



## 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	<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	Strengthening Operations and Trust: The Evolution of MSDGC's Sewer Backup Response Program	Maureen Richard, GCWW; Erin Donovan, Cincinnati MSD
	<b>EMERGING PROFESSIONAL</b>	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
	<b>EFFICIENCY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>	How to Succeed at Process Optimization – The Story of the Columbus CEPT Treatment Effectiveness Study	Robert Smith, Black & Veatch; Stacia Eckenwiler, City of Columbus
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	Deer Creek WRF - Technology, Regulations, and People in Wastewater Design	Tom Taylor, Mid-Ohio Water & Sewer District; Chad Roby, Jacobs
	<b>STORMWATER</b>	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
	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	Ozone 101 - Is It Right for You?	Amanda Follmer, CDM Smith; Christine Ngan, CDM Smith
	<b>UTILITY LEADERSHIP</b>	Practical Leadership - Small Shifts, Big Impact	Seth Epley, City of Sidney
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>	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	<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	GCWW Strategies & Lessons for Childcare Facility Lead Service Line Removal	Bridget Patton, GCWW
	<b>EMERGING PROFESSIONAL</b>	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
	<b>EFFICIENCY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Eliminating Media Loss in Horizontal Pressure Filters	Carl Seifried, Burgess & Niple; Gary Bunnell, Veolia
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	Breathing Fresh Air: Columbus's Journey in Sewer Odor and Corrosion Management	Shawn Hooker, AECOM
	<b>STORMWATER</b>	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
	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	Filter Health Assessment	Andreas Eddy, City of Middletown; Gabriela Currier, Jacobs
	<b>UTILITY LEADERSHIP</b>	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
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>	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	<b>FRESH IDEAS</b>	● Biofilm Barriers to Cyanobacterial Blooms via Commercial Bacterial Consortium	Sina Zalbegi, University of Toledo
	<b>EMERGING PROFESSIONAL</b>	○ From Raw Data to Real Insight – The Power of Visualization in Modern Data Management	Courtney McVay, Black & Veatch; Jonathon Leonard, Black & Veatch
	<b>LEAD &amp; COPPER</b>	● Machine Learning and Collaborative Technical Assistance— Accelerating LCRI Compliance for Ohio Utilities	Gina Hayes, Ohio EPA; Nick Tuttle, Arcadis
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	● Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation: Barges, Busways, and Rail Lines, Oh My!	Ashley Hefner, GPD Group; Meghan Simek, Pittsburgh Water; Collin Getz, GPD Group
	<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>	● MSDGC Pump Station Bundle Project Delivers Targeted Upgrades to Two Critical Wastewater Pump Stations	Justin Siegrist, Wade Trim
	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	● Aerobic Biological Filtration for Small System Surface Water Treatment: Addressing Variability, Emerging Risks, and Long-Term Resilience	Asher Keithley, Hazen
	<b>UTILITY MANAGEMENT</b>	● Blueprint Columbus 2.0 – A Data Enhanced Integrated Plan	Fang Cheng, City of Columbus
	<b>DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>	● Big Walnut Tunnel's "Invisible Risk": Methane Challenges Underground	Mark Barga, Stantec; Nick Domenick, City of Columbus; Michael Schafer, Stantec

3:30PM-4:15PM	<b>FRESH IDEAS</b>	● Water Treatment Residuals for Wastewater Contaminant Adsorption	Calista France, The Ohio State University
	<b>EMERGING PROFESSIONAL</b>	● Navigating Startup of a Large Anaerobic Digester Improvements Project	Sheamus Togher, Hazen; Patrick Ludwig, City of Dayton; Greg Kemper, Peterson Construction Co
	<b>LEAD &amp; COPPER</b>	● Starting from Zero: Building a Successful Lead Service Line Replacement Program	Emilie Eskridge, City of Columbus
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	● Auxiliary High-Rate Treatment Cost-Effectively Improves Peak Flow Management	Jim Fitzpatrick, Black & Veatch; Tony Yee, Cincinnati MSD
	<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>	● The City of Findlay's Holistic Approach to Asset Management and Master Planning	Sara Ferrara, Arcadis; Jason Phillips, City of Findlay
	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	● Managing Growth & Operational Challenges in Ashtabula County's Water System	Patrick Blake, Verdantas; Anthony Mancari, Verdantas
	<b>UTILITY MANAGEMENT</b>	● 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
	<b>DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>	● Leveraging the Benefits of Collaborative Delivery on Complex Biosolids Projects	Bob O'Bryan, HDR

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

**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	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	🔹 Estimating Remaining Useful Life of Water Mains Using the WNTR Tool	Hyoungmin Woo, USEPA
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	🔸 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
	<b>CAPITAL PLANNING</b>	🔸 From Measurement to Investment: Driving Greenhouse Gas Reduction Through Sustainable Planning	Emily Weidman, Brown and Caldwell
	<b>POTPOURRI</b>	🔄 Using Solar Energy to Power Wastewater Treatment in Ottawa County, Ohio	Kokosing Solar; Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering
	<b>AI</b>	🔄 Hybrid AI-Physics Digital Twins for Force Main Predictive Maintenance	Caleb Buahin, Hazen
	<b>UTILITY MANAGEMENT</b>	🔄 Cybersecurity in Operational Technology (OT)	Nathan Sender, Rovisys
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>	🔸 Navigating Compliance Shifts: From CSO Reduction to SSO Elimination	AJ Coleman, City of Perrysburg; Matthew Choma, City of Perrysburg; Laura McGinnis, Arcadis
	<b>DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>	🔹 Location, Location, Location. Where To Put 21 Miles Of Transmission Main	Matthew Casey, ms consultants; Tim Huffman, ms consultants

9:45AM-10:30AM <b>GENERAL SESSION</b>	🔄 Topic TBD	Dr. Adam Rapp, Ohio University
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10:45AM-11:30AM	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	🔹 A 5-Year Plan for Cross-Connection Control Compliance in Ohio	Gary McLaren, HydroCorp
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	🔸 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
	<b>CAPITAL PLANNING</b>	🔄 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
	<b>POTPOURRI</b>	🔄 Sustainability and Resiliency Initiatives - City of Fairfield Public Utilities Department	Adam Sackenheim, City of Fairfield; Gillian Hart, City of Fairfield
	<b>AI</b>	🔸 Unlocking Hidden Response Windows: Real-Time Pollution Intelligence in Complex Collection Networks	Symone Kumar, Kando
	<b>UTILITY MANAGEMENT</b>	🔄 Southwest Ohio Regional Water Study: Stakeholder Informed Priorities, Integrated Modeling, and Interactive Dashboard Interface	Michael Frommer, CDM Smith
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>	🔸 Public-Private Partnerships Drive Water Reuse at xAI's Supercomputer in Memphis, Tennessee, USA	Matt Boone, Gresham Smith; Ben Luke, Gresham Smith
	<b>DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>	🔹 Simpson Creek Headwaters Restoration Project at Landen-Deerfield Park	Joel Thrash, Stantec; Matt Latham, Warren County

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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19**  
Afternoon Sessions




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






3:30PM-4:15PM	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b>	Engineering the Optimal THM Reduction Strategy for the City of Van Wert	Jake Meinerding, Jones & Henry Engineering
	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	MSDGC’s SRRI Program	John Barton, Cincinnati MSD
	<b>SOURCEWATER</b>	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
	<b>POTPOURRI</b>	Machine Learning for Climate Resiliency: Case Studies to Predict Potential Harmful Algal Bloom Indicators	Caitlin Ruza, Woolpert; JP Johns, Woolpert
	<b>SMART UTILITIES</b>	Modernizing Sewer Inspections: Integrating Technology for Smarter Asset Management	Caleb Zmith, Burgess & Niple
	<b>PFAS</b>	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
	<b>O&amp;M</b>	Effective Repurposing of Existing Facilities - Structural Perspective	William Leadbitter, Hazen
	<b>DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>	Rethinking R&R: Turning Infrastructure Hurdles into Opportunities— A Case Study	Zach Smierciak, Black & Veatch






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

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 20**

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

11:00AM-11:45AM	<b>BIOSOLIDS</b>		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
	<b>WATER POTPOURRI</b>		HORIZONTAL COLLECTOR WELLS: AN ALTERNATIVE RAW WATER SUPPLY FOR UTILITIES	James MacAdam, Burns & McDonnell; Luca DeAngelis, Layne
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>		New wastewater technologies coming to Ohio: Tips and tricks for ePlans	Tony Nosko, Ohio EPA
	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>		Enhancing Akron's Water System Resilience Through Emergency Interconnections	Scott Moegling, City of Akron
	<b>REUSE</b>		Transforming Water Reuse: Achieving Zero Liquid Discharge with Low Temperature Membrane Distillation	Ufuk Erdal, Black & Veatch; Matt Kallevant, Black & Veatch

12:15PM-1:00PM	<b>BIOSOLIDS</b>		Jackson Pike WWTP Cogeneration Facilities: Integrating CHP with Existing Infrastructure	Annaka Ruther, City of Columbus; Daniel Gernant, Arcadis; Matt Roeckner, Accenture
	<b>WATER POTPOURRI</b>		A Century Old Reservoir on the Brink: Designing a 20 MG Replacement Under Tight Constraints	Kali Lee, HDR
	<b>WW TREATMENT</b>		A Program is Born: Planning and Construction Lessons from an Inaugural CIPP Project	Tanner Adair, AECOM; Kevin Alspach, AECOM; Lauren Cifranic, AECOM
	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>		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
	<b>REUSE</b>		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		<b>Session 1</b>	Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission
2:15PM-3:15PM		<b>Session 2</b>	TBD