



TECHNICAL PROGRAM

August 17-20, 2026 | Cincinnati, OH

Explore the 2026 Technical Program

This year's technical program offers an in-depth look at the priorities shaping Ohio's water sector—from drinking water treatment and distribution to wastewater treatment, collection systems, and wet-weather/stormwater solutions. Across more than 100 sessions, attendees will find practical takeaways on PFAS and lead compliance, water reuse, biosolids, utility management and finance, capital planning and construction, operations and maintenance, cybersecurity and cyber resilience, data/AI-enabled asset management, and workforce leadership.

Sessions feature perspectives from utilities, Ohio EPA and other agencies, consultants, manufacturers, and researchers—pairing regulatory insight with real-world case studies and hands-on lessons learned. Whether you work in operations, engineering, planning, communications, or executive leadership, you'll find content designed to help you navigate compliance and emerging risks, improve day-to-day performance, apply new tools and technologies, and make resilient, data-informed decisions.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: Water Reuse MONDAY, AUGUST 17 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Additional registration required

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

EPA Update on Water Reuse

- Anne Vogel, USEPA; Tiffani Kavalec, USEPA; Brian Coghlan, Del-Co Water

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Another Journey in the Midwest

- Illinois Water Reuse Section

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel

TBD

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Transforming Water Supply in the Midwest

- Philip MacClellan, Hazen

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

From Wastewater to Resource: Overcoming Adversity and Innovation in Mongolia's Recycled Water Journey

Michael McWhirter, V3

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Ohio Water Reuse Committee Updates

- Various



TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Morning Sessions

10:45AM-11:30AM	PUBLIC RELATIONS	Strengthening Operations and Trust: The Evolution of MSDGC's Sewer Backup Response Program	Maureen Richard, GCWW; Erin Donovan, Cincinnati MSD
	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL	What Was Your Source Water Again? A Case Study for Reuse in Ohio	Matous Becker, Burgess & Niple; Walter Ariss, Ohio EPA; Brian Tornes, Burgess & Niple
	EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY	How to Succeed at Process Optimization – The Story of the Columbus CEPT Treatment Effectiveness Study	Robert Smith, Black & Veatch; Stacia Eckenwiler, City of Columbus
	COLLECTIONS	Deer Creek WRF - Technology, Regulations, and People in Wastewater Design	Tom Taylor, Mid-Ohio Water & Sewer District; Chad Roby, Jacobs
	STORMWATER	Are you my WOTUS? The tug-of-war to define WOTUS and the implications of the regulatory to-and-fro	Nathaniel B. Morse, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP
	WATER TREATMENT	Ozone 101 - Is It Right for You?	Amanda Follmer, CDM Smith; Christine Ngan, CDM Smith
	UTILITY LEADERSHIP	Practical Leadership - Small Shifts, Big Impact	Seth Epley, City of Sidney
	WW TREATMENT	Advancing Wet Weather Solutions: Translating CEHRT Demonstration Success to Full-Scale Design with NEORS	Nick Bucurel, Brown & Caldwell; Harry Shaposka, NEORS

11:45AM-12:30PM	PUBLIC RELATIONS	GCWW Strategies & Lessons for Childcare Facility Lead Service Line Removal	Bridget Patton, GCWW
	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL	Newer Approaches to Older Problems at Warren County's Lower Little Miami WWTP	Gina Haylett, Jones & Henry Engineering; Hunter Lear, Jones & Henry Engineering; Dinesh Palaniswamy, Warren County
	EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY	Eliminating Media Loss in Horizontal Pressure Filters	Carl Seifried, Burgess & Niple; Gary Bunnell, Veolia
	COLLECTIONS	Breathing Fresh Air: Columbus's Journey in Sewer Odor and Corrosion Management	Shawn Hooker, AECOM
	STORMWATER	Collaborative Success Using Progressive-Design Build for a 5.1 MG CSO Storage Basin	Josh Murray, Shook Construction; Matt Boone, Gresham Smith; Katie Nolan, Gresham Smith; Scott Tadych, City of Middletown; Eric Rees, Shook Construction
	WATER TREATMENT	Filter Health Assessment	Andreas Eddy, City of Middletown; Gabriela Currier, Jacobs
	UTILITY LEADERSHIP	Executives on Building Future-Ready Utilities	Jason Carter, Arcadis; Cathy Bailey, GCWW; Diana Christy, Cincinnati MSD; Kristen Atha, City of Columbus; Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water
	WW TREATMENT	BNR Retrofits at Lower Scioto WRF Overcome Severe Underloading Challenges	Jason Watts, Delaware County Regional Sewer District; Jim Fitzpatrick, Black & Veatch

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Afternoon Sessions

2:30PM-3:15PM	FRESH IDEAS	● Biofilm Barriers to Cyanobacterial Blooms via Commercial Bacterial Consortium	Sina Zalbegi, University of Toledo
	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL	○ From Raw Data to Real Insight – The Power of Visualization in Modern Data Management	Courtney McVay, Black & Veatch; Jonathon Leonard, Black & Veatch
	LEAD & COPPER	● Machine Learning and Collaborative Technical Assistance— Accelerating LCRI Compliance for Ohio Utilities	Gina Hayes, Ohio EPA; Nick Tuttle, Arcadis
	COLLECTIONS	● Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation: Barges, Busways, and Rail Lines, Oh My!	Ashley Hefner, GPD Group; Meghan Simek, Pittsburgh Water; Collin Getz, GPD Group
	ASSET MANAGEMENT	● MSDGC Pump Station Bundle Project Delivers Targeted Upgrades to Two Critical Wastewater Pump Stations	Justin Siegrist, Wade Trim
	WATER TREATMENT	● Aerobic Biological Filtration for Small System Surface Water Treatment: Addressing Variability, Emerging Risks, and Long-Term Resilience	Asher Keithley, Hazen
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	● Blueprint Columbus 2.0 – A Data Enhanced Integrated Plan	Fang Cheng, City of Columbus
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	● Big Walnut Tunnel's "Invisible Risk": Methane Challenges Underground	Mark Barga, Stantec; Nick Domenick, City of Columbus; Michael Schafer, Stantec

3:30PM-4:15PM	FRESH IDEAS	● Water Treatment Residuals for Wastewater Contaminant Adsorption	Calista France, The Ohio State University
	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL	● Navigating Startup of a Large Anaerobic Digester Improvements Project	Sheamus Togher, Hazen; Patrick Ludwig, City of Dayton; Greg Kemper, Peterson Construction Co
	LEAD & COPPER	● Starting from Zero: Building a Successful Lead Service Line Replacement Program	Emilie Eskridge, City of Columbus
	COLLECTIONS	● Auxiliary High-Rate Treatment Cost-Effectively Improves Peak Flow Management	Jim Fitzpatrick, Black & Veatch; Tony Yee, Cincinnati MSD
	ASSET MANAGEMENT	● The City of Findlay's Holistic Approach to Asset Management and Master Planning	Sara Ferrara, Arcadis; Jason Phillips, City of Findlay
	WATER TREATMENT	● Managing Growth & Operational Challenges in Ashtabula County's Water System	Patrick Blake, Verdantas; Anthony Mancari, Verdantas
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	● Strategic Partnership Through Infrastructure: A Case Study on How an \$8M/2.0 MG Composite Elevated Tank Unlocked 500K GPD Capacity and \$800M Ec. Dev.	Garret Chamberlain, NWWSD; Bob Weling, Team Landmark; Denise Plummer, Kleinfelder
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	● Leveraging the Benefits of Collaborative Delivery on Complex Biosolids Projects	Bob O'Bryan, HDR

4:30PM-5:15PM	FRESH IDEAS	● Predicting Wildfire Thermal Damage to Buried Water Infrastructure	Zul Kazeem, Case Western Reserve University
	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL	● OWEA Student Design	
	LEAD & COPPER	● Random Daytime, Fully Flushed and Composite Approaches: Lead Sampling Approaches of the Future	Darren Lytle, Arcadis
	COLLECTIONS	● Sanitary Double Barrel Siphon Design and Construction	Mitchell Myers, CTI Engineers, Inc.; Zach Kaczor, CTI Engineers, Inc.
	ASSET MANAGEMENT	○ Installing an Impressed Current System in an Urban Right-of-Way	Peyton Villers, Cleveland Water; Becky Andrus, Hazen
	WATER TREATMENT	● Water Treatment Plant Softening Alternatives Analysis and Design	Paige Riestenberg, Strand Associates; Matthew Smith, Strand Associates; Chris Homan, City of Oxford
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	● Driving Utility's Financial Sustainability and Revenue Stability: Warren's Strategic Approach	Prabha Kumar, Black & Veatch; Tom Ross, City of Warren
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	● From Bubbles to Benefits: Fairfield WWTP Aeration System Upgrades	David Osborne, Hazen; Jason Hunold, City of Fairfield; Jeremy Hamel, City of Fairfield

*subject to change

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Morning Sessions

7:45AM-8:30AM **EARLY BIRD SESSIONS**

🔹	Navigating New Demand: Pricing Water for Data Centers for Resilient Cost Recovery	Delaney Ridgley, Raftelis
🌐	From Metals to Megabytes: Industrial Pretreatment, Reimagined	Elizabeth Toot-Levy, Geosyntec Consultants; Adrienne Nemura, Geosyntec Consultants

8:45AM-9:30AM	DISTRIBUTION	🔹 Estimating Remaining Useful Life of Water Mains Using the WNTR Tool	Hyoungmin Woo, USEPA
	COLLECTIONS	🌐 Akron Turning Capacity into Capability: Conversion of CSO Storage to High-Rate Treatment	Brian Gresser, Burgess & Niple; Heather Ullinger, City of Akron; Steve Baytos, City of Akron; Mike Starkey, Burgess & Niple
	CAPITAL PLANNING	🌐 From Measurement to Investment: Driving Greenhouse Gas Reduction Through Sustainable Planning	Emily Weidman, Brown and Caldwell
	POTPOURRI	🔄 Using Solar Energy to Power Wastewater Treatment in Ottawa County, Ohio	Kokosing Solar; Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering
	AI	🔄 Hybrid AI-Physics Digital Twins for Force Main Predictive Maintenance	Caleb Buahin, Hazen
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	🔄 Cybersecurity in Operational Technology (OT)	Nathan Sender, Rovisys
	WW TREATMENT	🌐 Navigating Compliance Shifts: From CSO Reduction to SSO Elimination	AJ Coleman, City of Perrysburg; Matthew Choma, City of Perrysburg; Laura McGinnis, Arcadis
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	🔹 Location, Location, Location. Where To Put 21 Miles Of Transmission Main	Matthew Casey, ms consultants; Tim Huffman, ms consultants

9:45AM-10:30AM GENERAL SESSION	🔄 Topic TBD	Dr. Adam Rapp, Ohio University
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10:45AM-11:30AM	DISTRIBUTION	🔹 A 5-Year Plan for Cross-Connection Control Compliance in Ohio	Gary McLaren, HydroCorp
	COLLECTIONS	🌐 How Do You Deal With Failing Septic Systems - Regionalization of Sewage Collection & Treatment	Rick Kelly, Jones & Henry Engineering; Sean McCarter, Albers and Albers Attorneys-at-Law
	CAPITAL PLANNING	🔄 How Dayton Water is Utilizing Capital Delivery Tools to Achieve Best Practice Capital Planning & Delivery	Aaron Worley, Raftelis; Nick Dailey, City of Dayton; Patrick Ludwig, City of Dayton; Brandon Vatter, Raftelis
	POTPOURRI	🔄 Sustainability and Resiliency Initiatives - City of Fairfield Public Utilities Department	Adam Sackenheim, City of Fairfield; Gillian Hart, City of Fairfield
	AI	🌐 Unlocking Hidden Response Windows: Real-Time Pollution Intelligence in Complex Collection Networks	Symone Kumar, Kando
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	🔄 Southwest Ohio Regional Water Study: Stakeholder Informed Priorities, Integrated Modeling, and Interactive Dashboard Interface	Michael Frommer, CDM Smith
	WW TREATMENT	🌐 Public-Private Partnerships Drive Water Reuse at xAI's Supercomputer in Memphis, Tennessee, USA	Matt Boone, Gresham Smith; Ben Luke, Gresham Smith
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	🔹 Simpson Creek Headwaters Restoration Project at Landen-Deerfield Park	Joel Thrash, Stantec; Matt Latham, Warren County

11:45AM-12:30PM	DISTRIBUTION	🔹 More Pressure Please - Increasing Water System Pressure	Jamie Poczekay, DLZ
	COLLECTIONS	🌐 Shifting from EQ to High Rate Treatment, Saving Tiffin Nearly \$30 Million	Brian Schmude, AECOM; Jacob Mix, AECOM; Greg Heath, AECOM
	CAPITAL PLANNING	🔹 Akron Water 2050 and Beyond	Scott Moegling, City of Akron
	POTPOURRI	🔹 Building a Connection: How Failing Wells and a Mystery PWS Found Answers Through Regionalization	Emmaline Yang, City of Akron
	AI	🔄 Practical A.I. Solutions for the Water Industry	Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water
	UTILITY MANAGEMENT	🌐 Advancing Utility Resilience Through Structured Assessment and Planning	Ed Carpenetti, Black & Veatch; Patrick Ludwig, City of Dayton; Jared Hutchins, Black & Veatch
	WW TREATMENT	🌐 Process Intensification Case Studies	Alyssa Mayer, Hazen
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	🌐 Utilizing Progressive Design-Build to Plan and Design a 700 MGD High-Rate Treatment Pump Station Project	Jeff Eilers, Burgess & Niple

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Afternoon Sessions

2:30PM-3:15PM	WATER TREATMENT	Decades of Lime, New Demands	Stephen Kopechek, V3 Engineering
	COLLECTIONS	Innovation takes a team whether during design or live during construction and operation: Examples of collaboration and innovation during design, const	Vito Cimino, Stantec
	SOURCEWATER	1,4-Dioxane in the Ohio River – GCWW’s 10-Year Journey to Reduce a Pollutant at its Source	Richard Stuck, GCWW; Jeff Swertfeger, GCWW; Bruce Whittebry, GCWW
	POTPOURRI	Ohio EPA’s CAU: Hands-On Help for Ohio’s Wastewater Systems	Andrew Gall, Ohio EPA; Nick Hammer, Ohio EPA
	SMART UTILITIES	Scaling Up Smarter: Design for a Modern WWTP	Jack Liggett, City of Johnstown; Christy McCarthy, Jacobs
	PFAS	Pilot-scale PFAS removal results from three Ohio groundwater systems – Three Carbons, Six Anion Exchange Resins, and One Clay-Based Media	Nicholas Dugan, USEPA
	O&M	Pressure Puzzle: Using Data to Identify the Causes	Timothy Kargl, Burns & McDonnell
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	Physical Hydraulic Modeling as a Design Tool	Jim Gagnon, Hazen; Mark Allen, Hazen






3:30PM-4:15PM	WATER TREATMENT	Engineering the Optimal THM Reduction Strategy for the City of Van Wert	Jake Meinerding, Jones & Henry Engineering
	COLLECTIONS	MSDGC’s SRRI Program	John Barton, Cincinnati MSD
	SOURCEWATER	Using Water Quality Modeling at Greater Cincinnati Water Works to Improve RTRC Sample Siting Plan in Anticipation of MDBP Revisions	Ethan Harper, GCWW; Jenifer Howell, GCWW
	POTPOURRI	Machine Learning for Climate Resiliency: Case Studies to Predict Potential Harmful Algal Bloom Indicators	Caitlin Ruza, Woolpert; JP Johns, Woolpert
	SMART UTILITIES	Modernizing Sewer Inspections: Integrating Technology for Smarter Asset Management	Caleb Zmith, Burgess & Niple
	PFAS	Ahead of the Deadline in Warren County: Ohio’s First Dedicated PFAS Removal System at the Renneker Water Treatment Plant	John Krinks, AECOM; Chris Brausch, Warren County
	O&M	Effective Repurposing of Existing Facilities - Structural Perspective	William Leadbitter, Hazen
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	Rethinking R&R: Turning Infrastructure Hurdles into Opportunities— A Case Study	Zach Smierciak, Black & Veatch






4:30PM-5:15PM	WATER TREATMENT	Maintaining Optimal Corrosion Control under Treatment Changes	Vicente Gomez-Alvarez, USEPA
	COLLECTIONS	A Tale of Two Models - How Field Investigations solve conflicting data on CSO overflows	Saa Shemsu, Gresham Smith; Nikhil Reddy, Gresham Smith
	SOURCEWATER	Application of Peroxide-Based Algaecide and Natural UV Radiation for Advanced Oxidation of MIB and Geosmin in Reservoir Storage	Marvin Gnagy, PMG Consulting
	POTPOURRI	Our New Normal: Planning for Ohio’s Atlas 15 Era	Rachel Sebian, R20 Consulting
	SMART UTILITIES	When “Secure” Isn’t: A Behind-the-Scenes Real World Look When Secure Software Isn’t	Joshua Rottenberg, Computrol Systems
	PFAS	OK, I have PFAS. What comes next? Handling PFAS in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana	Lindsey Hassenauer, Hazen
	O&M	Planning and Executing Process-Critical Outages in Operating Wastewater Treatment Plants: A Practical Framework for Capital Improvement Projects	Sheena Hrivnak, Ascension Solutions; Kevin Bakalar, Ascension Solutions
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	Modernizing Legacy Water Infrastructure: Pressure Zone Transitions, Retrofitting, and Advanced Air Management	Julie Herold, Verdantas; Bob McNutt, Verdantas






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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

8:15AM-9:45AM	 Ohio EPA Updates	Amy Jo Klei, Ohio EPA (Chief, DDAGW) Holly Tucker, Ohio EPA (Chief, DSW)
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10:00AM-10:45AM	BIOSOLIDS	 Advancing Biosolids Management in Delaware County: A Master Plan for Reliability, Efficiency, and Sustainable Growth	Afaf Musa, CDM Smith
	WATER POTPOURRI	 Restoring Aging Dams for Continued Safe Service	Bob Schreiner, Burgess & Niple; Robbie Pesarchick, Burgess & Niple
	WW TREATMENT	 Mitigating Corrosion of Electronic Equipment in Wastewater Treatment Facilities	Sean Cornelius, Purafil
	DISTRIBUTION	 Don't Get Punk'd by LCRI: Spotting Set Ups for Sampling Compliance	Sarah Honious, Arcadis
	REUSE	 Reclaimed Water Use at Data Centers – Considerations for Utilities	Stephanie Ishii, Hazen

11:00AM-11:45AM	BIOSOLIDS	 Innovative Sludge Drying at Butler County Upper Mill Creek WRF to Reduce Solids Management Risk	Jeff Frechtling, Butler County Water & Sewer; John Sheets, CDM Smith; Steve Wyman, CDM Smith; Vincent Apa, CDM Smith
	WATER POTPOURRI	 HORIZONTAL COLLECTOR WELLS: AN ALTERNATIVE RAW WATER SUPPLY FOR UTILITIES	James MacAdam, Burns & McDonnell; Luca DeAngelis, Layne
	WW TREATMENT	 New wastewater technologies coming to Ohio: Tips and tricks for ePlans	Tony Nosko, Ohio EPA
	DISTRIBUTION	 Enhancing Akron's Water System Resilience Through Emergency Interconnections	Scott Moegling, City of Akron
	REUSE	 Transforming Water Reuse: Achieving Zero Liquid Discharge with Low Temperature Membrane Distillation	Ufuk Erdal, Black & Veatch; Matt Kallevant, Black & Veatch

12:15PM-1:00PM	BIOSOLIDS	 Jackson Pike WWTP Cogeneration Facilities: Integrating CHP with Existing Infrastructure	Annaka Ruther, City of Columbus; Daniel Gernant, Arcadis; Matt Roeckner, Accenture
	WATER POTPOURRI	 A Century Old Reservoir on the Brink: Designing a 20 MG Replacement Under Tight Constraints	Kali Lee, HDR
	WW TREATMENT	 A Program is Born: Planning and Construction Lessons from an Inaugural CIPP Project	Tanner Adair, AECOM; Kevin Alspach, AECOM; Lauren Cifranic, AECOM
	DISTRIBUTION	 Future-Proofing North Central Ohio: Strategic Regionalization and Infrastructure Modernization with a 3.0 MG Composite Elevated Tank	Joe Waldecker, Rural Lorain County Water Authority
	REUSE	 Where are the Users? Data Driven Market Analysis and Site Selection for Water Reuse in the City of Columbus	John Sheets, CDM Smith; Grace McInerney, City of Columbus

ETHICS TRACK

1:15PM-2:15PM	 Session 1	Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission
2:15PM-3:15PM	 Session 2	TBD

**subject to change*