

MICHIGAN water works

SUMMER 2025

NEWS

MI-ACE 2025

87TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2025
BLUE WATER CONVENTION CENTER • PORT HURON, MI

2935 Buchanan Avenue SW, Suite 1C, Grand Rapids, MI 49548 | ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BRIDGING CONNECTIONS AT THE 2025 RMSO

CELEBRATING DRINKING WATER WEEK 2025





PRATT®

a **MUELLER** brand

120" Knife Gate Valve Supplied to GLWA



JGM Valve
1155 Welch Road, Ste D
Commerce, MI 48390

(248) 926-6200
www.jgmvalve.com
contact@jgmvalve.com

your partners at Peerless



In all that we do, our commitment to quality is clear. From the experience of our skilled craftsmen to our command of the latest technologies, we stand apart from the competition. We take customer service very seriously, and work hard to prove it everyday.

water well services

- well cleaning and rehabilitation
- well drilling
- water treatment
- electrical and controls
- pump repair
- hydrogeological services



Contact Us:

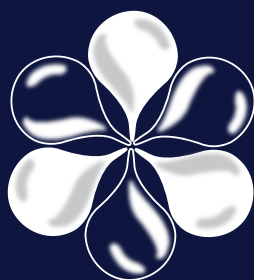
Mishawaka, IN • 574-254-9050

Indianapolis, IN • 317-896-2987

Ionia, MI • 616-527-0050

Eastern MI • 810-215-1295

www.peerlessmidwest.com



**PEERLESS &
MIDWEST**
An Employee Owned Company



WATER ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENT TOMORROW.

Making a local
impact, globally.

mottmac.com

Ensuring delivery and quality of drinking water is a serious responsibility that requires the navigation of multiple challenges, including aging infrastructure, the impacts of climate change, and emerging contaminants.

With over a century of engineering experience, our experts offer a trusted, adaptive approach to address water management issues proactively and provide solutions that bolster resilience in the face of uncertainty and change.

From the shores of Lake Superior to Detroit, we are committed to your success in protecting Michigan's most precious resource.

**Let's secure the future of water
together.**



MUELLER

Gate Valve, Meet Tapping Sleeve. The Perfect Couple.

Introducing PermaSeal™ Insertion Valve

Reduce water service shutdown,
disruption to flow and water contamination.

The PermaSeal Insertion Valve integrates the functionality and performance of the Mueller A-2361 Resilient Wedge Gate Valve with the Mueller H-600 Series Ductile Iron Tapping Sleeve to allow for insertion into existing water mains with minimal service disruption and dependable functional service life.



Ready to learn more?

Scan the QR code to get started.



MUELLER® | ECHOLOGICS® | HYDRO GATE® | HYDRO-GUARD® | HYMAX® | i20® | JONES® | KRAUSZ® | MI.NET® | MILLIKEN® | PRATT® | PRATT INDUSTRIAL® | SENTRYX® | SINGER® | U.S. PIPE VALVE & HYDRANT

Copyright © 2025 Mueller Water Products, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The trademarks, logos and service marks displayed in this document herein are the property of Mueller Water Products, Inc., its affiliates or other third parties.



UNMATCHED CUSTOM CONTROL

Engineered Excellence in the USA for Nearly a Century



SCAN FOR AR VIEW

At Flomatic® Valves, we specialize in designing and manufacturing **Automatic Control Valves** that are uniquely tailored to your water system needs. Each Flomatic® Valve is custom-built on demand, ensuring it meets the precise requirements of your potable water applications.

Seamlessly integrating with pressure and electric controls, our valves ensure unmatched precision in flow control.

- **CUSTOM DESIGNED:** Made to order based on your specific requirements
- **RELIABLE:** Backed by a 3-year warranty
- **AMERICAN MADE:** Engineered, forged, & built in the USA
- **HIGH QUALITY:** Manufactured & certified under ISO 9001 & 14001 quality and environmental systems

Experience Versatility and Efficiency
with Flomatic's Automatic Control Valves.



A part of Flomatic's American-made line of valves for water & wastewater applications. Contact us for your AIS & BABA Projects.



WWW.FLOMATIC.COM

15 Pruyns Island Drive, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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

The deadline for submitting articles for the Fall 2025 issue is August 8, 2025.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rick Solle Chair Plainfield Charter Township 616-363-9660 soller@plainfieldmi.org	Molly Maciejewski Chair-Elect City of Ann Arbor 734-794-6426 mmaciejewski@a2gov.org
Gary Wozniak Past Chair Lansing Board of Water & Light 517-702-6006 gary.wozniak@lbwl.com	Christine Spitzley Secretary/Treasurer OHM Advisors 734-466-4517 christine.spitzley@ohm-advisors.com
Jaime Fleming Association Director City of Wyoming 616-261-3572 jaime.fleming@wyomingmi.gov	James Cassel Trustee EJ 248-240-0515 james.cassel@ejco.com
Angie Goodman Trustee Lansing Board of Water & Light 517-702-7059 angie.goodman@lbwl.com	Doug Scott Trustee Rowe Professional Services 810-341-7500 dscott@rowe.psc.com
LaShone Bedford Trustee Great Lakes Water Authority 313-926-8106 lashone.bedford@glwater.org	Dan Sroka Trustee Trace Laboratories 231-215-4561 dsroka@trace-labs.com
Alando Chappell Trustee City of East Lansing 517-319-6928 achappell@cityofeastlansing.com	

MI-AWWA STAFF

517-292-2912
info@mi-water.org, www.mi-water.org

Jonelle Moore Interim Executive Director	Stacey Kukkonen Communications Coordinator
Rebecca Chesnut, CMP Events Manager	Chris Willemin Database Administrator

Michigan Water Works News is published for the MI-AWWA by

Craig Kelman & Associates Ltd.
3rd Floor - 2020 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB • R3J 0K4

Tel: 866-985-9780 Fax: 866-985-9799

©2025 Michigan Section, AWWA. All rights reserved. The contents of this publication, which does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher or the association, may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Michigan Section, American Water Works Association.



www.kelmanonline.com

Managing Editor: Scott Kelman

Design/Layout: Dia Chea

Marketing Manager: Al Whalen

Advertising Coordinator: Sabrina Simmonds



RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

contents

SUMMER 2025



FEATURES

BRIDGING CONNECTIONS AT THE 2025 RMSO	16
MI-ACE 2025 CONFERENCE PREVIEW	19
MI-ACE 2025: WHERE LEADERSHIP MEETS INNOVATION	20
TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND MI-ACE 2025	20
FEATURED PRESENTATIONS	21
SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE	22
EXHIBITORS	23
SPONSORS	25
ENTERTAINMENT AND NETWORKING	26
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION	28
TECHNICAL PROGRAM	29
CONTINUING EDUCATION	38
GENERAL INFORMATION	40
WHAT EVERY OPERATOR SHOULD KNOW	43
COPPER VS. PLASTIC PIPE: WHAT'S BEST FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT?	46
CELEBRATING DRINKING WATER WEEK 2025	47

DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Note	8
Chair's Message	10
Director's Report	12
Executive Director's Message	15
Above the Bridge	45
News & Notes	49
Volunteer News	55
Member Update	64
EGLÉ News	66
Training	68
Advertiser Product and Service Center	70



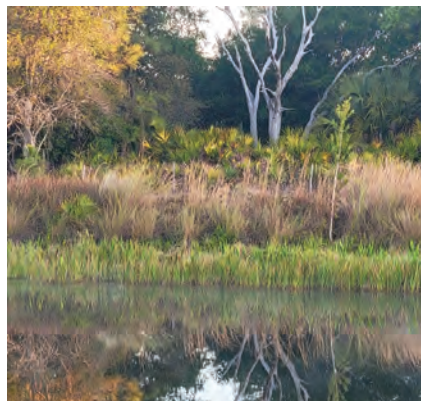
ADVENTURES OF THE EDITOR

Kelly Gleason, Editor

Happy Summer! After meeting up with friends and colleagues at Joint Expo & Operators Day, my water adventure continued; I finished February with stormwater inspections. I perform housekeeping inspections at one of our properties each month to make sure the controls in place are still doing the job intended. During these inspections I'm looking for debris covering a catch basin that needs clearing or the filter bag needs to be cleaned up or changed. Is the trash contained (making it into the containers) or all over the ground? Are the lids being closed on the trash bins? Is there excessive tracking of mud or dirt across the property? Are there leaks or an oily sheen on any of the draining waters?



In March, I took a much-needed spring break trip to Florida. I attended my first rodeo. Those bull riders sure are brave! The family stopped by the county Agricultural Fair for an elephant ear and a corn dog (or two). I just can't pass up an elephant ear. We also drove to Fort Lauderdale area and stayed at the Guitar Hotel & Casino, where I tried my hand at some penny slots and hung out by the resort's pool. It was a great trip. The house sits right next to a wetland area, and my morning coffee time was spent admiring the wetlands habitat.



April brought showers and more showers. Many strong storms came through Michigan, bringing down trees and some in the wrong spots. One wrong spot was across one of the dams here in Lansing. It's going to be a big lift to move it out of the way while keeping workers and the river safe. The month ended with a Field Day at the Ingham County fairgrounds in Mason. It's a great hands-on event for water professionals. There is a short recap on page 50.





"THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SECTION; ONCE YOU START YOUR VOLUNTEER JOURNEY, THE SKY IS THE LIMIT!"

The month of May brings me back to preparation for the national pipe tapping competition in June. The ladies team started practicing again and we continue to ramp it up until the competition. We put in a lot of time, but it usually doesn't feel like enough. The pipe tapping competition and committee were my introduction to the section. There are so many ways to be involved in the section. From being a member of a council or committee, to leading a Council or Committee as a Chair or Co-chair, to becoming a Board of Trustee member, once you start your volunteer journey, the sky is the limit!

And that brings me to a close on my year of water adventures. Now it's your turn. The section would love to hear about what you have been up to in the water world. Submit pictures, stories, and updates through the Section website at <https://www.mi-water.org/publications>. 💧

Publishing Schedule:

Fall 2025:

Copy due to Editor August 8, 2025

Winter 2026:

Copy due to Editor November 7

INDURON

PROTECTIVE COATINGS

REVOLUTIONARY CERAMIC EPOXIES


Fast Drying. Self-Healing. Easy to Apply.

ROB BURCKLEY

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

502-655-7397

RBURCKLEY@INDURON.COM



SCAN ME



WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Rick Solle, Chair

In early May, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) hosted their annual Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) for Region 1 and 3 in downtown Detroit. This 2-day event saw Section officers and staff from New England to South Dakota come together, providing a unique opportunity to share insights, exchange ideas, and collaborate on strategies that can elevate our efforts and propel us forward. There were about 10 members of the section representing Michigan.

The meeting was hosted primarily by AWWA staff from Denver, CO, but included a warm welcome by Michigan's own, AWWA President, Cheryl Porter. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm as everyone gathered to learn from each other's experiences and achievements. Various Section officers had the chance to present their

Section's current projects, challenges, and successes. This open forum allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the diverse approaches and methods employed across different Sections.

One of the highlights was a presentation about a Member Resource Guide that one Section put together as a handy resource of events, training, and contacts that members can refer to throughout the year. Other presentations ranged from legislative updates to community engagement initiatives to volunteer recognition ideas. The exchange of such ideas was invaluable, inspiring many of us to consider how we could adapt and implement similar projects within our Section.

As the discussions progressed, it became evident that there was a wealth of knowledge and expertise within the room. The collaborative nature of the

meeting made me think about how much knowledge and expertise we have within our own Section. If we can tap that knowledge and create an environment where everyone is encouraged to contribute their thoughts and suggestions, we can continue to grow as a Section. We are an organization of volunteers. Volunteer your knowledge and expertise so that we can all grow and become better!

Over the last few years AWWA has invested a lot of time and effort into their Water 2050 initiative. "AWWA's Water 2050 initiative will shape a long-term vision of the future of water that will chart a course for a successful and sustainable water sector." (awwa.org/water-2050) At RMSO we spent some time envisioning together how our Sections may be different in 25 years. There were some great perspectives and thoughts around this topic and with the wealth of ideas and strategies shared during the meeting, we are better equipped with a fresh perspective and renewed enthusiasm to move forward and grow as a Section. In an ever-changing environment, it is crucial to remain flexible and open to new ideas. The success stories shared by other Sections have demonstrated that embracing change and being proactive can lead to significant improvements and achievements.

Attending RMSO was an experience that equipped our Section leaders with valuable insights, innovative ideas, and effective strategies. The collaboration and exchange of knowledge during the meeting has strengthened our resolve to improve and evolve as a Section. We are excited to implement the new ideas gathered and continue our journey towards excellence in serving our members.

For ideas on how you can become more involved, feel free to contact me or any of our Board members. We would love to have your help on our way to 2050! 💧



DIXON

ENGINEERING, INC.

Engineering and Inspection Services
SINCE 1981



ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Long Term Maintenance Contracts
- Antenna Design, Review, & Inspection
- Tank Coating/Structural Repair Specifications
- Coating System Failure Analysis
- Treatment Plant Coating Specifications

INSPECTION SERVICES

- New Tank Construction Inspections
- Dry and ROV Inspections
- Annual Security Inspections
- Coating Inspections
- Warranty Inspections
- Welding/Repair Inspections

Visit our website at www.dixonengineering.net
for more information about these and our other services.

(800) 327-1578

VITA-D-CHLOR™
Responsible Dechlorination



DOWNSTREAM MATTERS

VDC Infuser

On-site Dechlorination Improved

Compact & easily portable in its 7-gallon bin, the VDC Infuser is THE field tool for your dechlorination jobs. Accurately doses Vita-D-Chlor solution for flows up to 2000 gpm or chlorine levels up to 100 ppm with minimal set up time.

Available with connections to:

- Truck Flush diffuser
- NEMA Tablet units
- LPD-250
- 2 1/2" elbow







INTEGRA Clear
info@Vita-D-Chlor.com • (253) 479-7000
Available from waterworks suppliers nationwide

SEWER CRAWLER

PARTS & MANHOLE TOOLS











GRITTED WHEELS
GRITTED TRACKS
FIBERGLASS POLES
PIGTAILS & MOTOR CABLES
JETCAMs & MORE...

WE RESURFACE WORN STEEL WHEELS
WITH **NEW GRIT**

www.trugrittraction.com
407-900-1091

USA MADE

Tt TETRA TECH

Leading with Science®
to improve people's lives






CLEAN, SAFE WATER FOR A COMPLEX WORLD

Tetra Tech provides innovative, sustainable solutions for every phase of the water cycle, including floodplain and stormwater management.

ANN ARBOR	BRIGHTON	DETROIT	EAST LANSING
734.665.6000	810.220.2112	313.964.0790	517.316.3930

tetrattech.com |    



THE PLUG HUG

**FIRE HYDRANTS PAINT READY
IN 60 SECONDS.**

419-564-9809 | theplughug.com



CARRYING THE TORCH: REPRESENTING MICHIGAN

Jaime Fleming, Director

As I step into the role of Michigan Section Director for the American Water Works Association (AWWA), I am filled with gratitude, excitement, and a deep sense of responsibility. Representing our state at the Association level is both an honor and an adventure that I welcome wholeheartedly.

First and foremost, I want to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing Director and fellow water nerd, Christine Spitzley. Her leadership, dedication, and service to the Michigan Section and to AWWA have left a lasting impact. Whether advocating for sound water policy, supporting operator training, or strengthening our Section's voice nationally, her work has helped move us forward in important and lasting ways. On behalf of the entire Michigan water community, thank you.

As I begin this journey, I'd like to share a few key issues that I believe will continue to shape the future of AWWA and our role within it:

Workforce Development

Attracting and retaining skilled professionals in our field is more critical than ever. We must continue to support training and mentorship programs, while advocating for investment in workforce pipelines. Ensuring the next generation of water professionals is ready to lead is vital to our sector's long-term success.

Infrastructure Investment

The need for sustained equitable infrastructure funding remains a top priority. At the national level, AWWA plays a vital role in shaping the conversation – and policy – around resilient water systems. We must work together to modernize aging infrastructure in a way that is both effective and equitable.

Water Quality and Regulatory Advocacy

From PFAS to cybersecurity, the regulatory landscape is evolving rapidly. Ensuring our communities have safe, reliable water while helping utilities navigate the complex and shifting regulatory landscape is essential. AWWA's voice in Washington, D.C. and across the states has never been more important and is crucial to ensuring sound science and practical implementation guide policy.

Affordability and Access for All

Ensuring that all communities have access to safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water is one of the most pressing challenges we face. Across Michigan and the nation, many households are struggling to keep up with rising water and wastewater bills – often in areas that also require significant infrastructure investment. As utilities modernize systems and meet new regulatory demands, we must also protect our most vulnerable residents.

I have long advocated for policies and funding mechanisms that support both utility sustainability and customer affordability. This includes championing equitable rate structures, supporting low-income assistance programs, and promoting data-driven solutions to affordability challenges. No one should have to choose between paying for water and other essential needs – and addressing this issue must remain a core part of our mission.

Equity and Inclusion

AWWA continues to be committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable water sector. This includes amplifying underrepresented voices, expanding leadership opportunities, and creating pathways for full participation in all areas of our work. Equity is not just a value – it is a necessity for long-term progress and innovation.

Climate Resilience and Innovation

As the impacts of climate change grow, so does the need for adaptive, forward-thinking solutions. Promoting innovation, supporting climate-resilient infrastructure, and encouraging data and technology-driven practices will be vital in ensuring our utilities can meet tomorrow's challenges.

I'm excited to represent Michigan at the Association level, to bring our Section's perspectives to the national conversation, and to serve alongside dedicated professionals across the country who care deeply about the future of water.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared mission. I look forward to listening to, learning from, and advocating for all who make up the Michigan water community. 💧



SCADA • Monitor • Calibrate



Keeping power & controls safe & reliable.





Engineering Clean Water

means providing our clients with innovative and practical solutions to all of their water resource needs.



Moore+Bruggink
Consulting Engineers

Brian Hannon, P.E. bhannon@mbce.com
616.363.9801 mbce.com

STRUCTURE. & INTEGRITY.

PITTSBURG TANK & TOWER GROUP

An ESOP Company

Since 1919

"100 years and still climbing"



WWW.PTTG.COM

INSPECTIONS REPAIR TANKS

NEW TANKS

(270) 826-9000 ext. 2605

EXISTING TANKS

(270) 826-9000 ext. 4601



[fishbeck] is engineering the future.

Learn more at fishbeck.com



AECOM

Water, make your
mark.

We're hiring for all water disciplines
Find your H₂Oportunity



aecom.com/h2oportunity



CONNECTING THROUGH WATER: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES

Jonelle Moore, Interim Executive Director

At first glance, the water and healthcare industries may seem like separate entities, but they are deeply interconnected. Safe, clean water is a foundational part of public health. Without reliable water infrastructure, hospitals, clinics, and care facilities can't deliver essential services. The alignment between these industries helps keep communities healthy, protected from disease, and resilient in the face of public health challenges.

Water professionals are vital to disease prevention. From ensuring safe

drinking water to treating wastewater, our work supports infection control, sanitation, and hygiene in medical settings. But our role in public health extends beyond the tap.

Strategic partnerships, especially with public health, emergency response, and environmental sectors, strengthen our industry's ability to respond to emerging threats and support community well-being. These collaborations allow us to share data, coordinate emergency plans, and innovate together.

MI-AWWA's strategic plan emphasizes the value of community involvement.

We encourage members to spark connections with industries impacted by water, from health care to housing, education, and beyond. These relationships elevate the profession and expand the impact of our work.

Are you involved in outreach or collaboration with another industry? Let MI-AWWA leadership or staff know! We'd love to hear about your efforts so we can encourage others to build bridges that benefit the communities we serve.

Together, we can expand our reach and reinforce the important role water plays in public health. 💧



Water and Wastewater Treatment Chemicals and Equipment

- ✓ Mini bulk delivery
- ✓ Tailored treatment programs designed specifically for your facility
- ✓ Large selection of equipment: pumps, tanks **and so much more**

Call Today!
LOCAL SERVICE: 877.355.7876

www.hawkinsinc.com • wtg@hawkinsinc.com



Hawkins Products:

- Phosphorus removal
- Corrosion control
- Zebra mussel control
- Bioaugmentation, biological controls
- Settling aids
- Dewatering polymers
- Disinfection chemicals
- Odor control chemicals
- Dechlorination chemicals
- TSS (Total Suspended Solids) control
- Lagoon sludge reduction
- Antifoams
- and so much more

Bridging Connections at the 2025 RMSO



Realize More®

At Hazen and Sawyer, we recognize that infrastructure investments of the past still have value today. By analyzing your systems and understanding your processes in detail, we identify - and maximize - the potential of your existing assets.

If you're trusted to protect public health
or the environment, **we can help.**

Hazen

hazenandsawyer.com



Stormwater



Water
Resources



Conveyance



Drinking
Water



Wastewater



Reuse



CSO



Biosolids

Leaders from across AWWA's Regions I and III gathered in Detroit for the 2025 Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO). With a full agenda spanning May 1–3, the event provided an energizing space for Section leaders to learn from one another, explore shared challenges, and build meaningful connections.

The Michigan Section was proud to have a strong presence, with the Board and Executive Director attending. Throughout the event, our Section actively engaged in discussions on strategic goals, future planning, and the collective impact of the AWWA community.

Key highlights included:

- A refresher on the State of AWWA and the evolving vision behind Water 2050
- Interactive Section Program Showcases that spotlighted successful initiatives and explored shared challenges
- A moving update from AWWA's Water Equation, led by Margo Hatton
- Timely insights during the Government Affairs briefing on Saturday morning
- Facilitated Section Sharing sessions that encouraged honest dialogue and collaboration across Sections
- A memorable evening on Diamond Jack's River Tours, offering attendees a unique view of Detroit's waterfront while continuing conversations and camaraderie on the water

As a symbol of our hospitality and cross-border connection, the Michigan Section gifted each attendee a framed photo of the iconic Ambassador Bridge, representing both our home city and the unity that defines the water community.

The 2025 RMSO was more than a meeting, it was a reminder of the strength we gain by coming together, learning from one another, and planning boldly for the future. We're grateful to have shared this experience with our peers and look forward to continuing the momentum in the months ahead. 💧



9 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

From our humble beginnings in Jackson over 20 years ago to nine locations spanning the entire state of Michigan, Michigan Pipe & Valve is dedicated to supplying residential, commercial and municipal clients alike with top quality products and customer service. Find the location nearest you and reach out to us so that we can help you fulfill your needs, large or small.

WWW.MICHIGANPIPE.COM

Gaylord

375 Chestnut St,
Gaylord, MI 49734
[\(989\) 889-6682](tel:(989)889-6682)

Genesee

1217 E. Stanley Rd.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458
[\(810\) 547-7154](tel:(810)547-7154)

Grand Rapids

5500 36th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
[\(616\) 805-3206](tel:(616)805-3206)

Holland

518 E. 16th
Holland, MI 49423
[\(616\) 376-8636](tel:(616)376-8636)

Jackson

3604 Page Ave
Jackson, MI 49203
[\(517\) 764-9151](tel:(517)764-9151)

Kalamazoo

3308 Covington Rd Suite C
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Mt. Pleasant

1314 S. Mission Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
[\(989\) 817-4331](tel:(989)817-4331)

Saginaw

596 Kochville Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48604
[\(989\) 752-7911](tel:(989)752-7911)

Traverse City

487 West Welch Court
Traverse City, MI 49686
[\(231\) 929-7473](tel:(231)929-7473)

PRODUCTS

DUCTILE IRON PIPE

VALVES, HYDRANTS

WATER METERING

HDPE PIPE, PVC PIPE AND
FITTINGS

TOOLS AND MUCH MORE



Collaboration at the Core of Exceptional Customer Service

The most successful projects are collaborations between customer and distributor. Let Core & Main serve as your partner in your next waterworks project, and see how successful a good collaboration can be. Local service, nationwide.

Grand Rapids
1219 142nd Ave.
616-222-9500

Detroit North
6575 23 Mile Rd.
586-323-8800

Detroit West
4901 Dewitt Rd.
734-398-5950

Lansing (Holt)
1250 N. Cedar St.
517-744-6752

Local Experience, Nationwide®

coreandmain.com

MI-ACE 2025

87TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2025

BLUE WATER CONVENTION CENTER • PORT HURON, MI



MI-ACE 2025: WHERE LEADERSHIP MEETS INNOVATION

Protect public health and safety. **Share** knowledge and expertise. **Care** for every person. **Innovate** to build resilient infrastructure. **Engage** the public to build support and understanding. Join your fellow water peers and the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association to continue the efforts of the Section's strategic plan by attending the 87th Annual Conference and Exhibits (MI-ACE 2025).

Get ready for another exciting and insightful MI-ACE Conference, packed with valuable information to help you tackle everyday challenges. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron this September!

Who Should Attend?

Directors, managers, superintendents, supervisors, engineers, and anyone with a career goal of being a leader in the water sector.

Attending Will Help You:

Connect with fellow water industry professionals.

Gather new ideas to share and implement with your team.

Stay Informed about emerging trends and the future of Michigan's water sector.

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND MI-ACE 2025

- 1. Spark Innovation** — Discover new ideas and breakthrough technologies that will drive your organization forward.
- 2. Take Your Skills to the Next Level** — Gain practical insights and strategies to sharpen your expertise.
- 3. Run Smarter Operations** — Learn how to optimize processes, cut costs, and maximize performance.
- 4. Collaborate with Industry Leaders** — Engage in open discussions with top professionals who understand your challenges.
- 5. Get the Inside Track on Emerging Trends** — Stay informed about what's next in water.
- 6. Tackle Today's Toughest Problems** — Walk away with actionable solutions to issues impacting your day-to-day work.
- 7. Recharge Your Passion** — Reconnect with your purpose and reignite your enthusiasm for the industry.
- 8. Explore the Expo Hall** — Meet leading suppliers, see new products firsthand, and find partners to power your success.
- 9. Invest in Your Credentials** — Earn valuable Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and Professional Development Hours (PDHs).
- 10. Expand Your Influence** — Build lasting relationships that open doors and grow your career.

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS



AWWA Visiting Officer:

Ken Kawahara, Vice President of AWWA and President of Akinaka & Associates, Ltd.

We're excited to welcome Ken Kawahara, Vice President of AWWA, as the Visiting Officer at this year's MI-ACE. Ken brings a unique blend of public and private sector experience, with a background in civil engineering, water resource management, and environmental services. He currently serves as President of Akinaka & Associates, Ltd. and is a proud University of Hawai'i engineering alum. Ken will be sharing updates on current AWWA affairs during the Wednesday morning session, so don't miss it! And if you see him around, be sure to say hello – he's looking forward to connecting with the Michigan water community.



Keynote Speaker

Michelle Stockness, Executive Director of Freshwater

Get ready to be inspired by Michelle Stockness, Executive Director of Freshwater, as she takes the stage as our keynote speaker. With over 20 years of experience tackling complex water issues – from PFAS contamination to sustainable infrastructure – Michelle brings both passion and expertise to the conversation. Since joining Freshwater in 2023, she's led transformative efforts like the Greater Lakes Promise land conservation initiative and collaborative groundwater governance across EPA Region 5. Her keynote promises to energize and empower us all to think bigger and act smarter in protecting our most vital resource.

REGISTRATION HOURS

- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

- **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025**

7:30 am – 4:00 pm (closed during Fuller Lunch)

- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**

7:30 am – 10:00 am (times may vary)

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Additional fee required * By invitation only **

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

8:30 am	Golf Outing Fundraiser * (Simultaneous tee-off)
9:30 am	Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Tour *
6:15 pm	Board and Sponsor Dinner **
7:30 pm	Opening Dessert Reception & Trivia Night (hosted by the Young Professionals)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

7:15 am	Early Morning Coffee with Exhibitors
8:00 am	Attendee Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
8:00 am	First Time Attendee Orientation and Continental Breakfast
8:45 am	Awards & Opening General Sessions
12:00 pm	Lunch in Exhibit Hall
1:35 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:35 pm	Happy Hour in Exhibit Hall
After Hours	Sponsor Event

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

7:45 am	Business Meeting and Breakfast
8:25 am	General Sessions
12:00 pm	Fuller Awards Luncheon *
1:35 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:35 pm	Women on Water Networking *
6:00 pm	Networking Dinner *

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

7:15 am	Tom Newhof Leadership Breakfast **
8:00 am	Attendee Continental Breakfast
8:25 am	Closing General Sessions



Exhibit Hall Show Hours

Wednesday, September 10 from 7:15 am until 6:00 pm

Featured Times

Early morning coffee with Exhibitors: 7:15 am – 8:00 am
Breakfast with Exhibitors 8:00 am – 8:40 am
Break in the exhibit hall 10:05 am – 10:20 am
Lunch with Exhibitors 12 pm until 1:30 pm
Break in the exhibit hall 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm
Attendee Happy Hour 4:35 pm until 6:00 pm

SWIE Chance Auction – during Exhibit Hall Happy Hour

Chance Auction items are displayed in the Exhibit Hall and have a basket placed near them. Place your ticket in the basket of the item you most want to win. Winners are drawn randomly from the assigned baskets for each item. There is no limit to the number of tickets you can place in any basket. The SWIE Chance Auction is open Wednesday, September 10th during Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall.

Tickets – 3 for \$10 and 10 for \$20

The SWIE Committee is seeking items for the Chance Auction. To donate an item, please email info@mi-water.org. Thank you in advance to our item donors.

EXHIBITORS 2025 Exhibitors (as of May 29, 2025)

Aquatics Informatics
Badger Meter
Batco Inc
Blue-Water Solutions
Bluewater Tanks and Covers
C&S Solutions
ClearFlow



Core and Main LP

Tom Fisher
 4901 Dewitt
 Canton, MI 48188
 T: 734-398-5950
 E: tom.fisher@coreandmain.com
 W: www.coreandmain.com
 Core & Main is a leading specialized distributor of water, wastewater, storm drainage and fire protection products, and related services, built on the foundation of more than 100 legacy companies.



Dixon Engineering

Tarin Minkel
 1104 Third Avenue
 Lake Odessa, MI 48849
 T: 989-613-0710
 E: tarinminkel@dixonengineering.net
 W: www.dixonengineering.net
 A trusted leader in water tank rehabilitation, construction and inspection services providing exceptional engineering solutions and ensuring the highest standards of safety, quality and reliability for all our clients.

DN Tanks



EJ

Kevin Spyhalski
 5075 Clyde Park Avenue SW
 Wyoming, MI 49509
 T: 616-538-5080
 E: grandrapids.sales@ejco.com
 W: www.ejco.com
 Manufacturer of hydrants, valves & construction access solutions.



Everett J. Prescott

Dan Burdin
 32 Prescott Street
 Gardiner, ME 04345
 T: 207-582-1851
 E: dan.burdin@ejprescott.com
 W: www.ejprescott.com
 EJP is proud to represent Kamstrup Metering and Gutermann Water products throughout Michigan. With Kamstrup's best-in-class low flow capability, integrated acoustic leak detection, and Gutermann leak detection equipment, the Smart Utility Professionals from EJP can assist in all your non-revenue water needs.

Electrosteel USA
Environmental Sales
Etna Supply Company
Ferguson Waterworks
FER_PAL Construction USA
Hesco Group
Hobas Pipe
HydroCorp
HydroMax USA
Kennedy Industries
Landmark Structures
Master Meter



M.E. Simpson Co., Inc.

Jacob Fox
 3406 Enterprise Avenue
 Valparaiso, IN 46383
 T: 800-255-1521
 E: jacob.fox@mesimpson.com
 W: www.mesimpson.com
 A professional services firm that delivers the highest quality technical services by using the latest AI, Machine Learning technology and highly skilled technicians. These practices improve water distribution and wastewater collection system efficiencies by employing proven water loss control practices, superior wastewater collection services and practical asset management applications.

Metron

MI. Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Michigan State Industries
Mokveld USA Inc.
Neogen Corporation
NORIT Activated Carbon
Northern Pump & Well



Peerless Midwest, Inc.

Frank Williams
 505 Apple Tree Drive
 Ionia, MI 48846
 T: 616-527-0050
 E: frank.williams@peerlessmidwest.com
 W: peerlessmidwest.com
 At Peerless Midwest, we provide a comprehensive array of water supply and fire protection services to municipalities and rural communities throughout the Midwest. These services include well drilling, well rehabilitation and pump repair, water treatment, hydrogeological services, and SCADA controls.

PSD Citywide, Inc.



SAK Construction

John Thompson
6930 Metroplex Drive
Romulus, MI 48174
T: 313-500-7418
E: jthompson@sakcon.com
W: www.sakcon.com

SAK is a group of privately held companies consisting of SAK Construction – pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP, Geopolymer spray-in-place, sliplining, CFRP, spiral wound lining, and general contracting, Affholder – tunneling contractor (TBM with diameter cut range of 4' to 32') and Pipenology – CIPP manufacturing (includes CIPP coatings, felt construction and wetout for diameters up to 84").

Spicer Group



Stantec

Joey Murphy
1168 Oak Valley Drive, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
T: 251-450-7786
E: joey.murphy@stantec.com
W: www.stantec.com
Stantec is a global leader in sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting. Our unique combination of technical knowledge and management expertise also allows us the opportunity to provide advisory services to help organizations navigate complex changes, optimize assets, embrace disruptive technologies, and secure funding.



Statewide Aquastore, Inc.

Jeff Scheiwiller
6010 Drott Drive
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
T: 315-433-2782
E: jeffs@statewideaquastore.com
W: www.statewideaquastore.com
Statewide Aquastore, Inc. is the authorized dealer of AQUASTORE® glass-fused-to-steel tanks in New York, New England, and Michigan, specializing in the design and construction of durable, low-maintenance water and wastewater storage solutions with over 40 years of proven expertise and exceptional service.

Tnemec Company, Inc.

United Systems & Software

USA Bluebook

USG Water Solutions

Utility Solutions

Utility Technologies, LLC

Velocity Pump

Water Works Metrology

SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Hazen



BRONZE

Fleis & VandenBrick

SILVER



Prein & Newhof



LANYARD SPONSOR

OHM Advisors

*It's not too late. —***Sponsor opportunities
are still open.** Be seen.Be recognized. Be part of
something bigger.

Thank you to our sponsors!



ENTERTAINMENT AND NETWORKING

Opening Night Reception: Treats, Trivia, and More

Tuesday, September 9 – 7:30 pm

Hosted by the Young Professionals and open to all attendees, this lively evening at the Blue Water Convention Center features a dessert reception, beverages, and optional trivia games. Mingle with colleagues, make new connections, and kick off the conference with fun, laughter, and learning. Whether you're

here to network, test your trivia skills, or just enjoy some sweet and savory treats, there's something for everyone. Admission is included with your conference registration.

First-Time Attendee Orientation and Breakfast

Wednesday, September 10 – 8:00 am

Those attending MI-ACE for the first time are invited to attend an orientation

breakfast before the Opening General Session on Wednesday. Leaders of MI-AWWA will provide you with some tips for how to get the most out of attending. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with other attendees prior to sessions starting. RSVP is required during registration.

TICKETED EVENTS



MI-AWWA Annual Golf Outing

Tuesday, September 9 – 8:30 am

This year's Outing will be held at Solitude Links Golf Course & Banquet Center in Kimball, Michigan – just 14 minutes from the Blue Water Convention Center. This beautifully maintained, links-style course offers 18 holes of Bentgrass tees, fairways, and greens, set against a backdrop of native sand bunkers, fescue rough, and gently rolling terrain. Four lakes come into play on 12 of the 18 holes, and the course features island greens that add both beauty and challenge to your round. Solitude Links is a par 71 course, stretching 6,674 yards from the championship tees and 4,289 yards from the forward tees, offering a dynamic experience for golfers of all skill levels.

Network on the course while supporting two important causes: Safe Water in Ecuador and AWWA's Water Equation.

Golf hole sponsorships are available for \$250 – an excellent opportunity to promote your company while supporting a great cause!

Separate registration required.

Registration – \$150 single

Registration – \$585 per foursome (savings of \$10)

Mulligans – 2 do-overs for \$5

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Tour

Tuesday, September 9 – 9:30 am

Join us for a guided tour of the historic Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Michigan's oldest lighthouse, built in 1814 during the War of 1812 to guard the strategic juncture of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. A shuttle will depart from the Blue Water Convention Center and take attendees to the lighthouse for a one-hour tour. Following the tour, we'll stop at a local café for lunch before returning to the Convention Center.

 **Tickets: \$40 (includes transportation, tour and lunch)**

Fundraising Beneficiaries

Safe Water in Ecuador (SWIE), a program of MI-AWWA, works to bring clean, safe drinking water to indigenous communities in Ecuador.

Water Equation, a program of AWWA, offers training scholarships and leadership development to young professionals.

(Separate registration or fee required)

Fuller Luncheon

Thursday, September 11 – 12:00 pm

A time-honored tradition, the Fuller Luncheon honors Michigan Water Utility Hall of Fame inductees, the Raymond J. Faust Awardees, and the George Warren Fuller Awardee. Come enjoy lunch and celebrate the titans of the water sector in Michigan. Faust and Fuller awardees are announced during the luncheon.

 **Tickets: \$20**

Women on Water

Thursday, September 11 – 4:35 pm

Women are becoming more common in the water sector but there are still issues unique to women. This networking event offers the opportunity for women in the water sector to connect and share experiences.

 **Tickets: \$25**

Thursday Networking Lawn Party

Thursday, September 11 – 6:00 pm

Spend Thursday evening relaxing, dining, and networking with old friends and new acquaintances, all while enjoying great food, refreshing libations, and the stunning views of the Saint Clair River.

 **Tickets: \$60**

**We Have
CHANGED
Our Name**



is now...

BLUE  **WATER**
SOLUTIONS



SMART WATER IS BADGER METER



*Discover precision water
management with
cutting-edge solutions.*

**WATER METERS · WATER QUALITY · PRESSURE & LEAK MONITORING
DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTS · INSTALLATION & FIELD SERVICES**



1-800-433-4332



sales@blue-watersolutions.com



www.blue-watersolutions.com



3285 LAPEER RD. WEST, AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326



LEARN MORE

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Schedule of Recognition

Wednesday, September 10, at 8:45 AM

- Silver Water Drop Award
- Gold Water Drop Award
- Life Member Status Award
- EGLE Edward Dunbar Rich Award

Thursday, September 11, at 8:00 AM

- Chuck Van der Kolk Volunteer of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- Executive Directors Award
- Excellence Award – Individual and Organization
- Operator Meritorious Service Award
- Richard Husby Public Awareness Award
- Research and Technical Practices Award

Thursday, September 11, at the Fuller Luncheon

- Michigan Water Utility Hall of Fame
- Raymond J. Faust Award
- George Warren Fuller Award

VOLUNTEERING AT MI-ACE

Did you know MI-ACE's success is made possible thanks to the generous time and efforts of our volunteers? We invite you to lend a helping hand at MI-ACE 2025! Volunteers are needed for registration, session moderating, member booth, and more. A volunteer sign-up form will be available this summer.



DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

Capital Controls® UV Featuring Sentinel® Reactor

- Trusted supplier
- Compact design
- More uptime

represented by

Waterworks Systems & Equipment, Inc.

Learn more at

www.waterworkssystem.com



TECHNICAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

1.1 Opening Remarks, Welcome and Awards

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

1.2 KEYNOTE: The Future of Water – How Lucky Are We!

Michelle Stockness, Executive Director of Freshwater

Water is vital – and in this time of increasing risks and challenges, we can also view it as a time of big opportunities. In this engaging session, Michelle Stockness explores the future of water through the lens of innovation, equity, communication, and resilience. Drawing on over 20 years of experience and her leadership at Freshwater, she will highlight real-world projects addressing water quality, water reuse, groundwater governance, and workforce development. Let's talk about what's at stake – and how we can work together to protect this precious resource for generations to come.

10:20 AM – 10:50 AM

1.3 Building a Healthier, Informed Community: Our Community Water Advisory Council & Lansing School's Drinking Water Flushing Program

Angie Goodman, Lansing Board of Water and Light

The Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) has removed all known active lead service lines and, through its Community Water Advisory Council (CWAC), has implemented several methods to enhance public awareness and reduce water quality risks. Focusing especially on vulnerable populations like children, BWL and the Lansing Schools launched the Drinking Water School Flushing Program to minimize lead exposure by flushing faucets for 30 seconds each morning. The program is simple and engaging, with a weekly "Water Safety Captain" in each classroom responsible for the task. This initiative empowers students to take an active role in water safety while reducing exposure risks. Through educational materials and this program, BWL is building good lifelong water habits and improving community health.

10:55 AM – 11:25 AM

1.4 After 20 years of planning, you landed a major industrial user. Now what?!

Ken Jewison, Stantec Consulting

Marguerite Davenport, City of Marshall

This presentation will include a brief history of the City of Marshall's Megasite development known as the MAJOR Campus, how it came to be, and how utility service was ultimately delivered to the site. The listener will be presented

with some clear-eyed takeaways for any community looking to attract a major industrial user. Navigating the web of stakeholder, regulatory, and engineering obstacles, can seem daunting, especially if the project is expedited. That's why building a trusted team of partners, and a coherent strategy is essential. This session will include discussion of planning and communication strategies, stakeholder engagement, permitting, alternate project delivery, and benefits to a programmatic approach for large projects.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

1.5 Insights from AWWA: Moving Water Forward

Ken Kawahara, Vice President of AWWA and

President of Akinaka & Associates, Ltd.

Join AWWA Vice President Ken Kawahara for an inside look at what's happening across the Association. Ken will provide updates on key initiatives, advocacy efforts, strategic priorities, and how they connect to the work being done at the local level.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM

2.1 Find Your Hook: Answering Questions, Addressing Feedback, and Engaging Your Community When Deploying Advanced Metering

Jacob Jaspersen, Utility Metering Solutions

Utilities often face questions and concerns from their customers and the communities they serve when upgrading their metering infrastructure. Learn about the power of a community engagement program to address these objections and foster trust and goodwill between all stakeholders, along with helpful talking points, information, strategies, and tactics to address these objections and keep all involved informed and engaged.

2:10 PM – 3:15 PM

2.2 From Legacy to Innovation: A Multi-Generational Dialogue on Water

Ariana Wade, Fishbeck – Moderator

The water industry faces challenges both from the outside and within: we see emerging contaminants and new treatment technologies, an aging and emerging workforce, and an effort to strengthen the public's trust in water and their communities. This panel discussion will feature both young professionals from the public and private sector, as well as more seasoned professionals to share their experiences, thoughts, and opinions on the present and future challenges for the water industry and the changing workforce.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

2.4 Michigan Water Asset Management Council – How and Why to Fill out the Survey

Sue McCormick, Water Asset Management Council

Members of the Water Asset Management Council will review the purpose and importance of the asset management surveys, how the data is used, and demonstrate how to complete the surveys.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM

3.1 Utility Rate Setting and Policy Considerations

Shawn Koorn, HDR

Developing cost-based rates is paramount in maintaining the long-term financial sufficiency of a utility. This presentation includes the basic approach of establishing cost-based rates, and adequately funding annual O&M and capital expenses. A review of industry benchmarks and affordability approaches will also be discussed.

2:10 PM – 2:40 PM

3.2 Optimizing Utility Asset Management with GIS: Enhancing Efficiency, Compliance, and Sustainability

Mike Levandoski, ClearFlow.net

Discover how GIS-driven asset management is transforming utility operations by improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing regulatory compliance. This session will explore how utilities can move from outdated, reactive maintenance to proactive strategies using real-time data and spatial insights. Learn how field crews and office staff can seamlessly collaborate, optimize workflows, and make data-driven decisions that extend asset lifespans. A real-world case study will showcase measurable results, including reduced emergency repairs and improved service reliability. If you're looking for practical solutions to modernize infrastructure management and maximize operational performance, this session is a must-attend!

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

3.3 Prep Over Panic – Next Steps for LCRI Compliance

Carlee Fullenkamp, P.E., ENV SP, HDR

Following the Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) inventory deadline of October 16, 2024 and the release of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) the week prior, many drinking water utilities are concerned about what needs to be done to remain in compliance with regulations. This presentation will begin by covering compliance requirements carried over from the LCRR and will then transition to future requirements and deadlines under the LCRI. We will also discuss actions that can be taken between now and November 2027 to ease the burden of certain LCRI requirements and potentially even waive certain LCRI requirements. These actions will range across various areas of the LCRR and LCRI, such as outreach,

compliance sampling, school and childcare sampling, and inventory updates.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

3.4 Addressing Sanitary Survey Deficiencies at Drinking Water Storage Tanks

Joe Siwek, Fishbeck

In 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released "How to Conduct a Sanitary Survey of Drinking Water Systems" as a guidance document for the best sanitary practices for finished drinking water storage. This document replaced outdated and sometime contradictory guidance from previous publications. As state enforcement agencies began to apply the new guidance to drinking water providers under their jurisdiction, many facilities are found to have deficiencies with various reservoir and storage tank components (vents, overflows, drains, hatches). This presentation will review the significant updates made in the 2016 EPA document, and display a case study on how the City of Ann Arbor applied the guidance in making improvements at their buried concrete reservoirs and elevated steel storage tanks.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM

4.1 Revolutionizing Environmental Sampling and Monitoring: Digital Tools for Accuracy, Efficiency, and Audit Management.

Russell Schindler, SampleServe, Inc.

Digital transformation streamlines environmental monitoring by replacing paper-based systems with mobile data collection and automated field-to-lab transfers. Screen recording enhances compliance by capturing field activities with timestamps, GPS data, and user actions for remote auditing. Digital chain-of-custody (D-COC) improves sample tracking, reducing errors, accelerating workflows, and ensuring data integrity. Customizable alerts manage sampling schedules, preventing delays and ensuring compliance. Case studies, like a Texas drinking water initiative, show major cost savings, accuracy gains, and reporting efficiency.

2:10 PM – 3:15 PM

4.2 GAC and PFAS: the Next (re)Generation

PFAS treatment is evolving, and so is the role of granular activated carbon (GAC). This panel explores the latest innovations in GAC technology, real-world applications, and what the next generation of treatment looks like.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

4.4 Four Tough Lessons to Avoid in Cross-Connection Control Programs

Gary McLaren, HydroCorp

Avoid costly mistakes in your cross-connection control program by learning from real-world failures. This session will highlight common pitfalls, from poor record-keeping to weak

enforcement, and provide strategies to prevent them. Discover best practices for compliance, stakeholder engagement, and maintaining a proactive program. Stay ahead of regulatory challenges and protect public health with proven solutions. Don't wait to learn the hard way – gain the insights you need to strengthen by attending this session!

4:05 PM – 4:35 PM

5.1 Design and Sustainability in an International Context

Mark De Haan, P.E., Life Giving Water International

When working with rural communities in an international context in low-middle income countries, there are a number of key considerations to achieving a successful project. In the work of Safe Water in Ecuador's partners in Ecuador, these considerations include cultural factors, community capacity, appropriate technology, and support and administration. This talk will share some of the important aspects of these four key considerations to a sustaining project in this specific context and examples of how these considerations are worked out in practice, as well as the engineering solutions that have developed as a result of this approach.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

7:45 AM – 8:20 AM

6.1 Annual Business Meeting and Attendee Breakfast

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

6.2 People or Data. Who Drives Decisions?

Kaisra Osman, Bcom, IAM, CRL, Great Lakes Water Authority
Grant Holback, Great Lakes Water Authority

This presentation articulates a paradigm shift in how GLWA integrates data and people to enhance decision-making. It highlights key initiatives implemented to strategically plan, capture, store, and leverage data – demonstrating practical, scalable strategies that drive data-informed decision-making and operational improvements. By sharing GLWA's journey of integrating data and people, this presentation provides practical, scalable strategies for organizations – large and small – to create a strategic framework for managing, capturing, storing, and utilizing data. This journey is not just about technology – it's about fostering a data-driven culture that ensures long-term operational success.

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

6.3 Random Daytime, Fully Flushed and Manual Composite Approaches: Lead Sampling Norms of the Future?

Darren Lytle, Hazen and Sawyer

After decades of LCR sampling, the fixed volume first draw sample is the industry standard and has become the "go to" sample to answer all lead drinking water questions. Treatment effectiveness-based regulatory sampling has challenges and is

inappropriate to answer many questions including those associated with exposure. This presentation will discuss three alternative lead drinking water sampling methods (random daytime, fully flushed, and manual composite sampling) that address exposure and other questions while still considering treatment effectiveness. Lead levels in the different water samples collected from homes with and without lead service lines, and in communities with and without effective corrosion control will be compared.

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM

6.4 State of Michigan Source Water Assessment Program: An Update

Ian Smith, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Beginning in 2024, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy began an effort to update source water assessments for Michigan's public water supplies. Updates have begun, following the established framework for source water assessment scoring and ranking, and with EGLE staff coordinating site visits with our public water supply partners. This presentation will provide an overview of this method, as well as a detailed breakdown of the different components which go into each evaluation, leaving the audience with an understanding of how susceptibility is determined. Additionally, we will provide an overview of the statewide strategy for updating source water assessments in Michigan over the next 2 – 4 years, as well as potential outcomes.

10:20 AM – 10:50 AM

6.5 Innovative Pretreatment Solutions: The St. Joseph Success Story

Brian Phillips, Fishbeck

This presentation will highlight the engineering and construction challenges faced during the upgrade of the St. Joseph Water Treatment Plant's pretreatment system. Attendees will learn about the innovative equipment selection and design features that improved maintenance and increased capacity. The presentation will also share valuable lessons learned during the multi-year construction process. Additionally, operational data on the performance of the new pretreatment equipment will be presented, making it essential for anyone involved in similar projects.

10:55 AM – 11:25 AM

6.6 Superpower Status Activated!

Jaime Fleming, City of Wyoming

"The things that make us different – those are our superpowers." – Lena Waithe. Every person has a superpower. We know from the universe of superhero lore that the strongest teams are formed when people with unique powers come together around a common cause. Do you know what superpower you bring to the team? Do you know how to identify and appreciate other superpowers? In this presentation we will: Explore interpersonal differences

(generational, communication and relational styles, etc.) and recognize the power of diversity; Identify the powers your team needs and how to recruit talented superheroes; Learn how to enhance, leverage, and combine our powers to become (nearly) invincible.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

6.7 Communication During a Crisis via Social Media

Samarhia Giffel, City of Grand Rapids Water System

Communicating with the public through social media platforms must be strategic for your organization to position itself as a trusted resource. When a crisis strikes, social media communication can become very stressful especially without understanding the process and without having a plan. Learn the phases of crisis management and how to effectively use your social media platforms during each phase.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM

7.1 Technologies and Techniques for Water Loss Management

Mark Beatty, Utility Technologies, LLC

The state of the industry in leak detection and prevention technologies will be shown. Attendees will learn how to integrate water loss management with GIS and Asset Management databases. Non-traditional leak detection technologies will be presented such as K-9, thermal imaging, tracer gas, and artificial intelligence or AI. Proactive methods of water loss management will be encouraged including leak and pressure monitoring and logging. The importance and integration of metering data and accuracy will be emphasized.

2:10 PM – 2:40 PM

7.2 Elevated Storage Evaluation using InfoWater Pro for Lansing Board of Water and Light

Scott Humphrey, P.E., GISP, HDR

Derek Ambts, Lansing Board of Water and Light

HDR and BWL developed an extended period simulation water model to evaluate storage alternatives and develop an operational strategy to incorporate elevated storage into the BWL water distribution system.

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

7.3 Novi's Most Critical Asset – Managed through proactive Condition Assessment and Operational Determination

Evan Biedenbach, Pure Technologies U.S. Inc.

Jeff Herczeg, City of Novi

This joint presentation will showcase how the City of Novi successfully safeguarded its water system by proactively assessing a large-diameter transmission main. We will explore the key factors that drove this inspection, including the high risk and severe consequences of potential failure. The discussion will also cover the challenges faced, how they were addressed,

and the outcomes of the inspection – highlighting the significant reduction in failure risk achieved through these efforts.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

7.4 Swimming Upstream: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Protecting Ann Arbor's Source Water

Molly Maciejewski, Ann Arbor Water

Gwen Kubacki, Arcadis

In March 2024, Ann Arbor Water completed its first Comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan. The Source Water Protection Plan considered the impact of many factors on source water protection, including things like emergency preparedness, climate change, and land use, and provides recommended actions to work regionally to better protect our drinking water sources. This presentation will discuss the approach, key considerations, lessons learned, outcomes, and early implementation of the Comprehensive Source Water Protection plan. It will provide valuable information for groundwater and surface water utilities interested in developing a robust source water plan through internal and external stakeholder collaboration.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM

8.1 PFAS: What to do Before You Do It

Chuck Ramirez, Clear Creek Systems

This presentation will provide an overview of the current PFAS regulations as well as providing an overview of current commercial technologies designed to help meet the MCLs. The presentation will also offer a roadmap to follow in developing a treatment system for drinking and non-drinking water applications. The presentation will also discuss the options available for destruction and disposal of media contaminated with PFAS.

2:10 PM – 2:40 PM

8.2 A Data-Driven Approach to Improving Aquifer Property Estimates for Michigan's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT)

Bailey Hannah, Fishbeck

Michigan's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) is used to help communities, professionals, and regulatory agencies evaluate proposed water withdrawals and their potential impact on proximate streams and rivers. Hydrogeological parameters of the model include transmissivity of glacial and bedrock aquifers, aquifer thickness, streambed conductance, and aquifer storage coefficients. Advancements in data availability, geostatistical interpolation methods, and computational abilities now allow for significant improvements in the aquifer property estimates. This project aims to update the aquifer property data used in the WWAT, using advanced modeling techniques to modernize the tool to better represent the groundwater of Michigan. This project will strengthen the WWAT's ability to evaluate withdrawals, improving monitoring strategies for groundwater availability in Michigan and enhancing the ability of stakeholders to make informed decisions about resource management.

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM**8.3 Cross-Cultural and Generational Collaboration for a Sustainable Water Future***Sally Duffy, Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.**Zanna Leciejewski, Hazen and Sawyer*

The water industry continues to grow and face new regulatory challenges, while also facing significant turnover and retirement in the industry. As the workforce changes, there may be issues working with demographics not formerly represented in the industry. This presentation looks at intercultural and intergenerational communication and its importance when facing the future of the water world.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM**8.4 The Filter Files: Lessons Learned from Evaluating and Optimizing Granular Media Filters***Matthew Charles, PE, Hazen and Sawyer*

Filters are the heart of a water treatment plant and are a critical barrier against pathogens. Optimizing performance enhances the protection of public health while also providing operational and financial benefits to a utility. This presentation will cover three aspects of getting the best possible performance out of a plant's filtration process: pretreatment optimization, physical condition assessment, and backwash optimization. Each topic will be supported by in-the-field examples of where they were implemented and the benefits obtained.

1:35 PM – 2:05 PM**9.1 The Value of a Phased Approach: Assessing Aging Infrastructure with Pressure Data***Jane Burnett, HDR*

Understanding the condition of buried infrastructure is paramount for utility owners looking to create system resiliency and minimize the likelihood of main breaks. Reviewing available pressure data for buried linear assets is a relatively low-cost assessment methodology which provides valuable information that aids in the identification of system management improvements. Additionally, if high-resolution condition assessment methodologies are performed, incorporating data from the pressure analysis into the pipeline renewal decision process can help to simplify decisions and can ultimately help utility owners effectively assess and manage system risk. Using Great Lakes Water Authority's 36-inch Transmission Main of 24 Mile Road as a case study, this paper will discuss the benefits of evaluating pipeline pressure, considering overall risk reduction and improved renewal recommendations when performed in tandem with high-resolution inspection methodologies. Incorporating available pressure data into the pipeline condition assessment and renewal decision process helped to identify a solution to renew the transmission main.

2:10 PM – 2:40 PM**9.2 High Pressure Zone Creation, Booster Station Inception, and Complementing Booster Stations (oh my)***Sam Szaroletta, Spicer Group*

In 2023, Thomas Township was approached by an industrial entity exploring the feasibility of building a large-scale manufacturing facility that would be located directly adjacent to the Township's existing top water user. The proposed water demand was studied and was determined to have negative effects on the water system that required installation of a booster station as well as creation of a high-pressure district to support the two industrial users. Additionally, the added water usage requires upgrades to the Gratiot Road booster station, which supplies drinking water to Thomas Township, and other communities to provide future growth for the communities and allow for a factor of safety during peak water usage of the system. The Gratiot Road booster station was limited by a variety of design constraints and required an unconventional approach to upgrading the system. Ultimately, the selected upgrade repurposed one of the three repumps used in distributing onsite storage water into the system to allow for the station to be upgraded from a triplex to a quadplex station to provide adequate flow for the communities being served.

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM**9.3 Transient Control and Mitigation, a System Approach***David McPherson, HDR*

Hydraulic transient modeling in a water 'system' is a mature science, and with that, very rarely are there unique or misunderstood causes of adverse hydraulic transients in a system. Because of this many engineers default to their experience to select, size and site hydraulic transient control. The fatal flaw to this 'been there, know that' approach is the word 'system'. Although the transient issues are well known, every 'system' is unique and how the transient pressures propagate and reflect within the system will control type, location, and size of the control required.

3:30PM – 4:00 PM**9.4 Paying for Water Infrastructure Projects: Municipal Bonds***Ivan Ivanov, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**Nathan Anderson, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*

This presentation shares analysis on how municipalities in Michigan and other states are using public debt markets to finance water infrastructure investments. It reviews data on the use of water revenue bonds and general obligation bonds and discusses municipal borrowing costs. It also discusses which cities are using municipal bonds to finance lead service line replacement and how they describe these efforts in their disclosure to investors.

4:05 PM – 4:35 PM

10.1 EGLE Source Water Protection

Program and Grant Opportunities

Jason Berndt, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD), has established minimum requirements to obtain approval of a community's source water protection program plan (SWPP). This presentation will discuss each of the seven required elements of a program plan, transitioning from assessments to protection planning, and the periodic update of a SWPP plan, and also eligibility, application process, funding distribution, and reporting requirements for grant opportunities for the development and implementation of a SWPP plan.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

8:25 AM – 9:25 AM

11.1 Lessons learned and best practices for lead service line replacement in the State of Michigan

Jean-Pierre Nshimiyimana, PhD. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) – Moderator

Tom Bulten, City of Grand Rapids Water – Panelist

Wayne Jernberg, PE, City of Grand Rapids Water – Panelist

David Fielder II, City of Detroit – Panelist

Samuel Smalley, City of Detroit – Panelist

Sean Knapp, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YUCA) – Panelist

EGLE has established a program to provide a platform for water supplies to share best practices and lesson learned for lead service line replacement (LSLR) in Michigan. This program aims to foster mutual technical support, disseminate best practices, encourage sharing key logistics contacts for material acquisition and contracting, and support sharing of community engagement strategies among Michigan communities working on the removal lead or galvanized previously connected to lead (GPCL) service lines.

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

11.2 Exploring Best Practices in the Management of Water Assistance Programs: A Case Study of the Great Lakes Water Authority's Water Assistance Program

Haran Stanley, Great Lakes Water Authority

Nicolette Bateson, CFO, Great Lakes Water Authority

In the United States, many households face challenges in affording their water bills. This issue disproportionately affects lower-income households, senior citizens, and individuals with permanent disabilities, as they often live on fixed incomes or have limited financial resources. In response to this need, the Great Lakes Water Authority implemented the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) in 2016. This program provides direct assistance to households requiring help with their water

bill payments and any arrearage owed. A key component of WRAP includes a comprehensive home water audit that assesses the indoor plumbing for any issues that may be contributing to excessive water bills. Over the past four years, nearly 50,000 households have benefited from the services provided by WRAP, highlighting its significant positive impact on residents throughout Southeastern Michigan.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

11.3 Drill, Baby, Drill...the Continuing Saga of Battle Creek's Wellfield Rehabilitation Project and Inadvertently Proving Why It Was So Critical

Aaron Davenport, PE, Jones & Henry Engineers

Perry L. Hart, City of Battle Creek

Following last year's critically acclaimed MI-AWWA presentation, "How a Hunch, Operator Experience, Investigation & Regulatory Transparency Led to the Largest Wellfield Rehabilitation Project in State History," Perry Hart and Aaron Davenport return with an exciting progress update on this groundbreaking initiative. Join them as they share insights from the drilling, development, testing, and permitting of 22 new 16-inch diameter, Type-I drinking water wells, including two in a high-traffic public park. They'll take the audience through the challenges, successes, and unexpected twists that have shaped this massive wellfield rehabilitation project. Perry and Aaron will also unravel a fascinating case of "unintended consequences", where old failed well casings, autumn leaf fall, and aquifer testing of new wells combined in an unexpected way to validate the necessity of this project with uncanny precision. Additionally, they'll discuss the City's approach to managing the total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) that arose as a result.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

11.4 Policy Update from Midwest Strategy Group

Mike Compagnoni, Midwest Strategies Group

Join Midwest Strategy Group for an overview of Michigan's water policy landscape. They will cover key regulatory updates, infrastructure funding, and political activity impacting the sector, highlighting issues like stormwater, lead service lines, PFAS, and broader legislative trends. With the current political temperature in water, this session will provide valuable insight into the policies shaping water management across the state.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

11.5 EGLE's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division Update*Brian Thurston, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)*

Hear the latest from EGLE's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division, on key regulatory developments. This session will cover Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule, PFAS response

efforts, and recent funding initiatives. Additionally, a review of upcoming regulatory changes will highlight matters that directly affect the sector. Learn about staffing updates and process improvements aimed at enhancing technical and compliance support across the state.

12:00 PM

11.6 Closing Remarks

MMI MIDWEST MUNICIPAL INSTRUMENTATION INC.
PRODUCT LINE CARD

YOUR HELPING HAND IN ALL YOUR MUNICIPAL WATER & WASTEWATER NEEDS

OUR MISSION:
Ensuring customer satisfaction within the Water and Waste Water Treatment Industry. We provide customers with outstanding technical application assistance and support.

PROUDLY SERVING TERRITORIES OF: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana & Kentucky

EMERSON Process Management	Seametrics	CONTACT: Curtis Brzyski cbrzyskimmi@msn.com 517-250-3063 James L. Mommers jmommersmiiinc@gmail.com 517-250-1650 Dave Marszalec davemarszalecmiiinc@gmail.com 269-932-8134
ROSEMOUNT Analytical	HACH	
ROSEMOUNT Analytical	MARSH MEASUREMENT SIGMA	
Micro Motion	McCROMETER	
FLEXIM where measuring matters	pulsar ENERGY	

CALL US TO SOLVE YOUR INSTRUMENTATION NEEDS
517-764-4736

SMART METER VERIFICATION
www.midwestmunicipalinc.com

What happens **NEXT** is happening **NOW**.™

Let's shape your **NOW** together.

cdmsmith.com/NEXTisNOW

CDM Smith

Prein&Newhof

- ✓ Civil Engineering
- ✓ Drinking Water Testing
- ✓ Environmental Solutions

www.preinnewhof.com



Smarter, Scalable Solutions for Groundwater Treatment

ATEC Water Systems delivers advanced, cost-effective filtration systems designed to tackle the most common and persistent contaminants in groundwater.

Built with a focus on long-term performance, ease of operation, and total lifecycle savings, ATEC's modular systems are trusted by public and private utilities across North America—providing regulatory compliance without the complexity.

ATEC systems are engineered for fast deployment, reliable performance, and a smaller infrastructure footprint.

500+ systems deployed. Zero warranty claims. Unmatched value.

**Iron
Manganese
Arsenic
Chromium-6**

**Nitrates
Ammonia
Boron
PFAS**

Represented by Kennedy Industries - kennedyind.com





ATEC
Cadiz Solution



ATEC
Cadiz

CONTINUING EDUCATION

It is possible to earn a total of 1.4 continuing education credits or 14 professional development hours. Final EGLE approval of CECs is pending. Check website for final credit approval.

Earning CECs is dependent on scanning in and out of sessions. Please familiarize yourself with the scanning process prior to arriving onsite. Information will be available on the microsite at mi-water.org/mi-ace.

CONFERENCE APP

Download the conference app and plug into all that happens at MI-ACE. Track your potential CECs earned, meet speakers, connect with exhibitors, receive conference notifications, and engage for a chance to win one of several prizes.

COUNT ON CAPTURING MORE NON-REVENUE WATER

Count on it. Build on it.

Experience the
MACH 10® Ultrasonic meter
at neptunetg.com/mach10



NEPTUNE
TECHNOLOGY GROUP

#winyourday





**Catch the
smallest leaks**



**Ramp up revenue
with sustained
accuracy**



**Identify apparent
loss of water**



19 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor
334 S Wagner Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 734-418-6394

Battle Creek
1004 Upton
Springfield, MI 49037
Phone: 269-962-1140

Chesterfield
46555 Continental Dr
Chesterfield, MI 48047
Phone: 586-949-2481

Detroit
2158 Gratiot Ave
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: 313-481-1060

Flint
2395 Lapeer Rd
Flint, MI 48503
Phone: 810-232-4760

Grand Ledge
10801 Grand River Hwy
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone: 517-622-8696

Grand Rapids Pipe
1649 Century Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-247-0307

Grand Rapids
4901 Clay Ave, SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Phone: 616-241-5414

Holland
783 Chicago Dr
Holland, MI 49423
Phone: 616-396-1717

Jackson
411 E. Mansion St
Jackson, MI 49203
Phone: 517-787-6043

Kalamazoo
5231 E. MI Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Phone: 269-349-8388

Lansing
631 Park Place
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 517-484-6444

Marquette
1922 Enterprise St
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-273-2331

Mt. Pleasant
3709 S. Isabella Rd
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 989-772-5100

Muskegon
3658 Airline Rd
Norton Shores, MI 49444
Phone: 231-733-2640

Saginaw
1416 N. Outer Dr
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone: 989-753-5893

Sault Ste. Marie
515 W 3 Mile Rd
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Phone: 906-632-3019

Traverse City
1969 W. South Airport Rd
Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: 231-947-1300

Wixom
29949 Beck Rd
Wixom, MI 48393
Phone: 248-624-5000



**SILT FENCE | EROSION MATTING | GRASS SEED/LIME | HYDROMULCH
COMPOST SOCK | GEOTEXTILES | GEOGRIDS | FILTER BAGS | SAFETY FENCE
PVC/HDPE LINER | CULVERT PIPE | GABION BASKETS**

1-800-632-4576 | ETNASUPPLY.COM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration

Registration includes the following meals: Wednesday continental breakfast and lunch, Thursday full breakfast, Friday continental breakfast, and receptions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Conference breaks are also provided throughout the event.

Ticket	June 2 – Aug 22	Aug 23 – onsite
ATTENDEE REGISTRATION		
Full Conference: Member	\$535	\$570
Full Conference: Non-member	\$625	\$660
Full Conference: Retiree member	\$310	\$345
Full Conference Small System: Member	\$310	\$345
Single Day: Member	\$325	\$360
Single Day: Non-member	\$415	\$450
Awardee	\$0	\$10
SPEAKER REGISTRATION		
Full Conference Speaker: Member	\$350	\$385
Full Conference Speaker: Non-member	\$440	\$475
Single Day Speaker	\$0	\$10
EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION – INCLUDES A 10'X10' AND WEDNESDAY REGISTRATION FOR 2 PEOPLE		
Exhibitor: Member with a 10'x10' booth space, full conference	\$1,000	\$1,035
Exhibitor: Member with a 10'x10' booth space	\$700	\$735
Exhibitor: Non-member with a 10'x10' booth space, full conference	\$1,190	\$1,125
Exhibitor: Non-member with a 10'x10' booth space	\$800	\$835
Additional Exhibitor: Member (<i>Wednesday only</i>) with purchase of booth space.	\$325	\$360
Additional Exhibitor: Non-member (<i>Wednesday only</i>) with purchase of booth space.	\$415	\$450
GUEST REGISTRATION		
Conference Guest	\$255	\$290
Awardee Guest	\$35	\$45
SPECIAL EVENT TICKETS		
Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Tour	\$40	\$40
Fuller Lunch	\$20	\$20
Woman on Water (W.O.W.)	\$25	\$25
Thursday Night Lawn Party	\$60	\$60

Cancellation and Substitution Policy

Substitutions:

If you are unable to attend, you may send a substitute in your place. Please email substitution requests to info@mi-water.org. Note that registration rates are based on membership status; if the substitute's membership status differs, additional fees may apply.

Cancellations:

If you must cancel your registration, please notify MI-AWWA by emailing info@mi-water.org. Refunds are issued according to the following schedule:

- 1. Cancellations received by 4:00 PM on August 15 –**
You will receive a full refund, minus a \$35 processing fee.
- 2. Cancellations received after 4:00 PM on August 15 but before 4:00 PM on August 31 –** You will receive a 50% refund of the registration fee paid. (Please note: there are no refunds for purchased meals or special activities.)
- 3. Cancellations received after 4:00 PM on August 31 or conference no-shows –** No refunds will be issued.

Lodging Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the following hotels:

DoubleTree by Hilton Port Huron is attached to the Blue Water Convention Center. Use code "MAW" to receive the conference rate. Call 810-984-8000 or visit www.mi-water.org/mi-ace---lodging/ to reserve a room. Rooms are limited – be sure to reserve early!

Hampton Inn Port Huron is 2.8 miles from the Convention Center. To reserve call the hotel direct at 810-966-9000 or visit the MI-ACE conference webpage for a direct link to the hotel's reservation page. Use code "AMW" to receive the event rate.

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Port Huron is a 5-minute drive from the Convention Center. To reserve call the hotel direct at 810-662-3400 or visit the MI-ACE conference webpage for a direct link to the hotel's reservation page. To receive the event rate, make sure to mention the American Water Works Association.

TAPLIN GROUP HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD WITH COMPLEX, MULTI-FACETED PROJECTS NATIONWIDE

TAPLIN
GROUP, LLC
Environmental Services

TAPLIN GROUP brings a wealth of industry knowledge and experience to every project to get the job done in a safe, professional manner. We provide comprehensive environmental contracting services and have extensive experience working with municipalities and underground infrastructures. An abbreviated list of services offered includes:

- CCTV Mainline Closed Circuit TV Investigation - 6th through 200th
- Panoramo®- HD Technology
- Panoramo® Manhole Inspection
- Laser Profiling / LIDAR
- Full GIS Integration with Multiple Software Platforms
- Sonar and MSI Capabilities
- Sewer and Pipe Cleaning
- Large Diameter Cleaning Capabilities
- Sewer Testing
- Emergency Response
- GIS Technicians on Staff

Contact: **DAVE BALOGH** - Executive Vice President
davebalogh@taplingroup.com | m: 313-695-1047
www.taplingroup.com





Look No Further When It Comes to Quality Fire Hydrant Painting

Giant's Fire Hydrant Painting process is designed to ensure that every step of the way is subject to a series of inspections. Before we start the work, during the project, and after the work is completed, we thoroughly check each task to ensure that it meets our high standards of quality.

Our emphasis on quality is why we know that deliberate preparation is critical to preventing coating failures. In fact, most – if not all – coating failures occur because of poor preparation. Without adequate surface preparation, coatings can fail in as little as one year to 18 months. That's why we take the time to prepare every surface thoroughly before we begin the painting process. Our team is well-versed in the importance of proper preparation, and we take the necessary steps to ensure that your hydrants receive the best possible care. You can trust us to go above and beyond to ensure that your hydrants look great for years to come.

We understand that attention to detail is crucial when it comes to our services, especially with hydrant painting. We take pride in our rigorous inspections and quality control measures. You can trust us to get the job done right the first time, every time.

We don't just provide superior products and top-quality workmanship, we're also responsible for reasonable cleanup of excess abrasive blasting material from surrounding work areas, and provide protective measures to the work areas as needed. Plus, our team

takes preventive measures to protect the turf and landscaping from any overspray of all coatings. And with our exemption of a 10-inch area around the base of a fire hydrant from the above services, you can trust us to provide the best care for your fire hydrants without damaging the surrounding areas. So why wait? Contact us now to give your fire hydrants the upgrade they deserve!

At Giant, we pride ourselves on our expert knowledge and specialized training. All of our employees are specifically trained in fire hydrant painting techniques to obtain the best-quality results. Rey Flores, project manager, has been an intricate part of this training process. Rey, has been a part of Giant's team for well over 25 years.

At the heart of Giant is a team that cares deeply about their work. From long-time Project Manager Rey Flores, who has helped shape our training programs, to leaders like Luis Ramos and Marco Ramos-Perez, who bring dedication and pride to every job site – our people are the reason we lead the industry. From the first inspection to the final coat, we treat every hydrant like a public statement – because it is. Hydrants are one of the most visible assets of your community's infrastructure, and when they look good, your whole city shines. Our clients know that when they hire Giant, they're hiring more than a contractor. They're gaining a partner who takes as much pride in their city as they do.

We know that hydrants play a crucial role in emergency situations, so we take our job seriously and work diligently to ensure your hydrants are visible and easy to identify. We're not your average tradesmen, we are fire hydrant coating specialists. Our team is comprised of professionals who offer specialized services and expertise in our field of trade. We take great care in our work and ensure that all our services meet the highest standards of quality. If you're looking to upgrade your fire hydrants, keep your community safe, and add value to



Beverly Giarrante, Minority Owned & Operated Majority Owner, Administrative Director and Mark Giarrante, Owner and President

your community, look no further than Giant. Contact us today to learn more about our commitment to quality and how we can help with your hydrant painting needs.

Warm, Family-Oriented, and Trust-Building

As the son of Giant's founder, Alex Giarrante carries forward the family legacy with passion and purpose. In his role as Customer Success Manager, Alex is dedicated to ensuring each client receives personal attention, clear communication, and long-term satisfaction. His hands-on approach and deep knowledge of the company's values make him an invaluable partner to every city we serve. His priority is making sure every city feels heard, supported, and proud of the results Giant provides.



Alex Giarrante

Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc.
Est. 1989 – Incorporated 2002



Some of our Crew Members



Luis Ramos – Assistant Project Manager, Peter Flores – Project Manager, Rey Flores – Project Manager, and Marco Ramos Perez – Crew Supervisor

What Every Operator *Should Know*

Joel Martinez

One thing that every operator should know is how to be a good neighbor. We often as operators get into a groove as we go about our day-to-day work life. We are so focused on achieving our goals in our own water systems that we forget to look at the big picture of water treatment. It's really quite impressive to think about all of the water systems there are both in Michigan and all over the country. Every town that you drive by has an intricate network of piping and some sort of water plant that feeds our product to the consumer. There are almost 50,000 community water supplies in the United States, and every one of those water systems does things a little bit differently than their neighbor.

The water system that I work for is closely tied to a neighboring system. We have numerous interconnections that are for regular and emergency use. They feed water to parts of our town, and we feed water to parts of theirs. This means that we obviously need to have very similar water quality. We are both softening plants and by looking at our daily plant effluent chemistry numbers, there are times where it would be hard to say whose water was whose. Even though our finished water is very similar, we get to that point in very different ways. The plants are different ages with distinctly different technologies.

This made both of our plants realize that our differences were a place where we could learn things from one another. We began by having operators and maintenance personnel do tours of each other's water plants. These peer led tours, which at first didn't involve any managers, gave our operators and their operators a forum to ask questions about how each plant operates and how each plant is maintained.

These tours have led to a great relationship between our two communities. We have both had eye opening moments seeing that one plant

had found a simple solution to a big problem that the other had been having. Our two systems have been able to make positive changes to our water plants by simply seeing how someone else does it.

Because of this we have started having tours of other systems around us. It is so great, especially for younger operators, to get an idea of how another plant runs. I have also found that when our operators meet operators from other plants, they can also have a little bit of venting session too! This leads to friendships being formed and that is a strong basis for a solid professional network.

These networking relationships mean that I now have tons of numbers stored in my phone of people I can go

to for help. This could be something as simple as asking if that person has ever experienced an issue that your plant is having and seeing how they worked through it. We have also used these relationships to borrow needed parts in times of emergency.

The thing that I think every operator should know is how to be a good neighbor. Reach out to a water system near you and begin to develop those relationships. Go on tours of other facilities. Encourage your operators be a part of this learning process so that they can grow their personal skillset and knowledge base. We should focus on being good water plant neighbors because we may need help from one of our neighbors someday soon. 💧

EMERGENCY CHLORINE SHUTOFF SYSTEM

Now With More Alarm Outputs -
"Low Battery" & "Not Armed and Ready"

- ◆ Closes valve within seconds
- ◆ Fire code approved as alternative for scrubber in most states
- ◆ Compatible with all direct mount vacuum regulators
- ◆ No tools or adapters required for installation on valve

HALOGEN
VALVE SYSTEMS, INC.

www.halogenvalve.com





Michigan's New AQUASTORE® Dealer

**Bringing 40 Years of
Experience Designing &
Constructing AQUASTORE®
Glass-Fused-To-Steel Liquid
Storage Tanks to Michigan.**

- More than 1,400 installations.
- Civil and structural P.E.'s on staff to assist with project design.
- Factory trained & certified foundation and tank construction crews.
- Dedicated inspection & service crews.



www.statewideaquastore.com

☎ 315.433.2782
@ info@statewideaquastore.com
🌐 www.statewideaquastore.com



Above the Bridge

UP Spring Water Conference Surges Ahead Despite Ice and Snow

Stacey Kukkonen, Communications Coordinator

HARRIS, MI - Not even a Northern Michigan ice storm could stop the momentum of the U.P. Spring Water Conference, held at the Island Resort & Casino in Harris April 1–2, 2025.

While the Mackinac Bridge closures posed a travel challenge for a few attendees, and snow showers blanketed much of the Upper Peninsula, the determination of Michigan's water professionals prevailed with nearly 130 attendees gathering for two days of learning, networking, and celebration of the state's water systems.

More than a dozen vendor tables lined the exhibit area, showcasing the latest technologies and services for water utilities, while the conference agenda delivered a robust lineup of sessions and industry updates. Presenters included representatives from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), as well as the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA), who provided crucial regulatory updates and insight into the future of water management in the state.

Highlights from the technical sessions included:

- **LD15 Leak Detection & Equipment Fund:** Exploring subsonic listening technology to advance leak detection efforts.
- **Lead Service Line Replacement:** A panel discussion and best practices shared from across the state.
- **Infrastructure Innovations:** Insights into drained and underwater tank inspections, and recent C2AE projects in Escanaba and Bessemer.
- **Real-World Case Studies:** A deep dive into Plainfield Township's recent initiatives and a recap of the 2023 Wakefield flood response.
- **Source Water Protection Strategies:** Safeguarding Michigan's water resources for generations to come.



- **Support from the Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center:** Resources and ways water systems can benefit from available assistance.

A highlight of the event was the Best Tasting Water in Michigan competition. The City of Marquette claimed the top honor and will go on to compete at MI-ACE25 in Port Huron against regional finalists from Mancelona Area Water and Sewer Authority, the City of Lowell, and East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority.

New this year, Eric VanLaanen of the U.P. Coordinating Committee stepped behind the mic as guest host of *The Current*, MI-AWWA's official podcast. VanLaanen collected interviews and reflections from attendees for a special "Tales from the U.P." episode, now available for streaming.

The 2025 UP Spring Water Conference proved that no matter the weather, Michigan's water professionals will always show up to protect, connect, and improve the systems that keep our communities flowing. Save the date for the U.P. Fall Water Conference, slated for September 23–24, 2025, in Harris. 💧

COPPER VS. PLASTIC PIPE: WHAT'S BEST FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT?

Elin Warn Betanzo, President and Founder,
Safe Water Engineering, LLC

As cities and water utilities across Michigan step up their efforts to replace lead service lines in response to the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), one of the most pressing questions is this: *Should we use copper or plastic pipe?*

There are several critical factors to weigh when deciding between copper and plastic pipe – beyond just the upfront cost. Long-term performance, potential health risks, and resilience to environmental challenges all play a vital role. If you're involved in planning or funding lead service line replacements, it's essential to look beyond initial expenses and consider the full range of impacts.

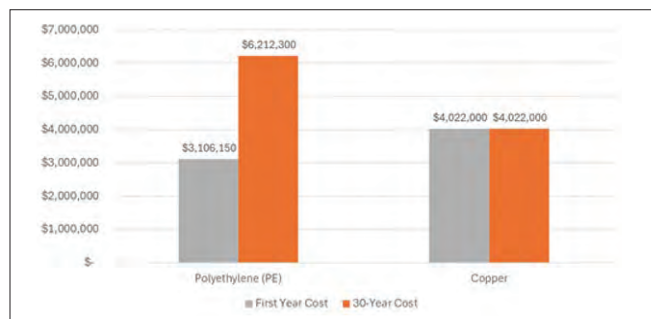
COST ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY

At first glance, plastic pipes – especially polyethylene (PE) – can seem like the budget-friendly choice. According to 2024 data, PE can save around \$900,000 when replacing 1,000 service lines using directional drilling, compared to copper. That's a major short-term win for stretched utility budgets.

But copper tells a different story in the context of asset management planning. With a lifespan potentially double that of PE, copper ends up being the more economical choice in the long run, saving an estimated \$2.2 million over the life of those same 1,000 service lines (Figure 1). Although these costs were consistent for 2024, copper prices are now volatile due to tariff uncertainty.

PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND REGULATORY GAPS

Copper is already regulated under EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, and its risks – though real – are understood and monitored. The same can't be said for PE. Several compounds used in or resulting from plastic piping, including organotin compounds, disinfection byproducts, and microplastics, are not currently regulated or routinely sampled at the tap. This lack of data and oversight could result in unexpected costs and health concerns down the road.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

When considering extreme events like wildfires, floods, or chemical spills, copper has significant advantages. It resists high heat and has low permeation risk. PE, on the other hand, can degrade under heat and absorb contaminants – raising concerns about its performance in areas facing climate-related disasters.

Still, PE isn't without merit. It is the better option in corrosive soils and is more flexible in regions with high seismic activity. Choosing PE means more than just swapping out the pipe – it also means grounding the building's electrical system, which can add over \$250 to each replacement.

SO, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. But for many utilities, copper remains the most future-proof investment when considering durability, safety, and lifecycle costs.

WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

Check out the full whitepaper, "Should I Use Copper or Plastic Pipe for My Lead Service Line Replacements?" by Safe Water Engineering for helpful figures and comparisons for evaluating local conditions and planning cost-effective, health-protective replacements. 💧

Read more at

<https://www.safewaterengineering.com/hottopics/should-i-use-copper-or-plastic-pipe-for-my-lead-service-line-replacements>

CELEBRATING DRINKING Water Week 2025



**“ PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH IS
AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE
DO IN THE WATER PROFESSION.”**

The Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association proudly joined communities across North America in celebrating *Drinking Water Week 2025*! Established more than 40 years ago by AWWA and its partners, this annual observance highlights the critical role clean, safe drinking water plays in our daily lives, and the dedicated professionals who make it all possible.

Throughout the week, water utilities, schools, government agencies, and environmental groups helped raise awareness about how water is protected, treated, and delivered to homes and businesses. As AWWA CEO David LaFrance put it, “Protecting public health is at the heart of everything we do in the water profession.”

Let’s give a standing ovation to Michigan’s water professionals for their tireless commitment to quality, safety, and community health. Thank you for all you do to ensure a reliable future through safe drinking water! 💧



Water for a changing world

With water resources that are increasingly finite, it’s time for transformational thinking. From innovative water supply and treatment to effective asset management and conveyance, we manage water to improve your competitiveness and resilience far into the future.

Learn more on www.arcadis.com

Contact us:
Arcadis Detroit Office
313.965.8436

Connect with us    

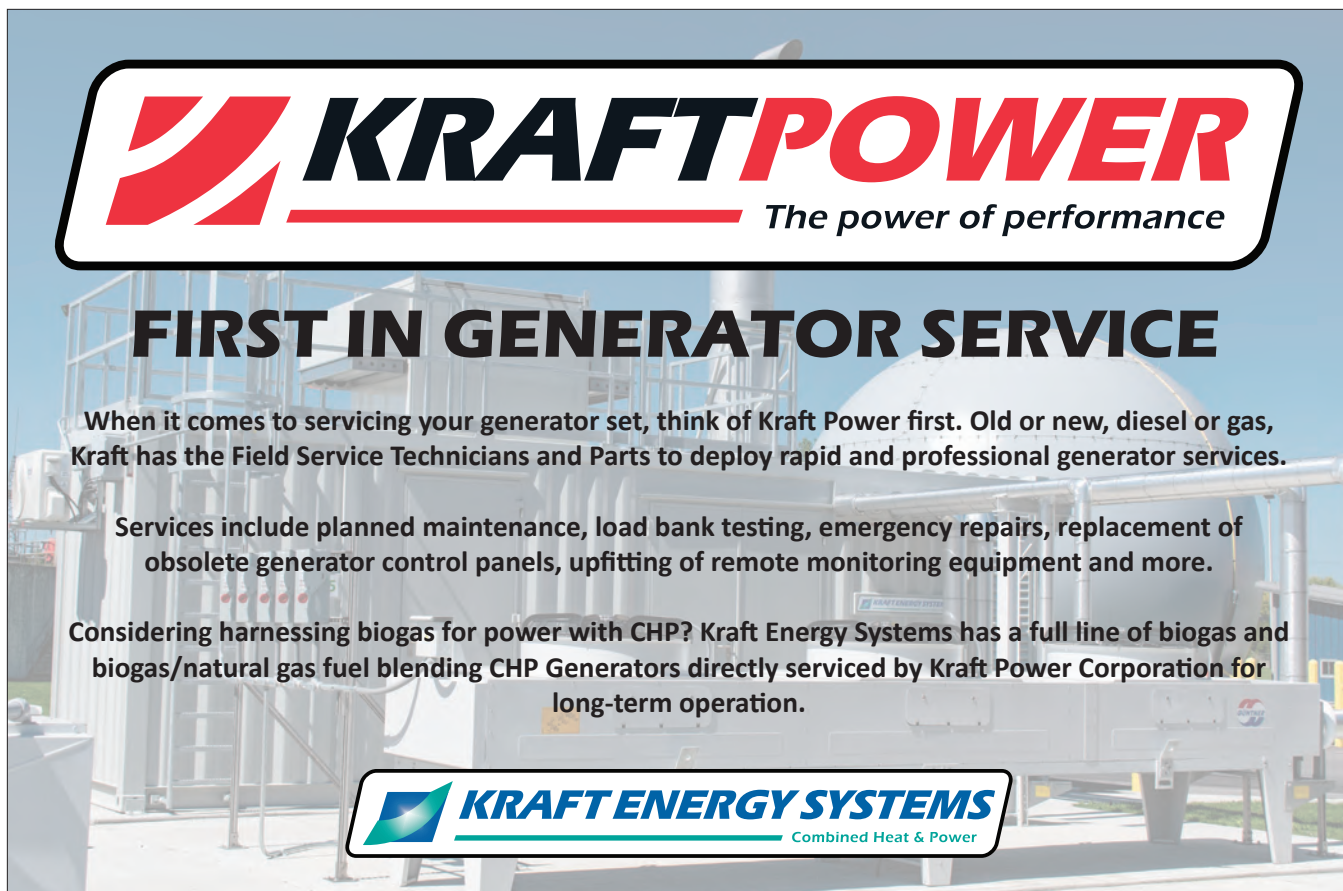
Arcadis. Improving quality of life.



WATERTAP
W INC.
Pipeline Specialists

24 Hour Emergency Service
Live Taps • Valve Insertions
Line Stops • Bypass Capability
PCCP Tapping Saddle & Transition Adapters
Complete Inventory

248.437.7023 • watertapinc.com
 48595 West Road • Wixom, MI 48393



KRAFTPOWER
The power of performance

FIRST IN GENERATOR SERVICE

When it comes to servicing your generator set, think of Kraft Power first. Old or new, diesel or gas, Kraft has the Field Service Technicians and Parts to deploy rapid and professional generator services.

Services include planned maintenance, load bank testing, emergency repairs, replacement of obsolete generator control panels, upfitting of remote monitoring equipment and more.

Considering harnessing biogas for power with CHP? Kraft Energy Systems has a full line of biogas and biogas/natural gas fuel blending CHP Generators directly serviced by Kraft Power Corporation for long-term operation.

KRAFT ENERGY SYSTEMS
 Combined Heat & Power

WHAT WE HEAR VS. WHAT WE KNOW

By Sandy Sutton, RDH, BS. MDHHS Oral Health Program, Oral Prevention Specialist

Currently it's very hard to know if what we are hearing is fact or fiction. As a person invested in science and healthcare, I see the spread of misinformation daily. Just because something is repeated over and over, getting louder each time, still does not make it factual. Case in point is the attack on Community Water Fluoridation (CWF). Let's separate what we are hearing against what we know as fact.

Since September of 2024, there have been sensationalized reports in the news from the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Monograph Report. This was to be the guiding document in a court case against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Food and Water Watch, an offshoot of a fluoride opposition group. In this document, this group hoped to prove that fluoride was a neurotoxin affecting children's intelligence and that it should be removed from water. Now for what we know- we know the NTP was not acceptable by two separate peer reviews but was still pushed through. On page three of the report it states that it "should make clear that the monograph (NTP) cannot be used to draw any conclusions regarding low fluoride concentrations, including those typically associated with drinking-water fluoridation." Why is this important? Because CWF uses the optimal level of 0.7 ppm, while the report begins with 1.5 ppm and includes studies from countries like China, India, and Iran where the naturally occurring levels can be as high as 25.0 ppm. Fluoride is naturally occurring in our food (both plants and animals), in the ground and in our water. In many cases, it's just not enough to have the benefit for our teeth. For the most part in Michigan, we don't have areas that are over the EPA's MCL (maximum contaminant level) regulation

of 4.0 ppm or the SMCL (secondary maximum contaminant level) of 2.0 ppm.

We continue to hear that adding fluoride to the water is a matter of choice. In Michigan, there is no state mandate to have fluoride; each community with a public water system that is fluoridated voted to add it. Some communities held a referendum, or a city-wide vote, while others voted through their city councils. Residents saw the value in disease prevention that fluoride gave to their communities. For those residents who don't want to have it, they can choose to purchase bottled water or install a reverse osmosis filtering system. To deny others in the community of a public health benefit that is helping to prevent disease is very short-sighted.

We hear that we get enough fluoride from toothpaste and mouthrinses. What we know is that while we do get some from both of those, not everyone uses them. Not everyone in our communities can afford to purchase toothpaste and mouthrinses or understand how to use them properly. CWF helps to fill-in those gaps. Think of the safety features in your car; we have airbags, anti-lock brakes, seatbelts, and shatter-resistant glass. Fluoride works in the same way. It's a tool in the toolbox that helps to prevent oral and other chronic diseases. The fluoride in water is a very small amount that works both topically and systemically. Topically by bathing the teeth, and systemically by coming back through the saliva and bathing the teeth a second time. Your body gets rid of it in the "normal fashion" by sending it to the wastewater side.

Finally, we hear that fluoridation costs too much. What we know is that one in four Michigan residents is on Medicaid and that we have a medical and dental

provider shortage. Removing CWF based on the cost to a city is like a rock tossed into the middle of a pond, the ripples it creates get bigger and bigger. With the threat of possible budget cuts to the Medicaid program, it could leave a large amount of people without medical and dental coverage. Without the "safety net" protection of fluoride, combined with lack of Medicaid insurance, and scarcity of providers, where will the people go for their dental issues or emergencies? We have already seen dental clinics in rural areas close due to lack of staff. These offices had up to a two-year wait list for patients. On average, to fluoridate a water system it costs between \$.50 to \$1.50 per person per year; a filling starts at \$75 or higher. This is money that could be spent by a family for rent, food, or other necessities.

Both Utah and Florida will be ending CWF in their respective states. We have seen what happens when fluoride is removed from a water system. There are two cautionary studies that recorded what happened in Juno, Alaska, and in Calgary, Alberta, Canada that can serve as great examples because they are well documented. Both removed fluoride through a vote. Within a few years, both cities started seeing the decay rates climbing high, and more children requiring hospitalization for general anesthesia to perform dental work because the disease was so severe.

I'd love to go on, but there is only so much room for print. CWF was implemented because it proved to be an easy, inexpensive way to stop dental disease. It's a natural mineral from the Earth that kills bacteria, stops sensitivity, and strengthens teeth. Fluoride helps keep teeth and our bodies healthy; many studies demonstrate that is a proven fact. 💧

"SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 2024, THERE HAVE BEEN SENSATIONALIZED REPORTS IN THE NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM (NTP) MONOGRAPH REPORT."

MICHIGAN FIELD DAY 2025: A HANDS-ON SUCCESS IN MASON

APRIL 30, 2025 | INGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MASON, MI



Michigan Field Day 2025, hosted by the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA), brought water professionals together for a full day of hands-on learning and industry collaboration. Held on April 30 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds, the event provided 0.5 Technical Drinking Water and Wastewater Continuing Education Credits (CECs).

The day opened with updates from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), followed by a technical session

on clamp-on ultrasonic flow meters presented by **Allied Instrumentation**. Attendees then rotated through a series of practical field sessions that mirrored real-world challenges and solutions.

Special thanks to the companies who led the field sessions and shared their expertise:

- **WaterTap**
- **MBA Distributing**
- **Utility Solutions**
- **Core & Main**
- **Seiler Geospatial**

In addition, **Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.**, in partnership with the **City of Mason**, provided a hydrant flow test demonstration.

Following a networking lunch and an MI-AWWA update, the afternoon closed with **Kennedy Industries**, presenting strategies on using preventative maintenance to enhance safety and lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

MI-AWWA extends its sincere appreciation to all participating companies, presenters, volunteers, and attendees for making Michigan Field Day 2025 such a valuable event. We look forward to seeing you again next year! 💧

NEW EPISODES OF *THE CURRENT* ARE LIVE! DIVE INTO MICHIGAN'S WATER STORIES

Catch the latest episodes of *The Current*, the official podcast of the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association!

In one of our latest episodes, Cheryl Porter, COO of Water and Field Services at the Great Lakes Water Authority, shares her journey into the water industry, the realities of shift work, and her passion for professional growth and community connection. Her story highlights the collaborative spirit of the water sector and the innovative mindset needed to face challenges like water scarcity and resilience.



From Detroit to the U.P., *The Current* brings you stories that move Michigan's

water industry forward. Tune in today at www.mi-water.org/current-podcast! 💧

**WE DON'T JUST
MAKE PIPE.
WE PROVIDE
SOLUTIONS.**



EVERY DAY, WE MAKE AMERICAN BETTER
AMERICAN never stops innovating. We're always breaking new ground in our technology, processes, and quality. This commitment to the future means ever-higher reliability, confidence, and sustainability – aligning with your needs. Throughout our history, the Right Way has meant giving you confidence in our products and our expertise. And, above all, your future.

DUCTILE IRON PIPE
FLOW CONTROL
SPIRALWELD PIPE
STEEL PIPE

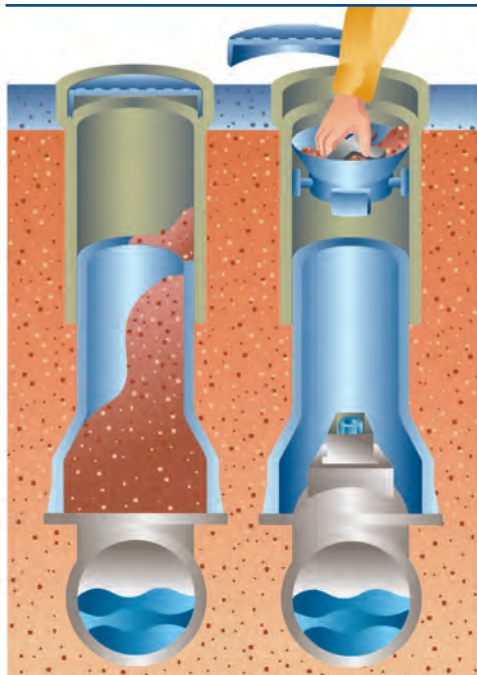


AMERICAN-USA.COM
1-205-325-7701



Introducing

The Debris Cap™



The Debris Cap™ is a simple, cost effective solution to keeping water valves, pipes, and risers free of dirt and debris allowing un-restricted access to valve shut-off for utility workers in a safe and timely manner. SW Services' products were designed to save municipalities, utility companies and emergency response crews thousands of dollars as well as crew hours to ensure the reduction of liability, insurance and maintenance costs. In addition, the Debris Cap™ is also applicable for emergency crew's rapid response to line breaks where a valve may not be easily located or buried and may significantly increase the time it takes to repair the line break. The Debris Cap™ is OSHA "Lock-Out/Tag-Out" compliant which maximizes the health and safety of employees. The lockout/tagout option also prevents unauthorized access/operation of valves. The Debris Cap™ is made of injection-molded plastic and premium elastomeric rubber materials in order to ensure long service life.



22223 NORTH 16th STREET PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85024
www.debriscaps.com 1-800-462-2773

BEST TASTING WATER



BEST TASTING WATER 2025 *Regional Champs*



The Spring Regional Water Seminars of the Michigan Section of the AWWA have come and gone, and sprinkled into the thought-provoking presentations and opportunities for networking, we have crowned the Best Tasting Water in each of this year's four Regions. All the

competitors came armed with their finest H₂O masterpieces; each one thirstier for victory than the last! At stake was a spot in the State Taste-Off to be held this fall and local bragging rights.

Our four Regional Champions are all outstanding water supplies, all with past

championship pedigrees, who fended off intense competition en route to their wins. In the Upper Peninsula, **City of Marquette** returned to the winner's circle and stood alone as the best water in da UP. In Livonia, **East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority** added another regional championship notch to their belt. In Lansing, the **City of Lowell** bested the most crowded field of competitors to take home the hardware. Finally, in Gaylord, the **Mancelona Area Water & Sewer Authority** continued their legacy of championship water. This will be a battle of powerhouse systems and proves again that the water talent in this State is unparalleled. Congratulations to all our Regional Champions!

These four Regional Champions will face off at the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference and Exhibits, September 9-12 in Port Huron, to determine who will be named Best Tasting Water in Michigan. The 2025 State Champ will represent the Section at AWWA ACE in Washington, D.C. June 21-24, 2026!

Thanks to everyone who competed in Spring Regionals this year and congratulations, again, to our Regional Champs. I am excited to see you in Port Huron this September!

Are you interested in joining the Best Tasting Water Committee? Email the staff at info@mi-water.org for more information. 💧

Jones & Henry Engineers

Proudly providing **Fluid thinking®** to Michigan communities for almost 100 years.

Kalamazoo Office
4791 Campus Drive
269-353-9650



Jones & Henry
Engineers

#fluidthinking®



Water

Wastewater

Infrastructure

Support Services

Midwest NIGHT 2025

June 9 | ACE25 | Denver



Thank you to our sponsors!



BURGESS & NIPLE



Hazen

Jacobs

Challenging today.
Reinventing tomorrow.



Jones & Henry
Engineers





**FIRE HYDRANTS PAINT READY
IN 60 SECONDS.**

419-564-9809 | theplughug.com



**Flushing
810-230-2737**

**Kalamazoo
269-383-1200**

**Kentwood
616-803-7521**

**Lansing
517-322-0300**

**Warren
586-459-4491**

WWW.FERGUSON.COM



Is your utility ready for the US EPA
America's Water Infrastructure Act
(AWIA) Risk and Resilience
Assessment June 2026 deadline?

**Stantec can help!
Stop by booth #10.**



Replacing Lead Service Lines?

**Ensure compliance,
build trust &
get the job done**

with our tested planning, outreach
and education package.

Learn More

**Safe Water
ENGINEERING**



DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN DRINKING WATER
THROUGH DATA, COLLABORATION, AND COMMUNICATION



WATER WEEK AND THE DC FLY-IN

A group of Michigan Section AWWA members gathered in Washington D.C. from April 6 – 12th to participate in Water Week, an event focused on advancing key water policy priorities through in-person events, meetings and advocacy on Capitol Hill. The Michigan contingent joined over 200 other AWWA members to advocate for the Association's four priority issues:

- **Invest in Infrastructure** – Fully fund SRF
- **PFAS** – Secure CERCLA exemptions for "passive handlers"
- **Cybersecurity** – Support a collaborative approach
- **Affordability** – Establish a permanent low-income household water assistance program

Led by our fearless Government Affairs Council Chair, Sara Rubino, the Michigan group secured meetings with seven congressional representatives and both U.S. senators. Michigan representatives from water utilities representing NACWA and APWA also joined several meetings to reinforce the importance of these initiatives on all water utilities.

Throughout the week, participants attended policy briefings and updates from the senior EPA officials, including Jessica Kramer, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Office of Water, Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, and Jennifer McLain, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. EPA's current priorities include streamlining access to funding, improving technical assistance, and energy and water reuse.

As these initiatives progress, AWWA will be looking for local utilities to send letters of support to their congressional representatives and to engage in advocacy efforts. We encourage utilities to build relationships with their elected officials – invite them for a facility tour the next time they are in district, share your challenges, and tell your story.

Building long term relationships is key to becoming a trusted advisor on water issues. We are proud of the



work being done in Washington D.C. to bring a positive and scientific impact on water policy. However, the advocacy doesn't stop there. The Michigan Section

Government Affairs Council is planning a legislative day in Lansing. If you or your utility are interested in participating, please reach out to Sara Rubino or Mike Compagioni. 💧



2025 NOMINATIONS

Chair-Elect Nominee

Angie Goodman

Angie Goodman is the Senior Water Quality Administrator for the Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL), where she has proudly served for 24 years.

She holds F-1 and S-3 licenses and is responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations, responding to customer inquiries, and maintaining public confidence in the water supply.

Angie earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University.

Throughout her career, Angie has championed clean, safe water for the Lansing community and beyond. She is an active member of the Section, where she has served in multiple leadership and committee roles, including Vice-Chair of the Communication Council, a member of the Research and Treatment Practices Committee, and the AWWA Online Standards Committee. She also led the Tri-County Groundwater Management Board's Technical Advisory Council for over a decade and now serves as a voting board member. Additionally, she chairs BWL's Community Water Advisory Council for Lead.

Angie's creativity has left a lasting mark – she designed BWL's mascot, Tommy Tap Water, authored children's books on water topics, helped launch a school program to reduce lead exposure, and redesigned the Annual Water Quality Report to emphasize transparency and education.

Outside of work, Angie enjoys art projects, time with family, and caring for her three golden retrievers. She looks forward to serving as Chair Elect for MI-AWWA.



infrastructure finance and sustainable public systems. His career spans design engineering, capital planning, regulatory compliance, and field implementation.

Currently, he works as the Co-Founder and CEO of Motmot, a Detroit-based company developing autonomous underwater robots to inspect drinking water main systems. Motmot works with municipalities, universities, and utilities to bring modern condition assessment tools to the field, aiming to lower the barrier for entry for improved asset visibility, and helping communities make more informed decisions leveraging the empirical risk profile of their systems.

Elliot currently serves on the MI-AWWA Planning and Strategy Committee and recently helped lead a full rewrite of the Section's four-year strategic plan. He also contributed to the updated business plan, where he emphasized affordability, resilience, and support for communities that are historically underserved or underfunded. His focus within the Section is on helping utilities stretch limited budgets while maintaining public health and long-term system performance.

Elliot lives in Detroit and is proud to be building public infrastructure tools in the state where he grew up. He is excited to join the leadership team as Trustee and looks forward to supporting the Section's work across policy, technology, and the future of the water workforce.

Trustee Nominee

Frank Williams

Frank Williams is Vice-President of the Water Resources Division at Peerless Midwest, Inc. He began his career in the water industry between semesters at college pulling and setting well pumps. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in economics and master's in business, Frank joined Peerless Midwest full-time as inside sales support and eventually became project manager.

Frank has been very active in the Michigan section, starting out with the Young Professionals committee, and continuing with the Groundwater



Source Water committee, the Joint Expo committee, Safe Water in Ecuador, Strategic Planning, and the Membership Council, where he is currently serving as chair. Work with the membership council is particularly enjoyable due to the collaboration with its various sub-committees: DEI, Industry Recruitment, Young Professionals, Youth Education, and Women on Water.

Frank and his wife have four wonderful children enrolled in endless amounts of sports and activities, but in his spare time, he enjoys golfing and traveling, particularly to warm destinations. He looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the sustainable future of the Michigan section.

Secretary/Treasurer Nominee Tom Smith

Tom Smith is a project manager at Prein&Newhof and has been serving municipal and private client in Michigan for 36 years. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Tom was encouraged to get involved with the Michigan Section AWWA by Tom Newhof when he joined the company in 2000. He quickly joined the Education Committee and became the chair of the new Young Professional Committee soon thereafter. He has been involved with many committees and councils over the years and was fortunate enough to serve as chair of the MI-AWWA in 2014. Since then he has remained involved with committees and councils, including serving on the finance committee and Vice-Chair of the Conference and Recognition Committee in recent years.

The MI-AWWA Section has provided Tom an opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people and for personal growth. He is honored to continue to serve, this time as treasurer for the section. He has served as treasurer in many other organizations and has to occasionally lean on his accountant wife Lisa. He and Lisa still enjoy time with their two children, ages 26 and 24, when possible. 💧



Trustee Nominee

Elliot Smith

Elliot Smith is a licensed PE with a background in civil engineering and municipal consulting. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and an MBA from Michigan State University, where he focused on

COMMUNICATION COUNCIL

The Communications Council is looking for members to join us. The purpose of this council is to serve as a resource for the development and implementation of programs designed to improve the water industry’s image and to oversee internal communication to assure an informed membership. We work with all the councils to promote their work and engagement to promote the Section. We have committees of all interest- Podcast committee, *Water Works News*, Website updates, and Social Media Committee. 💧

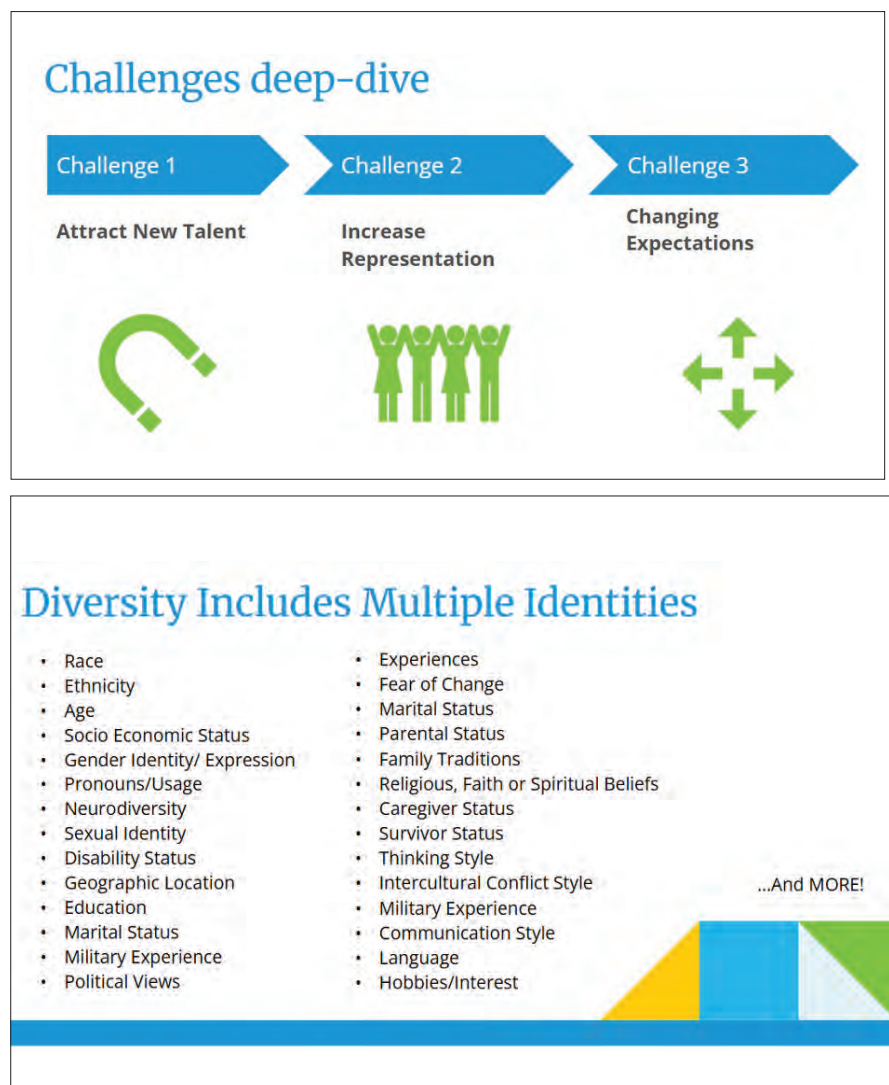
FOSTERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION: INSIGHTS FROM THE JOINT EXPO INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

By the MI-AWWA DEI Committee

The MI-AWWA DEI Committee facilitated a SOLD-OUT event at the MWEA/MI-AWWA Joint Expo on February 5, 2025, at the Lansing Center. What started as an idea for a small presentation eventually evolved into a half-day workshop covering a broad range of topics related to our industry’s evolving workforce.

In addition to our presenters, Zanna Leciejewski, P.E., a Principal Engineer at Hazen and Sawyer and Hillary Caron, Water Education & Programs Coordinator for the City of Grand Rapids Water System, helped facilitate discussions and keep the workshop on track. Depending on your generation, Hillary and Zanna were described as the acting Phil Donahue, Sally Jesse Raphael, or Oprah, working the crowd and getting folks to talk outside their comfort zones.

Joseph Callahan, a Project Engineer for the City of East Lansing, started off the morning, with an introduction to “DEI” – what it really means and what it includes. (Hint, it includes all of us!) He spoke openly from his heart and helped people think about their own experiences and challenges they face when communicating with diverse groups of people. With a vocabulary set for understanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a shared experience, each table engaged in questions to encourage meaningful dialogue:





- How can you close the gap between how you intend to treat people, and your behaviors or impact on employee experiences and interactions?
- What perceptions and biases do you have? How might perceptions and biases limit or enable fairness and equal outcomes for you and your colleagues at work? (As an example, the audience was asked if they would be biased against Zanna if they learned she went to Ohio State University.)

The Committee also brought in expert Caryn Bedford, a Human Resources Consultant at HRM Solutions, to provide a data-driven look at employment trends, and strategies to improve workforce retention across more diverse communities. Caryn used her years of experience in talent acquisition, leadership coaching, and developing educational and engagement programs to identify common mistakes to avoid and to provide real-world examples of improving outcomes. Some of the challenges she identified, *and provided solutions for*, included:

- Skilled workers are aging and retiring in high numbers
- Talent retention due to employees moving to regions with a lower cost of living or pursuing other jobs with higher pay
- The lack of training programs for non-traditional workers
- Inflexible hiring procedures in water organizations
- Improving public visibility of jobs in the Water Workforce

The idea for this workshop came from MI-AWWA's previous work with an organization called "The Advocacy Group" or "TAG," who provided the Section with some packaged presentations and educational materials related to workforce topics. Sally Duffy, P.E., a Manager at Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., was initially set to present their intercultural communication materials, but a trial run with some brave volunteers revealed an even greater need for strategies to navigate *intergenerational* differences. Sally made a quick pivot and focused on how we are now working with five distinct generations: the Silent

The Five Generations in today's Workforce

- **The Silent Generation**
(born 1925 to 1945; loyal but traditional)
- **Baby Boomers**
(1946 to 1964; collaborative but averse to change)
- **Generation X**
(1965 to 1980; independent but bleak)
- **Millennials**
(1981 to 2000; driven but entitled)
- **Generation Z**
(2001 to 2020; progressive but disloyal)

<https://hbr.org/2021/08/how-to-manage-a-multi-generational-team>

	Talent	Team	Leadership	Culture
Resist Assumptions	Appreciate individual contributions, create new work categories and returnship	Identify and welcome different types of knowledge	Focus on competence and expertise and avoid stereotypes	Recognize shared values across generations, avoid "us versus them"
Adjust the Lens	Welcome multiple views and provide tailored opportunities	Catalog strengths and opportunities	Meet team members where they are	Intergenerational transfer of knowledge
Strengthen Trust	Create and refine job descriptions to attract diverse candidates	Ground rules for discussion and manage expectations	Share power and value individual contributions	Allow employees to explore practices within company's values
Expand the Pie	Provide learning and career development opportunities	Value collaboration instead of competition	Lead to guide and develop others	Mutual mentoring and discussion to foster knowledge exchange

Gentelligence, Gerhardt.

Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z. Sally's research, largely from Megan Gerhardt's book *Gentelligence*, resulted in the following strategies to more effectively communicate across generations:

- *Resist Assumptions*. You can take note of patterns and generalizations but avoid stereotyping
- *Adjust the Lens*. Try to understand why differences exist and the reasons and intent behind the behaviors.
- *Strengthening Trust*. When there is push back on a procedure, be receptive but guide new ideas to fit within the company's mission, purpose, values, and goals.
- *Expand the Pie*. Catalog employee skills and experiences to promote knowledge transfer. Look for strengths versus weaknesses and threats versus opportunities.

The overall feedback from this workshop was positive, which was encouraging because we know these topics require a degree of trust to discuss honestly. The Committee felt that the frank discussions that took place and strategies presented gave people tools they could start using right away both in their workplaces and in their daily lives. For those who missed this event, a shorter version is scheduled to be presented at Michigan ACE by Zanna and Sally – ensuring that the conversation continues. We look forward to seeing you!

The DEI Committee meets regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss hot topics related to workforce issues in our industry. If you would like more information on the MI-AWWA DEI Committee, please contact Chair Joseph Callahan (jcallahan@cityofeastlansing.com). 💧



EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL (ETC) UPDATE

The Education and Training Council (ETC) is actively looking for members to join one of its committees. The MI-AWWA Security/Cybersecurity and Emergency Management Committee is looking for new members to join. Water sector cybersecurity is one of critical infrastructure sectors that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is currently focusing on. Come be part of a team that is focused on helping to secure the water works systems of Michigan. Please reach out to Koren Carpenter (carpenterk5@michigan.gov) or MI-AWWA staff if you are interested in joining. 💧

LAB PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Greetings from the joint Lab Practices Committee! We represent a network of municipal treatment plants and private testing facilities from across the state with a goal of fostering open communication between all water and wastewater laboratories. Our roster includes over 50 water professionals and we are always on the hunt for additional interested members.

We meet once a month virtually on the second Thursday to share

“NEW THIS YEAR IS THE ADDITION OF A SEMINAR PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH MEETS MONTHLY IN PARALLEL TO ORGANIZE THE ANNUAL LAB PRACTICES SEMINAR. THE SUBCOMMITTEE STARTS BY SELECTING THE PRESENTATION TOPICS AND SPEAKERS THEN MOVES TO HANDLE THE LOGISTICS AND RUNNING OF THE SEMINAR.”

WATER TREATMENT MADE EASY

Keep your system in spec with specialty flocculants, coagulants, and NSF-certified bleach — delivered reliably by Haviland's dedicated truck fleet.

One supplier. Consistent inventory. Zero headaches.

- ▶ **CHEMISTRY THAT DELIVERS.**
- ▶ **100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED.**



(800) 456-1134

ChemicalExperts@Havilandusa.com

HavilandUSA.com



organizational updates and discuss new laboratory or legislative developments affecting our tests, procedures and equipment. Occasional meetings are held at a facility or lab coupled with a tour. Each meeting includes an open floor round table where members have a chance to share their challenges and successes, news from their area of the state, or which positions they have open if currently hiring.

New this year is the addition of a *Seminar Planning Subcommittee* which meets monthly in parallel to organize the annual Lab Practices Seminar. The subcommittee starts by selecting the presentation topics and speakers then moves to handle the logistics and running of the seminar. If you've ever been interested in building seminars or conferences, this is a great opportunity to gain experience with that process.

This year's seminar is scheduled for November 12th, hosted by our committee with vital assistance from the MWEA and MI-AWWA staff. We hope to see you all there to learn and grow together! Please feel free to reach out to myself or our Vice-Chair Theo Van Aken if you or someone you know would like to join our committee and mailing list.

Jack Hughes –
hughes@meridian.mi.us 💧

WOMEN ON WATER: ENGAGEMENT PANEL

During a virtual lunchtime panel hosted by the Women on Water Committee of the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA), three influential women in the water industry came together to share insights from their careers, offer mentorship wisdom, and discuss how they're shaping the future of water in Michigan and beyond.

The event, designed to spotlight women leaders in the field, featured Esther Baptiste, Samarhia (Sam) Johnson, and Christine Spitzley – each representing a different facet of the industry but all united by their dedication to public service, innovation, and community impact.

Meet the Panelists:

Esther Baptiste is a dedicated public servant and Management Professional in Planning Services at the Great Lakes

Water Authority (GLWA) in Detroit. She plays a vital role in GLWA's Member Outreach Program, engaging more than 100 community partners on water and wastewater initiatives. Committed to workforce development and equitable access to water services, she's a graduate of both the AWWA/ Water Now Alliance Transformative Water Leadership Academy and the Michigan Infrastructure Council Asset Management Champions Program. Esther was also the recipient of the 2023 MI-AWWA Richard Husby Award for Public Awareness.

As the Administrative Services Officer for the City of Grand Rapids Utilities, Samariah (Sam) Giffel leads operations in finance, affordability, asset management, and community engagement. With experience in both public utilities and the private insurance sector, she brings a strategic mindset to

her work – most recently developing a regional AMI program and a water affordability initiative. Sam also holds leadership roles with the West Michigan NFBPA Chapter and the Michigan Section AWWA.

Christine Spitzley is Principal at OHM Advisors and a licensed planner, Christine's career spans water infrastructure, environmental planning, and economic development. As Director of the Michigan Section and an AWWA Vice President, she focuses on building strong cross-disciplinary teams and long-term community-centered strategies. She likens her strategic thinking to a Spirograph – layered, colorful, and interconnected.

The panel opened with the question: "What is your water story or water progression?" – a prompt that revealed the diverse paths each woman took into the sector. Whether through



engineers | surveyors | planners



Water Supply, Treatment,
and Distribution Services

www.williams-works.com (616) 224-1500



DESIGN. BUILD. OPERATE.



www.fveng.com WATER & WASTEWATER ENGINEERING



planning, public outreach, or financial management, each panelist shared how their roles evolved alongside a deepening commitment to public impact.

Mentorship emerged as a central theme. The panelists responded to: "How do you find a mentor?" and "What makes a good mentor or mentee?" Their insights underscored the importance of intentional relationship-building, humility, and a willingness to both give and receive feedback. They emphasized that mentorship can be both formal and informal – and that it's often about mutual growth.

The discussion also offered valuable career advice. When asked, "What advice would you give to someone starting out in the water industry?", panelists encouraged newcomers to stay curious, seek broad exposure to the many facets

of the field, and connect with people who are passionate about the work. To those who are more seasoned, the advice shifted to mentorship, legacy-building, and staying engaged with industry changes to remain relevant and impactful.

Addressing misconceptions, the panel tackled the question: "What are some of the common misconceptions about the water industry?" – ranging from assumptions that it's all engineering-focused to underestimating the importance of communication, policy, and community relationships in water work.

The conversation closed on a candid and personal note with: "How do you avoid burnout?" Panelists acknowledged the emotional and logistical weight of working in a critical infrastructure sector

and shared practical strategies: setting boundaries, leaning on peer networks, making space for joy, and keeping a long-term perspective.

A Shared Commitment to Progress

This panel wasn't just an exchange of professional experiences – it was a moment of collective reflection on what it means to lead in an industry undergoing rapid transformation. From Esther's community-centered outreach, to Sam's innovation in affordability and equity, to Christine's visionary systems thinking, attendees left inspired and equipped with real-world takeaways.

The Women on Water Committee will continue to host events that create space for connection, leadership, and growth. 💧

Advanced Rehabilitation Technology

www.artcoatingtech.com
419-636-2684

- Manhole Coatings
- Wet Wells & Tank Linings
- Potable Water Storage Basins
- Culvert Lining Installations
- Landfill Leachate Tank Coatings
- Secondary Containment
- Clean Room Applications



Scan to:
Learn More
Book a Demo
Get a Quote

A certified **LOBIC** installer!

REHABILITATE RESTORE REPAIR





THE MI-AWWA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Young Professionals Summit for Future Water Leaders

This past February, Zanna Leciejewski, the vice-chair of the Young Professionals, was able to travel to Dallas, Texas to attend the YP Summit. This Summit, put on annually by AWWA and WEF, provides an opportunity for emerging water leaders to meet, network, and collaborate. This Summit included opportunities to discuss emerging challenges in the water industry, develop necessary skills for future water leaders, and gain hands-on experience with different tools and instruments used in the industry. The Summit began with an optional tour of the Bachman Treatment Plant, with special emphasis on their ozonation and corrosion control processes. Bachman Treatment Plant has an average production of 100 MGD with a production capacity of 150 MGD.

The Summit included a keynote address from Michigan's own Cheryl Porter. During her address, Cheryl spoke to many of the concerns young professionals have in the industry and shared her own insights and experiences. During the two days of the Summit, there were multiple presentations on a variety of topics: emotional intelligence, finding context in water and the work we do, opportunities for leadership for Young Professionals, discussions on the politics of success, responding to workforce tidal shifts.

The Young Professionals Summit was truly an amazing opportunity. I met so many wonderful people that inspired me with the work they do and made me excited to bring back some of these ideas to our state's committee. One of the events, a panel including young and more seasoned professionals in the water industry, is something that we will be hosting at MI-ACE with our own Michigan professionals! 💧



Young Professionals touring the Bachman Water Treatment Plant in Dallas



Young Professionals enjoyed listening to Michigan's own Cheryl Porter, the keynote speaker for the Summit.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Jacobs
Challenging today.
Reinventing tomorrow.

1050 Wilshire Drive
Suite 150
Troy, Michigan 48064
Phone: 248-839-0900

Follow us @JacobsConnects | [jacobs.com](https://www.jacobs.com)

As of May 1, the Section has 2,387 members, up from 2,283 on September 1, 2024. The committees under the Membership Council aim to host events applicable to everyone, and we hope you as a member find value in those activities. Youth Education is participating in Water Festivals in Grand Rapids and Holland, and the Young Professionals are co-hosting the third-annual cornhole tournament in Detroit. Next time you find an event that piques your interest, consider finding a non-member friend or co-worker to bring along and potentially grow the section. With MI-ACE coming up in September, it is not too early to consider the many volunteer opportunities available and necessary to host a great conference. I look forward to seeing everyone in Port Huron. Frank Williams – frank.williams@peerlessmidwest.com 💧

Do you need more clarity in your network? We can provide it!



Transforming wastewater back into clean water takes a lot of work. This makes it all the more important to have readings you can rely on. Our level and pressure instrumentation is made precisely for this purpose: To ensure that when you measure, you get accurate and reliable data, so you know what's going on in your processes.

Everything is possible. With VEGA.



OFFICIAL MEMBER NOTICE: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

This is an official notification to Michigan AWWA members. The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron from 8:00 to 8:20 am. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Annual Conference & Exhibits (MI-ACE 2025). Registration for the conference is encouraged but not required to attend the Annual Business Meeting.*

*If you would like to attend the Annual Business Meeting only and do not plan to register for MI-ACE 2025, RSVP your intention to participate in the Annual Business Meeting by emailing jonelle@mi-water.org.

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Chair's Report

2025-2026 Nominations

- Chair-Elect – Angie Goodman, Lansing Board of Water & Light
- Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Smith, Prein & Newhof
- Trustee 2025-2028 – Frank Williams, Peerless-Midwest Inc
- Trustee 2025-2028 – Elliot Smith, Motmot Inc

Conference Update

Membership Update

Treasurer's Report 💧

MI-AWWA LEADERSHIP RETREAT



The MI-AWWA Leadership Retreat brought together our Board, Council and Committee leaders, and staff for a meaningful day of connection, reflection, and planning. This gathering served as a valuable opportunity to align around shared goals, address barriers, and inspire new ideas to strengthen our collective efforts across the Section. Throughout the retreat, we explored how internal processes, from

proposing new initiatives to planning events, can be more efficient and collaborative. Leaders discussed ways to improve communication, clarify expectations, and better support one another in carrying out the Section's mission. Conversations also centered on how we define and measure success, not only in terms of attendance and revenue, but in long-term impact and member engagement.

A key focus of the day was the essential role that training and professional development play in sustaining both our mission and organizational health. Attendees reflected on what MI-AWWA would look like without these offerings and identified opportunities to strengthen, expand, and support training efforts throughout the state.

The retreat emphasized the importance of collective leadership. Through open dialogue and thoughtful input, participants left with a renewed sense of clarity, connection, and purpose. The ideas and energy shared during this event will help guide our direction in the year ahead. 💧



ON THE MOVE

Kyle Tryan has started a new position as sales engineer with Gasvoda, covering Western Lower Michigan.

Recently on the move? Let us know! Send the details to stacey@mi-water.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined from
January 1 – May 1, 2025

Alan Armstrong, Evoqua Water Technologies
Alex Babe
Allen Ouzts, Grand Rapids Water Department
Andrew Denuyl, City of Wyoming Utilities Department
Cari Ayoub, Grand Rapids Water Department
Charles Fritts, City of Three Rivers
Christopher McCowan-Stevens,
City of Portage
Conor Gowan, Wayne State University
Dave Evans, AMPP
Edward Kickham, Kickham Hanley PLLC
Fred Collins, Great Lakes Water Authority
Greg Dunbar, City of Fremont
Jacob Crane, Lansing Board of Water & Light
James Busby, BMJ Engineers & Surveyors, Inc.
James Huguelet, City of Perry
Jay Blenkhorn, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner
Jeffrey Jones, Great Lakes Water Authority
Jenny Frakes, Great Lakes Water Authority
Jessie Franklin, City of Muskegon Heights
Joel Sensenig
Josh Hoeve, City of Wyoming Utilities Department
Kayla Siemen, Hubbell Roth and Clark Inc
Keithia Flanders, Great Lakes Water Authority
Kolene Allen, Grand Rapids Water Department
Maddie Spooner, NTH Consultants, Ltd.
Michael Clark, Village of Marcellus
Morgan Saunders, Arcadis
Nathan French, Water District #1 of Midland County
Nicholas Bresler, SME
Paula Gustafson, City of Portage
Rob Whitson, Aquasight
Ryan Jones, Village of Webberville
Shirley Smith, City of Perry
Stephanie Kozal, F&V Operations and Resource Management



Together
we deliver

Brown AND Caldwell®

Engineers | Scientists | Consultants | Constructors
100% Environmental | Employee Owned | BrownandCaldwell.com

LEAD ACTION LEVEL UPDATES

Original federal and state lead and copper rules set a lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for public water systems nationwide. In 2018, Michigan enacted more stringent lead and copper rule (LCR) requirements, including lowering the lead action level (AL) to 12 ppb beginning with sampling conducted on or after January 1, 2025. This could increase the number of action level exceedances (ALE), but reflects a change in standards, not a change in water quality. The copper AL remains at 1.3 parts per million.

In January 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), updating federal lead and copper requirements. Shortly after promulgation, the EPA paused the LCRR to allow time for additional public comment and regulatory review. Following the review, the EPA decided the LCRR would go into effect to support near-term goals – including service line material inventory requirements, lead ALE notification changes, and others – with an effective compliance date of October 16, 2024.

One specific change as of October 16, 2024, is that water supplies must now issue a 24-hour Tier 1 public notice (PN) if they have a lead ALE and submit a copy to EGLE and the EPA.

EGLE will work with community water supplies to develop the Tier 1 PN in the event of a lead ALE. Within 10 days of issuing the PN, a certification of distribution must be submitted to EGLE. EGLE recommends that water supplies create or update a communication plan, especially if they have lead, galvanized previously connected to lead, and lead status unknown service lines. This plan can be used to quickly communicate with water customers and media outlets if the water supply has a lead ALE in the future.

The Lead and Copper Improvements (LCRI) were finalized last year, and the requirements will be in effect no later than November 1, 2027. Michigan will go through a rule-making process to adopt the federal changes outlined within the LCRI. The LCRI will further tighten the lead action level to 10 ppb by late 2027.

Until the LCRI takes effect, water supplies should continue following the Michigan LCR and the recent changes from the federal LCRR. More information about future changes in requirements will be communicated to water supplies.

If you have questions about the requirements above, please contact the EGLE Lead and Copper Unit. Visit michigan.gov/lcr for contact information.💧



800.482.2864
www.wadetrिम.com



For nearly a century, we've been solving complex engineering challenges to maximize the value of your infrastructure investments. We adapt our work processes to fit the unique demands of each project using a collaborative, friendly style. The result? Solutions you can stand behind.

OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UPDATE – OPERATOR CONTACT OPT-IN

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

To accommodate these requests EGLE created an "Operator Contact Information Opt-In" program to help connect water supplies with operators. By completing an online form, operators consent to making their contact information available to verified water supply systems. Operators interested in opting into this program are encouraged to fill out the online form.

The opt-in form is for both community and non-community public water supplies. Visit the Drinking Water Operator Certification website *Drinking Water Operator Certification* (michigan.gov) and select the Operator Contact Opt-In link to sign-up or for more information.💧

EGLE PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL PROCESS UPDATE

The Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD) recently updated the submission process for construction permit applications as a part of the implantation of the Michigan Environmental Health and Drinking Water Information System (MiEHDWIS).

One of the changes that comes along with the updates is that **EGLE no longer accepts hard copy permit application submittals**. Community water supplies should submit permit applications through MiEHDWIS to streamline the permit approval process. A Certifier must be associated to the water supply to complete submittals through MiEHDWIS. Please note that you do not need to have the certifier status in order to prepare/upload documents into MiEHDWIS. However, there does need to be at least one person from the water supply that is




assigned the certifier role. This person will have the ability to certify ("approve") documents and submit activities to EGLE for review/processing. If you need other accommodation, please contact your district engineer.

More information on MiEHDWIS, including how to request an account can be found by visiting the following links:

- **General Information** – *Michigan Environmental Health and Drinking*

Water Information System (MiEHDWIS)

- **Create a MiEHDWIS Account** – *How Do I create a MiLogin for Business Account?*
- **Certifier Request for MiEHDWIS** – *How Do I get a Certifier Role?*

If you have any questions about the process, please email egle-miehdwis@michigan.gov 



Simplicity at its finest.

With the fewest parts in the industry, the WaterMaster® fire hydrant is known for its reliability and ease of maintenance.

Learn more at ejco.com/hydrant or call 800 626 4653
Made in the USA





TRAINING CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Aug 20 = MIACE Volunteer and Speaker Orientation (online)	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2025 FALL REGIONAL SEMINARS!

MI-AWWA's Fall Regional Seminars are your chance to connect, learn, and grow with fellow water professionals across Michigan. Registration is now open. Reserve your spot today!

- **Tuesday, October 14 – Livonia**
Schoolcraft College – Vistatech Center
- **Wednesday, October 15 – Lansing**
Lansing Community College – West Campus
- **Thursday, October 16 – Gaylord**
Kirtland University Center

Session details are coming soon. Don't wait to register!

UP FALL WATER CONFERENCE

- **Tuesday, September 23 and
Wednesday, September 24 – Harris**
Island Resort & Casino

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 MIAWWA Annual Golf Outing (Port Huron) Michigan Section 87th Annual Conference and Exhibits (Port Huron)	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 U.P. Fall Water Conference (Harris)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2 Lab School for Water Operators (Ann Arbor)	3 Lab School for Water Operators (Holland)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Livonia Fall Regional Seminars (Livonia)	15 Lansing Fall Regional Seminars (Lansing)	16 Gaylord Fall Regional Seminars (Gaylord)	17	18
19	20	21	22 Maintenance: Pumps and Valves (Wixom)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 MWEA/ MI-AWWA Annual Maintenance Seminars (Bath/ Lansing)	30	31	1

NOVEMBER 2025

Nov. 12 – MWEA/MI-AWWA Lab Practices Seminar (Bath/Lansing)

Ruby Jubilee

40th TRI-STATE SEMINAR



AUGUST 4-7, 2025
SOUTH POINT HOTEL & CASINO | LAS VEGAS

WWW.TRISTATESEMINAR.COM



CWEA





Michigan Water Works News is made possible by the companies below who convey their important messages on our pages. We thank them for their support of the MI-AWWA and its publication and encourage you to contact them when making your purchasing decisions. To make it easier to contact these companies, we have included the page numbers of their advertisements, their phone numbers, and, where applicable, their websites.

COMPANY	PAGE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Advanced Rehabilitation Technology	61	419-636-2684	www.artcoatingtech.com
AECOM	14	248-204-5900	www.aecom.com
AMERICAN Ductile Iron Pipe	51	205-325-7701	www.american-usa.com
Arcadis	47	248-994-2240	www.arcadis.com
Blue Water Solutions	27	800-433-4332	www.blue-watersolutions.com
Brown & Caldwell	65	248-680-6708	www.browncaldwell.com
CDM Smith	35	313-963-1313	www.cdmsmith.com
Commerce Controls, Inc.	71	248-476-1442	www.commercecontrols.com
Core & Main	18	586-323-8800	www.coreandmain.com
Dixon Engineering	10	616-374-3221	www.dixonengineering.net
EJ	67	800-626-4653	www.ejco.com
ETNA Supply Company	39	800-632-4576	www.etnasupply.com
Ferguson Waterworks	54	616-803-7521	www.ferguson.com/waterworks
Fishbeck	14	800-456-3824	www.fishbeck.com
Fleis & Vandenbrink	60	616-977-1000	www.fveng.com
Flomatic Valves	6	704-504-3111	www.flomatic.com
Force Flow/Halogen Valve Systems	43	925-686-6700	www.forceflowscales.com
Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc.	42	847-566-9188	www.giant2u.com
Haviland	59	616-514-3600	www.havilandusa.com
Hawkins Water Treatment	15	877-355-7876	www.hawkinsinc.com/groups/water-treatment
Hazen and Sawyer	16	313-309-9834	www.hazenandsawyer.com
Hubbell, Roth & Clark	25	248-454-6300	www.hrc-engr.com
Induron Protective Coatings	9	800-324-9584	www.induron.com
Integra Chemical Company – Vita-D-Chlor	11	253-479-7000	www.vita-d-chlor.com
Jacobs	62	614-888-3100	www.jacobs.com
JGM Valve	2	248-926-6200	www.jgmvalve.com
Jones & Henry Engineers	52	269-353-9650	www.jheng.com
Kennedy Industries	36-37	248-684-1200	www.kennedyind.com
Kraft Power	48	866-713-2152	www.kraftpower.com
Michigan Pipe & Valve	17	989-817-4331	www.michiganpipe.com
Midwest Municipal Instrumentation, Inc.	35	517-764-4736	www.midwestmunicipalinc.com
Moore & Bruggink Inc.	14	616-363-9801	www.mbce.com
Mott MacDonald	4		www.mottmac.com
Mueller Co.	5	705-719-9965	www.muellercompany.com
Neptune Technology	38	281-794-3133	www.neptunetg.com
Peerless Midwest	3	616-527-0050	www.peerlessmidwest.com
Pittsburg Tank & Tower	14	270-826-9000	www.pttg.com
Prein & Newhof	35	616-364-8491	www.preinnewhof.com
Safe Water Engineering	54	248-326-4339	www.safewaterengineering.com
SAK	72	651-263-0498	www.sakcompanies.com
Stantec	54		www.stantec.com
Statewide Aquastore Inc.	44	315-433-2782	www.statewideaquastore.com
SW Services	51	800-462-2773	www.debriscaps.com
Taplin Group, LLC	41	269-375-9595	www.taplingroup.com
Tetra Tech	11	734-665-6000	www.tetrattech.com
The Plug Hug, LLC	11,54	719-313-2791	www.theplughug.com
TriState Seminar	69		www.tristateseminar.com
TruGrit Traction, Inc.	11	407-900-1091	www.trugrittraction.com
UIS Scada	13	734-424-1200	www.uisscada.com
VEGA Americas, Inc.	63	513-272-0131	www.vega.com
Wade Trim	66	800-482-2864	www.wadetrim.com
Watertap, Inc.	48	248-437-7023	www.watertapinc.com
Waterworks Systems & Equipment, Inc.	28	810-231-1200	www.waterworkssystem.com
Williams & Works	60	800-224-1590	www.williams-works.com



COMMERCE CONTROLS

WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE CONTROL SOLUTIONS

I DESIGN

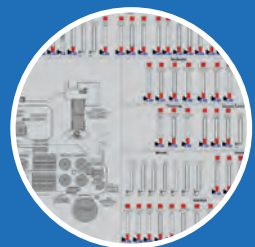
- Project Management
- In-House Design & Engineering
- Documentation & Training

I BUILD

- PLC, HMI & SCADA Programming
- Network Configuration & Security
- Control Panel Fabrication & Assembly

I INTEGRATE

- Field Calibration
- On-site Commissioning
- Field Service
- Field Installation



REBUILDING MICHIGAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE

One Neighborhood at a Time



SAK™



Learn More About SAK

PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE. SOLVED.™

Deteriorating infrastructure. Diminishing resources. We've seen it all. And solved it time and again for communities and companies from coast to coast.

As one of the nation's most respected pipeline rehabilitation contractors, SAK Construction brings proven experience and innovation to every project.

Contact SAK today for more information about our pipeline solutions!



CURED-IN-PLACE PIPE



GEOPOLYMER



SPIRAL WOUND PVC



SLIPLINING

sakcompanies.com



SAK®

651.263.0498