

# MICHIGAN water works

SUMMER 2020

NEWS



## MI-ACE 2020 CONFERENCE PREVIEW

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WEEK 2020



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American Water Works Association  
**Michigan Section**



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

**The deadline for submitting articles for the Fall 2020 issue is August 7, 2020.**  
Material may be submitted to the Editor.

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**Cover photo:** Aaron Davenport, Jones & Henry Engineers.  
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**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

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SUMMER 2020



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## STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY

Kelly Gleason, Editor

**W**elcome to the summer issue of *Water Works News*. As I write this, we are in Stay Home, Stay Safe mode creating our new normal and slowly opening the state back up. As an essential employee, I haven't been staying at home as much as most. We adopted a staggered schedule and reduced our staffing to half or less during this time. Many have transitioned to working remotely. There are *Tips for Working at Home* on page 26, with so many good ideas.

Training has converted to online classes from face to face classes to reduce exposure to each other to lower the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. My last face to face class this year was teaching the Chemistry Short Course held annually in March. We had a location change this year from Michigan State University to Lansing Community College and I have to

say the transition was smooth and the class went off without a hitch – CECs were earned by all. The same week of class I believe most college authorities closed and converted to online only. LCC was already on spring break and not in attendance but were not scheduled to come back the next week; we just barely squeezed our class in. Many volunteers of the Section have worked hard to transition the classes. If you need CECs be sure to check out what is available to you on page 43.

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy. Be sure to use good judgment, common sense, and enjoy the summer!

Do you have questions? Is there content you'd like to see covered in *Water Works News*? Send pictures, stories, and updates to [kelly.gleason@lbwl.com](mailto:kelly.gleason@lbwl.com) with the subject line *Water Works News*. I would love to hear from you. Dates copy is due to the editor: Fall 2020 (August 7), Winter 2021 (November 6). 💧

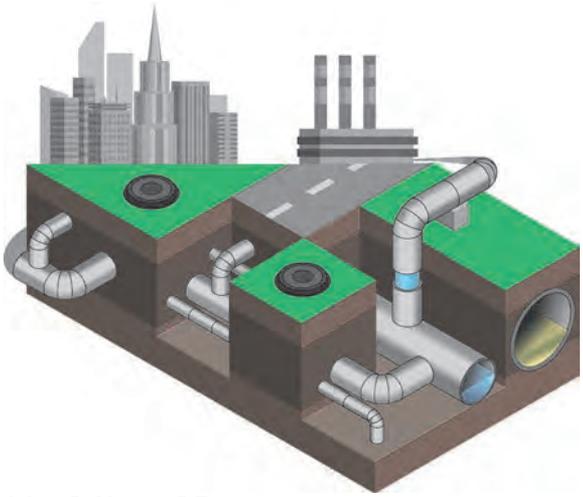


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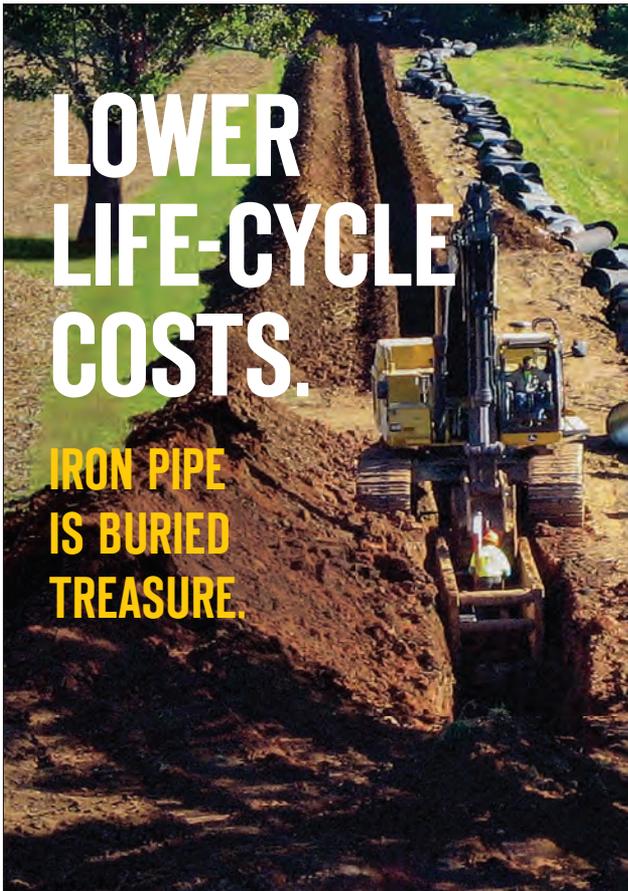
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# WHAT IS THE WORTH OF THE WATERWORKS PROFESSIONAL?

PAUL D. REINSCH, CHAIR

**W**hen I was growing up, most everyone knew when that you used the term *waterworks* you were talking about the facility the tap water came from. Over the years, that has changed. I do not think most people are aware of where their water comes from anymore: it just magically appears when you turn on the faucet. I know this is an oversimplification, but I do think, generally, people think of their tap water this way. We have had the modern convenience of tap water for long enough now that people take it for granted. I think the mindset is much the same on the other end of the pipe. I just push this little lever or I pull the drain plug out and the waste magically disappears – poof!

It seems the only time water professionals come to mind is when things are not going well. I remember thinking, just a few months ago, when are we going to be over the intense scrutiny that began with the 'Flint Water Crisis.' Before we even fully understood the problem at hand, the profession was being criticized for not acting quickly enough. Coronavirus or COVID-19 took the focus off for a while, but it will be back. The work we do is complicated, and solutions for its problems take

**"I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE APPRECIATED AND THE WORK YOU DO IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT. DO NOT EVER QUESTION YOUR WORTH OR THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU DO: THIS PROFESSION IS HONORABLE, HUMBLING, AND REWARDING."**

dedicated and trained professionals.

We are in a career that is normally taken for granted and, all the while, we quietly work to keep people's water supply safe, reliable, and abundant. Most people do not understand what we do and the sacrifice it takes to do it. Examples:

The Water Treatment Plant Operator who in many cases works years of shift work, including holidays and long hours to provide potable water.

The Field Operators that do their jobs in all kinds of weather and miserable conditions, all

hours of the day and night, to make sure the water is supplied to the customers.

The Engineer, Researcher, Manufacturer, Vendor, Regulator, and Administrator that all work together with operators to assure systems are properly

designed, funded, and supplied with the tools and materials necessary.

We work hard every single day as dedicated



# “THE WORK WE DO IS COMPLICATED, AND SOLUTIONS FOR ITS PROBLEMS TAKE DEDICATED AND TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.”

caring people trying to take care of our customers. The reality is that we are only human and can make mistakes. The good news is that most of the time we succeed and do it very well.

Our water systems provide a lot more than residential drinking water. According to the research I have done, most of our municipal water systems started as fire suppression systems.

Water systems were originally untreated water, piping, and pumps, purely to prevent fire from ravaging a community. We also need the water supply to purge waste, harmful bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants from our homes, facilities, and communities. Try fighting a pandemic without a water supply.

When I watch the news every night, it bothers me that the water and wastewater professionals are rarely thought of and never mentioned except in the category of others. Do not get me wrong, I am not putting us in the same category as the nurses, doctors, and first responders who battle the virus head-on. I want you all to know that you are appreciated and the work you do is critically important. Do not ever question your worth or the importance of what you do: this profession is honorable, humbling, and rewarding. The reward does not come from people telling us what a great job we do – it comes from the knowledge of the kind of people we work and strive with every day.

This is my last *Water Works News* article as your Chair. I want you to know how much of an honor and privilege it has been to be elected to this role. It has been and continues to be a pinnacle of my career to serve all of you. Those of you that do so much with little to no thanks to show for it, take heart. If you are anything like me, you will find out how rewarding it is to work with people such as yourselves. May God bless all of you in the work you do every day. 💧

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## TAP WATER DELIVERS

Pat Staskiewicz, Director

I hope you are all well as we all learn to adjust to our rapidly changing world. Before I give you an update on what is happening with AWWA, I just want to say thank you for all that you do in your role as a drinking water professional. I am proud of our members' commitment to public health during the pandemic. Clean water is essential to the good hygiene needed to combat COVID-19. And tap water delivers!

I am pleased to report that AWWA is in a good position financially as we face some difficult times ahead. If needed, AWWA has reserve funds, currently at about 70% of the annual operating expense. We believe those funds will not be needed due to budget adjustments and two other key factors: first, AWWA was able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan that will hopefully convert into a grant. Second, AWWA has event cancellation insurance, including a rider that covers events cancelled due to communicable disease. There are still many financial challenges ahead, but in the short term, all is well.

Unfortunately, ACE20 in Orlando, FL, was one of the events that had to be cancelled to protect public health due to COVID-19. We understand this is a great disappointment to those of you that planned to attend, exhibit, compete, or present at the conference.

I will be sad I cannot be there in person to congratulate two of our members who won prestigious AWWA awards: Bonnifer Ballard (Jack Hoffbuhr Award) and Mark Coleman (Volunteer of the Year Award). We know many of you have worked very hard to make ACE20 a success, and AWWA is grateful for your efforts and is exploring new pathways for you to share your contributions. Please

**"CLEAN WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO THE GOOD HYGIENE NEEDED TO COMBAT COVID-19."**



visit the [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org) website for updates on exciting new opportunities to share and exchange water knowledge.

Speaking of sharing water knowledge, AWWA has offered several free COVID-19 webinars and the recordings are still available to view. The one that I would like to bring to your attention is *Be A Trusted Source: How to Handle Communication During COVID-19*.

This webinar had some great suggestions on effective communications. They also referenced a free AWWA publication, *Trending in an Instant: A Risk Communications Guide for Water Utilities*. These two free publications provide great tools that will be helpful to any size utility. And if you only have five minutes to spare,

download the Executive Summary and learn about the 27/9/3 Information Input Rule. The human brain can effectively process no more than 27 words spoken in nine seconds that have three or fewer pieces of information. And did I mention they are free to members?

The last item I would like to discuss is the Water Equation. The Water Equation funds scholarships, leadership, and safe water projects in the US. The WE Walk campaign is a great way to get some exercise, stay connected to your water people, and raise money for a great cause. You can also donate to other walkers to help them to achieve their goal. Please visit the [www.we.awwa.org/wewalk](http://www.we.awwa.org/wewalk) website for more information. 💧



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# WATER SECTOR'S RESILIENCY SHOWS

Bonnifer Ballard, Executive director

In general, those in the water profession are not fond of change. We are taught early on that stable is better. When it comes to water, that's absolutely right. However, the pace of change in the world often challenges us to keep our water stable while we ourselves are adaptable. Nothing did that more than the 2020 pandemic.

I am hopeful that by the time you read this, the virus has subsided and that you and your loved ones are healthy. For those of you who lost someone, my deepest condolences. The rapid onset of the virus together with how little was known about how to treat it created an unprecedented situation across the country. The water sector was quickly identified as critical infrastructure and many of you had to continue working through the stay-home orders.

The situation required that you continue to operate your water systems while also implementing new safety protocols like one-person crews, less access to residences and businesses, and no in-person drop offs of water samples. It required disclosure of your health status and additional cleaning at the end of the day. The accelerated pace of infection and the media frenzy spun many of us into a tense miasma of fear.

And yet, throughout the spring, I witnessed amazing feats of courage, commitment, and community. MI-AWWA worked with MWEA, MRWA, and MiWARN to convene virtual meetings quickly to help connect water professionals across the state to each other and to resources to help them manage their systems during the state of emergency. The Section represented the water sector on critical infrastructure calls held by the State of Michigan. MI-AWWA volunteers quickly

**"THROUGHOUT THE SPRING, I WITNESSED AMAZING FEATS OF COURAGE, COMMITMENT, AND COMMUNITY."**

adapted the Spring Regional Meetings to a virtual format to make sure content could still be accessible for water professionals. The Section provided updates and hosted a resource library so members could learn from their colleagues in other communities. And more than 100 drinking water and waste water operators volunteered to be on-call should any water system find themselves short staffed due to the virus.

EGLI responded by holding weekly calls for community water supplies, rescheduling the spring drinking water operator licensing exam, and working with those whose licenses were expiring during the stay home orders.

It was remarkable to witness the collaboration and support of water professionals from across our sector. The resiliency shown was truly inspiring.

You've shown that you can adapt. So now what? Perhaps now is the opportunity for the water sector to embrace innovation, to explore new efficiencies, to take a leadership role in finding ways to right your rates while also keeping water affordable for everyone. At the very least, we now know that we are resilient enough to handle what comes. And if the health experts are right, we haven't seen the last of the virus. Hopefully, when it returns, we'll be ready. 💧

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**DRINKING  
WATER WEEK**  
May 3-9, 2020

# CELEBRATING WATER PROFESSIONALS 2020 DRINKING WATER WEEK

**W**ith Michigan residents spending time at home more than ever before due to executive orders from Governor Gretchen Whitmer during the coronavirus pandemic, it was crucial that residents could continue to rely on having safe and healthy drinking water.

Michigan water communities stepped up to provide continuing water services without disruption by keeping essential workers in place during these unprecedented times.

During 2020 Drinking Water Week, held May 3-9, MI-AWWA published photos on the social media channels and on the website of water professionals from across the State of Michigan to highlight the importance of the critical work they do, especially during a global pandemic.

From masks to social distancing, more than 30 photos and videos were shared with the Section to honor those who go to work every day in order to bring clean drinking water to our communities despite the pandemic and stay-at-home orders.

Using the hashtag #WeAreHereSoYouCanBeThere and #DrinkingWaterWeek, the Section shared photos from the City of Ann Arbor, Houghton Lake Sewer Authority, Lansing Board of Water and Light, OHM Advisors, Great Lakes Water Authority's Northeast Water Treatment Plant, and the City of Owosso essential frontline water professionals and videos from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Thank you water professionals for making clean and safe drinking water a priority during the pandemic! 💧

**“Michigan water communities stepped up to provide continuing water services without disruption by keeping essential workers in place during these unprecedented times.”**

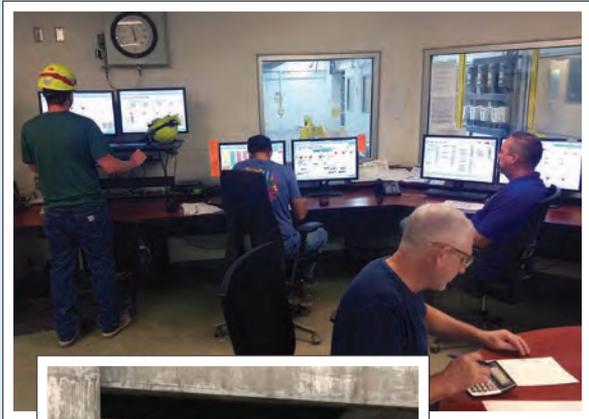
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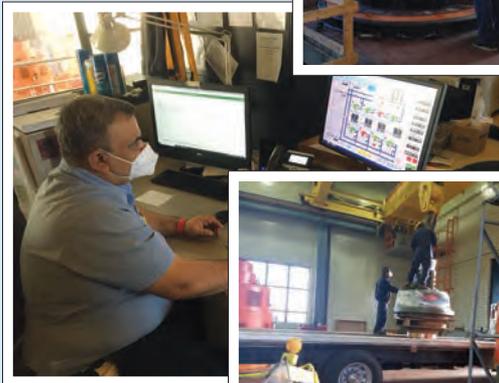
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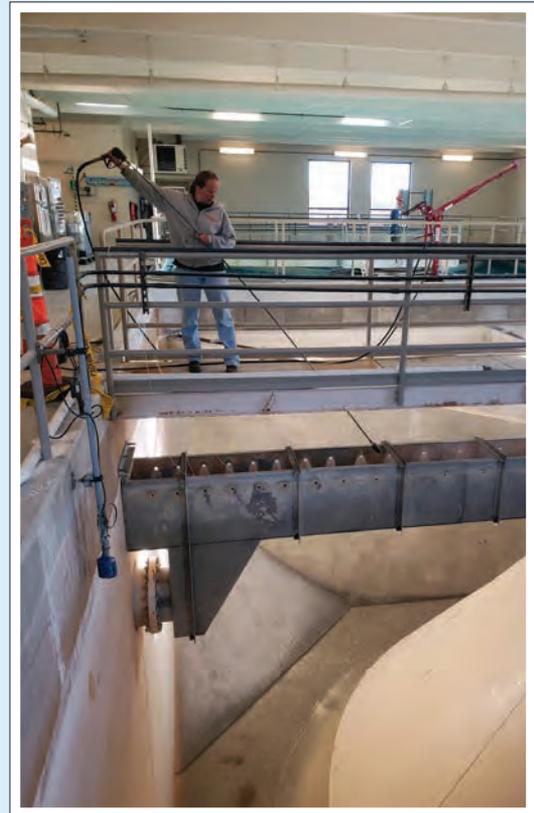
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# The Great Lakes Water Authority's Wastewater Master Plan: A Collaborative Approach to a Cleaner Environment

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) provides water to nearly 40% of Michigan's population and wastewater treatment to about 30% of the state. GLWA, its customer communities (known as member partners), and other stakeholders recently completed a comprehensive, regional Wastewater Master Plan (WWMP). The WWMP is GLWA's long-term strategy for managing wastewater across southeast Michigan for the next 40 years.

## Five Outcomes, Guided by Values

Rather than viewing regional wastewater collection and treatment strictly as an engineering problem, the WWMP team created long-term solutions consistent with GLWA's values to achieve five critical outcomes: protecting public health and safety; preserving natural resources and the environment; maintaining reliable, high-quality service; assuring the value of investment; and contributing to economic prosperity.

The WWMP team designed the plan with affordability in mind. It prioritizes lower cost, high-impact projects that yield the greatest benefit to the regional system and maximize the use of existing infrastructure. The plan uses an integrated, adaptive framework that combines a mix of technologies – green stormwater infrastructure, sewer separation, in-system storage, and diverting flows – with coordinated operations.

## Three Phases of the Regional Wastewater Master Plan

The WWMP will be implemented in three integrated phases. See graphic for a brief overview of each phase and its objectives.

### Regional Collaboration for Water Quality Monitoring

Regional collaboration is a core tenet of the WWMP, starting from the plan's development and continuing through implementation.

GLWA is implementing a new Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program to collect continuous real time data on water quality in the Rouge, Clinton and Detroit rivers. While 99% of the flow entering the GLWA system achieves NDPES permitted treatment standards each year, wet and dry weather pollution sources still impair water quality at times.

Monitoring stations will collect data on temperature, pH, flow, dissolved oxygen, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, *E. coli*, nitrogen, and phosphorus. GLWA will also obtain data from beach sampling and other programs by watershed groups. These new monitoring stations will be operated through a cooperative agreement with USGS and will be in addition to GLWA's long standing surface water monitoring program for its drinking water supply intakes.

To coordinate and capitalize on data collection efforts, GLWA will work with local watershed groups and other environmentally focused organizations – with GLWA serving as the hub.

“By working together, GLWA and its member partners will maintain reliable, high quality service, while protecting natural resources for all to enjoy.”

## Water Quality Trends Guide Operations and Maintenance

The data collected from the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program will be used to analyze water quality trends and guide efforts by GLWA and its member partners in ongoing inspections, maintenance, and capacity management.

Quarterly reporting, annual reporting, and five-year assessments of progress will help determine the WWMP's next priorities.

Suzanne Coffey, GLWA's Chief Planning officer, highlights the economic and environmental impact of regional collaboration.

“Pipes know no boundaries. By managing the entire system as one in an effective manner, we reduce costs for everyone while protecting the environment.”

The WWMP is designed to maximize the region's finances by prioritizing projects with the most environmental benefits for the least cost. By working together, GLWA and its member partners will maintain reliable, high quality service, while protecting natural resources for all to enjoy. 💧

**PHASE 1 Optimize Existing Infrastructure**

Cost-effective solutions to meet water quality priorities

- Reduce public health risks by maximizing the amount of wastewater flow captured in the collection system, especially during frequent, small storms
- Achieve Michigan Water Quality Standards for recreation and aquatic species protection in dry weather

**PHASE 2 Adapt and Expand Facilities**

Further investment to extend water quality benefits

- Expand public health protections with added storage, sewer separation, and further maximize wastewater flow to the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)
- Achieve Michigan Water Quality Standards for recreation in dry weather and aquatic species protection in wet weather

**PHASE 3 Sustain System Performance**

Sustainably meet wet weather regulatory requirements

- Implement emerging technologies and infrastructure maintenance programs to cost effectively meet regulatory requirements
- Invest in new treatment processes and instrumentation to maximize the use of existing facilities with real time control



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# WHAT EVERY OPERATOR MUST KNOW BOIL NOTICES

By Robert Miller, Education and Training Council

I'm writing in the midst of some very unique circumstances in the construction and waterworks world. We're staying home to stay safe, social distancing, and for the most part we've brought life as many know it to a grinding halt. 'Essential' work continues, including the operation and maintenance of our utilities and any construction that supports an essential industry, such as food processing. Our community has just such a project underway inside of a larger industrial/commercial development, with several thousand feet of new water main planned.

In the last issue, we looked at the proper process, in many instances, for bringing new water main into service. We touched on the role of the licensed operator, a PE, and the pressure testing, disinfecting, flushing, and bacteriological (bacti) testing necessary to move the project forward. Remember, at this point the new main is still physically separated from the system, usually by way of a closed valve.

One more consideration that comes into play here, assuming it was engineered into the project, would be completing the 'loop.' As we've all learned, looped water main and the elimination of dead-ends generally offers the best water quality. Usually, when the new main is charged, flushed, and bacted, it is only fed from the existing system at one end.

After all the above-mentioned requirements are satisfied, the new main can be 'tied in' to the existing system at the opposite end from which it is currently attached. Making the tie with the existing system almost always involves depressurizing, and many times draining, the existing system back to the first upstream valve from the site of the tie.

It is very important to take note of the two 'triggers' I just used above: depressurizing and draining. A lot of times, as was the case in my community today, there were several customers connected to the section of existing main that was depressurized for over an hour. In addition to notifying these folks ahead of time, as soon as the tie-in was completed, and water pressure was restored, the affected customers need to be placed under a precautionary Boil Water Advisory. I hope this is not news to anyone. I also hope that if you do know this, but think it to be unnecessary or too much of an inconvenience, that you reconsider. Though we are arguably in a time of eroding confidence in the drinking water industry, hand-delivering and explaining a boil notice leads to a greater sense of trust and appreciation in our customers. Though a minor inconvenience for only a day, I believe most customers see a boil notice as going above and beyond, as well as offering great transparency to the process. #BoilMoreWater #NotReally 💧

“ **Though we are arguably in a time of eroding confidence in the drinking water industry, hand-delivering and explaining a boil notice leads to a greater sense of trust and appreciation in our customers.** ”



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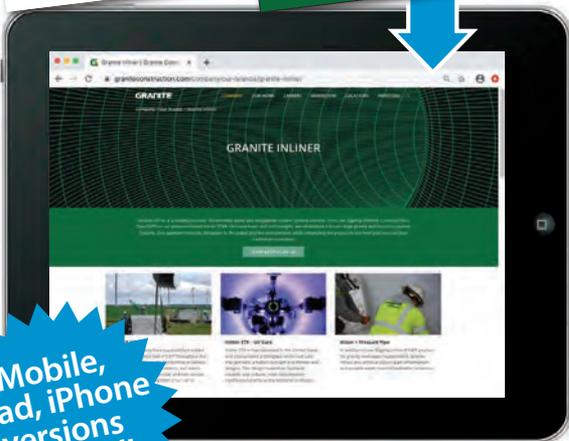
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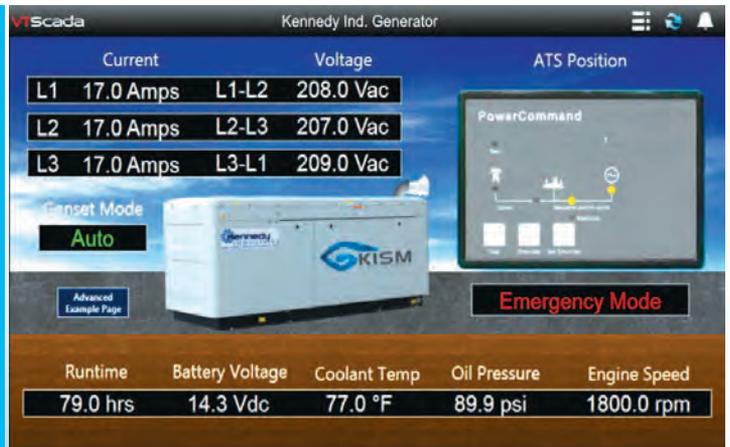
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**Power outages can happen at any time. Unfortunately, your backup system won't help if it's not working properly. Without monitoring your generator, how will you ever know?**

## PROBLEM

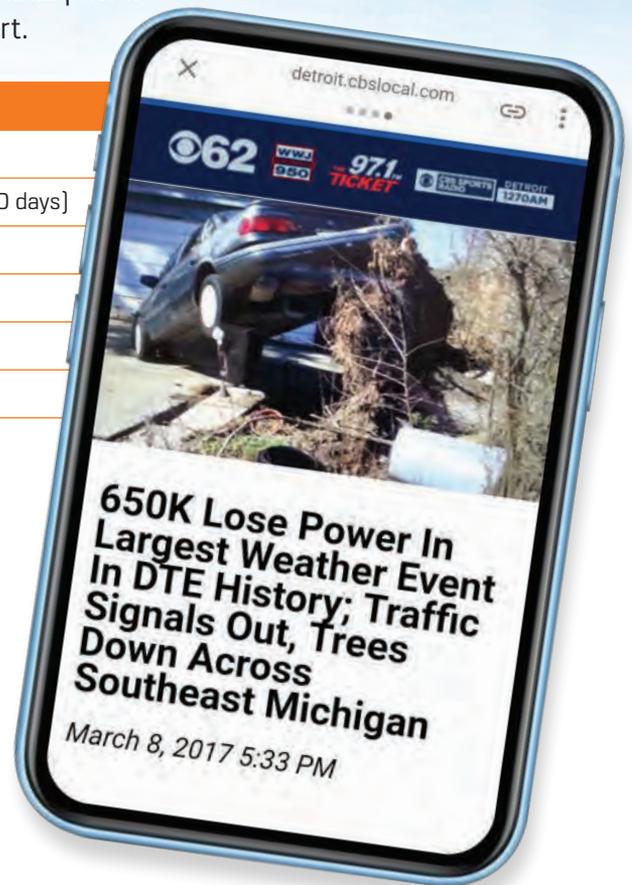
**Downed Trees and Rodents** are the top causes of power outages. You have little control over the damage they can create. If your generator equipment isn't monitored, it's virtually impossible to know if your backup is working properly. In 2017, Michigan was ranked 5th in overall power outages in the US, according to the Eaton Blackout Report.

Michigan Outage Summary*	
Total number of people affected by outages	2,020,636
Total duration of outages	14,052 minutes (nearly 10 days)
Total number of outages	155
<b>State ranking (number of outages)</b>	<b>5</b> ◀
Average number of people affected per outage	13,036
Average duration of outage	76 minutes

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\* Total number of people affected (and average) based on 109 [70% ] of the total reported outages.  
Total duration of outages (and average) based on 34 [22%] of the total reported outages.  
Source: EATON Blackout Tracker Annual Report 2018



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# Work at Home Tips

By the MI-AWWA Staff Team

Many operators kept going into work during the stay home orders. There were also many water professionals who found themselves working from home, perhaps for the first time. The myth that 'working from home' wasn't really working is now officially busted. Since the MI-AWWA staff is virtual, we thought we would share what we know about working from home. Maybe these will help if you ever have to work from home in the future.

## Get Up at the Same Time Every Day

Don't let yourself sleep in. Get ready every day the way that you would if you had to go into an office. You want to dress for work as though you may get invited out to lunch at the last minute by the boss.

## Establish Work-Only Space

Work in a place where you can focus. Have a designated space that is your 'office,' even if it's part of a bigger open room. If possible, though, make your office a separate place that's comfortable for work. If it's in the basement, add bright lighting. If you're in an office, find a comfortable temperature or open a window for a breeze. Use a comfortable chair with lumbar support or an exercise ball. Surround yourself with inspiration and make your space a conduit for a successful work day.

## Limit Distraction When Possible

Make sure noise isn't a distraction. Use headphones or speakers with white noise to tune out distracting sounds ([www.mynoise.net](http://www.mynoise.net) has a bunch of different sounds and groups the best sounds for certain situations or environments). Music helps some people focus but lyrics may be distracting. Music streaming services have options for lyric-less music (Hans Zimmer Radio on Pandora). If you're easily distracted by movement, keep your back to the window so you don't get distracted by goings-on in the neighborhood. If you need scenery or other motivational surroundings, you may need to face a window. Your workspace should be comfortable and set up to help you maximize your own productivity.

## Create a Routine

Plan to start work, take lunch, and clock out around the same time each day if possible. Create a schedule for yourself for each day and try to stick to it – you'll be less likely to get distracted by other tasks if you have a schedule already laid out.

## Stock Up

Make sure you have everything you need to do your job. Have the needed office supplies, technology, and passwords. Make sure you have access to important files. If you need documents to do your job, make sure you will have access to them at home.

## Set Goals

Use a running document log with everything you set out to accomplish during the day. Some may even want to set expectations for what you want to complete each hour. Instead of removing completed items, strike them instead so you can see your progress at the end of the day or week.

## Take Breaks

Build break time into your daily schedule and take your lunch break around the same time each day. You may need to set a reminder to get up and move hourly. You want to build in some physical movement to your day. Also, it's easy to start a project and lose track of time. Consider setting a reminder for you to end your day.

## Connect with Others

Allow yourself to call, email, text, or chat with co-workers just as if you're down the hall from them. Also, have regular meetings to keep everyone updated. Leverage technology to maximize clear communication, and use screenshare or video conferencing when in-person is needed but isn't possible.

## Share Calendars with Co-Workers

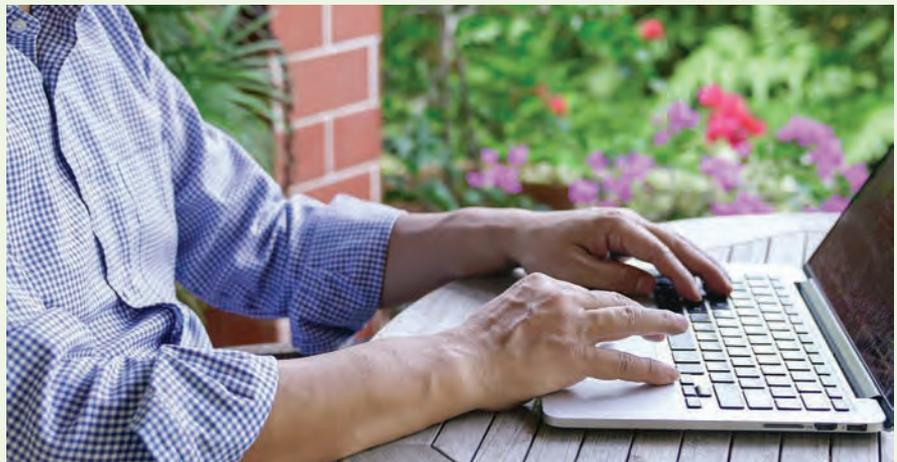
It helps with communication if there is a central calendar to which everyone has access. This helps to keep everyone informed of co-workers schedule and availability.

## Limit Similar Tasks Between Home and Work

If you spend your work hours on a computer, limit use of technology during your off hours. Or if you spend your work hours on the phone, stay off the phone during your off hours. It helps with the psychological separation of home and work.

## Set Boundaries

Let family and friends know they need to be respectful of your work hours, and to not text, call, or stop by while you are working. On the flip side, make sure co-workers respect your 'off' hours. It may help to let your family know every day when you're going into the 'office' and then let them know when you're back 'home.' Keeping work life and home life separate helps prevent overload and burn out. 💧



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A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

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# MI-ACE 2020 A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

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The virtual conference experience will offer live sessions, virtual networking, and on-demand sessions.\*

After the live portion concludes on September 17, all sessions will be available on demand through the end of September. That gives attendees the opportunity to view every session.

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\* *Subject to the limitations of session room capacity and an individual's own Internet connection.*

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- Expose you to relevant, current information to assist you in your day-today
- Operations.
- Provide you with resources to plan for the future.
- Connect with other water professionals from around the state through virtual networking and online chats during sessions.

**Register today! Registration discounts available until August 24, 2020.**

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:30 AM-8:00 AM	Virtual Coffee and Conference Orientation, Council Meetings
8:00 AM-9:30 AM	Opening General Session
9:30 AM-10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	General Session
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions: Treatment   Distribution   Michigan Water
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions (continued)
4:00 PM-4:30 PM	General Session
5:00 PM	Women on Water Networking

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:30 AM-8:00 AM	Virtual Coffee and Conference Orientation
8:00 AM-9:30 AM	Opening General Session
9:30 AM-10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	General Session
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions: Case Studies   Management   Public Works
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions (continued)
4:00 PM-4:30 PM	Closing General Session

*Up to 1.8 CECs available, pending approval.*

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Thanks to our sponsors, MI-AWWA is able to extend a special registration discount to all attendees this year!

Attendee Type	Until August 24		August 25-September 25	
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Student	\$75	N/A	\$125	N/A
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Get full conference details and register at [www.mi-water.org/miace](http://www.mi-water.org/miace).

# MI-ACE 2020 A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

*“Change is the only constant in life.”*

– Greek philosopher Heraclitus

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## 2020 BORCHARDT CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO BORCHARDT AWARD WINNER DR. TERESE OLSON

By David Schendel

The 25th Triennial Borchardt Conference was held in February in the Rackham Building Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan (UM). This year's conference brought together over 240 engineers, scientists, researchers, practitioners, and students to discuss the latest advances in water and wastewater treatment and technology. A total of 27 oral presentations and 63 research posters were offered by speakers from around the US and Michigan, including representatives from 10 different universities. Many long-time Borchardt attendees observed that *2020 attendance and program offerings were the best ever!*

The Borchardt Conference is named in memory of Professor Jack Borchardt, who originally introduced the sanitary engineering curriculum at UM and who relentlessly pioneered water industry training and technology transfer programs in Michigan from the late 1940s until his retirement in 1982. Dr. Borchardt was dedicated to teaching Civil Engineering at UM, and to the concept of lifelong education and in-service training.

A special highlight of each triennial conference since 1983 is the presentation of the Jack A. Borchardt Award *"in recognition and appreciation of individual contributions toward the continuing education of drinking water and clean water operators, engineers, and public officials."*

The 2020 Borchardt Award was presented to Dr. Terese M. Olson, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UM. Among other honors, Dr. Olson is Associate Department Chair of Undergraduate Programs for the Department. She has served on the Borchardt Conference Planning Team for the last 15 years and has dedicated much of her professional life to continuing Dr. Borchardt's legacy of excellence in engineering education and lifelong learning.

Highlights of the 2020 conference also included the Borchardt-Glysson

Water Treatment Innovation Prize special lecture by Dr. Karl Linden, Mortenson Professor in Sustainable Development at the University of Colorado Boulder and keynote lectures by Dr. Michèle Prévost, Professor and Principal Chairholder, NSERC Industrial Chair on Drinking Water, Department of Civil, Geological and Mining Engineering, Polytechnique Montreal, and Dr. Charles Bott, Director of Water Technology and Research, Hampton Roads Sanitation District and Adjunct Professor at Virginia Tech and Old Dominion University.



Tom Newhof, Terese Olson (Award Winner), Khalil Atasi.

The 2020 Borchardt Conference slides and papers are posted online at <https://mi-water.site-ym.com/mpage/2020borchardtconferencepresentations>.

### AWARD OF BORCHARDT-GLYSSON WATER TREATMENT INNOVATION PRIZE TO DR. KARL LINDEN



Borchardt-Glysson Innovation Prize Winner Dr. Karl Linden, University of Colorado Boulder

(Photo by Casey A. Cass/ University of Colorado)

Karl Linden, Mortenson Professor in Sustainable Development at the University of Colorado Boulder, was awarded the Borchardt-Glysson Water Treatment Innovation Prize on February 25, 2020. The presentation took place at the 25th Triennial Borchardt Conference in the Rackham Building Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan, where Dr. Linden delivered a special lecture entitled *Mixing Electricity and Water: The Evolving Role of Ultraviolet Light in Water Treatment*.

The Borchardt-Glysson Water Treatment Innovation Prize was established in 2016 through a generous gift by Tom and Garreta Newhof to the College of Engineering of the University of Michigan. The Prize was awarded in honor of Dr. Linden's internationally recognized water technology and public health contributions and included a \$10,000 cash award.

Dr. Linden's research investigates novel water and wastewater treatment systems, including advanced and innovative UV systems, the efficacy of UV and ozone disinfection for inactivation of pathogens, the use of UV and advanced oxidation processes for the degradation of organic and other emerging contaminants in water and wastewater, and sustainable implementation of water and sanitation technologies in developing countries. He is Director of the UC-Boulder College of Engineering Water-Energy Nexus Interdisciplinary Research Team and currently serves as President of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP).

Every three years, the Michigan-based Borchardt Conference brings together a diverse group of engineers, scientists, public health specialists, and students to present and discuss the latest issues and advances in water and wastewater technology. Professor Jack Borchardt was dedicated to research and teaching within the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Michigan, and to the concept of lifelong education and in-service training. 💧

## NEW SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM COMING FOR 2021

The Section is always looking for ways to better serve our industry, including vendors and service providers who generously contribute supplemental finances that enable the Section to deliver our wonderful programming, meetings, conferences, and training.

In response to requests, MI-AWWA will be modifying options for all existing sponsorship opportunities. A subscription option will be rolled out to allow sponsors to purchase bundled sponsorship opportunities, for the calendar year, as a package. This program will better allow sponsors to plan out their financial and time commitments for the entire year. These bundled subscriptions may come at a cost savings due to the reduced administrative efforts. For those who wish to pick and choose opportunities throughout the year, the current *a la carte* method of sponsorship will continue to be offered. Look for more updates as we head toward this year's MI-ACE. We always encourage feedback and would love to hear back on any thoughts. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to send them to [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org).



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## 2020 WATER TASTE-OFF UPDATE

Aaron Davenport, Taste-Off Committee Chair

First and foremost, I hope this finds you, your family, friends, and co-workers healthy and safe. Besides leaving a hole in our training schedule and industry-socializing abilities, the cancellation of the in-person Spring Regional Meetings also put a hold on your annual opportunity to prove that your water is the best tasting in the region. I am sure many of you have been wondering how you are going to be able to rub your superiority in the faces of your competition... Well, wonder no longer. Providing we are past the COVID-19 quarantining, the Best Tasting Water regional competition will be held at the Fall Regional Meetings. Winners of the five regions will then compete for Best Tasting Water in Michigan at the MI-AWWA/MWEA Joint Expo in 2021. The winner of the state competition will represent the section at *awwa ace 2021* in San Diego, CA, as planned. So, do not put your mason jars away quite yet. This virus may have hit pause on our competition, but it hasn't stopped it outright. Please continue to make critical drinking water and we'll judge it this fall. Until then, stay safe and healthy!



## COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL OFFERS MEDIA TRAINING FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS AT JOINT EXPO & OPERATORS DAY

Every year in February, the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association, in collaboration with the Michigan Water and Environmental Association, organizes the Joint Expo and Operators Day in Lansing.

Among many things, the annual event offers our members a unique opportunity to learn about new ideas and interact with subject matter experts. This year at the Joint Expo, the MI-AWWA Communications Council conducted a half-day media training session for interested association members. Titled *How to Give a Media Interview*, the session was designed and presented by speakers who have a broad cross-section of experience in the world of communications, including video storytelling, public relations (PR), broadcast and print journalism, and social media. Speakers included Aftab Borka, who coordinated digital and social media for Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA); Barbara Lezotte, who leads Lansing-based PR Agency Lezotte Miller (which is the Section's PR Agency); Curtis Burris-White, GLWA's Visual Storyteller; Stacey Kukkonen, MI-AWWA Section Coordinator; and Jason Matthews, public affairs specialist for GLWA.

The speakers presented on four different topics and engaged an audience of about a dozen section members representing different communities across the state.

Burris-White, who presented *Telling Your Story*, said he focused on creating a simple story structure to outline a clear direction for any story.

"I touched on the theory of Simone Sinek's Golden Circle and how I apply it to my work – and how it can help others create simple, understandable story structures," he said. "The audience was very engaged and there were a lot of great questions and feedback during the Q&A portion. I would definitely love to present again if I had the opportunity."

A former broadcast news producer, Matthews pulled from his experience for

*Reporters: They are Not the Enemy, but also Not Your Friend.* He said he was excited to share his knowledge about how important building a relationship with reporters is *before* you actually need those relationships.

"I wanted to give attendees a newsroom playbook. I explained how to build and maintain relationships with reporters and how things work behind the scenes in a newsroom. I also showed them how to use different tactics to ensure their message is delivered correctly," said Matthews.

After the storytelling and media relationship presentations, Kukkonen, whose past experience includes being a print journalist, conducted a few mock interviews with participants, asking them questions in front of a camera.

"This allowed attendees to use what they had learned earlier in the session and experience what it can be like to give a media interview with little to no notice, as well the importance of having a communications plan in place," she said. "Of course, we had some people in the audience who were hesitant, which is a reflection of giving a media



interview in real time, but I think they left with a better understanding of the media's purpose and the roles spokespeople play."

Based on the interest in this session, the MI-AWWA Communications Council is planning a full-day Michigan Water Academy® class to expand on these concepts. 💧





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## GETTING GOOD AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

As we all get used to all of the technology that helps us navigate social distancing, we're all learning new ways to communicate, to work, and to learn. For virtual meetings, participation during conference calls and video calls are similar. Here are some ground rules to set you on the path to effective and enjoyable virtual meetings:

- Mute Yourself: typing and paper rustling are louder than you think.
- Speak Up: the Section needs you now more than ever. Just because you're virtual doesn't mean you can't fully contribute.
- Identify Yourself: even with video this is helpful since it can sometimes be difficult to tell who is talking
- Allow for Some Silence: this feels a little awkward. Allow for delays in phone and video transmission and give people time to think about what they want to say.
- Focus: do your best to not multitask. Silence your phone if you're using computer audio, close your email, and be fully present in the meeting.
- Raise Your Hand: either literally on camera or via a chat box
- Be Patient: remember that not everyone has the same Internet speed and allow for delays.

The Section remains committed to bringing you opportunities to learn and share experiences that help you best manage your water system and your professional development. Be looking for virtual networking events and other virtual experiences that help you stay connected with colleagues and plugged into the latest information.

If you have an idea for a topic, please send to [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org). 

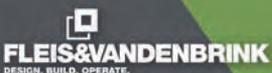





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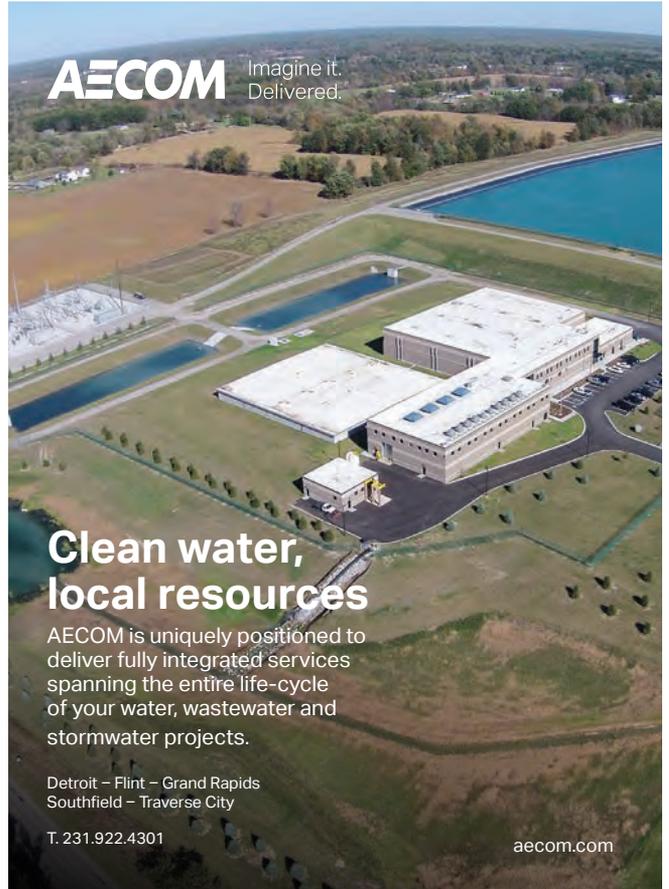
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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS 2020 BOARD SLATE

This year’s process for recruiting and selecting new Board members by the Nominating Committee has been completed. The committee had a great group of candidates to consider. The open positions that will be available on the Michigan Section Board of Trustees are as follows: one Chair-Elect and two Trustee positions, each with a three-year term. The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the nominees who submitted their names for consideration. The committee had a difficult time choosing given the excellent field of candidates that applied. After much deliberation, the committee nominates the following individuals for the three available positions:

Chair-Elect	Trustee 2020-2023	Trustee 2020-2023
<b>Aaron Uranga</b> Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.	<b>Molly Maciejewski</b> City of Ann Arbor	<b>Rick Solle</b> Plainfield Charter Township

To learn a little more about Aaron, Molly, and Rick, please read *Meet the Nominees* on page 38. The election will take place at the annual business meeting. Your 2020 Nominating Committee comprised of Board Members Pat Staskiewicz, Jaime Fleming, Wayne Jernberg, Matt Parks, and Gary Wozniak, along with At-Large Members Amy Vail and Barbara Marczak. 💧

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL WORK MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

I hope by the time we are reading this, we are all enjoying summer and have adjusted to whatever is our new way of living, working, and engaging with others. I write this article in April and so it’s hard to speculate on just what life will look like by the time you’re reading this, but two things I can say right now with certainty: the pandemic has altered each and every one our lives in some way, and the water sector, like nearly all other sectors, will be faced with budgetary shortfalls because of the pandemic. I thought this might be an opportune time to not only share some council news, but to remind everyone that the work of the Government Affairs Council is more important than ever.

The council’s primary mission is to advocate on behalf of the Section on issues impacting the water sector. Sometimes, that means serving on stakeholder groups in a rulemaking process. It may mean providing comment on proposed legislation, or speaking at public hearings or a Legislative Committee meeting.

I often get asked, ‘Does it really make a difference?’ I can assure you it does – but advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint. Meaningful and effective advocacy means making connections with our elected officials and educating them on the important work we do and the challenges we face. Our goal is to establish this connection and then have repeated interactions with our elected officials. Over time, we are seen as a resource for them when proposed legislation related to the water sector comes across their desk, or when they receive a call about water quality from a concerned constituent.

Each time we interact with our elected officials, we take a step towards building trust in the work we do, which ultimately will have an effect on policymaking. We

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make connections through professional lobbying on our behalf – thank you Midwest Strategy Group! – but the potential influence on policy is strengthened through direct communication from each of us. Our elected officials appreciate hearing from subject matter experts, and when those experts live or work in their community, those experts become relatable and their messages more relevant.

This is the reason that one of the primary goals of the Government Affairs Council is to hold an event to help our members and elected officials make that initial connection. For many years, that goal was just out of reach because we lacked the resources to organize something of this magnitude, but thanks to our working relationship with Midwest Strategy Group that goal became attainable.

I'm thrilled to report that in early March 2020, just days before the pandemic hit Michigan, we held our inaugural Advocacy Day in Michigan. Volunteers from AWWA and MWEA spent the day making legislative visits to key Representatives in the legislature. Those volunteers were given talking points and met as a group to prep for the visits. Members from the Government Affairs Council developed one-page drinking water issue sheets that, along with issue sheets from MWEA, were shared with the elected officials and their staff during each visit. Topics included infrastructure funding, PFAS, water affordability and stormwater utility funding. Overall, the event was considered a big success and we look forward to it becoming an annual event.

This event has been a goal of the Council for many years and was a large step in building trust and relationships with our policymakers. The next contact might be by phone, or email, or a familiar face at a public hearing. Whatever the form of interaction, over time we will establish ourselves as trusted sources of information about the water sector and our advocacy work will have an influence on policy. 💧

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## MEET THE NOMINEES



### **MOLLY MACIEJEWSKI**

Molly is the Public Works Manager for the City of Ann Arbor. Molly has worked for Ann Arbor since 2007 and has held a variety of positions, including Water Quality Manager and Water Treatment Plant Manager. Prior to her tenure in Ann Arbor, Molly spent 11 years working for EGLE (then

MDEQ), where she worked as an analyst and supervisor in the drinking water and stormwater programs. Molly is a native of Washtenaw County, growing up on a small but water-rich piece of property that included a nice wetland and two creeks. In contrast, Molly's grandmother lived on the banks of the Ohio River, where the impacts of runoff and lax regulations were apparent. Molly attributes her exposure to these very different watersheds to her passion for environmental stewardship and all things water.

Molly has a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and a master's degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Michigan. She holds an F-1 and S-3 license and is a long-standing member of AWWA. Since 2014, she has served as Chair of the Government Affairs Council. Molly has a keen interest in workforce development and hopes to foster and support development of Public Works Academies and other apprenticeship programs to raise awareness about careers in the water sector and attract new workers to the field. Molly also hopes to continue to promote more collaboration between AWWA and other organizations with a shared interest in water issues because she believes those joint efforts add strength to our voice and have more influence and reach than we would otherwise have working independently. These types of partnerships also reflect Molly's passion and desire to always approach water issues holistically.

Molly lives in Dexter, MI, with her husband Jason and their three children Quentin (21), Riley (14), and Paxton (12).



### **AARON URANGA**

Aaron is a licensed professional engineer working as an Associate in the Detroit office of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc. (HRC). Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Aaron moved to Michigan in the 1990s. Aaron holds a bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a master's degree in

Civil Engineering, both from the University of Michigan. Aaron has spent his career working as a consulting engineer in the

water industry, with his first 14 years at Stantec and his last seven at HRC.

Aaron has been an active member of the section over the past decade, serving on the MI-AWWA Water Treatment Practices Committee, the Technical Network Council, and currently as a Board Trustee and as Board Council Liaison to the Communications Council.

Aaron lives in Canton, MI, with his wife of 16 years, Robin, and their two children. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys fishing, coaching baseball, and serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster in his sons' Boy Scout Troop. Aaron is looking forward to his continued involvement with the Section and encouraging younger members to take on a more active role to foster their own career growth.



### **RICK SOLLE**

Rick is currently the Director of Public Services for Plainfield Charter Township. Part of his daily duties include oversight of the Plainfield Township water distribution system and their 16 MGD water treatment plant. Rick has been working for Plainfield in this capacity since

2008. Rick grew up in the Grand Rapids area and got his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Calvin College. Out of college, he worked for the engineering firm Prein & Newhof for about 10 years. As a professional engineer at Prein & Newhof, he worked primarily with clients on water and sewer projects throughout West Michigan. His most memorable project was replacing an aging 66-inch reinforced concrete force main that had had some catastrophic failures in Muskegon. The replacement was a 60-inch ductile iron force main, one of the first ductile iron installations of its size in Michigan.

Rick now lives in Grand Rapids with his wife of 24 years, and two of their three kids. His oldest received the MI-AWWA scholarship back in 2016, graduated from the University of Michigan in December 2019, and now lives in Chicago. His middle child graduated from high school in 2019, is working now and 'plans' to move into his own place soon. The youngest will be a senior next year. Rick's hobbies include golf and traveling.

Rick has been a member of AWWA since 2008, has worked as a volunteer on a number of MI-AWWA projects and has been a presenter at numerous conferences. He is looking forward to getting more involved with the overall leadership of the organization and truly appreciates the support in this nomination. 💧

## WEF/AWWA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUMMIT By Zack Hampton, OHM Advisors

This February, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the annual Young Professional summit in Anaheim on behalf of the Michigan Section. I arrived in sunny California – fresh from the snow of Michigan – to a packed conference and 68 degrees. Over 200 of the brightest young minds in water gathered from across the country to share enthusiasm for our trade.

Day One began with sorting each attendee in ascending order by their birthdays, without communicating verbally. Despite everyone's best efforts, the room was a hopeless mess. While this was a simple activity, it framed how important proper communication is in our industry.

The next activity expanded on this lesson by asking us to select traits for ourselves from an exhaustive list of positive values. This, to me, proved to be more difficult, because it's difficult to talk about oneself this way. This 'self-assessment' assigned us one of four social styles: Analytical, Amiable, Drive and Expressive. I fell into the Expressive category, as I am positive, emotional, talkative, people-oriented, and usually most comfortable when I have attention on me. However, it was not all positive, as Expressive people tend to react emotionally in conflict. We spent the remainder of the afternoon pairing off into random groups and solving different

problems while keeping in mind our different social styles. This portion of the afternoon taught us how to communicate effectively by understanding others' goals and desires. The day finished with a happy hour at a local brewery, where the YPs were able to kick back, relax, and network.

The following day began with a large group session hosted by Erin 'Pink' Mosley and Tom Kunetz. This dynamic duo led an interactive session focused on stress management. We explored how our body responds to stress, and how to understand that response and use it to our advantage. As someone who tends to stress out a lot, I benefited greatly from the lessons in this section. The day continued with an amazing presentation of wet weather data response collection by Dianna Crilley of the US Geological Survey and concluded with a wonderful lesson in communication by the founders of Rogue Water, Stephani Corso, Arianna Shipley, and Steven Drangsholt.

Getting to know the brilliant professionals working in the water industry was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The connections I made and lessons I learned will stick with me for the rest of my career. Special thanks to Jenna Karazim (State of Michigan), Amy Vail (EGLE), Christine Spitzley (OHM Advisors), and Erika Ballard (MI-AWWA) for giving me the opportunity to attend this informative event. 💧

### ON THE MOVE



#### JIM VAN DE WEGE

After 39 years of dedicated service, Jim Van De Wege retired as Superintendent from Holland's Water Filtration Plant, Board of Public Works.

Jim has been a member since 1988 and maintains an F-1 and S-3 state certification. He served as Section Chair from 2004 to 2005 and was a Trustee from 1999 to 2002. Jim volunteered and served on several committees and councils and sets an example for others as a well-respected volunteer, mentor, and leader. He has received the Operators' Meritorious Service Award, the Raymond J. Faust Award, the George Warren Fuller Award, and the Silver Water Drop Award.

MI-Section members, his friends, and his colleagues know if Jim puts in as much effort enjoying retirement as he did working with the City of Holland and the MI-Section AWWA, it is sure to be a success!

#### JAMIE HOCKEMEYER

Jamie Hockemeyer went from Superintendent at Mt Pleasant to Superintendent at Ludington.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined March 1 to May 31, 2020

- Arlene Anderson-Vincent**, Nestle Water North America
- Rodger Archuleta**, City of Bay City
- Dan Brisson**, City of Fenton
- Randal Brown**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Allen Burt**, Mackinac Public Works Department
- Robin Chinnery**
- Beth Clarke**, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.
- Steve Daniell**, Ferguson Meter & Automation
- Kevin Herbert**, Western Michigan University
- Gregory Humitz**
- Nate Johnson**, Holland Board of Public Works
- Kelly Karll**, SEMCOG
- Jim Lancaster**, Huron Charter Township
- Barbara Lezotte**, Lezotte Miller Public Relations Inc.
- Robert Long**, Retired-Oakland County Health Division
- Thomas Maas**, City of Roseville
- Alan Messing**, Saginaw Charter Township
- Tyler Meyer**
- Emily Miner**, City of Grand Rapids
- Gregory Modelski**, J.J. Mich, Inc.
- Alyssa Olson**, Golder Associates
- James Polidori**, University of Michigan
- John Selmi**, Dearborn Heights
- Nathan Skibbe**, Alpena Township
- Katie Strohauer**, Fleis & Vandenbrink
- Thomas Tackman**, Kasco Marine
- Amber Wilson**, Infrastructure Alternatives
- Kenneth Witkowski**
- Mike Wright**, Forberg Scientific, Inc.
- Ravi Yelamanchi**, Great Lakes Water Authority



# STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

By Tom Flaminio, PE  
Supervisor, Marquette District Office, EGLE Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

While the baseball season is postponed due to the pandemic, water system operators and industry professionals are still hitting home runs and earning saves to ensure customers have safe and reliable water service. The last thing an operator needs in these times is an emergency, but they do happen and when they do, operators roll up their sleeves and get it done.

On April 21, I received an email from Mel Jones, the Houghton Township (Eagle River) supervisor and water operator, saying he couldn't find the source of a 10,000 gallon per day leak. Eagle River is a community of 80 hardy souls on the shore of Lake Superior, near the tip of the Keweenaw peninsula in the Upper Peninsula (UP). Mel asked if I knew anyone with leak detection equipment. Since his system can only produce 28,000 gallons per day, finding the leak was critical.

My first call was to John Holland of Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA). He lives near Mt. Pleasant and covers the UP. John is a valuable asset to communities north of the bridge, providing guidance on a variety of aspects of water system operation. On top of that, he

is the certified operator for a community in lower Michigan. John has a correlator for leak detection and said he would drive up the next day.

The Eagle River water source is unique to the UP. Mining was – and still is – an important part of the UP economy, as there are active iron and nickel mines and approved permits for new copper, gold and zinc mines. A few communities in the UP use abandoned underground mine works for a water source and, though Eagle River does not, it was constructed with mining know-how. In 1938, out-of-work copper miners dug a vertical shaft in bedrock about 50 feet and then extended it horizontally several hundred feet beneath Lake Superior. Gravel seams intersecting the tunnel seep groundwater and pumps set in the vertical shaft provide water for the community. The photo showing the vertical shaft construction was provided by Mel Jones and given to him by Mike Supanich, the foreman on the project (the guy in the white shirt).

John left his home Wednesday morning and arrived in Houghton in early evening for an overnight, continuing Thursday morning the final 45 miles

to Eagle River. That's about 460 miles from Mt. Pleasant to Eagle River, if he had traveled the same distance south, he would have arrived at the Daniel Boone State Forest on the Kentucky/Tennessee border and to a different accent than in the UP.

He and Mel got to work on Thursday morning with the correlator, a device that uses two sound sensing probes placed at locations connected to water main (hydrants, valves, etc.) to detect a leak sound, such as hissing. The time it takes for the sound to reach each sensor is correlated by device, which determines which sensor is closer to the leak. John started at locations that Mel said were trouble spots but was not successful. They then used a systematic approach, starting at the pump house and working out along the main line to the system. The correlator detected noise on three water main valves, the noisiest being a valve on the main heading uphill to town. They then detected noise on a flushing hydrant at the top of the hill, so John and Mel used several surrounding curb boxes to zero in on the leak, getting noise on a curb stop on Elm Street.

On the right track, they ran a correlation down Elm Street. Although the three-inch diameter galvanized main is not ideal for the device, they pinpointed a location at the intersection of Elm and Main Street. There, they looked down a hill and saw water coming out of the embankment. They found the leak. John told Mel that to be sure this is the location, he should shut off that section of main and check the water usage after 12 hours. Mel did so, only affecting three residences and recording a water usage of 700 gallons versus 8,000 gallons for the 12 hours before shutting the valve. Mission accomplished. John Holland and stopping leaks go hand-in-hand, just ask the little Dutch boy – although there were no wooden clogs here.

Mel lined up a contractor to repair the broken main and, in an email to me on Friday, said of John: "I couldn't believe he came so quickly and from so far."

From me – a big thank you to John. He starts the season 1-0 with a save and a win. 💧



Constructing the Eagle River shaft for the water supply, 1938.  
Photo courtesy of Mel Jones, Eagle River, MI.



## EDWARD DUNBAR RICH AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), along with the Michigan Section of AWWA, presents the Edward Dunbar Rich Service Award at the Michigan Section,

AWWA Annual Conference. This award is presented to water utility personnel who have served meritoriously and faithfully for 25 years in the waterworks industry in Michigan.

We honor the memory of Edward Dunbar Rich – an author, Professor of Civil Engineering, Major in the Sanitary Corps, and State Sanitary Engineer

of the Michigan Board of Health, by recognizing water utility personnel for their dedication to the industry.

Rich Award applications are now being accepted, with an **application deadline of July 15, 2020**. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/community-water](http://www.michigan.gov/community-water) to find information on the Rich Award and the nomination form. 

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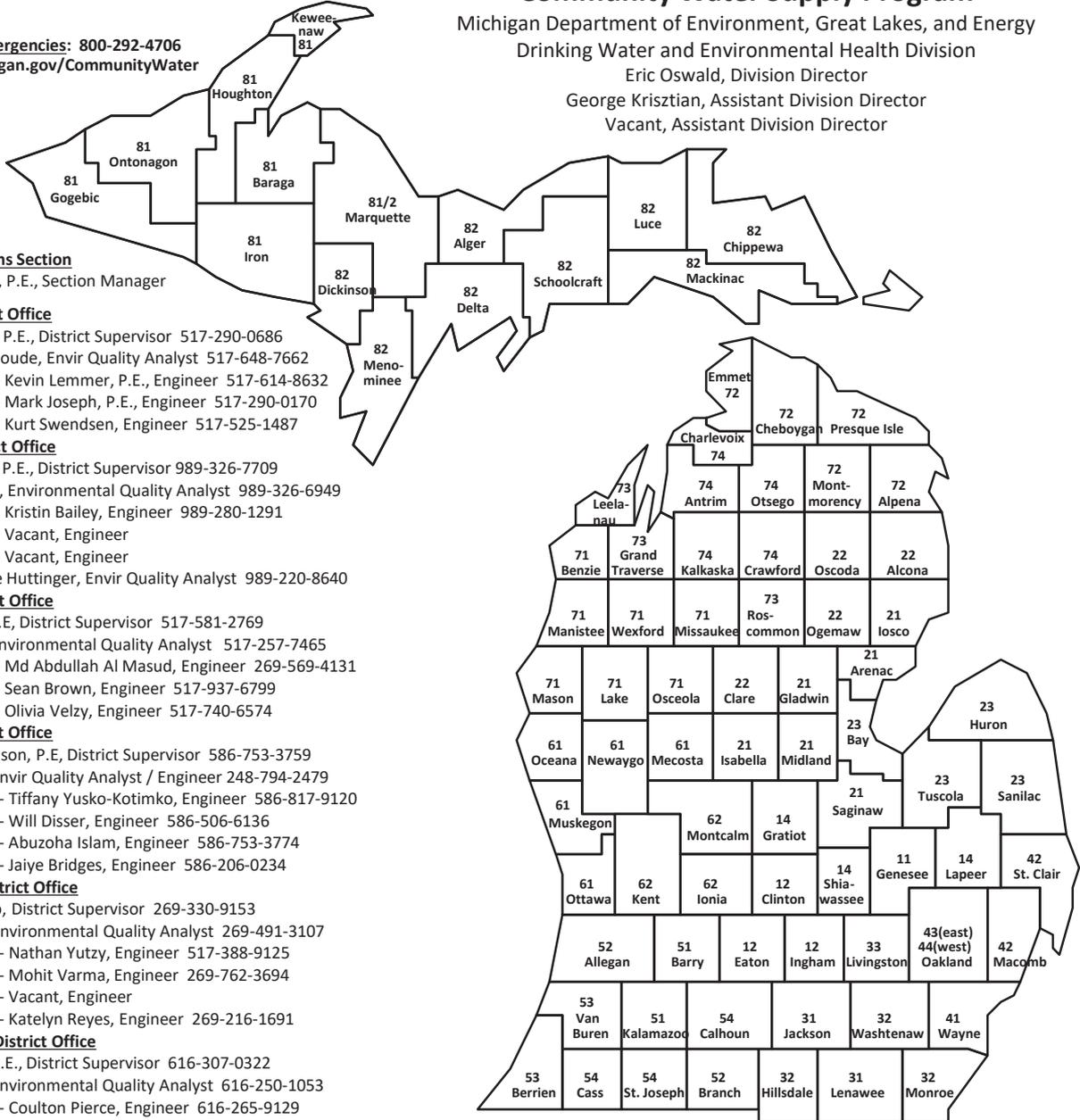
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\* MHC = Manufactured Housing Communities

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## REMAINDER OF 2020 TRAINING TO LOOK DIFFERENT

At its spring board meeting, the Section’s Board of Trustees decided that, in order to protect members’ health, the remaining training events for the calendar year would be transitioned to a virtual format wherever possible. Where not possible, the face-to-face classes will look a little different. Staff and volunteers are working diligently on this effort.

### Virtual

For those new to the virtual training format, here’s what you need to know to be ready to participate in a virtual training event.

- **Email:** You will need an individual email account if you plan to participate by yourself. The join link is email dependent. If you are participating in a group, you’ll need to have everyone sign in on a sign-in sheet and then have the senior person present sign the sign-in sheet and send it to staff.
- **Internet:** You will want to have a reliable internet connection.
- **Permission:** Make sure your computer has permissions to access the meeting application. The Section currently uses GoToWebinar. Check the event registration page for any changes to the platform.
- **Computer:** Make sure your computer does not go into sleep mode from non-use during the session. And you will need to participate in Q&A and in-session polls.
- **Resist multitasking:** The system provides an engagement score, so keep GoToWebinar as the active window on your

computer. Any time you navigate away to check email or work on a document, your engagement score goes down. You have to achieve an engagement score of 70 or better. Easy to do if you don’t multitask and you participate in the Q&A and polls. After the session, if you are seeking continuing education credit, you will be expected to take a short quiz. The quiz provides further proof that you participated in the session and passing the quiz is required in order to earn continuing education credit.

As the programs are developed, there may be other engagement requirements. Make sure you read the event pages well before signing up as well as any pre-event emails so that you know what to expect.

### Face-to-Face

Similar to what you’re used to, classes will offer speakers, presentations, and in some cases, demonstrations. The classroom will look different though. For those classes that are still being held, the capacity will be reduced, and the classroom will be set to maximize space between attendees. And plenty of hand sanitizer will be available onsite.

The Section remains committed to bringing you opportunities to learn and share experiences that help you best manage your water system and your professional development. If you have an idea for a topic, please send those to [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org). 

## APPROVED ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE

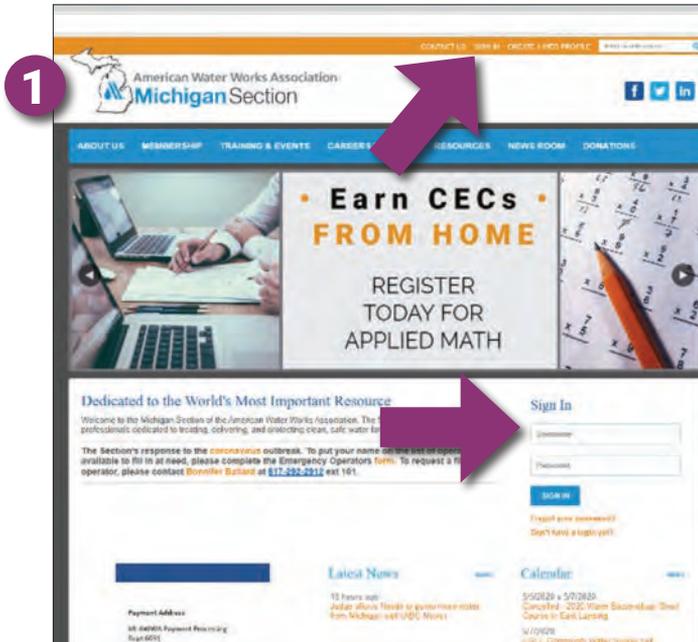
MI-AWWA had already launched its new webinar series *Water Solutions* by the time the state shutdown due to the pandemic. That series is still going and offers a one-hour webinar each month through November on a variety of technical topics for water professionals. Attendees earn 0.1 CEC for each webinar.

DATE	WATER SOLUTIONS WEBINAR SERIES	TIME
Thursday, July 9, 2020	Chlorine in Drinking Water Treatment: An Operator's Perspective	10:00 AM
Thursday, August 13, 2020	Water Treatment with UV	10:00 AM
Thursday, September 10, 2020	An Introduction to Trenchless Technology	10:00 AM
Thursday, October 8, 2020	An Asset Management Approach for Valves and Hydrants	10:00 AM
Thursday, November 12, 2020	Understanding Pump Curves	10:00 AM

Meanwhile, the Education and Training Council has been leading the effort to develop additional online training opportunities, since so many communities remain under travel restrictions or have felt a significant impact to their training budgets. Check out the training calendar on the Section website for the latest on what online opportunities are available. 

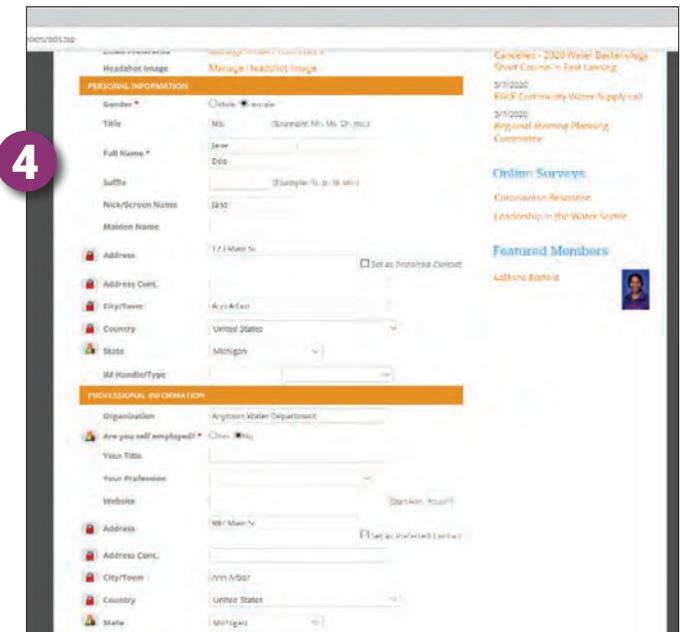
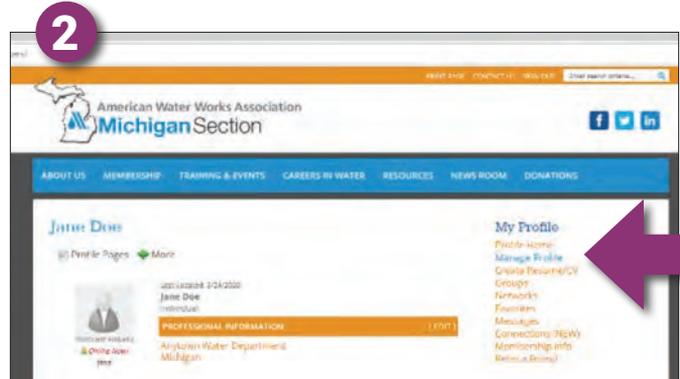
# MI-AWWA ONLINE

The Section website ([www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org)) offers a whole host of resources. It also offers you the opportunity to make sure your contact information and preferences are current.

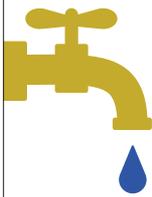


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2. Select: Manage Profile

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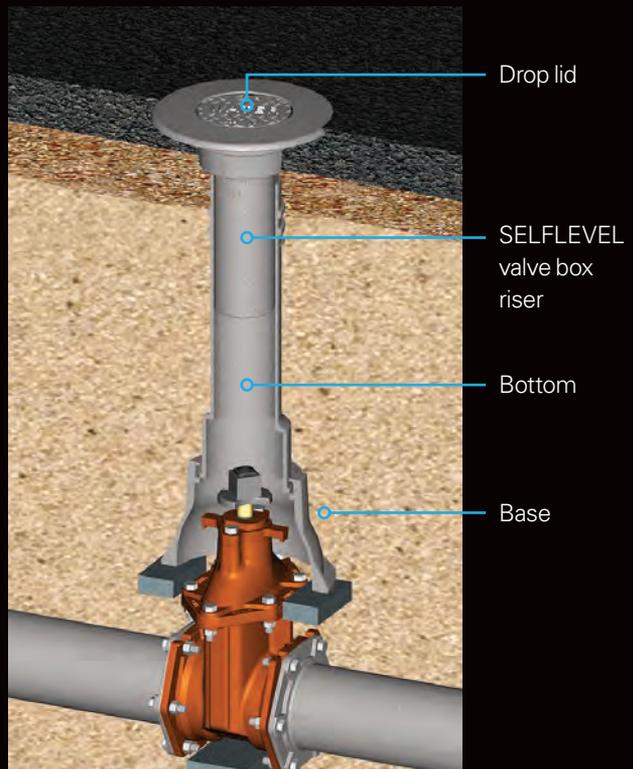
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