



The Next Chapter



fortifying our strong foundation

51st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9-11
2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION/CANCELLATION POLICY

All conference participants must register. Full registration includes all training sessions (Mon-Wed), admission to all three lunches, the Exhibit Hall, the Monday Welcome Reception and Tuesday Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception. Register early (before January 18th) using the Super Saver Full Registration option to receive a full registration discounted fee.

If written/faxed notice of **cancellation is received by January 18, 2026**, you will receive a full refund minus a \$75.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued after Sunday, January 18, 2026. On-site registrations NOT available.

If you have special physical or dietary needs, please indicate so on the registration form.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown in Des Moines, Iowa. Your reservations can be made by calling (515) 241-1456. Please DO NOT reserve more rooms than you will need as you will be charged a cancellation fee. **Simply mention that you are with the IRWA Annual Conference to receive the special conference rate of \$151.00.** Deadline for Hilton Des Moines reservations is Sunday, January 18, 2026.

PARKING

Self-parking is available for overnight guests of the Hilton Des Moines Downtown hotel at a rate of \$25.00/day. Hilton guests can also park at the 5th and Keo Parking garage connected via skywalk at a rate of 10.00 per night. Parking is also available at the Iowa Events Center for an entrance fee of \$12.00.

CEU INFORMATION

Up to 16 CEU credit hours can be received for water treatment, water distribution or wastewater if you attend the **entire annual conference**. These may be split depending on which sessions you attend. Monday equals 6 CEUs, Tuesday equals 5 CEUs and Wednesday equals 5 CEUs. The online CEU form must be completed before the end of the week on Friday, February 13th. Before you leave the conference, see an IRWA Staff person to obtain a link to the online form.

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

The IRWA registration is open continuously during the conference. Starting first thing Monday morning, you are welcome to come and get checked in at any time during the day. We will also hand out packets during the evening Welcome Reception. So come and join us whenever you arrive.

OPENING SESSION/BREAKFAST – AI: SEPARATING TOMORROW’S REALITY FROM TODAY’S HYPE

Start your Monday morning off right with a full breakfast, a chance to win the first of three \$500.00 cash giveaways and a great CEU session covering the topic of “AI in the Water Industry”.

BEST TASTING WATER CONTEST

Our distinguished panel of taste testers will conduct the water taste test contest starting at 9:30 AM on Monday morning. Bring your city/system water sample to the IRWA registration desk prior to 9:30 AM on Monday to be entered in this National contest.

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

The opportunity to purchase raffle tickets will be on Monday Evening and Tuesday Morning/Afternoon of the conference. Proceeds benefit the IRWA Equipment Loan Program. Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM join us at the Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception in Ballroom B for beverages and snacks and the announcement of all award and raffle winners. Thank you in advance for your support of IRWA’s efforts for Iowa utilities. Please note... again this year EVERY attendee gets one free raffle ticket to place in one of the Sportsman Raffle boxes. Take this opportunity to be a part of the fun and try your luck!

WELCOME RECEPTION

Be sure to join us for the Monday Night Welcome Reception from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall at the conference center. Don’t miss this chance to relax and visit with our vendors. In addition, games and prize drawings will be held, including our 2nd drawing for \$500.00 CASH.

TUESDAY EXHIBIT HALL

The Exhibit Hall will be open ALL DAY on Tuesday. Our vendors are always excited to have an opportunity to say Hello. Take this opportunity to thank them for being here. Their contributions are what make this the largest Industry Event in Iowa. Our 3rd and final \$500.00 Cash Giveaway will be drawn between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall. And remember, we will continue to hand out conference t-shirts, draw names for the Cash Wheel and offer time to hunt for the “Seek and Find” game. The winner of the “Seek and Find” game will be announced at the Tuesday Afternoon during the reception. The Exhibit Hall is not available on the Wednesday of the conference.

WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON

Women working in the water industry is rare but becoming more and more prevalent within our industry. IRWA, NRWA and CoBank would like to honor women in water with a special luncheon to be held on Tuesday at 12:00 PM in the Room at the Hilton Des Moines. This lunch will be an opportunity to network and support women in the Iowa water sector. We will host a guest speaker to discuss their experience in the work force. You must register in advance for this luncheon, cost per person is \$20.00. Luncheon sponsored by CoBank.

AWARDS AND RAFFLE DRAWING RECEPTION

The IRWA Awards Winners will be announced and honored at the Tuesday afternoon reception in Ballroom B starting at 3:30 PM. This reception is included with a Full Registration and will offer hors d'oeuvres and beverages. This is an opportunity to honor key system and community leaders for their commitment to the industry. Awards will be announced and then immediately following will be the Sportsman Raffle Drawings. This reception is also a chance to have time to socialize with your peers in a casual setting.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Cathy Law at Iowa Rural Water Association
(641) 787-0330 or email at claw@iowaruralwater.org

NEED FURTHER UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION?

Visit our website for further details and online registration:
http://iowaruralwater.org/events_annual_conference.html

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

The Conference Schedule has changed from past years so please read carefully

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

- 7:30 AM.....Registration Opens/Breakfast Service Begins
8:30 AM.....Opening Session/IRWA Staff
 \$500 Cash Giveaway
9:30 AM.....Best Tasting Water Judging
9:30 – 11:30 AM.....Concurrent Sessions
11:30 – 12:15 PM.....Monday Lunch
12:15 – 2:15 PMConcurrent Sessions
2:15 – 3:00 PM.....Break in Exhibit Hall
3:00 – 4:00 PM.....Concurrent Sessions
4:00 – 6:30 PM.....Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall
 \$500 Cash Giveaway

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

- 7:00 – 8:30 AM.....Registration Desk Opens/Continental Breakfast
 in Exhibit Hall
8:00 – 8:30 AM.....Daily Announcement Session
8:30 – 9:30 AM.....Concurrent Sessions
9:30 – 10:00 AM.....Break in Exhibit Hall
10:00 – 12:00 PM.....Concurrent Sessions
10:00 – 12:00 PM.....IRWA Membership Meeting
12:00 – 1:30 pm.....Women in Water Luncheon
 (located at Hilton Des Moines)
12:00 – 1:00 PM.....Tuesday Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 PM.....Exhibit Hall and Dessert
 \$500 Cash Giveaway
1:30 – 3:30 PM.....Concurrent Sessions
3:30 – 5:30 PM.....Awards and Raffle Drawings Reception

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

- 7:15 – 8:30 AM.....Registration/Full Breakfast
8:00 – 10:00 AM.....Concurrent Sessions
10:00 – 10:15 AM.....Break
10:15 – 11:15 AM.....Concurrent Sessions
11:15 – 12:00 PM.....Lunch
12:00 – 2:00 PM.....Concurrent Sessions
2:00 PMCEUs

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

7:30 AMRegistration Opens/Breakfast Service Begins

8:30 – 9:30 AMOpening Session

**AI: Separating Tomorrow's Reality
from Today's Hype**
Dr. Carl Lee Tolbert, Malloy Electric

9:30 – 10:30 AMBest Tasting Water Judging

9:30 – 10:30 AMRock Valley's Deep Well Ammonia Challenges
Julie Sievers, ISG

Lifecycle of Coatings for Towers
Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy
Matt Helmers, Iowa State University

Planning for the Future
TBD

Motivation
TBD

10:30 – 11:30 AMRock Valley's Deep Well Ammonia Challenges (Cont'd)
Julie Sievers, ISG

Metering
Dan Sinclair, Metering and Technology Solutions

**Attracting The Next Generation of Water
and Wastewater Operators**
Adam Ardolino, LINO_H2O

Project Funding
TBD

Communication
TBD

11:30 – 12:15 PMMonday Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 PMSIRWA's Water Project
Julie Sievers, ISG

Network Information Management with ARCGIS
Jay Hoffman, ESRI Inc.

Collection System
Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Cyber Security
TBD

Company Policies and Procedures
TBD

1:15 – 2:15 PM

SIRWA's Water Project (Cont'd)

Julie Sievers, ISG

Trenchless Technologies for Pipe Repair

David Mosler, Core & Main

Emergency Preparedness

Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Finance Session

Julia McCusker, CoBank

Kim Ledger, USDA Rural Development

Theresa Enright, IDNR, SRF

Marketing

TBD

2:15 – 3:00 PMBreak in the Exhibit Hall

3:00 – 4:00 PMSIRWA's Water Project (Cont'd)

Julie Sievers, ISG

Water Tower Rehabilitation

Tim Wilson, Dixon Engineering

**Cutting Biosolids Costs: Geotextile Tube
Dewatering for Rural Communities**

Matt Csillo, MSA Professional Services

Board/Management Roundtable Discussion

TBD

Cyber Security

TBD

4:00 – 6:30 PMWelcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

**7:00 – 8:30 AMRegistration/Continental Breakfast
and Exhibit Hall Open**

8:00 – 8:30 AMDaily Announcement Session

8:30 – 9:30 AMWater Well Mainenance and Rehabilitation

Patrick Harrington, Peerless Well & Pump

**Paint and Coating Selection for
Water Storage Tanks**

Rob Jongquist, Viking Industrial Solutions

Compliance Schedules: Purpose, Action, Results

Grant Hemphill, Strand Associates

Board/Management Roundtable Discussion

TBD

RSAS Round Table Discussion

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

- 9:30 – 10:00 AMBreak/Exhibit Hall Open**
- 10:00 – 11:00 AMPartnerships for Source Water Protection**
Mary Beth Stevenson, City of Cedar Rapids
- Safer, Smarter, Faster: Confined Space
 Drone Technology for Water and Wastewater**
Dasan Hood Beckman & Katie Kinsey, SEH
- Maintaining Your Control & SCADA System**
Anthony Bramante, InControl Inc.
- RSAS Round Table Discussion**
Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association
- 11:00 – 12:00 PMApplied Water Treatment Topics & Discussion**
Eric Lawrence, Vessco
- Ductile Iron Pipe: Basics, Installation and Corrosion**
David Emmerich, US Pipe
- Small Town, Big Demand – Now What**
Katie Sterk, Bolton and Menk
- RSAS Roundtable Discussion**
Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association
- 12:00 – 1:30 PMWomen in Water Luncheon**
 (Sponsored by CoBank) –
 Guest Speaker – Must be Pre-Registered
 Located in Matrix Room at Hilton Des Moines
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM.....Tuesday Lunch**
- 1:00 – 1:30 PMExhibit Hall Open/Dessert**
- 1:30 – 2:30 PMApplied Water Treatment Topics & Discussion (Cont'd)**
Eric Lawrence, Vessco
- TBD**
Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron
- Field Operator Math**
Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook
- Team Building**
TBD
- 2:30 – 3:30 PMApplied Water Treatment Topics & Discussion (Cont'd)**
Eric Lawrence, Vessco
- Navigating CMAR for Iowa Water
 & Wastewater Projects**
Gary Brons, McClure
- TBD**
Loyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook
- Team Building (cont.)**
TBD
- 3:30 – 5:30 PMAwards and Raffle Drawings Reception**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

7:15 – 8:30 AMRegistration/Full Hot Breakfast Served

8:00 – 9:00 AMPump Basics

DJ Gonzalez, DGR Engineering

Concrete Rehab for Water Assets

Eric Zimmerman, Carboline Company

9:00 – 10:00 AMAquifer Storage and Recovery

Taylor Hopper, Strand Associates

**Iowa Utilities Transform Wastewater Operations
with Real Time Data**

Tim Graeb, Smart Covers Systems

10:00 – 10:15 AMBreak

10:15 – 11:15 AMSocial Media Strategies

Mike McGill, WaterPIO

Dewatering Technologies

Daniel Willers, Strand Associates

Vendor Meeting

Cathy Law, Iowa Rural Water Association

11:15 – 12:00 PMVendor Appreciation Luncheon

12:00 – 1:00 PMBuck the Traditional and Jump into the Cloud

Kevin Stock, Streametric

1:00 – 2:00 PMIDNR Water and Wastewater Updates

Heidi Cline and Ben Hucka, IDNR

2:00 PMCEUs/Adjourn

** Topics subject to change.*



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