments* introduced the concept of source water assessment and protection, recognizing that protecting water at its source is a cost-effective way to prevent contamination, according to the EPA.

According to a 2009 article in *Environmental Health Perspectives* titled "Out of Plumb: When Water Treatment Causes Lead Contamination," the *Lead and Copper Rule* (LCR), first implemented in 1991, marked a significant milestone in the SDWA's evolution. It aimed to control the presence of lead and copper in drinking water, which can leach from plumbing materials. The rule required water systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps, control corrosion, and replace lead service lines when elevated levels were detected. Despite its successes, the Flint water crisis highlighted gaps and enforcement issues, leading to revisions in the rule to strengthen protections. These revisions, finalized in 2021, included more stringent testing protocols, faster action on lead service line replacements, and better public education and transparency.

In recent years, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), have posed new challenges for the SDWA. Known as 'forever chemicals' due to their persistence in the environment and human body, PFAS contamination has been linked to serious health effects, including cancer, hormone disruption, and immune system impacts, according to a 2020 article titled "The Forever Chemical: Impacts of PFAS on Health and the Environment," in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives.* The EPA states that it is currently working on establishing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFAS, with efforts to enhance detection, treatment, and remediation technologies. The challenge with PFAS underscores the need for the SDWA to continually evolve to address emerging contaminants and protect public health.

The 50th anniversary of the SDWA is a testament to its enduring significance. As we reflect on the progress made in securing clean and safe drinking water, the occasion serves as a call to action, urging continued vigilance and a commitment to upholding the Act's principles in the face of evolving environmental and public health challenges. Protecting source waters and addressing new contaminants remain critical components of this effort, ensuring the sustainability and safety of drinking water for future generations.

CROSSWORD: ALL ABOUT LAB PRACTICES



ACROSS

1. Modern method for removing viruses and bacteria, often used in conjunction with UV treatment
2. Early method of disinfecting water with ultraviolet light
3. Filtration method using a bed of sand or gravel
4. Chemical used to disinfect water in the early 20th century
5. 1908 city where chlorination was first used
6. Term for the process of adding chemicals to remove suspended solids
9. 1914 event where the first U.S. drinking water standards were established
10. State known for pioneering water recycling in the 1970s
12. Agency established in 1970 to enforce environmental laws

DOWN

7. Common mineral that hardens water
8. Water treatment process involving air bubbles
11. Controversial method of increasing water availability by removing salt
13. First U.S. city to install a public water system (1801)
14. Process of removing particles by settling
15. Revolutionary New York City water project, completed in 1842
16. Device used in ancient Rome to bring water to cities
17. Type of pollution linked to untreated sewage in early cities
18. Process of boiling water to remove contaminants
19. 1974 law that regulates drinking water quality

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined from June 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024.

Charles Abbey, Young's Environmental Cleanup Inc.
Julia Balona, Rowe Professional Services Company
Cory Bates, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Brandon Berrier, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Briya Berry, Great Lakes Water Authority
Todd Bohle, City of Coloma
Ava Borri
Corey Brecht, Great Lakes Water Authority
Michael Clark, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Michael Comstock, Saginaw Charter Township DPS
Eric Conn, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes
Curt Cookingham, Grand Rapids Water Department
Jason Cornell, Grand Rapids Water Department
Kyle Crump, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Jorge Cruz
Tiana Cuevas, Great Lakes Water Authority
Liz Curtin, Lansing Board of Water & Light
Cameron Dooley, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Wil East, Detroit Water & Sewerage Department
Jason Edberg, Great Lakes Water Authority
Christopher Ellsworth, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Devin Ellsworth, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Nick Fisher, Grand Rapids Water Department
Justin Foote, Lansing Board of Water & Light
Tanner Fugate, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Connor Golden, City of Wyoming Utilities Department
Brian Hensley, City of Dearborn
Anthony Higgins, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Melissa Hopkins, HDR
Richard Hughes, Scio Township
Doug Laughlin, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Brian Link, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Larry Majeski, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
David Marszalec, Midwest Municipal Instrumentation
Keturah Maxwell, Great Lakes Water Authority
Paul Mazur, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Tiger Montross, East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority
Scott Moore, East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority
Tamantha Muccino, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Sierra Ortiz, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Steve Panganis, Lansing Board of Water & Light
Austin Phillipe, Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center
Ben Reynells, City of St. Joseph
Jacob Rhodes, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Emily Rietz, City of St. Joseph
Ravelle Shepherd,Shepherd Information Systems LLC
Joe Shine, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Chris Smith, Hydrosource LLC
Jacob Spaulding, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Jean Steele, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
Thomas Sutton, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians – Utilities
Donald Walters, Lansing Board of Water & Light
James Wilson, Detroit Water & Sewerage Department
Brett Wrubel
Brianna Wutzke, City of St. Joseph

ON THE MOVE

Kyle Tryan transitioned from Water Plant Superintendent at Benton Charter Township to Project Manager at Fleis & Vandenbrink.

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS RULE (DBPR)

Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and total haloacetic acids (HAA5) are two commonly monitored disinfection byproducts. The goal of monitoring TTHM and HAA5 is to reduce the potential risk of adverse health effects associated with these compounds. TTHM is the sum of four contaminants: chloroform, bromoform, bromodichlormethane, and dibromochloromethane. HAA5 is the sum of five contaminants: monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid. TTHM and HAA5 monitoring differs in several ways from many other contaminants, which can result in confusion and compliance issues. Here are a few tips to help you stay in compliance.

Where do I sample?

You must sample at the location(s) identified in your Sample Siting Plan, as these sites were selected based on specific criteria. Additionally, Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for TTHM and HAA5 are calculated as locational running annual averages (LRAA), which means they are calculated for each sampling location. For these reasons, it is important to always sample at the same locations and in accordance with your sampling plan. Failure to do so is a violation of TTHM and HAA5 sampling requirements.

When do I sample?

Depending on your specific TTHM and HAA5 sampling schedule, you may be required to sample quarterly, annually, or triennially. What makes this sampling unusual is that sampling must be conducted during a **specific month** during each monitoring period. The specific month was selected based on the month likely to represent higher risk. For those on quarterly, sampling must occur during the same month of each quarter (first, second, or third month of each quarter) to ensure sampling is evenly spaced throughout the year. For those on annual and triennial, sampling must occur during the specified month of the year. Your specific sampling month(s) is identified in your sampling plan. It is a monitoring violation if you sample outside of the assigned month(s).

What samples do I collect?

Make sure you are collecting the right samples in the right locations. Many supplies must be sampled for both TTHM and HAA5 samples from every site. However, some supplies sample for TTHM at one location and HAA5 at another. Be sure to check your sample siting plan to ensure you take the correct samples at each site.

What is the deadline for submitting results to the EGLE?

All results are due to EGLE no later than ten days after the end of the monitoring period in which the samples were collected. Failure to report by the deadline is a violation of regulatory reporting requirements.

What constitutes an MCL violation?

An MCL violation occurs if any site exceeds the MCL. MCLs are calculated as a locational running annual average. The MCL for TTHM is 0.080 mg/L, and the MCL for HAA5 is 0.060 mg/L.

What are the thermal preservation requirements, and how do I ensure my samples meet them?

Samples must be received at the lab within 24 hours of collection at a temperature of less than 6° Celsius (42.8° Fahrenheit) when they arrive to meet the thermal preservation requirements. For more information on how to meet these requirements, visit *www.michigan.gov/communitywater* and select *Drinking Water Videos and Recorded Webinars*. Here, you will find videos to aid in sample collection, including one on preparing your sample submission to meet thermal preservation guidelines.

What if I have additional questions?

Contact your district analyst or engineer. They are happy to answer questions about this sampling process.

OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Operator Contact Opt-in

The Operator Training and Certification Unit routinely receives requests for lists of certified operators when water supplies are looking for either a person with a specific certification or a third-party contract operator. However, EGLE is unable to provide this information without the individual's consent.

To accommodate these requests, EGLE has made available a process that will help connect water supplies with operators willing to assist in some capacity. Operators interested in opting into the new program are encouraged to fill out the new online opt-in form. By completing the form, operators consent to make their contact information available to verified water supply system employees.

This opt-in form serves both community and noncommunity public water supplies. Visit *www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/drinking-water-operator-certification* to opt in or for more information.

TRAINING CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 UP Fall Water Conference – Harris	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Advanced Water Treatment – Lansing; Advanced Cross Connections – Lansing	9	10 Exam Prep Roundtable – Lansing	11	12
13	14	15 Fall Regional Water Seminar – Gaylord	16 Fall Regional Water Seminar – Livonia	17 Fall Regional Water Seminar – Grand Rapids	18	19
20	21	22	23 Maintenance: Pumps and Valves – Wixom	24 The Deep End – Bay City	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6 MWEA/ MI-AWWA Annual Maintenance Seminar – Bath Twp	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 MWEA/ MI-AWWA Lab Practices – Bath Twp	14 The Deep End – Grand Rapids	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Lab School for Water Operators – Holland	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Management and Supervision – Plainfield Ch. Twp.	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 The Deep End – Grand Rapids	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

ANNOUNCING THE FALL REGIONAL WATER SEMINARS

Join us for the 2024 Fall Regional Water Seminars, where industry professionals will gather to discuss critical topics in water management. The seminars will take place on the following dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, October 15 – Gaylord**
- **Wednesday, October 16 – Livonia**
- **Thursday, October 17 – Grand Rapids**

The agenda includes:

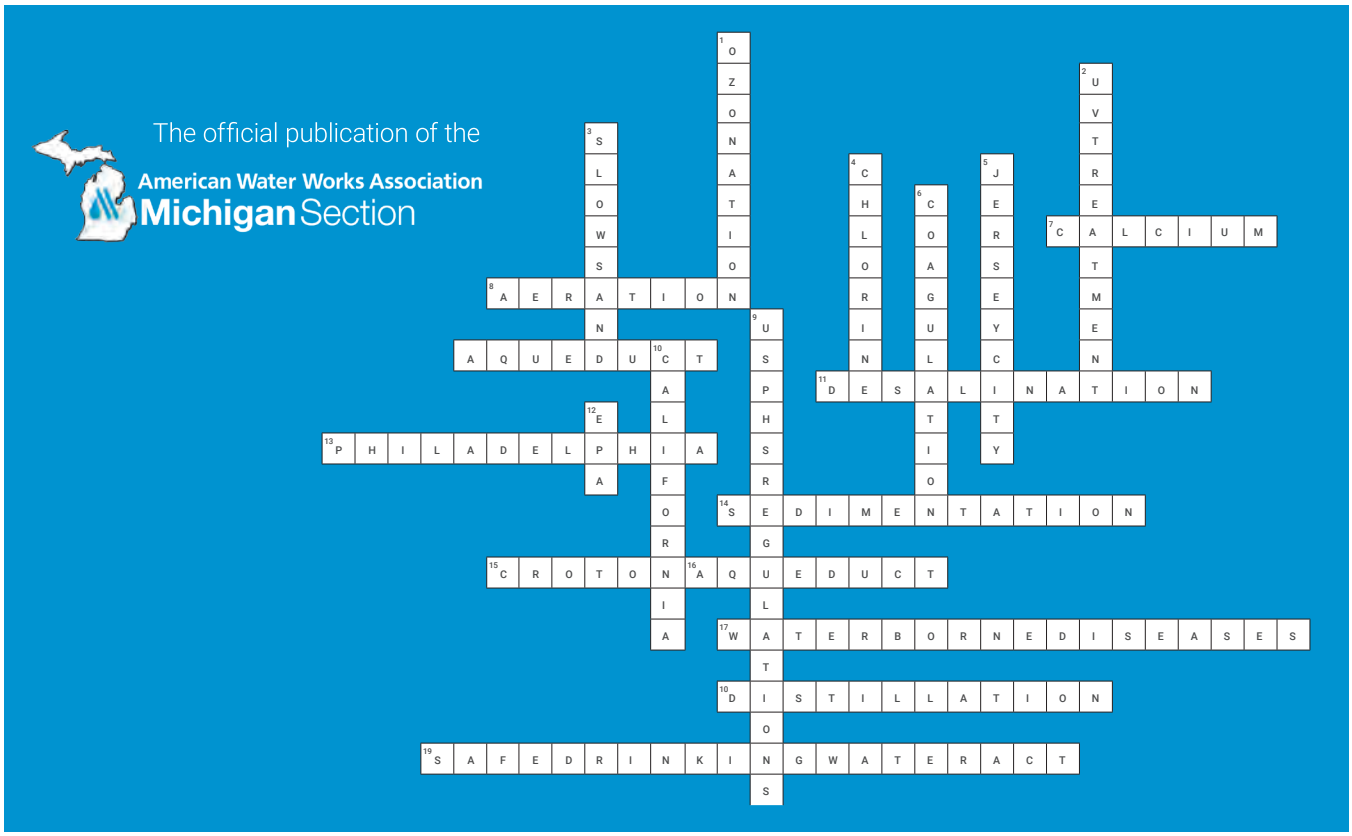
- **EGLE Update**
- **MI-AWWA Update**
- **Michigan Water Infrastructure Condition and Future Needs: Water Asset Management Council**
- **City-Scale Stream Gaging in Dearborn: Flood Response, Log Jams, and Public Engagement**
- **Valve Exercise Program at the Lake Huron Water Plant**
- **And more!**

Register now and take advantage of our group discount – save $20 per person when registering four or more attendees.

**Agenda is subject to change.*

Visit ***www.mi-water.org/events*** to view all upcoming trainings.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



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ADS LLC	37	800-633-7246	www.adsenv.com
Advanced Rehabilitation Technology	19	419-636-2684	www.artcoatingtech.com
AECOM	6	248-204-5900	www.aecom.com
AMERICAN Ductile Iron Pipe	36	205-325-7701	www.american-usa.com
Arcadis	42	248-994-2240	www.arcadis.com
Brown & Caldwell	41	248-680-6708	www.brownandcaldwell.com
CDM Smith	49	313-963-1313	www.cdmsmith.com
Commerce Controls, Inc.	51	248-476-1442	www.commercecontrols.com
Core & Main	13	586-323-8800	www.coreandmain.com
Dixon Engineering	34	616-374-3221	www.dixonengineering.net
EJ	19	800-626-4653	www.ejco.com
ETNA Supply Company	31	800-632-4576	www.etnasupply.com
Fishbeck	36	800-456-3824	www.fishbeck.com
Fleis & Vandenbrink	49	616-977-1000	www.fveng.com
Force Flow/Halogen Valve Systems	25	925-686-6700	www.forceflowscales.com
Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc.	41	847-566-9188	www.giant2u.com
Haviland	10	616-514-3600	www.havilandusa.com
Hawkins Water Treatment	6	877-355-7876	www.hawkinsinc.com/groups/water-treatment
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.	49	248-454-6300	www.hrc-engr.com
Jacobs	49	614-888-3100	www.jacobs.com
JGM Valve	2	248-926-6200	www.jgmvalve.com
Jones & Henry Engineers	23	269-353-9650	www.jheng.com
Kennedy Industries	26-27	248-684-1200	www.kennedyind.com
Kraft Power	9	866-713-2152	www.kraftpower.com
Michigan Pipe & Valve	15	989-817-4331	www.michiganpipe.com
Peerless Midwest	3	616-527-0050	www.peerlessmidwest.com
Pittsburg Tank & Tower	13	270-826-9000	www.pttg.com
Prein&Newhof	49	616-364-8491	www.preinnewhof.com
SAK	52	651-263-0498	www.sakcompanies.com
Septic Panels USA	41	325-388-6023	www.septicpanelsusa.com
SLC Meter, LLC	10	800-433-4332	www.slcmeter.com
SW Services	39	800-462-2773	www.debriscaps.com
Taplin Group, LLC	39	269-375-9595	www.taplingroup.com
Tetra Tech	36	734-665-6000	www.tetratech.com
The Water Associates	24	517-787-9016	www.mbadist.com
Trane	9	734-452-2000	www.trane.com/detroit
TruGrit Traction, Inc.	6	407-900-1091	www.trugrittraction.com
UIS Scada	4	734-424-1200	www.uisscada.com
Utility Technologies, LLC	35	513-488-1940	www.utility.biz
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