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SUMMER 2024

NEWS



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2024 NOMINATIONS

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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 2024 issue is August 9, 2024.**

Material may be submitted through the website at [www.mi-water.org/publications](http://www.mi-water.org/publications).

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SUMMER 2024



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# HAPPY SUMMER!

Kelly Gleason, Editor

**W**elcome to the summer issue of *Water Works News*. This issue is full of information and updates.

Many training opportunities are available, including the Annual Conference; please see the calendar on page 67.

The section would love to hear about what you have been doing in the water world. You can submit pictures, stories, and updates through the Section website at [www.mi-water.org/publications](http://www.mi-water.org/publications). 

#### Publishing Schedule:

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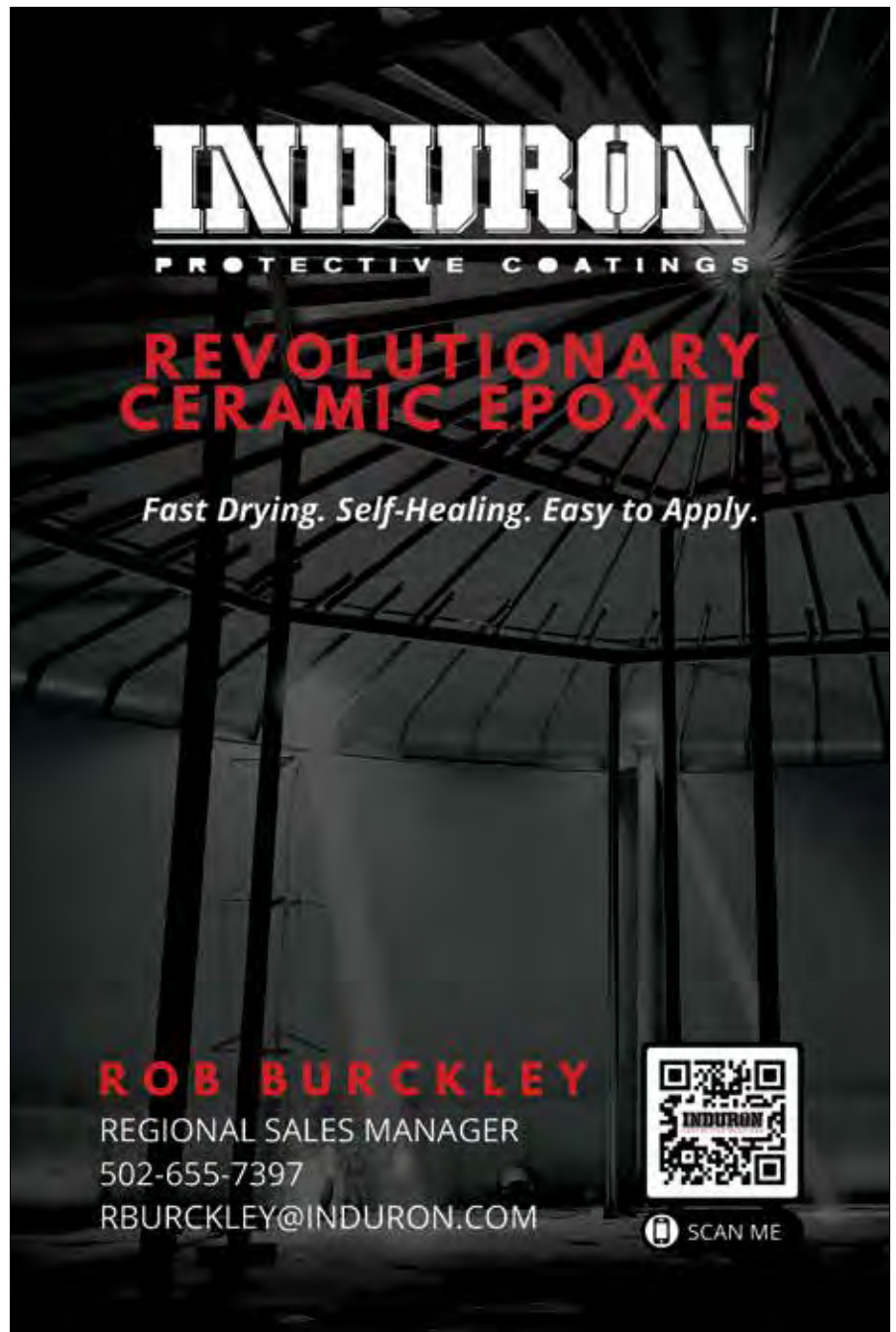


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# HEROES OF THE WATER FIELD

Gary Wozniak, Chair

often focus on water supply history and forget history is being made right now. Several outstanding young professional individuals in the water supply field are making a noticeable difference in their utilities, helping their ratepayers, and contributing to the quality of life of Michigan residents. I have had the privilege of watching the careers of a few of these individuals, and I would like to share them with you.

I first met Jerrod Wade when I started working for the Lansing Board of Water & Light. Jerrod was a junior at Western Michigan University and an intern in the BWL Water & Steam Department. He was also part of BWL's 'First-Step' program, which mentors high school seniors part-time. During my first summer with BWL, Jerrod showed me how to conduct the small service program on residential housing (the Lansing BWL

owns the entire water service line, and staff are assigned to oversee proper contractor installation of such into new homes). After graduating from WMU, Jerrod worked with the Great Lakes Water Authority. Last fall, Jerrod presented on Great Lakes Water Authority's "Forensic Investigation of the 120-inch Transmission Main Failure" at our Annual Conference in Port Huron. At the time of this article's printing, Jerrod will have presented at the National ACE in Anaheim, California. In five years, Jerrod went from dealing with contractors installing 1-inch copper service lines to becoming an expert on 120-inch transmission mains for one of the largest water utilities in the nation. Quite impressive.

Sometimes, water supply is not just hydraulics, chemistry, construction, and accounting; sometimes, it is seizing



Jerrod Wade standing next to gate valve.

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opportunity and navigating politics. I met Kyle Tryan working at the new Benton Charter Township microfiltration plant shortly after he graduated from Bay College. The plant had just been built, and they lost their water superintendent abruptly. Kyle had some experience as an operator but needed the time to write the F2 exam. After earning his time at the treatment plant, he took and passed the exam and was promoted to superintendent. He left to work briefly for Holland Wastewater and Cook Nuclear Plant but returned to his previous job as Benton Charter Township Plant Superintendent. "Working at and managing the drinking water plant is not just a paycheck for me. I take pride in my work and am personally invested in the success of the Benton Charter Township water system," he says. Kyle is also active on the Young Professionals Committee and the 2023 Executive Director's Award winner.



Hillary Carron receiving the Young Professional Award.



Kyle Tryan fishing and enjoying a conference.

If you have heard Hillary Caron speak, you know how she can captivate an audience with her dynamics. She is the Water Education & Programs Coordinator for the City of Grand Rapids.

She speaks at conferences as well as in the classroom. As a relative newcomer in the water field, Hillary uses her talents to reach newcomers in the water field. That takes confidence and skill. She is an active mentor in the 'Deep End' training program, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with others new to the water field.

There is a lot of opportunity in the water field right now. These three young professionals demonstrate what can be done with that opportunity. I remember my professional colleague and AWWA member, the late Chuck Van der Kolk, once saying of our YPs, "If this is our future, we are in good hands." I certainly believe that Chuck's words ring true today for these three fine individuals. 💧

**"THERE IS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE WATER FIELD RIGHT NOW. THESE THREE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DEMONSTRATE WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THAT OPPORTUNITY."**

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# EMBRACING CHANGE AND CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Christine Spitzley, Director

**T**he first half of 2024 has been a season of change, planning, and transition. After ten years, we said goodbye to the MI-AWWA's first executive director, Bonnifer Ballard. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for her decade of service. As our first executive director, Bonnifer's understanding of association operations was key to establishing the policies and procedures needed for a successful organization. Since starting in July of 2014, she helped support me and the Section through the multiple challenges the Michigan water industry has faced. As chair and now director, we connected frequently to discuss Section business. As two busy 'morning people,' we often spoke at 7 am, having virtual coffee while discussing upcoming challenges and opportunities. Her commitment to MI-AWWA's vision of "a better Michigan through better water" has left an indelible mark on our association and the entire water community.

As we work to prepare for the future of Michigan's water, I am happy to say the MI-AWWA Strategic Plan update is nearly completed. Thanks to the efforts of over a hundred members, partners, and stakeholders, this pivotal document has been submitted to

the MI-AWWA Board for review and adoption. We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in listening sessions, interviews, and surveys. You provided valuable input for the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, and your insights have been instrumental in shaping the future of our Section. A special thank you goes out to the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work and dedication in bringing this vision to life. Their efforts have ensured that our Section remains strong and forward-thinking, and we are eager to see how the Strategic Plan will guide us toward continued growth and success.

I am also pleased to share that the Association has also completed its 2030 Strategic Plan, and the final document is available for review at [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org). This comprehensive plan will serve as a roadmap for future endeavors, laying the groundwork for our sustained impact on the water industry in North America and beyond. Concurrently, the Association has been working to move Water 2050 forward and has established five Strategic Implementation Teams that will lead this effort for the next three years. The five teams include: Sustainability and Resilience; Innovation and Circular Economy; Finance and Affordability; One Water

Governance and Policy; and Equity, Access, and Community Engagement. Although the water industry is evolving at an unprecedented rate, the Association and the Michigan Section are both hard at work preparing for the expected and unexpected.

As we prepare for MI-ACE 2024 in September in Grand Rapids, the Nominations Committee is happy to present the slate of Board officers for election (please see pages 44-45). These highly qualified candidates have demonstrated exceptional leadership and expertise within the water industry, and I encourage you to review their biographies. Thank you to the Nominations Committee for their thoughtful work assembling this distinguished group of leaders.

Lastly, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to Cheryl Porter for taking office as president of the American Water Works Association in Anaheim, California, in June. This was a proud moment for Michigan as we witnessed Cheryl's transition to this prestigious role. I look forward to continuing to serve with her on the AWWA Executive Board and watching her bring her talent, expertise, and passion for water to the international water community. 💧

**"AFTER TEN YEARS, WE SAID GOODBYE TO THE MI-AWWA'S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BONNIFER BALLARD. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HER FOR HER DECADE OF SERVICE."**



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If you have attended a Regional Water Seminar, the UP Water Conference, MI-ACE, or Joint Expo & Operator Days in the last year, then you are familiar with getting your badge scanned in and out to earn credits. EGLE has been very patient as staff and volunteers work out the bugs. Moving forward, attendees will be responsible for making sure they have properly scanned in and out of

the trainings listed. Others may be added as the budget allows.

Your badge will have a QR code on it. This is assigned specifically to you and allows us to confirm the amount of contact time you completed for the event.

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# MI-ACE 2024

*"Planning for Tomorrow"*

## What Does Planning for Tomorrow Look Like?

### Consider the Challenges and Importance of Water Resources

- **Aging Infrastructure:** Michigan has faced significant challenges with aging water infrastructure. Upgrading and maintaining water systems are crucial for preventing public health emergencies.
- **The Water State:** Michigan, with access to about 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water, must manage its source water and groundwater responsibly to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Economic Importance:** Water is vital for Michigan's economy, not just for domestic use but also for its agricultural, manufacturing, and tourism sectors. Ensuring the availability and quality of water supports economic stability and growth.
- **Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks:** Implementing robust water laws and regulations, and planning for their enforcement, helps safeguard water quality and public health.

### How Else Can We Plan for Tomorrow?





## NOTE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

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We're back in Grand Rapids for MI-AWWA's 86th Annual Conference & Exhibits (MI-ACE 2024). We're pleased with the program we've put together as well as all the other aspects of the conference. Read on and make plans to attend, exhibit, or sponsor. It will be a conference to remember!

### Who Should Attend?

MI-ACE is ideal for directors, managers, superintendents, supervisors, engineers, and anyone aspiring to leadership roles in the water sector.

### Attending Will Help You:

- Hone your existing skills and learn new ones
- Gain insights from speakers
- Gain inspiration to improve on your typical approach
- Stay ahead of industry trends
- Benefit from different perspectives and fresh ideas
- Take the opportunity to meet leaders and find mentors
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## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

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\*\* by invitation only

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

10:30 am	<b>Golf Outing Fundraiser *</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Deep End Session **</b>
3:00 pm	<b>Communications Workshop *</b>
6:15 pm	<b>Board and Sponsor Dinner **</b>
7:30 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Networking Reception</b>

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

7:15 am	<b>Early Morning Coffee with Exhibitors</b>
8:00 am	<b>Attendee Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall</b>
8:00 am	<b>First-Time Attendee Orientation and Breakfast</b>
8:45 am	<b>Awards &amp; Opening General Session</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch in Exhibit Hall</b>
1:35 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>
4:35 pm	<b>Happy Hour in Exhibit Hall</b>
6:15 pm	<b>Vendor Night</b>

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

8:00 am	<b>Business Meeting &amp; Awards Breakfast</b>
9:00 am	<b>General Session</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Fuller Awards Luncheon</b>
1:35 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>
4:35 pm	<b>Women on Water Networking *</b>
6:15 pm	<b>Networking Dinner *</b>

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

7:15 am	<b>Tom Newhof Leadership Breakfast **</b>
8:00 am	<b>Attendee Breakfast</b>
8:30 am	<b>Closing General Session</b>

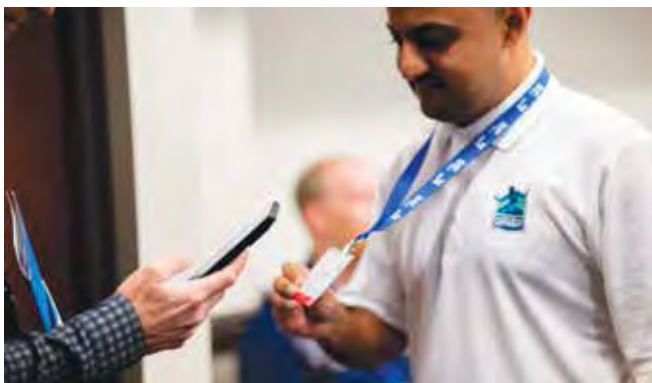


#### Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, September 11, 2024  
7:15 am to 6:00 pm

#### Featured Time


7:15 am - 8:40 am – Breakfast with Exhibitors  
10:05 am - 10:20 am – Break in Exhibit Hall  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm – Lunch with Exhibitors  
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm – Break in Exhibit Hall  
4:35 pm - 6:00 pm – Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall





# EXHIBITORS 2024 Exhibitors (as of June 6, 2024)

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Jones & Henry Engineers is the region's premier provider of water engineering consulting services. For nearly 100 years, the professionals at Jones & Henry have provided large and small clients with innovative solutions to their most challenging infrastructure problems.

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F&V Operations & Resource Management, Inc. (FVOP) provides full-service operations for clients throughout Michigan and Indiana. We provide professional operations staff with expertise in drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collections, technical services, and maintenance.



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Giant Maintenance & Restoration, Inc., established in 1989 and incorporated in 2002, is a leader in fire hydrant painting. We emphasize meticulous surface preparation and rigorous quality control to prevent coating failures. Our highly trained team guarantees top-quality results and thorough inspections. Committed to community safety, we manage, clean up, and protect our surroundings during projects, delivering exceptional service and expertise in hydrant painting.



### Spicer Group, Inc.

Steven Rutkowski, PE  
 230 S Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607  
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Spicer Group is a full-service consulting firm with nine offices in Michigan that has been in business since 1944. We have over 300 professionals who provide engineering, surveying, architectural, and community planning services to municipalities across Michigan.



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In addition to providing all aspects of engineering services, Stantec also develops financial plans/rate studies for municipal enterprise funds, particularly water and sewer. Such analyses include determining needed revenues, determining cost assignment by customer class, and developing user and miscellaneous fees.



## REASONS TO ATTEND MI-ACE 2024



**Strengthen** your professional network connections



Take the **opportunity to meet leaders** and find mentors



**Gain inspiration** to improve on your typical approach



Stay ahead of **industry trends** and the competition



Hone your existing skills **and learn new ones**



**Gain insights** from speakers



Benefit from **different perspectives** and fresh ideas



**Find out what's new** from consultants, manufacturers, and suppliers



Gain a personal **renewal/refresh**



**Earn continuing education credits**



**Visit a different part of the state**

See you there!



## ENTERTAINMENT AND NETWORKING

### GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

(separate registration required)

This year's Outing will be held at the Mines Golf Club in Grand Rapids. The Club houses 18 holes of rolling fairways and undulating bent grass greens. The course offers playability from four sets of tees, making your round truly exceptional. The site features mature hardwoods, rolling terrain, and sandy soils. The Mines is a par 70 that is generally forgiving on the tee shots and playable through the green. Enjoy lunch before the noon shotgun start. Network on the course while helping to raise money for Safe Water in Ecuador and AWWA's Water Equation.

- Registration Individual – \$125
- Registration Foursome – \$500
- Hole Sponsorship – \$250
- Water Drive – 3 balls for \$5
- Mulligans – 2 do-overs for \$5

### 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.



### FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE ORIENTATION AND BREAKFAST

Those attending MI-ACE for the first time are invited to participate in 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 an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with other attendees prior to sessions starting. RSVP is required during registration.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

It is possible to earn a total of 1.3 continuing education credits or 13 professional development hours. Final EGLE approval of CECs is pending. Check the website for final credit approval closer to the conference.

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 [www.mi-water.org/mi-ace](http://www.mi-water.org/mi-ace).

### COMMUNICATIONS PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

(Ticket – \$50)

#### Mastering Social Media: Building Your Toolkit for Success

Participants will learn to create a robust social media toolkit covering goal setting, audience targeting, and content strategy. Through interactive breakout exercises and discussions, learn to monitor analytics and foster community engagement to excel in the dynamic world of social media. By the end, attendees will be equipped with practical skills to maintain effective social media management.

Sign up for this bonus session held Tuesday at 3:00 pm. This two-hour workshop will help you hone your social media skills so that you can help advance public trust in water.

### SWIE CHANCE AUCTION

(Tickets – 3 for \$10 and 10 for \$20)

Chance Auction items are displayed near the exhibit hall in the Center Concourse, and a basket is placed near them. Place your ticket in the basket of the item you most want to win. Winners are drawn randomly from each basket 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 11, during Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall.

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

### TICKETED NETWORKING EVENTS

These events are offered to allow attendees to maximize their networking and require an additional fee.

- **Women on Water** (Ticket – \$25)  
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.
- **Thursday Networking Dinner** (Ticket – \$60)  
"Striking Connections: Networking Dinner and Fun"  
Join us for an evening of networking, delicious food, and casual fun! Unwind after a busy day and connect with industry peers over a delightful meal in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're forging new connections or strengthening existing ones, this is the perfect opportunity to mingle and exchange ideas. Plus, enjoy the added bonus of optional bowling in a retro-themed setting for those who want to add a touch of nostalgia and friendly competition to the evening. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to network and unwind in great company!

### Conference App

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



## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### HELP CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN THE WATER SECTOR!

#### Wednesday, September 11

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

#### Thursday, September 12

Van der Kolk Volunteer of the Year  
Young Professional of the Year  
Excellence Award – Individual and Organization  
Operator Meritorious Award  
Richard Husby Public Awareness Award

#### Thursday, September 12, 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 the Section relies on the generous time and effort of volunteers to make MI-ACE a success? Consider lending a helping hand at MI-ACE 2024! Volunteers are needed for registration, session moderating, the member booth, and more. A volunteering form will be available this summer. Please contact staff at [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org) to be added to the list of prospective volunteers.

# TECHNICAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

## 1.1 Opening Remarks, Welcome and Awards

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## 1.2 High-Performing Teams & How to Leverage Them

*Kenneth Sullivan, Arizona State University*

*(School of Sustainable Engineering & the Built Environment)*

This keynote unpacks the economic and workforce trends of the future, the reskilling and upskilling of our teams through technology adoption, and the critical role of leadership in driving proactive strategies to drive organizational success in turbulent times.

10:20 AM - 10:55 AM

## 1.3 A Birds Eye View of Water in the United States

*Cheryl Porter, AWWA President and COO at Great Lakes Water Authority*

An overview of AWWA's state of the industry will be presented. As a president of many firsts, she will share her own unique perspective on what got us to this point, what's happening in the water sector across the United States, and what the future may bring for water professionals.

10:55 AM - 11:25 AM

## 1.4 Design Build vs. Traditional Bid Build (When and Why?)

*Amanda Rainville, PULLMAN*

Design-Build and Integrated Project Delivery are growing delivery systems for major new construction projects. However, similar and additional benefits can be gained in using an integrated Design-Build approach for both small and larger repair projects in the water/wastewater industry, where there is a need to identify the degree of the problem and the root cause before developing the proper repair design. This approach not only enhances project efficiency but also ensures the most effective solutions are implemented, optimizing resources and minimizing disruptions. Ultimately, embracing integrated Design-Build methods offers a comprehensive and efficient solution for addressing repair needs in the water/wastewater sector.

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

## 1.5 The History of the City of Grand Rapids Water System and Coldbrook Pumping Station

*Lindsay Sagorski-Munsell, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

*Nick Fisher, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

This session will explore the 150-year history of the Grand Rapids Water System, focusing on its largest and oldest pump station, Coldbrook. The Coldbrook Pump Station housed two generations of steam-driven pumps and two different styles of electric pumps. However, due to maintenance costs, system growth, and riverfront access, the pump station was recently decommissioned. The presentation will provide a detailed

overview of the decommissioning process, highlighting five major capital projects and the relocation of the Coldbrook pumping operations to the City's oldest reservoir, Livingston.

1:35 PM - 2:05 PM

## 2.1 Design Considerations for Replacement of Large Centrifugal Pumps – Lessons Learned from Grand Rapids High Lift Pump Replacement Project

*Mark Parsley, Fishbeck*

*Wayne Jernberg, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

The City of Grand Rapids upgraded aging high-service pumps at the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant to increase pumping efficiency and operational flexibility and to implement real-time condition-based monitoring of the pumps to improve maintenance activities. This project included rehabilitation of some components of the pumps while upgrading the rotating assembly and wear parts, which allowed for cost-savings compared to a full replacement. Considerations were made to confirm that the new pumps would interact with the surrounding building adequately and not cause excessive vibration due to the excitation of the building structure due to the pump rotation. Fishbeck and the city included real-time condition-based monitoring in the design to prevent pump damage and wear by monitoring temperature and vibration at various locations within the pump assembly. This presentation will summarize the engineering design and construction of replacing these large centrifugal pumps and the challenges and subsequent solutions encountered.

2:10 PM - 2:40 PM

## 2.2 DWAM Grants & Condition Assessment – Developing a GIS Framework for Hydrant & Valve Inspections in Carrollton Township

*Steve Rukowski, PE, Spicer Group*

This presentation will cover the development of a framework for the condition assessment of water assets, including hydrants and valves, for an asset management plan. The presentation includes descriptions of factors contributing to the likelihood of failure, the consequences of failure, and risk. An overview of the process used to conduct condition assessments with the use of ESRI Survey123 by field staff and a review of the benefits of workflow and efficiency by integrating Survey123 into GIS will be provided. An overview of integration strategies for water system operation and maintenance will also be provided.

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

## 2.3 Conducting a Representative Comprehensive Corrosion Control Study for a Complex System – Part 3: Optimizing Corrosion Control

*Vittoria Hogue, Great Lakes Water Authority*

*Gwendolyn Kubacki, Arcadis*

GLWA is conducting a study to ensure corrosion control treatment is optimized and remains in compliance, given recent



and pending state and federal regulatory changes. The study consists of pipe rigs placed throughout GLWA's system to test several treatment strategies on harvested and constructed materials. This presentation will discuss the study's outcome and the implementation challenges.

1:35 PM - 2:05 PM

**3.1 A Broader Perspective – Aboveground Assessments of Water Mains**

*Jane Burnett, HDR*  
*Scott Jauch, HDR*

As infrastructure continues to age, performing condition assessments on water transmission mains is becoming increasingly important to reduce water main failures and the resulting disruptions to affected communities. Aboveground assessments, a minimally impactful condition assessment method, are valuable to performing any inspection. During an aboveground assessment, the length of the pipe from the ground surface is traversed to locate and exercise appurtenances and to identify topographic features (e.g., standing water and grading alterations). In this presentation, we will discuss the best practices for these assessments, discuss the benefits offered for water utilities, and discuss potential actionable outcomes. Case studies of aboveground assessments performed for various utilities will be included in this presentation.

2:10 PM - 2:40 PM

**3.2 Saving Money and Improving Performance through Jar Testing**

*Matthew Charles, Hazen and Sawyer*

Pretreatment optimization at surface water facilities is critical to both plant performance and operating costs. Jar testing results across five facilities at a large Midwest utility showed that treatment costs could be reduced at its largest facility by over \$100,000 a year without affecting treatment performance, polymer use could be reduced at several facilities, and significant cost savings could be achieved at its other facilities as well. This presentation will cover the findings of tests across all five facilities and show how bench testing can be used to help optimize treatment chemistry, improve performance, and save money.

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

**3.3 Highlights of RTP Fellows' Research – Mechanisms of Chloramine-Driven Inactivation of Viruses: Predicting Viral Persistence During Chloramination**

*Abigail Atwood, University of Michigan*

Chloramines, an increasingly popular secondary disinfectant in the US, are used to prevent pathogen proliferation in distribution systems. Despite their importance, little is known about viral reactivity with chloramines. Understanding the kinetics behind chloramine inactivation of viruses will allow us to develop predictive models for how emerging pathogens will react in chloraminated systems and optimize dosage. This research identifies the mechanisms of viral inactivation by chloramines



by determining rate constants for chloramine reactions with bacteriophages of different structures and by probing the causes of chloramine-genome reactivity.

**Primer on Waterborne Mycobacteria: Opportunistic Pathogens Viability Assessment Post UV Using a Novel Molecular Approach**

*Nuha Alfahham, University of Michigan*

This research investigates a novel molecular approach to assess the viability of slow-growing nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) in drinking water post-UV treatment. By analyzing precursor ribosomal RNA (pre-rRNA) from clinical and drinking water isolates, we determined the pre-rRNA decay rate constant, and compared it to the inactivation rate constant from culture-dependent methods. Our goal is to provide rapid and sensitive assessment of UV disinfection efficacy against NTM and other waterborne pathogens while enhancing detection accuracy.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

**4.1 Plainfield Township PFAS: Cause and Effects of Water Supply System Extensions**

*Jeremy Kamp, PE, Prein&Newhof*

*Matt Weldon, Plainfield Township Water Department*

Plainfield Township is now on the tail end of a four-year-long effort to extend its water distribution system to connect homes affected by PFAS contamination in northern Kent County. The total scope of work included installing over 28 miles of new water main and around 1,075 new water service lines from the water main into the house. Over 35 miles of copper water service lines were installed (primarily on private property), and over 1,000 private drinking water wells were abandoned as part of this work. This presentation will give a brief overview of the scope of work, discuss how the Township Water Department planned ahead during material shortages to ensure the planned projects could stay on schedule, review the impacts this project has had on the Township's staffing due to the increased workload, and talk about the shift from system extension projects back to capital improvement projects.

4:05 PM - 4:35 PM

**4.2 Safe Water in Ecuador:  
Snapshot of Water Quality and Its Health Effects in  
Rural Communities of Columbe, Chimborazo, Ecuador**

*Mark De Haan, Life Giving Water International  
Julie Wildschut, Calvin University  
TBD, Hope College*

This presentation will touch on the current work happening in Ecuador, including water quality testing and health surveys to better understand the impact of properly protected springs, consistent chlorine application, and reliable water access on health in rural Ecuadorian communities in the Andes Mountains. The presentation will share a representative snapshot of typical access to water in rural communities and how organizations in Ecuador are currently tackling the issues of access, treatment, and funding of water systems.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

8:00 AM - 8:55 AM

**5.1 Business Meeting and Awards Breakfast  
EGLE Forward: Charting Michigan's Environmental Future**

*Phillip Roos, Director Michigan Department of Environment,  
Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)*

The Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) mission is to protect Michigan's environment and public health by managing air, water, land, and energy resources. Dive into what's next for EGLE, exploring exciting initiatives that'll shape the future landscape of water in Michigan.

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

**6.1 Earn Your Degree or Certificate with Water Flex CBE**

*Troy Gallagher, Bay College*

Bay College has been approved by the Higher Learning Commission to teach their water courses in a CBE format. Earn Your Degree or Certificate with Water Flex CBE. Competency-based education is focused on actual student learning and the application of that learning rather than time spent in a class/on the material. CBE courses allow existing operators and managers to apply their work experience to gain credit and test out specific modules within water and wastewater courses. CBE courses allow the students to avoid following the traditional format and schedule. They can finish courses at a much quicker pace.

9:35 AM - 10:05 AM

**6.2 Considerations in Developing Water Affordability Programs**

*James Bearman, Stantec Michigan*

Water affordability for customers in Michigan is facing increased scrutiny. This presentation will provide a number of options for municipalities to consider in developing a water affordability program in their respective community. Recognizing that rate structure, fees, penalties, and deposit requirements may all adversely impact customers struggling to pay their water bills.

10:20 AM - 10:50 AM

**6.3 Strategic Consumer Messaging for  
Microplastics in Drinking Water**

*Brent Alspach, Arcadis*

With the state of California mandating microplastics sampling in drinking water supplies over the next four years, the state of New Jersey and New York City proposed to follow suit, and third-party sampling efforts being conducted across the country, publicly available microplastics occurrence data is poised to proliferate rapidly. The disclosure of these data, coupled with a myriad of media reports about microplastics' ubiquity, will inevitably prompt consumer inquiries. Water Research Foundation project 5155 represents an unprecedented proactive effort to develop appropriate consumer messaging resources for utilities in advance of these inquiries while simultaneously building water industry institutional knowledge about microplastics. This presentation will provide a concise summary of the research findings, including the most and least effective messaging (based on a scientifically administered, statistically significant survey), as well as a series of infographics to convey key points in a form conducive to public dissemination. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the key messages and raise awareness of the utility resources generated by the research conducted under WRF 5155.

10:55 AM - 12:00 PM

**6.4 Exploring the West Michigan  
Water Career Program Through the Interns' Lens**

*Hillary Caron, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

*Sarah Boling, City of Grand Rapids*

*Abigail Cairns, City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services*

*Angel Vazquez, City of Coopersville*

In 2022, Grand Rapids Community College, in collaboration with Bay College and the City of Grand Rapids, secured a pivotal \$500,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency focused on Water Infrastructure Workforce Development. A significant initiative from this award was developing and implementing The West Michigan Water Career Program, an innovative and equitable internship program for new water



industry professionals. Join us for an engaging panel discussion delving into the transformative West Michigan Water Career Program from the unique perspective of its interns.

**1:35 PM - 2:05 PM**

**7.1 The Nuts and Bolts of Adsorption Piloting for PFAS Treatment**

*Molly McManus, Intuitech*

*Co-Authors: Germano Salazar-Benites, HRSD, and Brock Emerson, Intuitech*

As the industry reacts and adjusts to the proposed *National Primary Drinking Water Regulation* for six PFAS, many water purveyors will be affected by the regulation. For many utilities, activated carbon adsorption and/or ion exchange resins will be the preferred treatment technologies. This paper will discuss the design, operational, and sampling elements that owners should be aware of prior to beginning an adsorption pilot for PFAS removal. It will compare and contrast adsorption piloting to the more familiar practice of granular media piloting. Additionally, it will present case studies of how small and large utilities have approached their adsorption pilots to meet their PFAS treatment needs.

**2:10 PM - 2:40 PM**

**7.2 Great Lakes Water Authority Northeast Flow Control Facility Case History**

*Brian Phillips, Fishbeck*

*Timothy Kuhns PE, Great Lakes Water Authority*

In January 2019, GLWA began the right-sizing process of WTPs with the solicitation of proposals for Design Build Services to design and construct the Northeast Flow Control Facility (NE FCF). The presentation will outline the project challenges from engineering, construction, and operational points of view. The presentation will summarize the equipment selection process performed as part of the design and challenges encountered during construction and the startup of the facility. Performance testing data for the NE FCF will also be presented.

**2:45 PM - 3:15 PM**

**7.3 Orchard Hills Well Disconnections and Watermain Improvements**

*Max Clever, PE, PS, Spicer Group*

*Keith Risdon, PE, City of St. Louis*

Amidst a close-knit neighborhood, voided agreements, ruffled feathers, and multiple jurisdictions, Spicer Group entered into a joint project with the EPA and the City of St. Louis to provide municipal water to landowners at risk of well contamination. In addition to the water main installation, the project included private property plumbing and well abandonment. Using perseverance and continuous communication throughout the scoping, design, and construction process, the City and Spicer Group facilitated a project that ultimately satisfied and alleviated all those concerned.

**3:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

**7.4 City of Grand Rapids Asset Management and Lining Projects for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater**

*Chad Reul, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

This presentation provides an overview of the changes in asset management the City of Grand Rapids has made over the past five years. As we began to perform more lead service line replacements, we found opportunities to include more sewer and stormwater lining opportunities in the scope of the projects. Our current process allows us to televise all our sewer and stormwater assets. Perform spot lining procedures and identify stormwater basins for spray liner applications. We will discuss what changes we have made, the impact of those changes, and plans for the future. In addition, we will have lining contractors that we work with available for project discussion and questions.

**4:05 PM - 4:35 PM**

**7.5 Why Are My Pipes Failing? Best Practices for Managing and Assessing Ferrous Transmission Mains**

*Susan Donnally, HDR*

Metallic pipelines make up about two-thirds of buried water mains in the US. These pipelines continue to age and subsequently fail at an increased rate, causing service disruptions, property damage, and traffic disruptions. Utility owners are quickly recognizing that managing their metallic pipe inventory is critical to maintaining reliable service to their customers, as well as the integrity of their capital budgets. This paper discusses best practices for managing metallic pressure pipes, including failure mechanisms, causes of and forms of corrosion, corrosion control, as well as a selection of condition assessment techniques and methods for determining which pipes to repair and which to prioritize for replacement. Two case studies will be presented, including one from the City of Ann Arbor, MI, regarding the assessment of their 24-inch ductile iron raw water transmission main and one from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) regarding the assessment of a 42-inch steel water transmission main.

**1:35 PM - 2:05 PM**

**8.1 Infrastructure Funding for Small Community Water & Wastewater Systems**

*John A. Sullivan, Michigan Tech*

This is a presentation on the steps involved in securing funding for a small community water or wastewater infrastructure project. It will discuss the two primary sources of funds for small communities: USDA Rural Development and State Revolving Loan Funds. It will also discuss the steps to secure an engineering firm through the Qualification Based Selection process.

**2:10 PM - 2:40 PM**

**8.2 PFAS Treatment: From Concept to Construction**

*Andrew Dow, PE, Donohue & Associates*

This presentation features a case study of one water utility's journey to address PFAS in its groundwater supply. The case



study will cover the various strategies considered as potential short-term, medium-term, and long-term solutions and how those strategies were evaluated using bench-scale testing, pilot testing, cost opinions, and other considerations. Data from seven months of pilot testing with granular activated carbon and two types of anion exchange processes will be presented to illustrate the insights gained from simulating various treatment strategies. The presentation will also feature insights from the design and ongoing construction of a full-scale GAC treatment system at the utility's drinking water treatment facility.

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

**8.3 Reading the Room: Verification and Certification of Water Quality Test Devices for Drinking Water**

*Kathryn Foster, MS, NSF International*

From simple test kits used for screening contaminants at the tap to in-line sensors providing continuous monitoring of drinking water quality parameters at the water utility, water quality test devices are playing an expanding role in monitoring the quality of our drinking water. Given the increasingly widespread use of these water quality test devices and their critical role in protecting public health via water quality monitoring, it is crucial that these devices perform as advertised and that they are accurate and precise across the entire concentration range of the water quality parameter(s) the product is meant to operate. NSF has published a new certification protocol: NSF Protocol 524: Water Quality Testing Devices for Drinking Water. The protocol provides a means for third-party verification of water quality testing devices against the precision and accuracy claims made by the manufacturer. This talk will discuss this critical new test protocol and its ability to ensure the proper performance of these devices, which are becoming an increasingly common mechanism for monitoring water quality to provide safe drinking water for our communities.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

**8.4 Hot off the Press: An Overview of the 2nd Edition of M77 – Condition Assessment of Water Mains**

*Scott Jauch, HDR*

Condition assessment technologies evolve every year and can change the current practices in the industry. The advancements in artificial intelligence/machine learning and in-line ultrasonics have expedited the updates to the M77 – Condition Assessment of Water Mains. Other various changes in the industry are addressed in the updates discussed in this presentation. From this presentation, the participant will learn about the changes in the industry and what updates have been made to the AWWA Manual of Practice by the chair of the revision.

4:05 PM - 4:35 PM

**8.5 Lead Service Line Replacements: Seeking Efficiency**

*Tom Bulten, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

*Cindy Irving, City of Grand Rapids Water System*

The City of Grand Rapids is replacing 24,000 lead water service lines as quickly and efficiently as possible. With limited resources,

it coordinates replacements with scheduled projects for road resurfacing and water main replacement. Challenges include matching City resources for planning and inspection with available funding, contractors' schedules, and supply chain delays. This session will review seven years of lead service line replacements in Grand Rapids, exploring both the hurdles of the past and the opportunities ahead. It will contribute to the ongoing discussion of how best to eliminate lead in drinking water.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

**9.1 How a Hunch, Operator Experience, Investigation, & Regulatory Transparency Led to the Largest Wellfield Rehabilitation Project in State History**

*Aaron Davenport, PE, Jones & Henry Engineers*

*Perry White, City of Battle Creek*

Battle Creek's wellfield is particularly susceptible to contamination due to an adjacent Superfund Site. Working off a hunch/intuition, the City televised their wells and found significant defects, which were allowing water from the glacial drift aquifer into wells that were supposed to be drawing from the confined sandstone aquifer below. The City called a foul on themselves to alert the State, which followed the required regulatory path. In response, the City submitted a DWSRF Project Plan, which was selected for funding in FY24. Now, the City and its Team are in the middle of designing the largest wellfield rehabilitation project in the state's history.

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

**9.2 Village of St. Charles Water System Improvements**

*Mitchel Jacquain, PE, Spicer Group*

*Hartmann Ave, Village of St. Charles*

The Village of St. Charles in Saginaw County implemented a proactive approach to asset management to complete Phase I of their water system improvements, replacing 11,500 feet of water main. The project included lead service line replacement, roadwork, and sidewalk improvements. The Village applied for and





received an MDOT Category B Grant to complete the roadwork in addition to the water main work. The Village will continue to work toward Phase II and III of its water system improvements.

**9:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

**9.3 Water Affordability Update**

*Jaime Fleming, City of Wyoming Utilities Department*

This presentation will provide the current status of where the package of bills is in the legislative process and possible outcomes given the landscape in Lansing.

**10:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

**9.4 Policy Update from Midwest Strategy Group**

*Mike Compagnoni, Midwest Strategy Group*

Hear from Midwest Strategy Group about the state of water and wastewater policy in Michigan, including updates on stormwater utility, infrastructure funding, SRF, and ongoing political happenings.

**11:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

**9.5 EGLE's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division Update**

*Brian Thurston, EGLE*

An update from EGLE's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division on drinking water industry regulatory issues, IT modernization efforts, business process changes, and staffing updates to increase efficiencies and provide technical and compliance assistance.

**11:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**9.6 Retaining Your Recruitment Strategy**

*Stefanie Burns, Great Lakes Water Authority  
Curtis Buris-White, Great Lakes Water Authority*

Water and wastewater leaders in our region have long been faced with increasing levels of attrition and a high turnover rate for skilled labor jobs. As the regional water provider for almost four million Michiganders, the Great Lakes Water Authority has been working to transfer the knowledge of their system to the next generation of water and wastewater professionals through apprenticeships, entry-level roles, and on-the-job training. To tackle this shift head-on, GLWA's Public Affairs team produced Tap In, a full-scale campaign, to recruit the future leaders of water and wastewater in our communities. This presentation will serve as a case study of the Tap In campaign so that other organizations can gain a foundational understanding of the Great Lakes Water Authority's process and, in return, create their own recruitment funnels for our One Water community. By showcasing the videos, branding, advertising methods, and more, the session will take the audience from pre-production to final assessment and data.

**12:00 PM - 12:15 PM**

**9.7 Closing Remarks**



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Registration

Introducing simplified registration. Registration now includes breakfast and lunch on the days of attendance. Wednesday and Thursday include breakfast and lunch. Friday includes breakfast.

TICKET	May 1 - Aug 22	Aug 23 - onsite
<b>ATTENDEE REGISTRATION</b>		
Full Conference Member	\$510	\$545
Full Conference Non-Member	\$600	\$635
Full Conference Retiree Member	\$300	\$335
Full Conference Small System Member	\$300	\$335
Single Day Member	\$300	\$335
Single Day Non-Member	\$390	\$425
Awardee	\$0	\$10
<b>SPEAKER REGISTRATION</b>		
Full Conference Speaker Member	\$325	\$335
Full Conference Speaker Non-Member	\$415	\$425
Single Day Speaker	\$0	\$10
<b>EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION</b> <i>(includes a 10'x10' and Wednesday registration for 2 people)</i>		
Exhibitor Member with a 10'x10' Booth Space, Full Conference for One Individual	\$975	\$1,010
Exhibitor Member with a 10'x10' Booth Space	\$675	\$710
Exhibitor Non-Member with a 10'x10' Booth Space	\$775	\$810
Exhibitor Non-Member with a 10'x10' Booth Space, Full Conference for One Individual	\$1,165	\$1,200
Additional Exhibitor Member (Wednesday Only)	\$300	\$335
Additional Exhibitor Non-Member (Wednesday Only)	\$390	\$425
<b>GUEST REGISTRATION</b>		
Conference Guest	\$250	\$285
Awardee Guest	\$30	\$40

### Cancellation

Complete Substitution: If you are not able to attend, complete substitutes are permitted. No partial substitutions are permitted. Please email the substitution request to [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org). Rates are based on membership status, so additional fees may apply.

If you must cancel, please notify MI-AWWA by email to [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org).

1. If canceled by 4:00 pm on or before August 15, you will receive a full refund, less a \$35 processing fee.
2. If canceled after 4:00 pm on August 15 but before 4:00 pm August 31, you will receive 50% of the registration fee paid. There is no refund for ticketed events.

3. If canceled after 4:00 pm on August 31, or if you are a conference no-show, there will be no refund.

### Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the location of this year's conference. To receive the conference rate of \$160.00 (before taxes), make sure to say you are with the MI-Section American Water Works Association:  
 ☎ 800-253-3590 🌐 <https://book.passkey.com/e/50700888>

There are a select number of per diem room rates available – call to inquire.

All conference rates are available until August 17, 2024, or until room blocks are sold out.

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# MIDWEST

## NIGHT



Michigan teamed up with Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio again this year on Midwest Night, a reception held during ACE24 to allow Michigan members to connect during the very large and sometimes overwhelming conference. Thanks to many sponsors, attendees were treated to some nosh and a drink or two.

### Thank you to our Midwest Night sponsors!

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# WHAT EVERY OPERATOR MUST KNOW

## THE MINDSET OF THE MODERN-DAY WATER OPERATOR

Kristofferson Fagan, Management Professional – Great Lakes Water Authority (NEP)

**“Providing drinking water of unquestionable quality that exceeds our customer expectations by safeguarding our water through monitoring from the source to the tap to meet or exceed regulatory standards by promoting healthy communities, economic growth, and excellent customer service.”**

– This is an extract from the mission statement for the Great Lakes Water Authority’s Water Quality Department.

**T**o emphasize the importance of providing drinking water of unquestionable quality that exceeds our customer’s expectations, it is the expectation that water operators are qualified to perform their duties efficiently. As The Great Lakes Water Authority’s (GLWA) Water Quality Department mission statement outlines, we must safeguard our water through meticulous monitoring from the source to the tap, striving to meet or surpass regulatory standards.

Water operators must adopt an end-to-end approach to guarantee public safety throughout the production process and quality water distribution. Understanding and implementing the key functions of the ‘Water Process Triangle’ – equipment operation/management, water chemistry, and training development – is essential in achieving our goal of delivering excellent customer service and promoting healthy communities.

To ensure the success of our water treatment plant, we must embrace the role of alchemists, transcending our knowledge across water treatment functions and regulatory requirements. By understanding the treatment of the source water and its characteristics, we can optimize our treatment processes for optimal disinfection and filtration. Our ability to adapt to changes in source water turbidity, temperature, alkalinity, pH, color, and chlorine demand will ultimately determine our plant’s capacity to produce water of superior quality, exceeding both safety standards and consumer expectations.

Our ability to consistently produce quality water requires us to have a greater understanding of highly efficient equipment, such as pumps used in the production process. Water operators need to go beyond surface-level knowledge to understand the ins and outs of pumps, valves, and process instrumentation. A collaborative effort is required between water operators and plant maintenance to ensure timely analysis for anticipating equipment failures. We must recognize that our ability to predict equipment failures goes beyond preventative measures successfully; it is a proactive approach to maintaining the integrity of the entire water treatment process, and by staying ahead of potential issues, we as water operators consistently contribute to the uninterrupted flow of quality water to our customers.

**“WATER OPERATORS NEED TO GO BEYOND SURFACE-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE TO UNDERSTAND THE INS AND OUTS OF PUMPS, VALVES, AND PROCESS INSTRUMENTATION.**

The water treatment process is continuously evolving as we implement advanced technologies to aid in our ability to treat water; as such, the water operator must remain focused on developing in-depth knowledge and skills relative to these advances. The water treatment plant serves as a blueprint for the water operator to gain invaluable training on the job. Academically, it can significantly benefit operators by enhancing their skills and knowledge in water treatment.

The available certification courses can open new opportunities and advancement in the field. We encourage water operators to consider exploring these courses to further their professional development and expertise in water treatment.

In summary, the role of a drinking water operator is multifaceted, requiring a blend of technical expertise and collaborative skills. The knowledge of water operators spans from ensuring water quality to connecting the operational dots and managing equipment efficiently. Water operators are integral to the smooth operation of water treatment facilities. Their dedication behind the scenes helps to ensure that the water we drink is not just a necessity but a testament to their commitment to excellence.

Let us continue working together diligently to uphold the high standards per the example outlined in GLWA’s Water Quality Department mission statement. By prioritizing water quality and embracing continuous improvement, we can contribute to our communities’ well-being and safety and our organization’s sustainable reputation and growth.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our shared goal of ensuring unquestionable water quality. 💧

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#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

GROUP NAME:  
Tri-State Seminar 2024

ROOM RATE: \$88/night  
(not including taxes & fees)

DATES: August 4 - 8, 2024

GROUP CODE: TRI2024  
(first 3 are letters, last 4 are numbers)

CUT-OFF DATE: 07/19/2024

#### REGISTRATION RATES (Per Person)

- ◆ \$99 Early Bird
- ♣ \$199 After July 19, 2024
- ♥ \$249 After August 4, 2024





# Above the Bridge

## Celebrating Innovation and Collaboration: Highlights from the 2024 UP Spring Water Conference

**W**ater professionals from across the Upper Peninsula gathered at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, MI, on April 23 and 24 for the much-anticipated 2024 UP Spring Water Conference. Attendees engaged in insightful discussions, educational sessions, and networking opportunities aimed at enhancing water practices in the region.

The conference kicked off with a warm welcome as attendees checked in and mingled with vendors, setting the tone for two days of camaraderie and learning. One notable highlight was the revival of the breakfast buffet, where participants fueled up for a day of enriching sessions ahead.

Throughout the event, industry experts led engaging sessions on a diverse range of

topics crucial to water management. From regulatory updates by the EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) to practical insights on routine maintenance and cybersecurity, each presentation provided valuable takeaways for attendees to apply in their respective roles. Notable sessions included discussions on hydrants, leak detection, and the evolving challenges posed by PFAS contamination, underscoring the conference's commitment to addressing pressing issues facing the water industry. Door prizes drawn throughout the presentations added an element of excitement.

In addition to the educational sessions, attendees had the opportunity to explore an array of vendor displays showcasing the latest innovations and technologies in the field. The social hour provided a relaxed atmosphere for networking and relationship-building, facilitated by generous sponsors who contributed to the event's success.

**“THROUGHOUT THE EVENT, INDUSTRY EXPERTS LED ENGAGING SESSIONS ON A DIVERSE RANGE OF TOPICS CRUCIAL TO WATER MANAGEMENT.”**

Do not miss out; make sure to register for the UP Fall Water Conference at [www.mi-water.org/events](http://www.mi-water.org/events). 💧

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# 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 12, 2024, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids from 8:00 to 8:20 am. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Annual Conference & Exhibits (MI-ACE 2024). 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 2024, RSVP your intention to participate in the Annual Business Meeting by emailing [erika@mi-water.org](mailto:erika@mi-water.org).

## Annual Business Meeting Agenda

### Chair's Report

#### 2023-2024 Nominations

- Chair-Elect – Molly Maciejewski, *City of Ann Arbor*
- Director – Jaime Fleming, *City of Wyoming*
- Trustee 2024-2027 – LaShone Bedford, *Great Lakes Water Authority*
- Trustee 2024-2027 – Alando Chappell, *City of East Lansing*

- Conference Update
- Membership Update
- Treasurer's Report 

# Use Paper Responsibly

Today's forest industry is working hard to become one of the greenest industries on earth.



Paper is an essential part of human civilization. While we all use and depend upon electronic communications, it is easy to ignore that it comes at an environmental cost. Worldwide spam email traffic creates greenhouse gases equivalent to burning two billion gallons of gasoline yearly, with numbers rising. More than \$55 billion in toxic e-waste material is thrown away every year in the US alone, with a recycling rate of only 20% compared to 64.7% for paper.

No industry is perfect. But the paper industry has made, and continues to make, huge investments in environmental responsibility. Specifying and buying paper from certified sources ensures the continuation and growth of carbon absorbing forests. Using paper with appropriate amounts of recycled fibre helps preserve forests, conserve energy, and maximize fibre usage through paper lifecycles.

## 2024 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has completed this year's process for recruiting and selecting the 2024 MI-AWWA Board election slate. The Committee chose four candidates to fill the open positions. The positions include the chair-elect, director, and two trustee positions.

The Committee would like to thank the nominees who submitted their names for consideration. The Committee is pleased to nominate the following individuals.

- Jaime Fleming, City of Wyoming – Director
- Molly Maciejewski, City of Ann Arbor – Chair-Elect
- Alando Chappell, City of East Lansing – Trustee 2024-2027
- LaShone Bedford, Great Lakes Water Authority – Trustee 2024-2027

### Meet the Nominees

#### **Jaime Fleming, City of Wyoming Director**

Jaime is the Superintendent for the City of Wyoming Water Treatment Plant. After completing her undergraduate degree in chemistry at Grand Valley State University, she answered a newspaper ad for a Laboratory Technician with the Wyoming Drinking Water Plant. In her 20 years with the City, she has had a tremendous opportunity to learn and grow as a water professional. She went on to complete her master's degree in public administration (also at GVSU) and holds F-1 and S-4 licenses.

Jaime was encouraged by several of her Wyoming colleagues to be an active member of the Michigan Section. She started as a member of the Lab Practices Committee and Youth Education Committee and has since served in many roles. She has been a chair of several committees, Chair of the Annual Conference Program Committee, Trustee, Chair of the Conference and Recognition Council, and had the honor of serving as MI-AWWA Chair.

She is a member of the AWWA Water Quality Laboratory Committee, a presenter at ACE23, has contributed to several *Journal* and *OpFlow* articles, and was a member of the M12 Manual Update Committee.



Jaime's current passion is water affordability and other legislative policy issues at the state and federal levels. She believes one of the most valuable benefits of a Section membership is the opportunity to meet other water professionals and share ideas and knowledge. She would be honored to continue to serve AWWA and the Michigan Section as Director.

**"IN HER 20 YEARS WITH THE CITY, SHE HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND GROW AS A WATER PROFESSIONAL."**

#### **Molly Maciejewski, City of Ann Arbor Chair-Elect**

Molly is the Water Treatment Services Manager for the City of Ann Arbor. Molly has worked for the City for over 17 years in various positions, including Water Quality Manager, Water Treatment Services Manager, and Public Works Manager. Prior to her tenure in Ann Arbor, she spent 11 years at the State of Michigan (then MDEQ) in drinking water and stormwater regulatory compliance programs and supervision. Molly has her bachelor's degree in natural resources and environmental policy from the University of Michigan and her master's in public administration from the University of



**"PRIOR TO HER TENURE IN ANN ARBOR, SHE SPENT 11 YEARS AT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN (THEN MDEQ) IN DRINKING WATER AND STORMWATER REGULATORY COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS AND SUPERVISION."**

Michigan-Dearborn. She holds both F-1 and S-3 licenses.

Molly has been active in MI-AWWA for many years, first getting involved when she worked for MDEQ. She served as a Trustee from 2020-2023 and is currently the Chair of the Government Affairs Council, a seat she also held from 2014-2020. She is a mentor in the Section's 'Deep End' cohort program and has been involved in several other committees, including Strategic Planning, Conference Planning, and the Finance Committee. She has a passion for programs that help grow our workforce, improve water quality, and build public trust in our work.

Molly's passion for water stems in part from her being a native of Michigan and never living more than a few blocks from a body of water. She and her husband Jason have three children – 16, 18, and 25. Molly loves to paddleboard, travel, and generally just be outdoors, particularly in warm places.

#### **Alando Chappell, City of East Lansing Trustee 2024-2027**

Alando Chappell is a Senior Project Manager for the City of East Lansing. Alando is a resilient, adaptable, and innovative Manager, Director, and Chief Operator Officer with a 20-year strong track record of accomplishments in operation management. This includes streamlining processes and increasing business efficiency for long-term stability and growth; providing a diplomatic approach in building cross-functional consensus and directing needed change for the public sector, utility, and technical organizations; developing processes proven to increase revenue, efficiency, and profits with proactive business management approaches; and connecting with people, spearheading strategies, and continuously enhancing operations.

Alando Chappell received his Bachelor of Science in organizational management from Spring Arbor University. He also completed a four-year apprenticeship and



**“ALANDO IS A RESILIENT, ADAPTABLE, AND INNOVATIVE MANAGER, DIRECTOR, AND CHIEF OPERATOR OFFICER WITH A 20-YEAR STRONG TRACK RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OPERATION MANAGEMENT.”**

has an Electrical Distribution Journey worker license. Lastly, he holds an S-1 license to manage and operate water distribution systems in Michigan.

Alando Chappell’s hobbies include sports, especially football, and he is a season ticket holder for the Detroit Lions. He is also an enthusiast of Corvettes, personally has a 2019 Grand Sport, and belongs to a Corvette club. Ultimately, he enjoys spending time with his family the most, watching a good movie, playing cards, or having a good cookout!

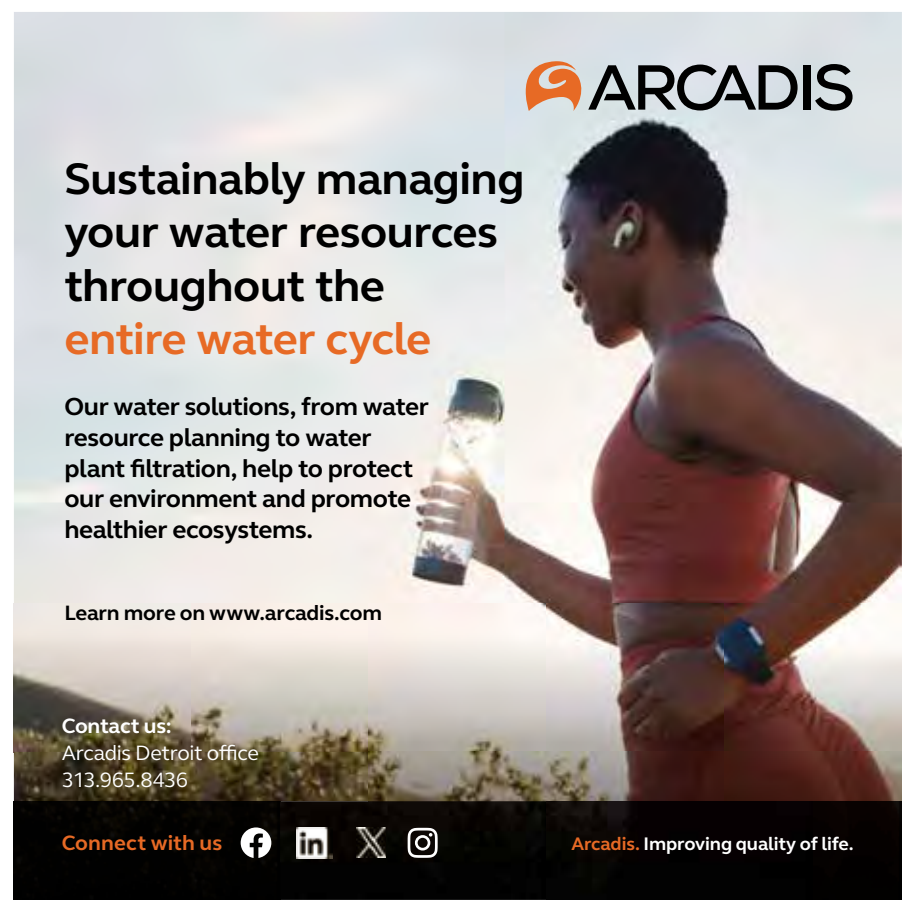
**LaShone Bedford,  
Great Lakes  
Water Authority  
Trustee 2024-2027**



LaShone Bedford is the Strategic Planning and Development Manager in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Water Operating Services for the Great Lakes Water Authority. A veteran and leader in the Water Sector, she advocates for women who have spear-headed the continued growth of the Section’s Women on Water networking group. In addition to W.O.W., LaShone has been extremely active

**“A VETERAN AND LEADER IN THE WATER SECTOR, SHE ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE SPEAR-HEADED THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE SECTION’S WOMEN ON WATER NETWORKING GROUP.”**

in MI-AWWA, serving as Vice-Chair of the Communication Council (four terms) and Vice-Chair of the Education and Training Committee (two terms). She uses her years of experience to promote the water sector, the Section, and its values – bringing in new members and volunteers because she believes in the value and purpose of the section. 💧







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## MI-AWWA ONLINE

When was the last time you scrolled down from the website's main page? You should know there are three really great tools available.

### Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees are listed along with board-level committees, board meeting minutes, and the link to nominations or the announcement of the slate to vote on. This is an easy way to find and communicate with MI-AWWA's top leadership.

### Member Directory

All MI-AWWA members are listed in the online directory. Members may also search for and contact other members. This is an excellent resource for building your network and staying connected with those you meet at MI-AWWA events.

### Online Store

This is the section of the site where you can reserve a booth for a conference, commit to a sponsorship, or buy swag like a t-shirt or coffee mug. We're still

building this out with swag, but check back periodically to see what products we offer. We don't maintain inventory, so all swag is offered on a pre-order basis. 💧



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## REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR SECTION OFFICERS

Each year, AWWA holds regional meetings for section officers (RMSO) to provide a forum for sections to share and learn from each other. Staff from the Denver office of AWWA facilitate the discussions and share updates on what's happening on a national level. The Michigan Section is part of Region 3, and in late April, four of our Board of Trustees made the trek over to Green Bay, WI, the host city for this year's RMSO. The two days of meetings were held at the iconic Lambeau Field, where Christine Spitzley, Gary Wozniak, Rick Solle, and Doug Scott were able to overlook the field (once the fog lifted) while learning new ideas and sharing experiences with our neighboring sections from Ohio to South Dakota. Those in attendance came back with some great ideas to help our Section in the future. Next year, the Region 3 RMSO will be hosted by the Michigan Section, most likely in Detroit. 💧



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 SCAN ME



## BEST TASTING WATER

The Spring Regional Water Seminars of the Michigan Section of the AWWA have come and gone, and interlaced between the intriguing presentations and industry camaraderie, we have crowned the Best Tasting Water in each of this year's four regions. All our competitors brought their best homebrew of hydrogen, oxygen, and assorted minerals to taste for judging against their peers. 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 who fended off intense competition en route to their wins. In the Upper Peninsula, **Negaunee Township** returned to the winner's circle and stood alone as the best water in the UP. In Livonia, **City of Ann Arbor** added another regional championship notch to its belt. In Grand Rapids, the locals from **Plainfield Charter Township** bested a crowded field of competitors to take home the hardware. Finally, in Gaylord, the **Mancelona Area Water & Sewer Authority** continued its legacy of fantastic water. This will be a battle of powerhouse systems, and it 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 10-13, 2024, in Grand Rapids, to determine who will be named Best Tasting Water in Michigan. The 2024 State Champ will represent the Section at AWWA ACE in Denver, Colorado, June 8-11, 2025!

Thanks to everyone who competed in Spring Regionals this year, and congratulations, again, to our regional champs. We look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids this September!

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

## DEEP END – A COHORT LEARNING SERIES TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS SECOND YEAR

The Deep End, a cohort learning series designed for those with five years or less in the water sector, has reached the halfway point of its inaugural year. All signs point to a great success!

With a small cohort of just eight students, this year's Class of 2024 has experienced trainings, tours, and learning from mentors and each other.

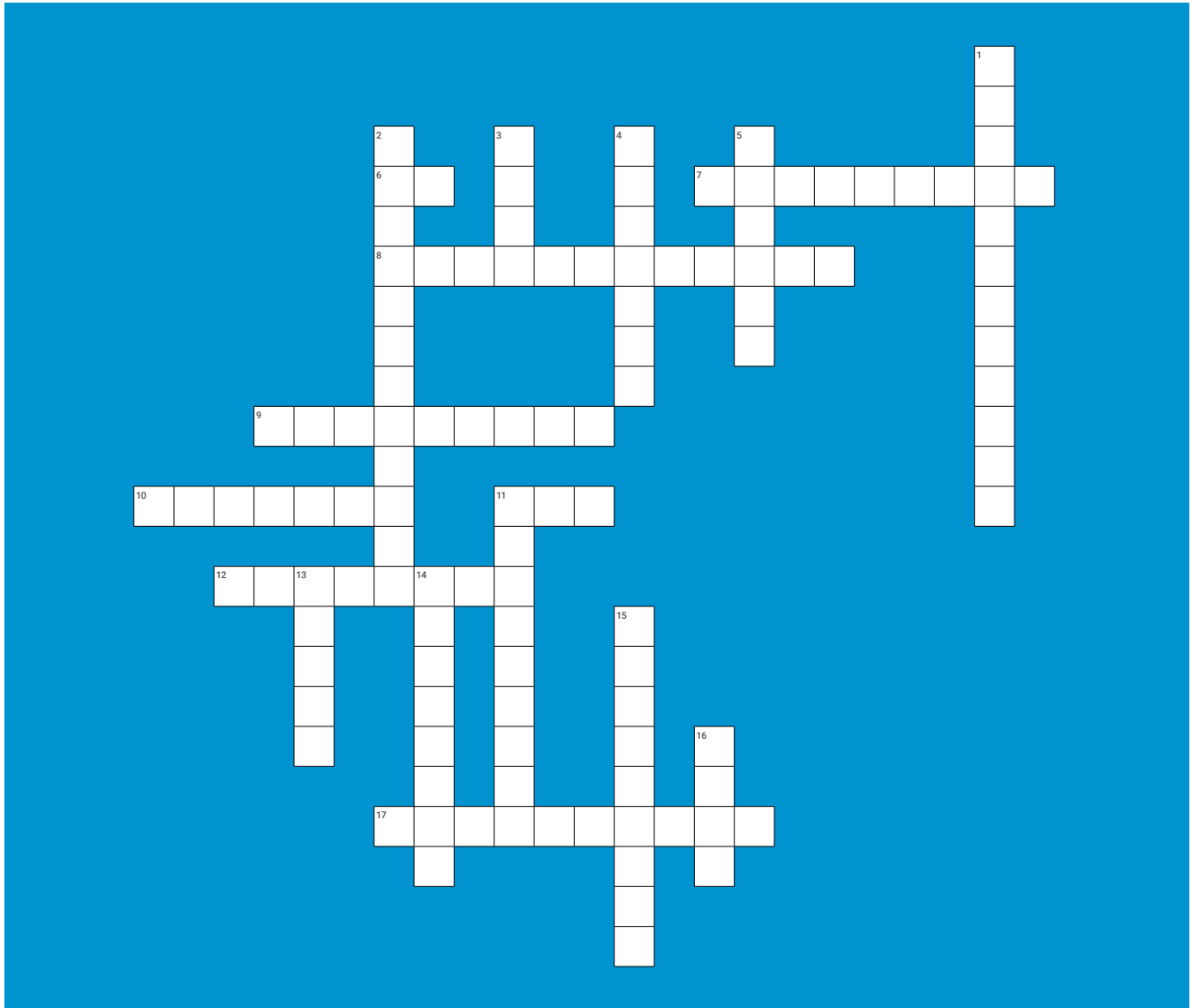
"This program is perfect for anyone looking to gain a wealth of knowledge in all different aspects of the water world." – Theresa Alexander, City of Flushing.

Since there are limited seats, an application process is used to determine who is in the class. Applications will open on September 1 and close on September 30. There is no fee to apply,

and students are only billed once they are selected.

Visit [www.mi-water.org/the-deep-end](http://www.mi-water.org/the-deep-end) for details on the program, how to apply, and the application. 💧

## CROSSWORD: ALL ABOUT LAB PRACTICES



### ACROSS

6. Common test for water's corrosivity
7. Equipment used to measure water turbidity
8. Measurement of water's ability to conduct electrical current
9. Study of substances and their properties
10. A substance used to detect pathogens in water
11. Common test for determining the presence of organic compounds
12. A fine porous material used to filter particles
17. Method to separate substances based on molecular size

### DOWN

1. The process of heating a liquid until it becomes a gas, then cooling it back into a liquid
2. An instrument that measures the amount of light absorbed by a sample
3. Common metal test in water analysis
4. Equipment used to regulate the temperature in experiments
5. A process to remove impurities or pathogens from water
11. Removal of contaminants from wastewater
13. A device that measures the intensity of light
14. Determines the concentration of a specific chemical component in water
15. Material commonly used to adjust pH in water treatment
16. The basic unit of chemical elements



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## ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT (AIM) COMMITTEE

The Asset & Infrastructure Management (AIM) Committee recently hosted its Asset Management Seminar at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center in Bath. The seminar provided a broad range of topics from speakers with vast experience in the water and wastewater industry. There were speakers from all over the state and attendees from municipalities and consulting firms representing various-sized communities. Some notable topics from the seminar included 'Grand Rapids Large Valve Program' from Lindsey Sagorski-Munsell (City of Grand Rapids), a presentation surrounding mobile data collection leveraging advanced technology from Derek Ambs and Joe Eastman (Lansing Board of Water and Light), a diverse presentation highlighting asset management and the people aspect from Mark DeClerq (Applied Asset Management)



and Monica Vergara (Business Impact) and many more exciting presentations. To access the full agenda, please visit [www.mi-wea.org/docs/4.18.24\\_Asset\\_Management\\_AGENDA\\_with\\_Exhibitors\\_1.pdf](http://www.mi-wea.org/docs/4.18.24_Asset_Management_AGENDA_with_Exhibitors_1.pdf).

The Committee meets quarterly, with its next meeting scheduled for June 26, 2024. We are always welcoming new members and appreciate any experience or insight you can provide. 💧

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## COMMUNICATION COUNCIL

Samarhia Giffel, Communication Council Chair

The Communication Council is excited to announce Episode 2 of the Section's podcast, *The Current*. We encourage you to listen via [www.buzzsprout.com](http://www.buzzsprout.com), MI-AWWA's *The Current*. In this episode, you get to learn about our fabulous hosts and the team that supports them. We shared materials for Drinking Water Week, May 5-11, 2024, in hopes you were able to obtain proclamations and posts

to social media with ease. Don't forget to share your events, articles, pictures, and videos with us. We want to know how members celebrated and recognized water professionals across our Section. This year, the Communications Council was tasked with the pre-conference workshop to help our members master the vast world of social media. We have made it interactive and promise

to give you a social media toolkit to help build your knowledge and brand. We look forward to seeing you at MI-ACE September 10-13, 2024, in Grand Rapids, MI – for more information, please visit [www.mi-water.org/mi-ace](http://www.mi-water.org/mi-ace).

As always, we will keep you updated via *Water Works News*, Water Weekly Updates, and our social media platforms – Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter). 💧

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL (ETC)

Joel Martinez, ETC Chair

The ETC has been spearheading the role of creating exciting new classes for the water works field in Michigan. We have recently started holding exam prep roundtables and newly updated

versions of water treatment and distribution courses. 'Lab School,' a new hands-on training course for operators interested in mastering their lab skills, will be offered soon! These courses

are built to better help operators pass their upcoming licensing exams and build a foundation of knowledge that will continue with them throughout their careers. 💧

## SWIE BRINGS SAFE WATER TO ECUADOR

Safe Water in Ecuador (SWIE) sent a team of three to Ecuador at the end of March. The team made multiple community visits while consulting and sharing their expertise with in-country engineers as local partners, seeking to improve engineering in the rural setting in the South American country.

On its first full day in the country, the team visited the community of San Martin Bajo, where the community was celebrating its new water system. The SWIE team was recognized for a donation of almost \$15,000

given by SWIE for the new system's pumps, pumphouse, and other accessories.

The team also visited the community and system of San Antonio de Quito, a previously funded project where the local non-governmental organization (NGO), Life Giving Water International, is planning remote metering to track water use throughout the community.

A few long hikes allowed the team two unique experiences: visiting a mountain spring at more than 13,000 ft to assess

the possibility of protecting a community's water source and circumnavigating a crater lake for a short tourist stop.

As the SWIE leadership team prepares for MI-ACE this fall, please contact Co-Chairs Colin McCorkle ([cmccorkle@fishbeck.com](mailto:cmccorkle@fishbeck.com)) or Jessica Howard ([jlhoward4405@gmail.com](mailto:jlhoward4405@gmail.com)) if you would like to participate in future fundraising opportunities, such as the Section's golf outing, Chance Auction at MI-ACE, or trips to Ecuador. 💧

**"ON ITS FIRST FULL DAY IN THE COUNTRY, THE TEAM VISITED THE COMMUNITY OF SAN MARTIN BAJO, WHERE THE COMMUNITY WAS CELEBRATING ITS NEW WATER SYSTEM."**





# DISTRIBUTION PRACTICES COMMITTEE


## Michigan Field Day Flies' Solo

What started out as a partner event with RCAP went solo this year, with the Distribution Practices Committee taking the lead on planning the program. Distribution operators from across the state came to hear the latest in computerized maintenance

management systems and then watched various demonstrations and condition assessments. The day wrapped with a brief update on cross-connections and MISS DIG.

A big shout-out to all the vendors who provided demonstrations and condition

assessments. It was a great hands-on experience and a fun way to learn:

- Cla-Val and Jett Pump
- M.E. Simpson
- MBA Distributing and EBAA Iron
- Watertap 



### Distribution Practices Committee

**Committee Chair** – Michael Behunin, *Anderson Eckstein & Westrick Inc.*

**Committee Vice-Chair** – John Nagle, *Hubbell, Roth and Clark Inc.*

**Education Council Liaison** – Sally Duffy, *Hubbell, Roth and Clark Inc.*

Elin Betanzo, *Safe Water Engineering*

Quentin Clark, *South Haven Board of Public Utilities*

Ketankumar Dave, *Detroit Water & Sewerage Department*

Martin Flynn, *City of Petoskey*

Peter Fromm, *Great Lakes Water Authority*

Derek Gajdos, *Grand Haven Department of Public Works*

Leanne Hoese, *City of Niles Utilities Department*

Susan Knepper, *OHM Advisors*

Arthur Krueger, *City of Traverse City*

Mikel Levandoski, *Zeeland Board of Public Works*

Gary Lewis, *Little River Band of Ottawa Indians – Utilities*

Russell Miller, *City of St. Clair Shores Water*

Lindsay Sagorski Munsell, *Grand Rapids Water Department*

Brian Phillips, *Fishbeck Ashley Powers, Wightman & Associates*

Andrae Savage, *Great Lakes Water Authority*

Brad Shepler, *Hubbell, Roth and Clark Inc.*

Daniel Sorek, *Prein&Newhof*  
Anthony Troy, *Great Lakes Water Authority*





## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### You Have to Fight for Your Right to... Policy!

Sara Rubino, Government Policy Attorney – Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, as a delegate of the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA) to attend the 2024 AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In with fellow members Carrie Cox, Molly Maciejewski, and Jaime Fleming. The purpose of the Fly-In is to advance AWWA's priorities on Capitol Hill. This year, the MI-AWWA member delegation met with 12 of Michigan's 13 congressional offices and both state senate offices. The policy priorities discussed included water affordability, investment in water infrastructure, polluter pay laws, and cybersecurity.

In addition to hundreds of AWWA members from across the country, dozens of special interest groups and professional organizations flooded the Capitol with swarms of members and their own policy priorities. Many of these groups tried to stand out with flashy shirts, matching outfits, and signs. With many competing for precious moments with congressional staff, it was clear that every group felt pressure to make the meetings memorable. As the only Fly-In newbie in our group, I learned from seasoned Fly-In attendees how to make a big impact in just a few minutes – without an all-purple sequined outfit.

First, be prepared to provide backup. When discussing the need for a permanent Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), our audience always wanted to know how many people in Michigan would benefit. We were prepared with the University of Michigan Water Center and Graham Sustainability Institute report, "Water Service Affordability in Michigan: A Statewide Assessment (January 2022)." The report details the distribution of prior LIHWAP funding and has complex data demonstrating the increasing affordability problem for households in Michigan.

Second, be able to show the direct impact. When discussing the need to fully



MI-AWWA members Sara Rubino, Jaime Fleming, Carrie Cox, and Molly Maciejewski by the Capitol Building

**"BY DISCUSSING SPECIFIC PROJECTS IMPACTED BY FEDERAL FUNDING DECISIONS, IT SHOWS THE TRICKLE-DOWN IMPACT TO THE LAWMAKERS' CONSTITUENTS – THE RATEPAYERS."**

fund Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, we provided examples of high-priority projects affected when fewer federal dollars were funneled through state SRF programs. The *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* provided a historic \$55 billion in new funding for water infrastructure across the country, but it's important to convey that more will be needed in the years ahead. By discussing specific projects impacted by federal funding decisions, it shows the trickle-down impact to the lawmakers' constituents – the ratepayers.

Finally, be flexible. During our time in our nation's capital, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its hazardous substance designation for

PFAS, PFOA, and PFOS. Although this designation was anticipated, the timely announcement created an opportunity to highlight the liability implications for drinking water and wastewater systems that passively receive these substances from polluters. We needed to quickly adapt to the EPA's announcement and focus on the pressing need to pass the *Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act* to protect drinking water and wastewater systems from liability as a polluter for newly classified hazardous substances.

I am confident that our time with the congressional offices will be remembered by those we met – not because of showy apparel but because of the importance of the policy. 💧



## LAB PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Jack Hughes, Lab Practices Committee Chair

Greetings from the Lab Practices Committee! We represent a network of municipal treatment plants and private testing facilities across the state, and our goal is to foster 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.

When questions arise about new or challenging tests or when help is desired to approach an unusual situation, our email chain is a great way to connect with dozens of other labs, some of which may have already encountered and troubleshot the enigma in question! Otherwise, we are usually able to find a conclusion after some back-and-forth brainstorming. I have always appreciated how cooperative our industry is, and this resource of analytical

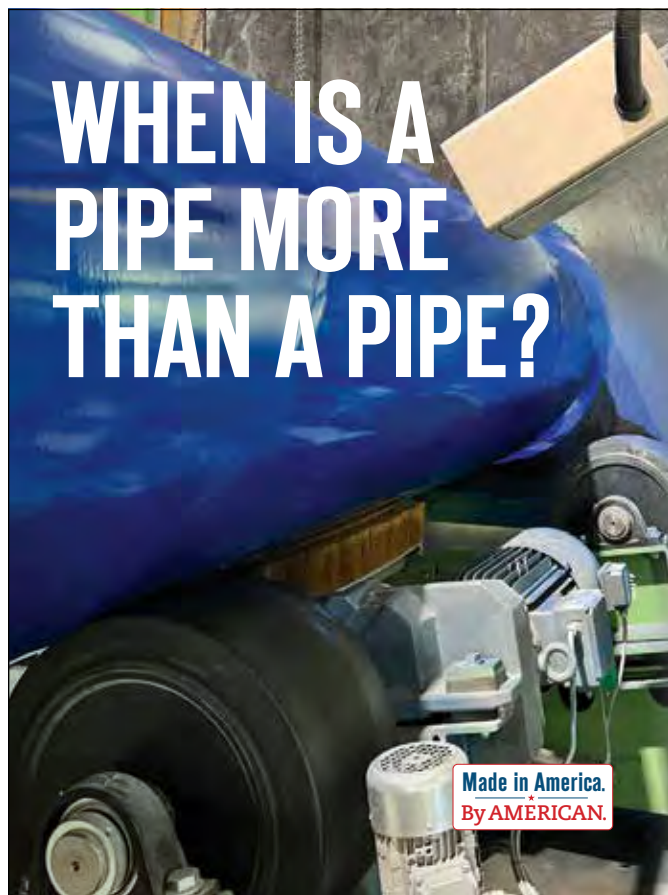
knowledge is a real testament to the water and wastewater community's willingness to help each other out.

We meet once a month, virtually, to share organizational updates and discuss new laboratory or legislative developments affecting our tests, standard procedures, and equipment. Occasional meetings are held at a facility or lab coupled with a tour.

We then shift gears to continue planning and organizing an annual seminar in the fall, 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. 💧

**“WE REPRESENT A NETWORK OF MUNICIPAL TREATMENT PLANTS AND PRIVATE TESTING FACILITIES ACROSS THE STATE, AND OUR GOAL IS TO FOSTER OPEN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ALL WATER AND WASTEWATER LABORATORIES.”**



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## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

### YPs in the Water Industry – Quantity of Quality

Ariana Wade, Water/Wastewater Engineer – Fishbeck

Taylor Swift Era's Tour, the Superbowl, Stanley Tumblers, and... YP Summit? In a game of Connections, these would be under the category of events and products that sold out in 2024. Like many young professionals in the water industry (a sell-out crowd, actually), I attended the Annual YP Summit and Leadership Day hosted by AWWA and WEF in Portland, Oregon.

I had plenty of 'favorites' from the event. I appreciated the YP alumni who highlighted the many forms that leadership can take within AWWA at any stage in my career. I discovered a new sport when competing in the Operations Challenge. I was motivated by the 'Affordability and Equity Panel,' who shared their experiences and struggles with balancing the infrastructure needs of their water systems with the financial and accessibility needs of their customers.

I commend the planners and organizers of the event for creating a program packed full of influential speakers and panelists. However, I was most inspired by what wasn't planned – the sheer number of young professionals motivated to build our careers and better our industry. Although the people I connected with were not working the same job, following the same path, or even living in the same country, I found familiarity in their stories of becoming interested in water, attending their first AWWA or WEF event, and navigating the industry as a newcomer. I collaborated with YP Committee leaders, sharing experiences and tips on event planning, member engagement, and fundraising. I commiserated with others my age over the struggles of beginning a career during a



Group of Young Professions at YP Summit 2024

global pandemic. I found camaraderie in the hundreds of YPs traveling from all over the US and Canada to Portland to learn, grow, and connect with each other.

My generation is inheriting a water future full of challenges – aging

infrastructure, pollution, water scarcity, and climate change. As evidenced by a sold-out YP Summit, my generation is also full of intelligent and capable water professionals who are motivated to improve the future of water. 💧



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# MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT RECAP

Amy Vail, District Supervisor – EGLE

Every year, AWWA volunteers and staff from all over North America gather in Denver for the Membership Summit. Despite the unpredictable weather of January, this year, we were greeted with sunshine and fifty-degree temperatures. The Membership Summit is a crucial event where we review the previous year’s successes and challenges, set goals for the following year, educate members about the various types of memberships, and network with others to get ideas to help recruit, engage, and retain members. This year’s program included Kevin Coates as a keynote speaker to share the message of inspiration and belonging. This was the perfect segue to the focus of the summit and year, which was “The most meaningful connection begins with you.”

Those of us who are actively involved in AWWA can share numerous stories of connections we’ve made in the water industry and how they have helped shape our careers and lives. The program also included sessions on membership, marketing, promotions, section sharing, and regional roundups. The summit is a time to celebrate section accomplishments and set membership challenges for the upcoming year. We are proud to announce that the Michigan Section was awarded \$800 for meeting AWWA’s 3% growth in 2023, a testament to our dedication and hard work. The 2024 membership challenge includes the typical 1, 2, and 3%



growth goals but will also include \$1,000 most improved retention and recruitment awards for each size section, providing further motivation for all sections to excel. 💧

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# STRATEGIC PLANNING MAY LEAD TO NEW PROGRAMS

Throughout this spring, the Planning and Strategy Committee has been collecting input from members to update MI-AWWA's Strategic Plan. There have been listening sessions, surveys, and working sessions to better understand the issues water systems are facing and MI-AWWA's role in helping them meet the challenges they face.


Another part of strategic planning is understanding how MI-AWWA is perceived in the water sector and what space we want to occupy. This is evolving.

All of this work may lead to new and different programs and services in the future. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to engage with the Planning and Strategy Committee. You can also simply share your thoughts about

the challenges you face and what you'd like to see MI-AWWA offer by emailing staff or the committee at [info@mi-water.org](mailto:info@mi-water.org). 



## ON THE MOVE

- Brian Steglitz from Public Services Area Administrator to Executive Director of Upper Occoquan Water Authority in Virginia.
- Bonnifer Ballard, MI-AWWA's first Executive Director, has moved out of the water sector. 



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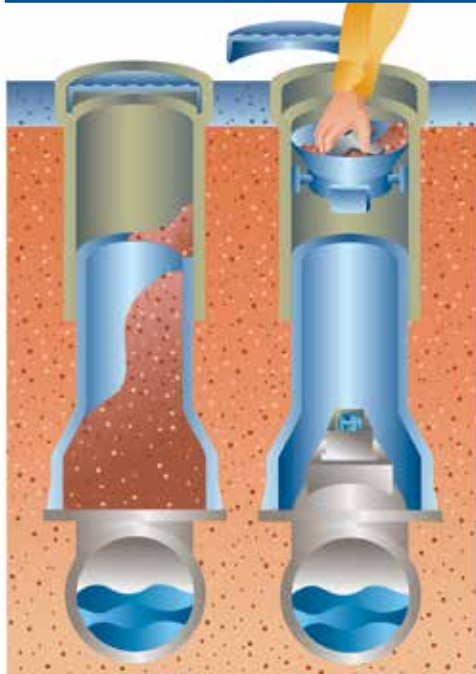


# LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The Annual Leadership Retreat was held May 3, 2024, in Lansing, MI. Section leaders met to discuss strategic planning, heard AWWA updates, and collaborated across councils. See photos of the Leadership Retreat at [www.mi-water.org/photo-gallery](http://www.mi-water.org/photo-gallery). 



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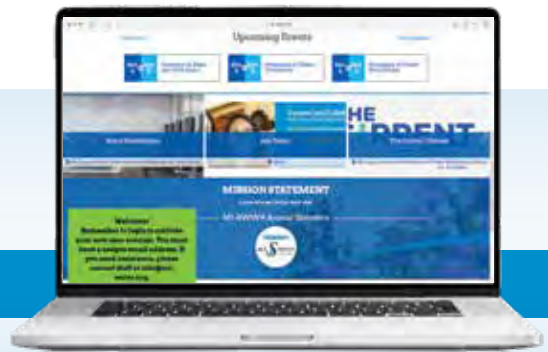


# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined from  
March 1, 2024, to May 31, 2024.

- Carley Allison**, Michigan State University
- Chuck Berner**, City of Dearborn – Water Division
- Christian Boden**, City of Monroe Water Plant
- John Carroll**, MTU Ford Center
- Taylor Cook**, ROWE Professional Services Company
- Danny Dalzell**, The Old Club
- Jeanette Driver**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Peter Drogosh**, Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering
- Rick Eshlaman**, Jones & Henry Engineers Ltd.
- Fernco Inc.**
- Allie Field**, Charter Township of Clinton
- Jaycob Fink**, Grand Rapids Community College
- Deryck Freudeman**, Xylem Dewatering Solutions Inc.
- Peter Fromm**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- TJ Gibson**, Village of Climax
- Steve Harkness**, Velocity Pump & Controls
- Pushpal Jadhav**, ALSI
- Amanda James**, Fernco
- David Jones**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Nathan Lytle**, F&V Operations
- Zane Mackenzie**, Portage Lake Water & Sewage Authority
- Eric Marchewitz**, CDWG
- Theron Martin**, Detroit Water & Sewerage
- Jonelle Moore**, AWWA Michigan Section
- Collins Peter**, Grand Rapids Community College
- Gwen Pettit**, Trane

- Chauncey Philson**, Detroit Water & Sewerage
- Rob Pierce**, City of Eaton Rapids
- Samuel Price**, City of Monroe Water Plant
- Joel Reed**, City of Monroe
- Seth Robbins**
- David Rocha**, Bay County Department of Water & Sewer
- Alexiss Sherman**, Advantage Plumbing and Drain LLC
- Nick Stankevich**, City of Flushing
- Julia Stout**, City of Traverse City
- Lexi Szurna**, Prein&Newhof
- Trane**
- Amy Van Zanen**, University of Michigan
- Angel Vazquez**, Grand Rapids Community College
- Tanya Weisinger**, Village of Ontonagon
- Matthew Westphal**, Bay County Department of Water & Sewer
- June White**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Ashley Williams**, Holland Board of Public Works
- Rechanda Willis**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Scott Zielinski**, Birmingham 



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## EDWARD DUNBAR RICH AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Every year, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Section of AWWA present 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.

If you or any of your employees meet the above qualifications and have not previously received this service award, we encourage you to seize this opportunity for recognition. Please fill out an application form and submit it to EGLE. Rich Award applications are now being accepted, with an application deadline of July 15, 2024. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/communitywater](http://www.michigan.gov/communitywater) to find information on the Edward Dunbar Rich Award and the nomination form. 💧

## MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE



**“AS OF APRIL 2024, APPROXIMATELY 900 COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES AROUND THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN UTILIZING MIEHDWIS.”**

The Michigan Environmental Health and Drinking Water Information System (MiEHDWIS) is a dedicated workspace for water supplies to submit results, reports, permit applications, and other documentation to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). MiEHDWIS also allows users access to their previous submissions, track the progress of current submittals, and communicate with EGLE staff.

As of April 2024, approximately 900 community water supplies around the state of Michigan have already begun utilizing MiEHDWIS.

Some benefits of utilizing MiEHDWIS include:

- Review your submittal history, check on the submittal review progress, and complete some document types (forms), such as sampling plans and permit applications, by using a dedicated form in MiEHDWIS.

- Submit various document types, results, reports, plans, permit apps, etc., to EGLE via a single online portal.
- Submit information using MiEHDWIS instead of through the district office email or via mail.

Online training for community water supplies is offered routinely and provides users with updates on new functionality, assists with account setup, and answers any questions. Visit [www.michigan.gov/miehdwis](http://www.michigan.gov/miehdwis) to learn more about this new application, request an account, watch tutorial videos, or get information on upcoming training.

Current users, we want to hear from you! MiEHDWIS is still under development, and new functionality can be added. Use the helpdesk available on the MiEHDWIS website or email [egle-miehdwis@michigan.gov](mailto:egle-miehdwis@michigan.gov) to share your feedback and suggest improvements. 💧

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION RULE

Under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* 1976 PA 399 (SDWA), the Public Notification Rule is intended to help ensure consumers know if there is a problem with their drinking water. The rule requires public water supplies to alert consumers if there is a potential risk to public health or if requirements were not met for specific monitoring or reporting of compliance data. There are three different categories (tiers) of public notification. The delivery requirements, including how a public notice must be delivered and in what timeframe, depends on what tier a violation or situation falls into. The following information summarizes the differences between the public notice tiers:

- **Tier 1** – Required for violations or situations with significant potential to adversely affect public health due to short-term exposure. Public notification must be made within **24 hours**. Water suppliers must use media outlets such as television, radio, and newspapers, post their notices in public places, personally deliver notices to their customers, or use an alternative method approved by the primacy agency.
- **Tier 2** – Required for violations with the potential to have serious, but not immediate, adverse effects on public health. Public notification must be made within **30 days** or as soon as possible. The water supply shall repeat the notice every three months if the violation or situation exists. Notice may be provided via the media, posting, or mail.


**“THE RULE REQUIRES PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES TO ALERT CONSUMERS IF THERE IS A POTENTIAL RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR IF REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT MET FOR SPECIFIC MONITORING OR REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA.”**


- **Tier 3** – Required for situations that do not fall within the Tier 1 or Tier 2 categories, such as, but not limited to, monitoring and reporting violations. These violations do not pose an immediate health threat. Public notification must be made within **one year, and the notice shall be repeated** annually for as long as the violation or situation exists. A Tier 3 public notice must be delivered the same way as a Tier 2 public notice.

Every public notice required to be distributed must contain ten required elements. Specific content is required so that all consumers who receive public notice can clearly understand the violation and its potential health risks. A list of the ten elements can be found at [www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/DWEHD/Community-Water-Supply/Publications/ten-elements-public-notice.pdf?rev=7b18d1e0cbb548938de11e57bca8f4bb&hash=C76AEBAEB9BF5638750DE7AB8A7C68DD](http://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/DWEHD/Community-Water-Supply/Publications/ten-elements-public-notice.pdf?rev=7b18d1e0cbb548938de11e57bca8f4bb&hash=C76AEBAEB9BF5638750DE7AB8A7C68DD).

Once distribution has been completed by the water supply, a copy of the public notice and a Certificate of Distribution form is required to be reported to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) within ten days of notifying customers. Failure to issue a public notice can result in a fine. A blank copy of the Certificate of Distribution form can be found at [www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/community-water-supply/reporting-forms](http://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/community-water-supply/reporting-forms).

A summary of each violation or situation resulting in a public notice must be included in the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). A summary of the violation in the annual CCR does not count as meeting the public notice requirements unless all ten public notice elements are included and the report is directly delivered to all customers within the required timeframe. If the water supply chooses to use the CCR as a vehicle to distribute a public notice, a Public Notice Certificate of Distribution is still required to be submitted to EGLE within ten days of distribution.

More information and resources on public notice requirements can be found by visiting [www.michigan.gov/communitywater](http://www.michigan.gov/communitywater) and selecting Public Notification Rules from the Laws and Rules section. 



<p><b>Flushing</b> <b>810-230-2737</b></p>	<p><b>Kalamazoo</b> <b>269-383-1200</b></p>
<p><b>Kentwood</b> <b>616-803-7521</b></p>	<p><b>Lansing</b> <b>517-322-0300</b></p>
<p><b>Warren</b> <b>586-459-4491</b></p>	
<p><b>WWW.FERGUSON.COM</b></p>	





# WATER SOLUTIONS – A WEBINAR SERIES

Webinars remain a great way to earn a CEC or PDH here and there. Check out the webinars in MI-AWWA’s Water Solutions webinar series for the rest of this year.

DATE	WEBINAR
July 11, 2024	Introduction to Plant Instrumentation
August 8, 2024	Optimizing Filters With a Filter Surveillance Program
October 10, 2024	How to Operate an Aquifer
November 14, 2024	Treating Cryptosporidium in the Huron River

Those registered and participating in engagement points will earn CECs, and group viewing is permitted – contact staff for details.



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Michigan Section

# UNDERSTANDING AVAILABLE DRINKING WATER CECs

In early April, we received an email from the Drinking Water Operator Training and Certification unit of EGLE clarifying how we, as a training provider, should communicate with operators about continuing education credit. To summarize, we have to not only apply for original approval when a class is first formed but also have the agenda reviewed for approval. Until each approval is received, we have been asked to list CECs as pending approval.

We know that most operators select training for the CECs, making it difficult to commit to registering for a class

when CECs aren't confirmed. Please know that we are doing everything possible to get approval for each class that lists CECs pending approval as early as possible. We are restrained by how fast the agenda is confirmed and how fast EGLE provides that approval.

Thank you for your understanding of this process. If you have any questions, please call our office at 517-292-2912.

The message below was received from The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE):

**Dear Drinking Water Operator Training Course Providers:**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) would like to thank you for your dedication to providing quality training to Michigan drinking water operators. Your service is invaluable for ensuring drinking water operators remain informed about current rules, regulations, industry standards, and more.

With it being early in the new year, it is a good time to supply every drinking water operator training course provider with a list of best practices regarding the submission of course approval requests and reporting earned continuing education credits (CECs) for operators. For those of you who are new to providing CECs to drinking water operators, this email should serve as a guide to our process for submitting CEC information and other important program highlights. For those of you who have been serving the drinking water operators of Michigan for a while, we would appreciate it if you took the time to review the contents of this email for any changes to our processes since you were last informed of them.

**Course Approval Reminders**

**For approved courses not part of an expo or conference:**

- Courses not part of an approved expo or conference-style event are awarded CECs based on the agenda approved by the Advisory Board of Examiners (ABE).
- Any changes to the agenda that affect content, platform (e.g., in-person versus online), or timing require ABE approval to continue to qualify for drinking water CECs.
- Approvals for new/updated/changed agendas follow the same process as applications for new courses. The application for approval of the revised agenda can be emailed to [egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov](mailto:egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov).

**For repeat events with changing agendas for each occurrence (such as conferences, expos, etc.)**

- CEC values for the event are determined by a review of the event agenda and can change depending on the specific offerings of each event.
- To include the CEC value in advertisements for the event, CEC approval confirmation from EGLE is required. Obtaining CEC approval confirmation is the responsibility of the event provider.
- To obtain CEC approval confirmation, the event provider must submit the agenda to EGLE for review at least two weeks before advertising the event. This ensures adequate time for the agenda review.
  - EGLE cannot guarantee that agendas submitted fewer than two weeks before the advertising deadline will be reviewed prior to the advertisement date.
- It is up to the event provider to tally and verify CECs earned by attendees, even if the event includes seminars or speakers from outside the organization.
- Event providers must submit a roster of attendees to EGLE showing the total CECs earned for each EGLE course code assigned to the event.
  - For example: If the event has all the seminars under one course code and an expo under a second course code, one roster with the total CECs earned for all attendees of the seminars **AND** one roster for the attendees of the expo would be needed.
  - For example: If the entire event was only assigned one course code, only one roster showing the total accumulative earned CECs for each attendee should be submitted to EGLE.
- Event providers must provide attendees with proof of attendance showing the total earned CECs for each course code assigned to the event.
  - A single certificate of attendance for the event can be used even if it has multiple course codes assigned to it, as long as the total CECs for each course code are indicated on the certificate along with the applicable course name and code.



## For all drinking water courses:

- All course providers should submit a roster of all attendees/participants who qualify for CECs to EGLE. Please aim to submit rosters within two weeks of course completion, regardless of whether the course was virtual or in-person.
- Course providers can use EGLE's blank Participant Roster, available on our website at [www.michigan.gov/egleoperatortraining](http://www.michigan.gov/egleoperatortraining).
- This form is provided as a courtesy and is not mandatory for use so long as rosters submitted by the course provider contain the same required information.
- Course providers are allowed to use their own roster, but the roster should include the same course information as on the EGLE

### Roster form:

- Name of Program
- Program Date
- Program Location
- Contact Name
- Contact Address
- Contact Phone Number
- EGLE Course Code
- CECs Assigned to the Course Code
- List of those in attendance. Please include the following information:
  - Attendee Name
  - Attendee Operator ID Number (if provided by the operator)
  - Attendee's Employer Name
  - Total CECs Earned
- Rosters need to be legible to ensure the correct attendees receive credit.
- When a course provider submits a roster to EGLE, it is with the understanding that the list of attendees and their earned credits have been verified prior to submission. Because of this, a signature is not necessary to verify the roster unless the course provider uses the EGLE Roster form.
- CEC values stated on the rosters must match the CEC values listed on the certificates of completion/attendance. If a discrepancy is discovered, you must notify EGLE and, if necessary, provide the attendee with a corrected certificate of completion/attendance.
- **All course providers must provide certificates of completion to each attendee that qualifies for credit.**
- Certificates of completion must include:
  - Name of participant (and operator ID number if available)
  - Name of sponsoring organization and course provider (if different)
  - Program name and EGLE Course Code
  - Course category and total CECs earned
  - Course location (or if it is online) and end date of the course
- Certificates of completion must be distributed to attendees within a timely manner.
- Certificates of completion must be provided to qualified attendees even if a roster is submitted to EGLE.
- Course providers are responsible for monitoring course approval expiration dates and submitting course renewal applications on time. Course expiration letters are usually sent towards the end of the year. Applications for course renewal can be emailed to [egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov](mailto:egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov).

Thank you again for all that you do to provide quality training for Michigan's drinking water operators. To view the complete requirements for course providers, having a course qualify for CECs, and helpful guidance documents, please visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/egleoperatortraining](http://www.michigan.gov/egleoperatortraining) and click on the Course Provider Information button. If you have any questions regarding the topics covered in this email, please feel free to contact the Operator Training and Certification Unit by email at [egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov](mailto:egle-otcu-training@michigan.gov).

Thank you,

**Operator Training and Certification Unit**  
**Community Water Supply Section**  
**Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division**  
**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**



# TRAINING CALENDAR

## JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Water Solutions – Zoom	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 The Deep End – Livonia	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

## AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Water Bacteriology – Mason	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 The Deep End – Lansing	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## SEPTEMBER 2024

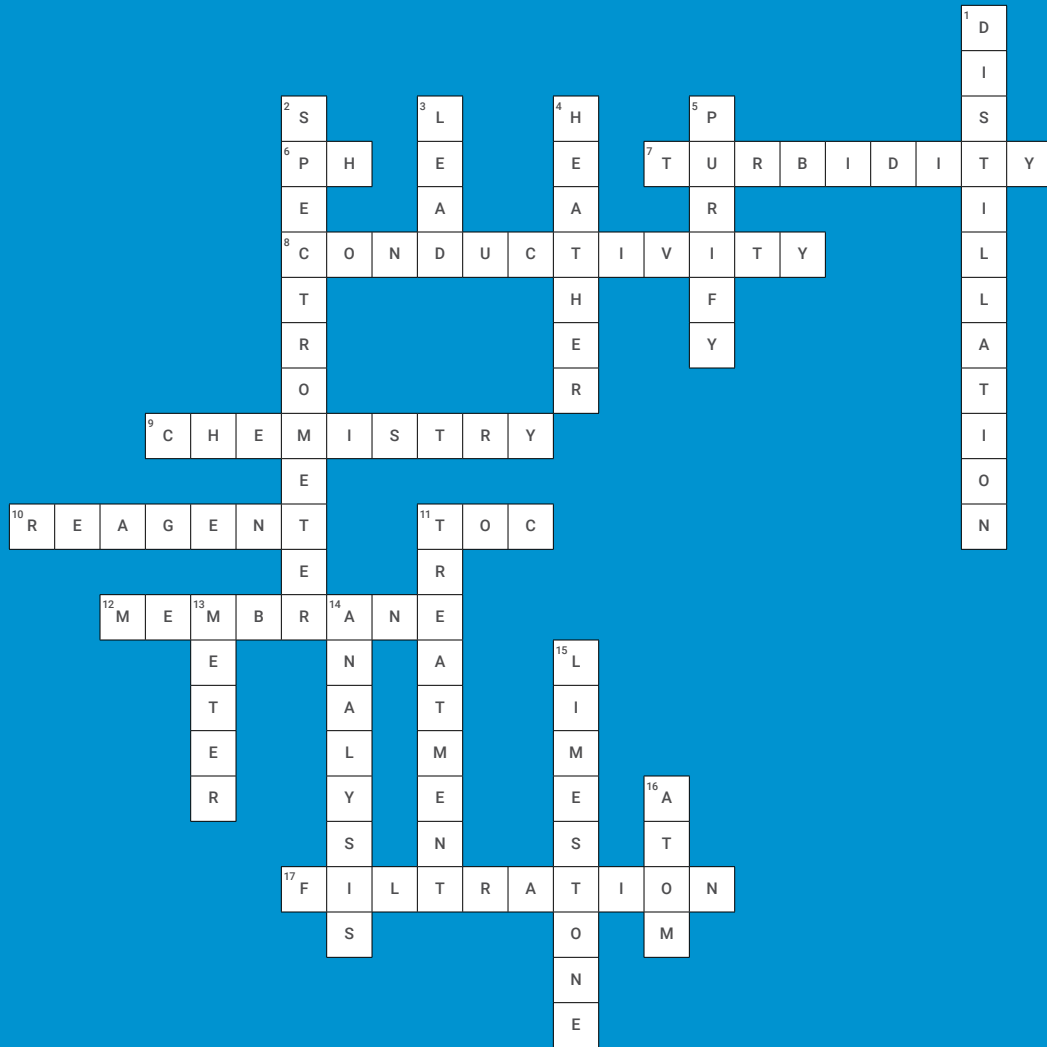
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 The Deep End – Grand Rapids	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

## OCTOBER 2024

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

Visit [www.mi-water.org/events](http://www.mi-water.org/events) to view all upcoming trainings.

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Arcadis	45	248-994-2240	www.arcadis.com
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EJ	51	800-626-4653	www.ejco.com
ETNA Supply Company	16	800-632-4576	www.etnasupply.com
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Kraft Power	8	866-713-2152	www.kraftpower.com
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Neptune Technology	52	281-794-3133	www.neptunetg.com
Peerless Midwest	3	616-527-0050	www.peerlessmidwest.com
Pittsburg Tank & Tower	8	270-826-9000	www.pttg.com
Prein&Newhof	69	616-364-8491	www.preinnewhof.com
SAK	72	651-263-0498	www.sakcompanies.com
Septic Panels USA	59	325-388-6023	www.septicpanelsusa.com
SLC Meter LLC	46	800-433-4332	www.slcmeter.com
SW Services	60	800-462-2773	www.debriscaps.com
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