

## ***Straight From The Chair***

**By: Keeley Barry, MSAWWA Chair**

Hello MSAWWA members!

Fall is here, and after such a hot summer it is a relief to many.

It was great to see the attendance of our Joint MSAWWA & MWEA Conference earlier this year!

I'd like to share some highlights that have happened since then.

- The Legislative Committee has been tracking regulatory actions related to the water industry including Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), a health advisory for Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and a proposed ban of chrysotile asbestos diaphragms. See the MSAWWA 2022 Legislative Update Letter for more information.
- The Membership Committee completed a 2022 Montana Membership Action Plan.
- The Student & Young Professionals (S&YP) Committee participated in the Gallatin River Cleanup event on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Bozeman.
- The MSAWWA & MWEA Boards are planning for the 2023 Joint Conference. More information to come!

Thank you to all committee participants! The time and effort you volunteer to these organizations is greatly appreciated.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season, and looking forward to seeing you at next year's conference!

~Keeley



## ***MWEA President's Message***

**By: Barb Coffman, MWEA President**

Greetings MWEA members!!

I sure hope you all had a great summer!! What a wild summer it was, flooding in parts of the state and drought in other parts.

And hot everywhere! But, bonus reduction in fires this year and thus, way less smoke for most of the summer.

It was so wonderful to see people in person at our Annual Joint Conference in Great Falls last April. There are so many benefits meeting in person and getting to spend time together with our peers and comrades discussing all things water and wastewater.

The Montana Legislature will be in session starting in January, 2023. Be prepared to keep up on the movement of water related bills through the legislature and be prepared to testify when necessary.

The MSAWWA and MWEA boards and committees will be busy planning the spring conference this winter. MWEA will be hosting the pre conference. Anyone with ideas for a theme for the pre conference, topics of interest to our members, and potential speakers please let me know.

The MWEA board is in the beginning stages and will be busy this winter developing a Code of Conduct for our association, updating our bylaws, strategic plan and long term plan. If anyone is interested in participating in updating these documents or has historical knowledge of these documents please let me know.

The MWEA board decided at their spring meeting to go back to doing in-person workshops only. So, the next Wastewater Pretreatment will be in person.

I am looking forward to working with member volunteers of both associations and another great in-person conference!!

Stay safe. Enjoy the holiday season. Then plan to attend the Annual Spring Conference.

~Barb



## ***Inside:***

- **2022 Conference Highlights**
- **2022-2023 MSAWWA-MWEA Boards**
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- **SAVE THE DATE! 2023 Joint Conference Info**

**NewsWaves** is a publication of the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association and the Montana Water Environment Association and is published twice yearly. It is available for viewing or printing on our website at: [www.montanawater.org](http://www.montanawater.org).

We welcome contributions to **NewsWaves**. For more information, contact:

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## Calling All Student Writers!! Write About Anything Water and Receive \$100

MSAWWA and MWEA produce **NewsWaves** twice yearly for the water and wastewater industries including professionals from Montana cities and towns, engineering firms, and equipment suppliers. We certainly would like to hear from the education community as well. For each newsletter we encourage submission of student papers of 1000 words or less. If the submitted article gets published in the newsletter, the student will receive \$100 along with a 1 year membership to AWWA or WEF. The next newsletter will be published this coming winter/spring. Articles must be received by March 15, 2018 to be considered. For more information, please contact Robin Matthews-Barnes at 406-546-5496 or by email at: [Info@montanawater.org](mailto:Info@montanawater.org)

## Are You Ordering Books from AWWA?

If so, please place your order through Robin Matthews-Barnes, MSAWWA Executive Secretary. MSAWWA receives credit for your order. The cost is the same to you, but MSAWWA gets a bonus!

## Montana Water Environment Association Operator Scholarships Available

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) has allocated funds to certified operators looking for assistance in paying for continuing education and/or training event costs. Applicants must complete a scholarship application one month ahead of the training session they plan to attend, and awards of up to \$500 can be realized by each applicant. When approved in advance, the award money can be used to pay for the actual training as well as other miscellaneous costs associated with attending. Applicants must be a Montana certified operator or operator in training. Applications are available through the Montana Environmental Training Center (METC) or can be obtained by emailing MWEA Secretary/Treasurer, Rika Lashley at [rlashley@m-m.net](mailto:rlashley@m-m.net)

## One AWWA Operator Scholarships Available

MSAWWA has teamed with AWWA's **The Water Equation Campaign** to offer (1) \$1000 or (2) \$500 Operator Scholarships for water operator training and education, based on need. The scholarship award can be used for certification/licensure, two-year water related associate degree, technical school program, professional training program, books and manuals and operator related conferences. Each scholarship recipient will also receive a one-year AWWA Operator membership.

Please spread the word that these scholarships are available!

Click here for more information:

[www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/](http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/)

## Upcoming events:

### MSAWWA-MWEA:

**FREE Training:** SDWA Virtual Workshop/November 16&17, 2022. 0.6 water cecs available for full attendance. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**2023 Joint Conference**/April 25-27, 2023 in Butte. Click here for more information: [2023 Joint Conference](#)

### AWWA:

Membrane Technology Conference/February 20-23, 2023

AWWA/WEF Young Professionals Summit/March 27-28, 2023

Utility Management Conference/March 28-31, 2023

Sustainable Water Management Conference/April 16-19, 2023

ACE23/June 11-14, 2023

[Click here to go to the AWWA upcoming event calendar for more workshops, webinars, and conferences](#)

### WEF:

WEF/AWWA Young Professionals Summit/March 27-28, 2023

Utility Management Conference/March 28-31, 2023

Collections Systems Conference/June 27-30, 2023

Stormwater Summit/June 27-29, 2023

[Click here to go to the WEF upcoming event calendar for more workshops, webinars, and conferences](#)



# Montana Section

American Water Works Association

### Mission of Montana Section AWWA—

The Montana Section of American Water Works Association is dedicated to the promotion of public health and welfare in the provision of drinking water of unquestionable quality and sufficient quantity. Montana Section of AWWA will provide the forum and opportunity through which its membership can exchange information, learn of new issues and technologies, educate the public, and enhance the professionalism of workers in all areas of the water industry.

### Mission of the Montana Water Environment Association

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Montana's water environment. The Association is committed to advancing science and education, disseminating technical information, increasing public understanding and promoting sound public policy in the water quality and water resources field.



Environment Association





***“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”  
Highlights from the 2022 Conference***

After a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Conference was held in Great Falls April 26th-28th. There was a lot of excitement at the conference and attendees seemed to enjoy the opportunity to meet up with old friends and colleagues. The program committee put together a diverse schedule of sessions and topics eligible for continuing education credits. The Preconference was hosted by MSAWWA on April 26th and was titled “Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water”. Total Conference attendance was approximately 145. In addition, there were 36 vendors on site that provided valuable information on their products and services to all who took advantage of the opportunity. Numerous awards were presented during the banquet on Wednesday evening, as well as during the General Session on Wednesday and lunch on Thursday. The awards presented for MSAWWA and for MWEA at the 2022 Conference were as follows:

**WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award—Terry Campbell, MT DEQ**  
**AWWA George Warren Fuller Award—Jeff Jensen, City of Havre (2021 Recipient)**  
**MWEA Small Systems Award—City of Townsend**  
**MWEA Stockholm Junior Water Prize—Keanu Ng, Flathead High School**  
**MSAWWA-MWEA Todd Teegarden Award—Karen Sanchez**  
**MSAWWA-MWEA Lifetime Achievement Award—Gary Swanson and Bob Morrison**  
**MSAWWA-MWEA Donald Willems Scholarship—Tasnim Ritu/Montana State University**

Dignitaries representing both AWWA and WEF were in attendance at the conference. Representing AWWA this year was Melissa Elliott, 2021-2022 AWWA Immediate Past President. Representing WEF at the conference was Board of Trustees member Howard Carter.



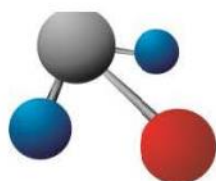
**7th Annual Best Tap Water Taste Test Reining Champs!**

City of Bozeman Water maintained their hold as the reigning champions of the annual Best Tap Water Taste Test held at the 2022 Joint Conference in Great Falls. The judges (seated, from left to right) were Bill Flanagan with isiWest, Melissa Elliott, AWWA Immediate Past President, and Rika Lashley, current MWEA Board Secretary/Treasurer. Representatives from City of Bozeman who were at the conference to take advantage of continuing education opportunities are standing. Thank you City of Bozeman for participating and being a great supporter of the Joint Conference.



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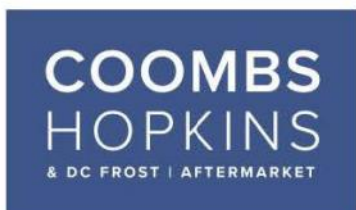


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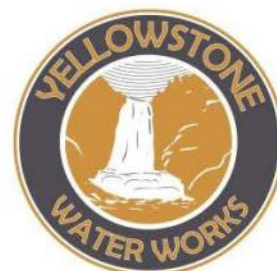
Water Treatment



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## ***“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources” Highlights from the 2022 Conference Continued***

### ***~Joint Scholarship Fund Raffle~***

Thank you to **Morrison-Maierle, Great West Engineering, HDR Engineering and Yellowstone Waterworks** for their generous donations for this year’s raffle to help fund the Donald G. Willems Joint Scholarship. This year’s prizes were all cash:

1st prize was a \$500, 2nd prize was \$200 and 3rd prize was \$100. The raffle raised over \$1500 for the scholarship fund.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets to support the opportunity to help the students who benefit from the scholarship awards. Thank you also to Greg Lukasik (Chair) and all who serve on the scholarship committee.



**Terry Campbell** with MT DEQ (on left) is presented with the prestigious WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award. The award acknowledges extraordinary personal service to WEF and a Member Association. Thank you Terry for all of your dedication and hard work, you certainly deserve this award! Howard Carter, WEF Trustee, presented the plaque to Terry at the Joint Conference.



Above, **Gary Swanson** (Robert Peccia & Associates) receives the 2022 Joint Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Jeremy Perlinksi (Lifetime Achievement Committee Chair). **Bob Morrison** (Morrison Maierle) was also a recipient of the award but was unable to attend the conference. Congratulations on these well-deserved awards and thank you to both Gary and Bob for so many contributions throughout your years of service to the water/wastewater fields.

### ***Water For People***

Thank You to **Great West Engineering** for again donating the 1st Place prize fly rod for the Water For People raffle that took place at the conference. Retail value of the prize was \$895. 2nd Place prize was a \$200 cash prize. Over \$1200 was raised for Water For People at the conference this year from raffle ticket sales. Thank you to Carrie Gardner and John Camden (Co-Chairs) and the other members of the Water For People committee for all of your efforts, and thank you to those who supported the cause by purchasing raffle tickets.

## ***Congratulations to Tasnim Ritu***

***Recipient of the 2022***

***Donald G. Willems Scholarship***

Tasnim is working towards her master's degree in Environmental Engineering at Montana State University. She was chosen to receive a \$1500 scholarship award from the MSAWWA & MWEA Joint Scholarship Committee, in honor of Donald G. Willems. Tasnim also participated in the 2022 Fresh Ideas Poster Competition. Congratulations Tasnim and best wishes to you in the completion of your studies! Tasnim is pictured below left with Greg Lukasik (Joint Scholarship Committee Chair) at the presentation of the award during the General Session of the 2022 Joint Conference.



### **Joint Student & Young Professional Poster Competition**

The 5th Annual Joint SYP Fresh Ideas Poster Competition was held during the Joint Conference. The posters were presented and judged on Wednesday. The winner of the competition wins a trip to ACE to compete at the national level. There were 5 participants this year; Tasnim Sultana Ritu, Mohammad-Hosein Mozaffari, Kristen Brush, Maddie Thompson, and Abigail Murray.

### **Fresh Ideas Poster Competition Winner**

**Abbey Murray**, a student at MSU was the winner of the 5th Annual SYP "Fresh Ideas" poster competition at the 2022 Conference. The Joint SYP Committee plans to hold the 6th Annual poster competition at the upcoming 2023 Joint Conference in April. **The submission deadline for entry for the 2023 competition is January 31, 2023.** Visit the joint website for more information.

### **SYP SPOTLIGHT**

#### **Kristen Brush – Graduate Student at Montana State University**

- MS Environmental Engineering @ MSU
- Avid birder
- Mushroom Hunter
- Run/Hike
- Bake Bread
- University of Florida BS Chem Eng – 2014
- Worked for BP Alaska as a Process Engineer
- Lived and worked as Yoga Instructor on a boat in Caribbean
- Work at Bridger Bowl Wetlands
  - Investigating Wetland Operation Parameters
  - Optimizing how much COD and Nitrate Recycle
  - Two Stage
    - Stage 1 – Partial Saturation
    - Stage 2 – Non-Saturated



**Thank you Kristen and all the members for being part of the Joint Student & Young Professionals Committee!**





***Thank You To All Of The Exhibitors  
that participated at the 2022 Joint Conference***

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- Yellowstone Waterworks



Bob Kelley, Great Falls City Mayor welcomes everyone to the opening General Session of the 2022 Joint Conference.

At right, **Karen Sanchez** receives the much-deserved MWEA-MSAWWA Todd Teegarden Award for Excellence in Leadership & Community Advocacy. Congratulations to Karen, who certainly exemplifies these qualities!





## ***A SPECIAL THANK YOU.....***

To all of the volunteers who helped to make the 2022 Joint Conference successful. It takes many helping hands to make it all come together, and all of the help is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to the Host City Committee, the Program Committee, and MWEA Education Committee:

### **Joint Host City Committee**

Craig Nowak, Chair—Morrison Maierle  
Mike Kynett—Morrison Maierle  
Kayla Rosander—AE2S

David Carlson—AE2S  
Rodney Lance—Veolia Water  
Kevin Cook—AE2S

### **Joint Program Committee**

Amy Deitchler, Chair—Great West Engineering  
Matt Mudd—Great West Engineering  
Greg Lukasik—Great West Engineering  
Jackie Kuhl—MT DEQ  
Ryan Pearson—Great West Engineering  
Karen Sanchez—The Cadmus Group

Carrie Gardner—Great West Engineering  
Jeremy Perlinski—Robert Peccia & Assoc.  
Doug Whitney—KLJ Engineering  
Jason Mercer—Morrison Maierle  
Court Harris—Jacobs  
Jeff Ashley—Morrison Maierle

### **MSAWWA Education Committee**

Collette Anderson, Chair—Great West Engineering

Carrie Gardner—Great West Engineering

Thank you also to **Barb Coffman** for her help during the week of the conference—your time and experience are greatly appreciated!



Lots of fun was had and great prizes were won at Game Night after the banquet on Wednesday evening of the Conference, as well as during Operator Trivia on Thursday morning.





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## New MWEA and MSAWWA Officers

Several new board members were elected at the annual Joint Membership Meeting that took place on Thursday morning of the conference. Here is a list of board positions that were filled:

**MWEA Junior Trustee**—Matt Waite, MT DEQ, was nominated and elected.

**MWEA Senior Trustee**—Rickey Schultz, HDR, had been appointed to serve as trustee due to a vacated position and was confirmed by vote.

**MWEA National Delegate**—Dave Aune, Great West Engineering, had been appointed to fill the vacant National Delegate position. Dave was confirmed by vote.

**MWEA Secretary/Treasurer**—Rika Lashley, Morrison Maierle, had just completed her last position as Past-President on the MWEA Board and was nominated and elected to serve as the new MWEA Sec./Treasurer.

**MSAWWA Junior Trustee**—Jarrett Moran, HDR, was nominated and elected.

**MSAWWA National Director-Elect**—Carrie Gardner, Great West Engineering, was nominated and elected to take over the National Director position at the end of current Director John Alston's term.

Thank you to all who volunteer to serve on the MSAWWA and MWEA Boards!



**Tim Rauser, City of Townsend**, receives the 2022 MWEA Small Systems Award from **Jeremy Perlinski**, Honors & Awards Chair



Above, **Dave Aune** presents (from left to right) **Rika Lashley**, **Rodney Lance** and **Neil DeZort** with their shovel pins as they are inducted into the super secret MWEA 5S Society.

Above right, **George Warren Fuller Awardees** stand for a photo. Many years of dedication to the protection and excellence of Montana's drinking water are represented in those pictured here.

At right, **Jeff Jensen**, the 2021 George Warren Fuller Awardee was presented with his Fuller Pin at the 2022 Conference. Members of his family were able to join him as he was honored with AWWA's most prestigious award.







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## **MWEA Member Rodney Lance, Veolia Water N.A Featured in TPO Magazine**

The following article is reprinted from TPO Magazine, written by Jim Force



### **A Military Vet Applies His Water Background to a Prosperous Career In the Wastewater Profession**

**Skills learned during an Air Force career help Rodney Lance run an efficient clean-water plant and work effectively with this team.**

Rodney Lance wasn't sure what he was getting into when the Air Force assigned him to water and wastewater back in 1986. He had enlisted and signed up for the open career field. "I really wasn't sure what I was in for," he says of the assignment which included the water facilities, water distribution, fire suppression and plumbing. But now, 35 years later, he can be satisfied with the successes he's had as manager of the Great Falls, Montana, Wastewater Treatment Plant for Veolia North America.

That includes a Hatfield Award in 2018, Operator of the Year in 2020, and service for several years as the secretary-treasurer of the Montana WEA.

"I've really liked it," he says of his position and his career in the clean water profession. "It's always different. Process management. Sending clean water out to the river. Helping the environment."

#### **Great Falls.**

Lance came to Great Falls in 2006 when the Air Force sent him to Malmstrom Air Force Base. When he retired in 2011, he took a job with a railroad company, but says his heart wasn't in it. That's not the case now. He switched jobs and joined the staff at the Great Falls plant as an operator in training. He became operations manager in 2014, assistant plant manager in 2019, and plant manager in March, 2021.

The plant, which Veolia has managed for the city for several decades, serves about 65,000 people in the Great Falls area. Three bioreactors, using Sanitaire fine bubble diffusers and Neuros blowers, accomplish biological nutrient removal to meet clean water standards. Effluent BOD averaged 4.36 mg/L in 2021, and suspended solids averaged 4.77 mg/L. Effluent phosphorus averaged 0.29 mg/L and ammonia nitrogen just over 9 mg/L. Ultra violet light (Ozonix) disinfects the effluent before discharge to the Missouri River. Average daily flow is 8.5 to 9.0 mgd. "We use no chemicals here," Lance says. The solids processing operation includes anaerobic digestion, polymer addition and dewatering on a pair of Andritz centrifuges. Between 36,000 and 72,000 pounds of cake is hauled to a landfill, six days a week. The Great Falls system also includes 28 lift and four stormwater pumping stations. Plant processes are monitored and controlled by an Oracle utilities work and asset management program. The staff includes 14 people, who operate the plant seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to daily operations, Lance's chief responsibilities include planning, organization, scheduling, employee evaluation, training, facility maintenance, reporting and analyses, assuring compliance, safety, and emergency response. He's plenty busy. "Keeps me out of trouble," he says.

#### **Important interface.**

As a contract operator, Lance also maintains what he calls a "professional client interface" with city management, and a critical connection with Veolia. He does well on both counts. "Rodney does a great job supporting Great Falls," says Melissa Sandvold, vice president of operations for Veolia in the northwestern United States and northern California. "He listens and makes sure our programs are meeting the needs and expectations of our client." (cont. next page)



(cont. from page 14)

Paul Skubinna, Great Falls Public Works director agrees. “Rodney is amazing,” he says. “He’s been plant manager for a little over a year and has really stepped up and done a great job. We communicate really well--sit down and talk capital improvements, resources, or maintenance. It’s good to stay connected.” Skubinna points out that the long-standing relationship between the city and Veolia is based on confidence and a mutual comfort level. “The plant employs local people, who are vested in the community,” he says. “That’s what makes it work.”

Lance meets with the city weekly, or every other week, as conditions call for. “We keep the city informed, and they talk to us about any issues in the city,” he says.

Lance adds that being part of the Veolia organization is another plus. Veolia has operations and maintenance contracts with over 600 communities throughout the United States, those systems serving more than 10 million people. The contracts are designed to streamline treatment plant operations, improve efficiency and increase reliability, as described on the Veolia website. Not only does the company provide technical and management support, it also helps with purchasing key commodities, especially with the current supply chain problems. “Vendors are eager to work with us,” Lance says. “In some cases, we have nationwide agreements.”

### Challenges.

In addition to availability, cost is another of the main challenges Lance says he and his plant are experiencing. “Costs are going up,” he says. “In the case of polymer, maybe 40-50 percent. Plus, delivery is up to five months out.”

The harsh northern Montana winters also present issues. Lance says temperatures can be below zero for days on end, causing difficulties like foaming and bulking in the aerobic digesters. “The cold can definitely create issues for you,” he says. “Freezing and breakup can cause problems with the bacteria and the media,” he says.

Then there are the more specific task-oriented challenges.

“In our case, that would include the digester cleaning project,” says Lance. “It was the first in 15 years. It is a 1.5-million-gallon vessel. We did it ourselves, and it took three to four months. There was a lot of grit and silt and we had to use fire hoses to dislodge material, and had to filter out the liquid and re-treat it. It took everyone here.”

Lance’s military background helps him deal with serious issues. “Through its Airman Leadership school, the Air Force teaches you management and leadership skills,” he says. “You learn how to work with other people. You focus on ethics and attention to detail. Those are skills needed in wastewater management, he believes. “You must be accurate, 100 percent correct, 100 percent of the time. The military instills that in you.”

“That’s his strength,” Sandvold says. “He meets deadlines, crosses all the T’s, dots all the I’s. He understands programs and makes them clear to his staff.”



Above: Rodney Lance, right, plant manager, shown with Pat Blatter, operations and maintenance technician, has built a reputation for building strong relationships with his team and paying close attention to detail. At right, Rodney enjoying some time at the 2022 Joint Conference.



(cont. from page 15)

### **Satisfactions.**

The hard work has paid off.

"I get great satisfaction just being in this career field," Lance says. He enjoys working different people from different backgrounds within Veolia and the city, as well as the different treatment processes, "You never know what's coming," he says. "There's always something different going on. I like sending clean water out to the river and the people downstream, and helping the environment.

He says being promoted has been a highlight, as have the various awards and recognition he's received. The Hatfield Award and Operator of the Year were special. "Lots of people are deserving," he says. "To be nominated and recognized by your peers is quite an honor."

### **Family.**

Lance is married with a family. He likes to hunt and read historical fiction, but says he's now spending lots of time with his youngest son who has musical ambitions. "I love to hear him play," he says.

He values his staff at the same level, and says safety and his plant's safety record are paramount.

"As of last December, we've gone 22 years with just one lost time accident," he says with pride. "In the last 17 years, we've had only 4 recorded accidents."

"It's a great day when you can go home at the end of the day the way you came to work."

### **Sidebar: The Montana WEA**

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) was originally established in 1944 as the Montana Sewage Works Association and is currently registered as a Member Association of the water Environment Federation. The organization focuses on enhancing industry skills among its members, facilitating lifelong learning, championing productive relationships, enriching leadership potential and increasing recognition and awareness in the clean water field. Rodney Lance, wastewater treatment plant manager at Great Falls, has served the organization as its secretary-treasurer for a number of years. He affirms all of those programs. "The association provides training, networking, and helps members obtain their CEUs," he says.

"My involvement has helped me personally, and in my connections with other plant managers and operators. People reach out to me with questions and concerns, and vice versa. We're able to help each other." His work is appreciated by all, especially Robin Matthews-Barnes, MWEA executive director.

"Rodney has helped to guide MWEA in its endeavor to support the wastewater industry in Montana; its engineers, operators and those vendors who provide goods and services to improve the quality and efficiency of wastewater systems across the state—whether those systems serve large populations or very small populations.

"Rodney is a really good human being who has empathy for others and wants to help in any way that he can," she adds. "I feel blessed to have been able to work with him these last years, he is a great asset!"

### **Operator profile: Rodney Lance**

**Title:** Plant manager

**Responsibilities:** Manage interface between the city and Veolia. Daily plant operations including planning, organization, scheduling, employee evaluation, training, facility maintenance, reporting and analyses, assuring compliance, safety, and emergency response.

**Education:** Associate degree in applied science from the Community College of the Air Force

**Experience:** 16 years in public wastewater operations and management

**Certification:** Montana Class 1C wastewater; Montana low pressure boiler engineer license

**Awards:** Operator of the Year 2021, Hatfield Award 2018, Montana Water Environment Association.

**Goals:** Operate the plant efficiently with zero safety incidents; decrease overall budget; learn new technologies. Personally, become a better mentor for the youth I teach at church.



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Montana  
Section

American Water Works Association



## 2022—2023 Committee Chairs

Below is a list of the members of MSAWWA and MWEA that volunteered to chair each committee at the 2022 Joint Conference. Volunteers are always welcome, so if you wish to help your association and serve on a committee you may still sign up by contacting the chair of that committee or Robin Matthews-Barnes at [Info@montanawater.org](mailto:Info@montanawater.org) or (406) 546-5496.

### Joint Committee Chairs

#### Cross Connection Control

- Barb Coffman (406) 781-2298  
[bcoffman@3rivers.net](mailto:bcoffman@3rivers.net)

#### Exhibitors

- No chair at this time

#### Host City

- TBD

#### Information Management

- Dave Carlson (406) 268-0626  
[david.carlson@ae2s.com](mailto:david.carlson@ae2s.com)

#### Lifetime Achievement

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 594-3493  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Program

- Amy Deitchler (406) 495-6160  
[adeitchler@greatwesteng.com](mailto:adeitchler@greatwesteng.com)
- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 594-3493  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Public Outreach

- Rika Lashley (406) 495-3448  
[rlashley@m-m.net](mailto:rlashley@m-m.net)

#### Scholarship

- Greg Lukasik (406) 652-5000  
[glukasik@greatwesteng.com](mailto:glukasik@greatwesteng.com)

#### SYP Committee

- Paige Jewell (406) 794-4448  
[paige.jewell@ae2s.com](mailto:paige.jewell@ae2s.com)
- Alex Ciessau (708) 209-8814  
[alex.ciessau@ae2s.com](mailto:alex.ciessau@ae2s.com)

### MWEA Committee Chairs

#### Beneficial Reuse

- Neil DeZort (406) 250-6048  
[neil.dezort@gmail.com](mailto:neil.dezort@gmail.com)

#### Education

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 594-3493  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Grants for Teachers

- Amy Deitchler (406) 495-6160  
[adeitchler@greatwesteng.com](mailto:adeitchler@greatwesteng.com)

#### Honors & Awards

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 594-3493  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Long Range Planning

- Rika Lashley (406) 495-3448  
[rlashley@m-m.net](mailto:rlashley@m-m.net)

#### Membership

- Laura Gundlach (406) 237-1272  
[lgundlach@m-m.net](mailto:lgundlach@m-m.net)

#### Pretreatment

- Barb Coffman (406) 781-2298  
[bcoffman@3rivers.net](mailto:bcoffman@3rivers.net)

#### Stockholm Jr. Water Prize

- Kristi Kline (406) 945-2043  
[kfarm@mtintouch.net](mailto:kfarm@mtintouch.net)

#### Stormwater

- No chair at this time

### MSAWWA Committee Chairs

#### Awards

- No chair at this time

#### Education

- No chair at this time

#### Legislative

- Nate Weisenburger (406) 268-0626  
[nate.weisenburger@ae2s.com](mailto:nate.weisenburger@ae2s.com)

#### Membership

- Matt Mudd (406) 490-3909  
[mmudd@greatwesteng.com](mailto:mmudd@greatwesteng.com)

#### Water For People

- Carrie Gardner (406) 495-6176  
[cgardner@greatwesteng.com](mailto:cgardner@greatwesteng.com)



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MSAWWA

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2023 JOINT CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

***Come and take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities at the 2023 Joint MSAWWA-MWEA Conference***

***April 25th—Preconference hosted by MWEA: tbd***

***April 26th/27th—Conference “Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”***

***Location: Copper King, Butte MT***

*Registration information will be emailed to members when it is available and will also be available on the website:*

**2023 Joint Conference**

**Donald G. Willems Scholarship**

*Please remind any students you know that are pursuing degrees in the water or wastewater fields to submit an application for the 2023 Willems Scholarship. March 15, 2023 is the deadline and application information and materials are available on the website—click on the “Awards & Scholarships” tab for an application form, OR click here: [www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/](http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/)*

*A \$1500 scholarship can be awarded each year. This is a joint MSAWWA-MWEA Scholarship. Please pass the word!*

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**Do You Have Something  
To Say?**

If you have ideas, announcements, articles, or stories you would like to submit for consideration for publication in the next issue of *NewsWaves*, please email Robin Matthews-Barnes at [info@montanawater.org](mailto:info@montanawater.org). The next issue will be published in March, 2023 prior to the next conference, so keep it in mind!