



Monday, February 10th, 2025

7:30 AM **Registration Opens**

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Opening Session/Breakfast Buffet – Ballroom B**
*****\$500 Cash Giveaway*****
Rod Glosser, IRWA Board President
IRWA: Who and What? (WT, WD, WW)
IRWA Staff

9:30 – 10:30 AM **Intro to Surface Water (WT, WD)**
Room 302/303

This will be a 5-hour session starting with the basics of surface water treatment including terminology and basic requirements, and then discussing types of treatment, common chemicals, and challenges. State and federal regulations will be incorporated throughout the session. In addition to presentations, small group activities will be included to reinforce the lecture materials. Emphasis on turbidity and disinfection requirements including distribution requirements for systems using free chlorine or chloramines will be included.

Julie Sievers, ISG

Tank Coating's Do's and Don'ts (WD)
Room 312-313

This presentation will cover best practices of how to proactively maintain your water storage tanks. We will cover how to identify when your tank needs to be painted and different coating options with the pros and cons of each system. We will also talk about the AWWA D101, D102 standards and how they can guide you in your future maintenance plans and budgeting.

John Snodgrass, Viking Industrial Painting

Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance (WW)
Ballroom A

Learn the basics of operation and maintenance for lagoon systems. This course will discuss the food web and nutrient cycles throughout the limited control treatment of the lagoon system and cover understanding the different zones, biology, and chemistry within the lagoon.

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Legal Session – Iowa Code 306.46 – Utility Use of Road Right of Way
Room 311

Public Utilities, including rural water districts incorporated under Chapter 357A and Chapter 504 of the Iowa Code, are allowed to place utility facilities in the road right-of-way under Iowa Code section 306.46. This statute is being challenged in two court proceedings and an update will be provided on the status of said cases, potential outcomes, and the impact on rural water systems.

Dennis Puckett, Sullivan & Ward

The Survivor Way
Room 301

As we survive life's challenges, we come face to face with fear and uncertainty. Challenges may allow us to step out of our comfort-zone to push ourselves beyond our own self-limits.

How we choose to overcome a challenge is what makes us stand apart.

Our strength in times of difficulty proves our character and self-worth.

As Holly shares her experience of being on a reality show, she will encourage you to think about how you might decide to survive daily.

Holly will inspire you to think about six words to develop your survival skills. With Holly's six simple words, you will be able to take on any challenge with which you are faced.

Adversity is not so much contending with problems as it is learning more about who you really are, and what is inside of you.

Holly Hoffman

10:30 – 11:30 AM **Intro to Surface Water- cont'd (WT, WD)**
Room 302/303

Julie Sievers, ISG

Planning for Growth (WT, WD, WW)

Room 312/313

Growth for some rural communities can be a challenging process. This presentation will cover where to start with adequate planning strategies to understand your water and sewer systems' limitations based on growth trends. A basis for limiting criteria will be reviewed to establish a need and a timeline to forecast critical improvement years. An example study will be shared for a community of 1,000 people. Finally, a summary of funding options will be included.

Brett Paige, Snyder and Associates

Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance - cont'd (WW)

Ballroom A

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Capital Project Funding Options (WT, WD, WW)

Room 311

Should we pay for projects incrementally as the year goes by? Should we save money and pay cash? What about incurring debt for capital projects? We will discuss various approaches to funding projects, considerations and factors that may make some options more or less efficient than others depending on the circumstances.

Nathan Summers, UMB Bank

Lead Simply; How to Overcome Communication Barriers

Room 301

When you hear there's going to be a "Leadership Keynote" presentation, what goes through your mind? Is it "Oh that's for our CEO to attend?" or "Those sessions are just common-sense things I've heard before." Holly Hoffman will shatter that mindset with her program on leadership.

Everyone possesses leadership skills that come out in our daily actions no matter what role we are performing at the time. Whether it's at our workplace, or as a parent, as a volunteer in a civic organization, as a supportive friend, or as a contestant on a televised show where you are trying to outwit and outlast competitors. Leadership is the sum of how we model behaviors we want to see in others, how we connect with them and how we involve them in the process.

True leadership is not just words, it is action. We must model the behavior we want to see; connect with the people you lead and involve them as much as possible. The ways in which we model, connect and involve our people may have changed in the past, but as Holly will show, the basics of leading your team remain the same. Holly's dynamic energy and enthusiasm will have you excited to renew your passion for leadership!

Holly Hoffman

11:30 – 12:15 PM Monday Lunch – Ballroom B

**12:15 – 1:15 PM Intro to Surface Water – cont'd (WT, WD)
Room 302/303**

Julie Sievers, ISG

**Proper Use and Repair of Peristaltic Pumps (WT, WD, WW)
Room 312/313**

This class will provide CST (Certified Stenner Technician) training covering the basic maintenance and repair for the Stenner Classic Series pump and programming on the S-Series pump. This training class will cover basic repair that will allow customers to easily repair our pumps with minimal cost. This class will cover the following topics: Proper use and application of Stenner metering pumps for water conditioning and wastewater treatment applications. You will learn how to troubleshoot and repair Stenner Classic pumps and program S-Series pumps. I will review how to service/ repair pump heads (tube changes), feed rate control repair, and gear case maintenance. We will also focus on how to properly maintain supply lines and injector fitting connections. Review how to program and properly apply our pumps that communicate with control systems using a 4-20ma input or output.

Mike Pontrelli, Stenner Pump Company

(WW) Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance – cont'd

Ballroom A

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

**Fraud Prevention
Room 311**

Recent fraud case studies will be shared along with red flags and best practices to help attendees prevent and reduce the likelihood of fraud occurring.

Bora Manzanaares, CoBank

**Company Policies and Procedures
Room 301**

Companies have many different policies and procedures, and this presentation will identify significant policies to have in place and up to date. Discussion will also cover who has authority to adopt policies and how they should be communicated to staff and other audiences. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

Dennis Puckett, Sullivan & Ward

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Intro to Surface Water – Cont'd (WT, WD)

Room 302/303

Julie Sievers, ISG

Cybersecurity of Water and Wastewater Systems (WT, WD, WW)

Room 312/313

This presentation will cover the basics of cybersecurity, including reviewing threats, vulnerabilities, mitigation, and best practices. Need to maintain SCADA system to maintain protection will be incorporated as a key industry area for improvement.

Graham Arntzen, In Control, Inc.

(WW)

Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance – cont'd

Ballroom A

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Finance Session

Room 311

Julia McCusker, CoBank

Theresa Enright, IDNR SRF

Kim Ledger, USDA Rural Development

Websites – The Ultimate Communication Tool

Room 301

Join our open discussion to discover how to optimize your website and alerting system to keep your customers and community informed during both routine operations and emergencies. Explore the importance of your online presence, including key topics like: clear communication with your community, customer service best practices, cost efficiency, compliance and transparency, ADA accessibility standards, security considerations and best practices. We'll dive into the benefits, drawbacks, and challenges involved.

Shannon Farmer and Shelly Howay, Rural Water

Impact/Municipal Impact

2:15 – 3:00 PM

Break in the Exhibit Hall

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Intro to Surface Water – Cont'd (WT, WD)

Room 302/303

Julie Sievers, ISG

The History of RO in Iowa (WT, WD, WW)

Room 312/313

For over 30 years, Avista Technologies and its employees have been involved with RO systems in Iowa, starting from the installation of the

very first system. Throughout the evolution of the RO industry, we have gained numerous insights and continue to learn even today. In this presentation, we have curated the most intriguing and valuable lessons we've encountered.

Tom Imbornone, AVISTA Technologies

(WW)

Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance – cont'd

Ballroom A

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

**Board/Management Roundtable Discussion
Room 311**

Rod Glosser, Rathbun Regional Water Association

**Safe and Secure: Tips on How to Protect Your Water System from
Cyber Incidents**

Room 301

Rural Water Systems are constantly at risk of experiencing the consequences of a cyber incident. While there is a lot of guidance available, much of it is complicated, confusing, and in some cases unhelpful. In this presentation, Steve Mustard will discuss the most common issues in Rural Water Systems and the top priority activities that they should take to reduce their risk.

Steve Mustard, National Automation, Inc.

4:00 – 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 – 8:30 AM Daily Announcement Session

**8:30 – 9:30 AM Maganese Challenges (WT)
Room 302/303**

Many systems removing manganese struggle with the removal. Systems adding permanganate are adding manganese to their water and have challenges optimizing the dose. This presentation will discuss the options for manganese removal, why oxidation is a challenge and include tools to optimize permanganate dosing. A case study will be included.

Julie Sievers, ISG

**Pressure Monitoring through Fire Hydrants (WD)
Room 312/313**

Real time intelligence can empower data driven solutions. Monitoring your system pressure and even temperature can be critical to the health of your distribution system and infrastructure. Doing so through fire hydrants is convenient and easy to do.

Andy Kohler, Clow Valve

**Pressure Wastewater Systems (WT, WD, WW)
Ballroom A**

Questions answered: What are the benefits of a low-pressure sewer? What is a low-pressure sewer? List of low-pressure sewer applications. Low pressure sewer comparison to a gravity sewer.

Ryan Turnbull, Iowa Pump Works

**Round Table Discussion
Room 311**

Rod Glosser, Rathbun Regional Water Association

**RSAS Round Table Discussion
Room 301**

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

9:30 – 10:00 AM Break/Exhibit Hall Open

10:00 – 12:00 PM IRWA Annual Membership Meeting – Room 311

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Distribution Concepts (WD)

Room 302/303

This course addresses common distribution issues along with troubleshooting of the system. Review includes Disinfection By-Products, Chloramines, Taste and Odor Issues, System Flushing, and Flushing Safety.

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Water Tower Rehabs & Painting (WD)

Room 312/313

We will discuss what requirements water systems have. What to expect in a typical project plus much information on what operators need to know about these important projects.

Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron

Waste Lagoon Management and Profiling (WT, WD, WW)

Ballroom A

Explaining the importance of collecting lagoon samples of the water and solids to verify TS/VS to establish a baseline and next step of treatment or comparison of treatment methods.

John Jacobs, WTR Solutions

RSAS Round Table Discussion

Room 301

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

11:00 – 12:00 PM

Getting the Most from Your Membrane Pilot Study (WT, WD, WW)

Room 302/303

Membranes can be a cost-effective solution for enhanced treatment, but their effectiveness varies greatly depending on water quality and treatment goals. Pilot studies are a great way to evaluate this during the preliminary planning and design stage of a project. This presentation will discuss membrane pilot case studies for various treatment schemes, including pre-treatment, direct treatment, and closed-circuit, both from an engineering design and operator perspective.

Michael Washburn, McClure

Utilizing Event Monitoring to Enhance Customer Service and Improve Operational Efficiencies (WD)

Room 312/313

Learn how a cellular AMI solution can help you go beyond the meter to elevate your operational efficiency and customer service experience through event monitoring within your distribution system. I'll share methods to define event monitoring goals, share practical use cases and lessons learned.

Paul Frost, Badger Meter

**Water and Wastewater Treatment Exam Preparation Fundamentals,
Let's make a plan for your Certification Success! (WT, WD & WW)
Ballroom A**

WET Program Instructors, Tony and Craig, explain the fundamentals of exam preparation, resource utilization, and time management.

Craig Hennager and Anthony Tonarelli, DMACC

**RSAS Roundtable Discussion
Room 301**

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Women in Water Luncheon–

Guest Speaker; Susan Frew – Must be pre-registered

Located in Matrix Room at Hilton Des Moines Downtown

Sponsored by CoBank, Electric Pump, Garden & Associates, J.R. Stelzer, Maguire Iron, Marsh McClennan, Metron and Shane Poe Construction.

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Tuesday Lunch – Ballroom B

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Exhibit Hall Open/Dessert Served

1:30 – 2:30 PM

**Get to Know Your Liquid Chemical Feed System (WT, WD, WW)
Room 302/303**

This presentation will be an overview of all of the different components of a traditional liquid chemical feed system, topics covered will be tanks, level measurement, different types of feed equipment, and best practices to reduce maintenance and down time on these critical systems in your facilities.

Jason Schroeder, Blue White Industries

**Spring Checklist (WT, WD)
Room 312/313**

This presentation walks through the necessary steps needed in preparation for a water tank evaluation. We will give you a checklist of what you need to be doing now, and what you need to plan for in your future. It also touches on a timeline needed for reconditioning and new tower projects that attendees may be embarking on.

Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering

**How to Get the BOD You've Always Wanted – Lab Secrets Revealed!
(WW)
Ballroom A**

This session will cover what it takes to ensure that communities understand their responsibility and the responsibilities of their laboratory as it pertains to sample collection and analysis. Topics covered will be

effective communication with your lab, ensuring that your samples get to your lab on time and within certain preservation requirements, and understanding your results.

Chad McCleary, ION Environmental Solutions

Team Building

Room 301

Team Building Workshop

Maggi Thorne

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Why Choose CMaR for Your Next Project (WT, WD)

Room 302/303

Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) is an alternative project delivery method that has gained traction in the water utility sector. Unlike traditional Design-Bid-Build (DBB) methods, CMaR involves a construction manager who commits to delivering the project within a guaranteed maximum price (GMP). This method offers several advantages, particularly for complex and high-risk water utility projects.

*Art Baumgartner, Jason Rechkemmer and Grant Reimers;
Woodruff Construction*

Ask The Mentor (WD)

Room 312/313

A Questions & Answer session about anything in the water industry. We will also highlight some situations we have experienced that have helped us become better water operators.

*Rich Sudteltge, City of LeMars
Zeb McFarland, Iowa Rural Water Association*

Statewide Optimization Program and Nutrient Reductions from Wastewater Effluents (WW)

Ballroom A

Session

Craig Just, IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering

Team Building – cont'd

Room 301

Maggi Thorne

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Awards and Raffle Drawings Reception—Ballroom B

7:00 – 10:00 PM **Hospitality Alley – Embassy Suites Des Moines – Rooms Mississippi, Missouri, Platte, Potomac and Salon A**

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

*****NO EXHIBIT HALL on Wednesday*****

7:15 – 8:30 AM

Registration

Full Hot Breakfast Served – Room 306-309

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Phase 1 Inspection (WD)

Room 302-305

From our perspective, a successful tower asset management plan covers 5 phases. This presentation covers what is considered PHASE 1 in a water tower rehabilitation project, the inspection. Without a qualified professional engineering inspection, there are a lot of details that can be missed prior to a contractor showing up to do the work, and a lot of opportunities and benefits that can be lost in completing a successful project; both being detrimental to the Owner. See how a detailed, well-defined inspection can balance the playing field and help Owners get a successful result, every time.

Tim Wilson, Dixon Engineering

Measuring H₂S in Wastewater (WW)

Room 312/313

With today's high costs of WWTP operations, technology is available to help with proactivity in the influent stream. This session will show current technology available to measure in real-time, the dissolved Hydrogen-sulfide content in your waste stream. This technology has many applications including: Root cause analysis and investigation, Conduct short-term measurement campaigns in the network to identify hotspots, find the root cause of problems, investigate if problems are old or new, and to prioritize areas in need of mitigative actions. Permanently monitor critical network hotspots or wastewater treatment plant influents without interruptions to always know what's going on. H₂S control applications Optimize chemical dosing operations. Measure the effect of existing dosing activities, make manual adjustments, or adopt semi or fully automatic dosing strategies.

Justin Meader, GPM

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Iron and Manganese Removal – Process Optimization and Troubleshooting Techniques (WD)

Room 302-305

This presentation will provide an overview of typical iron and manganese common removal treatment techniques. Eric will discuss oxidants utilized in iron/manganese treatment and related dosage rate calculations. The bulk of the presentation will provide case study examples highlighting the testing and troubleshooting methods and also providing guidance on how to improve treatment performance.

Eric Lawrence, Vessco, Inc.

Lagoon Microbiomes - Nature's Ecosystem Engineers (WW)
Room 312/313

Lagoon microbiomes play a crucial role in maintaining the health and balance of aquatic ecosystems. This presentation explores the diverse microbial communities found in lagoons and highlights their function as nature's ecosystem engineers. From nutrient cycling to water quality management, these microorganisms drive essential ecological processes. By understanding the dynamics of lagoon microbiomes, we can better appreciate their impact on environmental stability and the potential applications for lagoon-based wastewater treatment. We take an interdisciplinary look into sludge age, the range of microbes present in lagoons systems, and how these play a role in protecting our water.

Jessica Manhardt, TriplePoint

10:00 – 10:15 AM Break

10:15 – 11:15 AM PFAS: What, Why and How (WT, WD, WW)
Room 302-305

PFAS has been a growing concern for the water industry in recent years. With the development of PFAS drinking water limits by the EPA, public water systems will need to respond to PFAS in their water sources. While regulations and guidelines around PFAS are ever changing, there are steps utilities can take now to respond to and prepare for PFAS in water.

Meghan Brockman, Bolton & Menk

Best Practices for VFD Installations (WT, WD, WW)
Room 312/313

This presentation starts a journey of sorts meant to unravel the mysteries behind achieving optimum reliability in AC Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) from a brand-agnostic viewpoint. It's well-understood in our industry that the lion's share of VFD failures occurs at the commissioning stage due to installation missteps. Let's delve into the best practices that promise to shield our drives from early failures, focusing on drive mounting, power wire considerations, lead length, grounding, installation environments, and not to overlook, control wiring and programming nuances.

Dr. Carl Lee Tolbert, Malloy Electric

Vendor Meeting
Room 311

Cathy Law, Iowa Rural Water Association

11:15 – 12:00 PM Vendor Appreciation Luncheon

**12:00 – 1:00 PM Best Practices for Working with Your Engineer (WT, WD, WW)
Room 302-305**

This presentation offers practical insights on fostering effective collaboration between engineers and non-technical teams. It covers key strategies such as clear communication, setting realistic expectations, aligning on project goals, and leveraging each other's expertise.

Austyn Wolfe, McClure

**1:00 – 2:00 PM IDNR Water and Wastewater Updates (WT, WD, WW)
Room 302-305**

This presentation will cover the new PFAS drinking water regulations and initial monitoring program service line inventories. Also covered will be the new Lead and Copper Rule improvements. Additionally, a regulatory update will be given as it pertains to NPDES permits with an emphasis on chloride and bacteria limits for small systems as well as upcoming rule changes.

Heidi Cline, IDNR

Ben Hucka, IDNR

2:00 PM - CEUs/Adjourn

* Topics subject to change.