



50TH IRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEST TASTING WATER CONTEST

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

- 1 A one-quart sample in a glass container (glass canning jar) should be entered in Des Moines **at the conference** registration desk by 9:30 am on Monday, February 10th, 2025.
- 2 A panel of distinguished tastetesters will judge all samples on Monday Morning, February 10th at the conference. The winner will be announced at the conference Awards Reception on Tuesday, February 11th starting at 3:30 PM.
- 3 Judging Criteria: Taste, Bouquet and Clarity
- 4 The winner will be eligible to compete against other states at the National Rural Water Association's Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. in February 2026. IRWA will award the Best Tasting Water winner a trip to the Water Rally with two nights of accommodation and airfare for one individual from that utility. All other expenses are the responsibility of the Water Rally attendee(s).
- 5 Contest is open to Iowa communities and regional systems.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM "BEST TASTING WATER" CONTEST

Water System: _____

Samples Submitted by: _____



Please email, mail or fax entry form to IRWA:

4221 S 22nd Ave East • Newton, IA 50208
claw@iowaruralwater.org • Fax: 641-787-0331

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 762



4221 S. 22nd Avenue East | Newton, IA 50208

THE GOLD STANDARD

of Commitment to the Industry



50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



February 10-12, 2025

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHOICE
CREDIT UNION CONFERENCE CENTER
DES MOINES, IA



Iowa Rural Water is a Member of:



THE IRWA MISSION
To serve Iowa's Public Water and Wastewater Systems by providing technical assistance, education, leadership in legal and legislative affairs, financial and economic growth, and excellence in the industry.



2025 IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Paid Early Bird Registration Deadline is January 14, 2025

Please return to: IRWA 4221 S 22nd Ave East, Newton, IA 50208. Payment must accompany your registration.

Name (for badge): _____ Phone: _____

System/City/Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Please note my special needs and/or dietary restrictions _____

A **Full Conference Registration** includes all training sessions (Mon-Wed), admission to the Exhibit Hall, the Monday Welcome Reception and Tuesday Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception three breakfasts, lunches and breaks. One-Day Only registration includes training, admission to the Exhibit Hall (Tuesday only), breakfast, lunch and breaks. **ATTENTION** City Clerks/ Mayors/Council Members! We offer a Tuesday Exhibit Hall only pass for those just wanting the opportunity to visit with our vendors (Training Sessions NOT included).

Registration Fees

- ☐ **Super Saver Full Registration (Members Only)** Before Tuesday, January 14th **\$425.00**
- ATTENDEE REGISTRATION**
- ☐ **Full Registration (Members Only)** After Tuesday, January 14th **\$470.00**
- ☐ **Non-Member Full Registration** **\$470.00**

One-Day Registration

- ☐ Monday \$210.00
- ☐ Tuesday \$210.00
- ☐ Tuesday Exhibit Hall Only \$65.00
- ☐ Tuesday Women in Water Luncheon \$20.00
- ☐ Wednesday \$210.00

Additional Tickets: Name (Guest/Spouse) _____

- ☐ Monday Opening Session Breakfast/Speaker.. \$20.00
- ☐ Monday Awards Luncheon \$25.00
- ☐ Tuesday Lunch..... \$25.00
- ☐ Tuesday Women in Water Luncheon..... \$20.00
- ☐ Wednesday Lunch..... \$25.00

Total Due: _____

Send Payment to: Iowa Rural Water Assoc; 4221 S 22nd Ave E, Newton, IA 50208. To pay by Credit Card register online at www.iowaruralwater.org

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 14th) using the Super Saver Full Registration option to receive a full registration discounted fee.

If written/faxed notice of **cancellation is received by January 14, 2025**, you will receive a full refund minus a \$75.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued after Tuesday, January 14, 2025. 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 \$147.00.** Deadline for Hilton Des Moines reservations is Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

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 14th. 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 – IRWA: WHO AND WHAT?

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 presented by the IRWA Staff.

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 images. 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 speak on their experience of working with Iowa's water and wastewater systems. 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..

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Some of the IRWA Vendors are sponsoring a hospitality night on Tuesday starting at 7:00 PM til 10:00 PM. Join us for a night of games, beverages, and snacks.

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 10TH

- 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 11TH

- 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
7:00 – 10:00 PM.....Hospitality Night

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

- 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 10TH

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

7:30 AMRegistration Opens/Breakfast Service Begins

8:30 – 9:30 AMOpening Session

IRWA: Who and What?

IRWA Staff

9:30 – 10:30 AMBest Tasting Water Judging

9:30 – 10:30 AMIntro to Surface Water

Julie Sievers, ISG

Tank Coating's Do's and Don'ts

John Snodgrass, Viking Industrial Painting

**Lagoons: Understanding the
Operations and Maintenance**

Lloyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Planning for the Future

TBD

Motivation

TBD

10:30 – 11:30 AMIntro to Surface Water

Julie Sievers, ISG

Planning for Growth

Mary Wilhelmi, Snyder and Associates

**Lagoons: Understanding the
Operations and Maintenance**

Lloyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Capital Project Funding Options

Nathan Summers, UMB Bank

**Communication Barriers and Strategies
to Overcome Them**

TBD

11:30 – 12:15 PMMonday Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 PMIntro to Surface Water

Julie Sievers, ISG

Proper Use and Repair of Peristaltic Pumps

Mike Pontrelli, Stenner

**Lagoons: Understanding the
Operations and Maintenance**

Lloyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook

Fraud Prevention

Bora Manzanares, CoBank

Company Policies and Procedures

TBD

- 1:15 – 2:15 PM**
- Intro to Surface Water**
Julie Sievers, ISG
- Cybersecurity of Water & Wastewater Systems**
Graham Arntzen, In Control, Inc.
- Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance**
Lloyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook
- Finance Session**
Julia McCusker, CoBank
Kim Ledger, USDA Rural Development
Theresa Enright, IDNR, SRF
- Websites – The Ultimate Communication Tool**
Shannon Farmer & Shelly Howay, Rural Water Impact
- 2:15 – 3:00 PMBreak in the Exhibit Hall**
- 3:00 – 4:00 PMIntro to Surface Water**
Julie Sievers, ISG
- The History of RO in Iowa**
Tom Imbornone, AVISTA Technologies
- Lagoons: Understanding the Operations and Maintenance**
Lloyd Rawlings, USA Bluebook
- Board/Management Roundtable Discussion**
TBD
- Cyber Security**
TBD
- 4:00 – 6:30 PMWelcome Reception in Exhibit Hall**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

**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 AMMaganese Challenges**
Julie Sievers, ISG
- Pressure Monitoring through Fire Hydrants**
Andy Kohler, Clow Valve
- Pressure Wastewater Systems**
Ryan Turnbull, Iowa Pump Works
- 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 AMDistribution Concepts**
Lloyd Rawlings, USA Blue Book
- Tower Maintenance**
Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron
- Waste Lagoon Management and Profiling**
John Jacobs, WTR Solutions
- RSAS Round Table Discussion**
Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association
- 11:00 – 12:00 PMGetting the Most from Your RO Pilot Study**
Austin Wolfe, McClure
- Meter Advancements**
Dan Sinclair, Metering and Technology Solutions
- TBD**
Craig Hennager, DMACC
- 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 PMGet to Know Your Liquid Chemical Feed System**
Jason Schroeder, Blue White Industries
- Spring Checklist**
Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering
- Lab Do's and Don't's**
Chad McCleary, ION
- Team Building**
TBD
- 2:30 – 3:30 PMWhy Choose CmaR for Your Next Project**
Josh Rasmusson, Woodruff Construction
- Ask the Mentor**
Rich Sudteltge, City of LeMars
Zeb McFarland, Iowa Rural Water Association
- Statewide Optimization Program and
 Nutrient Reductions from Wastewater Effluents**
Craig Just, IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering
- Team Building (cont.)**
TBD
- 3:30 – 5:30 PMAwards and Raffle Drawings Reception**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

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

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

8:00 – 9:00 AMPhase 1 Inspection

Tim Wilson, Dixon Engineering

Measuring H₂S in Wastewater

Justin Meader, GPM

9:00 – 10:00 AMProcess Optimization

Eric Lawrence, Vessco

**Lagoon Microbiomes Natures Ecosystem
Engineers**

Jessica Manhardt, TriplePoint

10:00 – 10:15 AMBreak

10:15 – 11:15 AMPFAS: What, Why and How

Shannon Perlich, Bolton & Menk

Best Practices for VFD Installations

Dr. Carl Lee Tolbert, Malloy Electric

Vendor Meeting

Cathy Law, Iowa Rural Water Association

11:15 – 12:00 PMVendor Appreciation Luncheon

12:00 – 1:00 PMBest Practices for Working with Your Engineer

Austyn Wolfe, McClure

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

Heidi Cline and Ben Hucka, IDNR

2:00 PMCEUs/Adjourn

** Topics subject to change.*