



# NewsWaves



A joint publication of MSAWWA & MWEA  
SPRING 2023



## An Invitation to the 2023 Conference

***“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”***  
***96th Meeting of the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association***  
***77th Meeting of the Montana Water Environment Association***  
**April 25-27, 2023 · Butte, Montana**

**MWEA Preconference: *“Collection & Conveyance—Just FluSH IT”***

**WELCOME TO BUTTE, AMERICA!**

**“I like Butte. I like the people of Butte. I haven’t had a heartier welcome or a happier time.”**  
-President Theodore Roosevelt, May 28, 1903.

Butte, as the first major city in Montana and, at one time, the largest city west of the Mississippi River between Chicago and San Francisco, can accurately lay claim to the title of 'Montana's most historic city.' Butte was established as a mining camp in the 1860's and quickly became the nation's biggest supplier of copper. Headframes still dot the landscape, a reminder of what made Butte what it is. Butte's nickname is "Butte America" because immigrants from Ireland, China, Lebanon, Austria, Greece, Italy, Mexico, and numerous other countries came to Butte to work in the mines. It is also known as "The Richest Hill on Earth" because of all the rich mineral deposits from copper to gold mined from the area. From its early days as a mining camp, to the rise of the Copper Kings and the resulting birth of the labor movement, through the industrialization and decline of mining, and down to a present marked by an environmental and urban renaissance, Butte's history is as colorful and diverse as the landscape of Montana. If you would like to know more about Butte's past, please check out the link to the Butte-Silver Bow Archives website: [www.buttearchives.org](http://www.buttearchives.org)

Aside from history, Butte has innumerable recreation opportunities, fine dining, sports, entertainment, a thriving small-business district, and many events throughout the year. While you are in town you may want to check out some area attractions: [Underground Mine Tour at the World Museum of Mines](#); [World Museum of Mining](#); [Our Lady of the Rockies Gift Shop & Tours](#); [Mai Wah Museum](#); [Copper King Mansion](#); [Dumas Brothel Museum](#)

We look forward to hosting the 2023 Joint Conference and hope that you enjoy your time in Butte! ~Your 2023 Host City Committee  
(historical information taken from [www.co.silverbow.mt.us](http://www.co.silverbow.mt.us))

**Inside:**

- **2023 Joint Conference Preliminary Schedule**
- **Joint Conference Registration links**
- **2022-2023 MSAWWA-MWEA Boards**
- **2022-2023 MSAWWA-MWEA Committee Chairs**
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NewsWaves is a joint publication of the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association and the Montana Water Environment Association. It 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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**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.



**Help Build The  
Next Generation  
of Water Scientists.**

The U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize brings together some of the brightest and most imaginative young scientists from across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, encouraging their continued interest in water research.

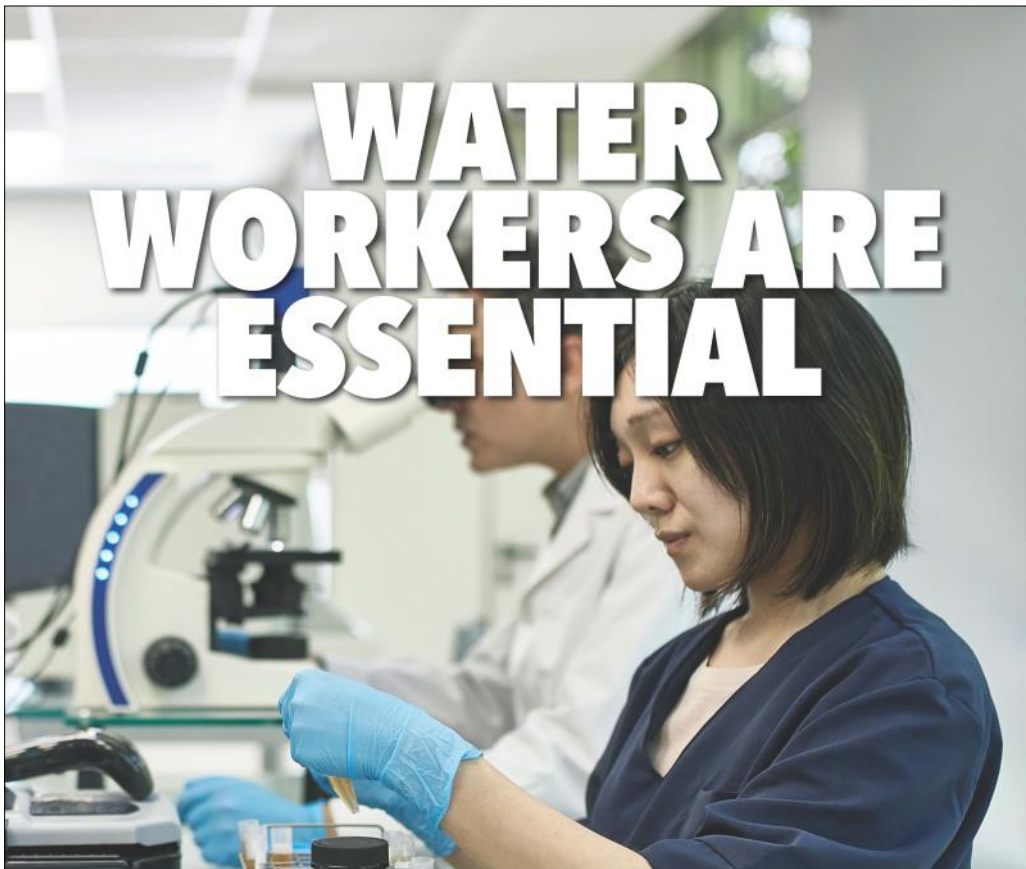
US donations are tax deductible.

<http://wef.org/SJWPdonate>

**U.S. Stockholm  
Junior Water Prize**



# WATER WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL



Nothing works without clean water and clean water doesn't work without you. Thank you for working on the front lines.

## WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK



[www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)



Click on the image at right to view WEF's new "Our Core Values" video as part of the rollout of the new WEF Strategic Plan

## Our Core Values



Lead boldly with purpose and agility



Focus on our customers through empathy and service



Collaborate for collective impact



Integrate Diversity, Equity, and inclusion in all we do



## ~Water For People Raffle~

The Water For People committee will be holding a raffle to support projects being undertaken to provide clean drinking water to those in need across the globe. Thank You Great West Engineering & R.L. Winston Rod Company for providing the Winston Pure (light weight) 9', 4 piece, 4 wt, Cigar Wood Handled Fly Rod with an RX-2 Charcoal Reel to be raffled at the conference. This combo is valued at \$1550. Second place is a \$200 cash prize. The drawing will take place during the banquet on Wednesday evening during the Joint Conference. Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be purchased at the Joint Conference or by contacting Carrie Gardner at [cgardner@greatwesteng.com](mailto:cgardner@greatwesteng.com). You do not need to be present to win.

## Greetings from your MSAWWA Chair

A warm spring hello to section members! Hopefully we see many beautiful spring days leading up to the joint conference in April. This year's conference takes us back to Butte for the first time in many years. No matter where the location, this conference provides great opportunities to learn, network, and get involved. The Copper King Hotel & Convention Center will host the MWEA sponsored *Collection & Conveyance: Just FluSH IT* Preconference followed by the *Working Together to Protect Montana's Water Resources* Joint Conference. Join us on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for the Preconference, and Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Joint Conference. Our AWWA guest will be Ken Lykens, Water Utility Council Chair.

Updates:

- The Board welcomed Jarrett Moran as Junior Trustee. The next Junior Trustee will be voted on at the upcoming Joint Conference. Please reach out to a Board member if you are interested!
- Carrie Gardner held two positions: Past Chair and Director Elect.
- The Student & Young Professionals (S&YP) Committee continues to stay active. Look for their Poster Competition at the Joint Conference!
- The Water For People (WFP) committee will hold their annual fundraiser to benefit WFP.
- The Scholarship Committee will host a raffle to benefit the MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Scholarship Fund.

Please reach out to me or any Board member if you have any questions or concerns as a member of MSAWWA, we are always open to new ideas to make membership valuable to all.

~Keeley Barry, MSAWWA Chair

## “ONE AWWA” WATER OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

MSAWWA has teamed with AWWA's "The Water Equation" Campaign to offer (1) \$1000 or (2) \$500 Water Operator Scholarships annually. The creation of the "One AWWA" Operator Scholarship addresses the present and future workforce need for operators by providing training and educational funding. It also creates an opportunity for collaboration between the Association and Sections within The Water Equation Campaign. 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. An application can be downloaded from the website at:

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

## ~Joint Scholarship Fund Raffle~

**Thank you to Great West Engineering, Morrison Maierle, HDR Engineering, Yellowstone Waterworks and Robert Peccia & Associates for their generous donations for this years' raffle to help fund the Donald G. Willems Joint Scholarship. Grand prize is a \$1000 Fairmont Hot Springs gift card; 2nd prize is a \$300 Scheels gift card; 3rd prize is a \$200 Amazon gift card. Tickets are available for purchase at the Joint Conference or by contacting Greg Lukasik, Committee Chair, by email at [glukasik@greatwesteng.com](mailto:glukasik@greatwesteng.com). The drawings will take place at the banquet on Wednesday evening of the Joint Conference. You need not be present to win. Ticket prices are \$5/each or 5 tickets for \$20. Buy your tickets to help fund a scholarship for a deserving student!**

## Visiting Dignitaries from AWWA & WEF

Attendees of the 2023 Joint Conference will be introduced to **AWWA Water Utility Council Chair Ken Lykens** and current **WEF Board of Trustees Member Stephen Sanders**.

**Ken Lykens** is the General Manager of the Meridian Metropolitan District and is responsible for all infrastructure needs including drinking water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and stormwater. Mr. Lykens has 30 years of experience in infrastructure engineering, from planning through design and construction. His experience consists of leading multi-disciplinary teams to plan, design, permit, and deliver complex infrastructure and natural resource projects. Specific experience includes: utility operations and maintenance, contract management, facility construction and upgrades, asset management, data management, rate setting, and consensus building. Experience also includes working extensively with regulatory agencies at every level of government on a wide variety of regulatory compliance issues. Mr. Lykens has prepared and delivered hundreds of presentations to boards, elected and appointed officials, executives, senior management teams, trade organizations/associations, public interest groups, regulatory agencies, and the media.



Ken is a Professional Engineer with experience working for public utilities (large and small) and engineering consulting firms. He is a Board Member for the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) project and is the Vice Chair of the AWWA Water Utility Council (WUC).

Ken received a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and a M.S degree in Finance from Denver University.

**Stephen Sanders** is a 2022-23 member of the WEF Board of Trustees and the director and head trainer of the Environmental Training Center at SUNY-Morrisville College in New York. The center provides precertification training for wastewater and drinking water operators, as well as for New York State Department of Conservation regulators. He has been training operators for more than 10 years and has grown the program to the largest of its kind in New York state. He is a dedicated water professional, certified as a licensed wastewater and drinking water operator and certified instructor for New York state. He has more than 20 years of experience in the field from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.



Stephen has served on the initial WEF diversity, equity and inclusion task force and subsequent committee, as well as the WEFTEC Advisory Board. He helped establish his member association's (the New York Water Environment Association) DE&I committee and served as its first chairperson. He also serves on New York state's Operator Certification Governance Council, New York Section AWWA Board of Governors, and as the chair for NYSAWWA Operators committee.



# Life Free of Water Challenges

WEF Strategic Plan

## Our Mission

Inspiring the water community in pursuit of human and environmental well-being

## Our Vision

Life free of water challenges

## Our Three-Year Outcome Statement

Amplify the stories of water to grow, strengthen, and diversify the water community



## Our Strategic Goals

### Goal 1

Attract and develop a diverse and passionate water workforce

#### Goal 1 Strategies

1. Raise public awareness about the importance of water and the water workforce
2. Reduce barriers to workforce entry and retention
3. Provide extraordinary opportunities for connection, growth, and education
4. Cultivate strategic partnerships

### Goal 2

Cultivate a purpose-driven community to sustainably solve water challenges for all

#### Goal 2 Strategies

1. Drive connection and collaboration for the development of innovative solutions
2. Deliver best-in-class member experience
3. Creatively develop and deliver content and programming

### Goal 3

Lead the transformation to the Circular Water Economy

#### Goal 3 Strategies

1. Convene stakeholders to craft WEF's Circular Water Economy framework and best practices
2. Proliferate WEF's Circular Water Economy framework and best practices
3. Champion adoption of Circular Water Economy
4. Eliminate barriers to Circular Water Economy adoption

## Our Core Values



Lead boldly with purpose and agility



Focus on our customers through empathy and service



Collaborate for collective impact



Integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all we do



[www.wefwaterfuture.org](http://www.wefwaterfuture.org)



## NEW MWEA MEMBERS SINCE SPRING 2022

Peter	Bedell	Big Sky County Water & Sewer
Kris	Bosch	Great West Engineering
Ted	Collins	Clearas Solutions
Zach	Frieling	AE2S
Dylan	Gallagher	City of Bozeman WRF
Steve	Green	Stanley Consultants, Inc.
Ben	Holkeboer	AE2S
Thomas	Hopp	USP Technologies
Paul	Karcher	Great West Engineering
Keanu	Ng	
Adam	Oliver	City of Bozeman WRF
Patricio	Reich	The Synergy Group
Benjamin	Rigby	City of Helena
Pat	Simon	City of Bozeman WRF
Eric	Steiner	City of Bozeman WRF
Mary	Sullivan	Downstream Services, Inc.
Gary	Swanson	
Anna	Wedel	
Craig	Wilcox	Falcon Environmental



Environment Association

### Welcome new members!

The names at left are members who have joined MWEA since the 2022 conference. Thank you for being a part of MWEA and we hope to see you at the 2023 Joint Conference!

### Hello from your MWEA President

Greetings MWEA members!! The 2023 Annual Joint Conference is coming up soon. MWEA is hosting the preconference this year which promises to be interesting. The program committee has been diligently working with Robin to establish a wide variety of topics and speakers for the conference. We have not had a conference in Butte since 2009. So, it is going to be exciting to see what is new in Butte and what Butte has to offer our members and organizations while we are there.

This past year the MWEA board has been working with WEF to update our strategic plan and write a member code of conduct which in turn has led to some needed revisions in our bylaws. We hope to have the strategic plan and code of conduct finalized in time for approval during our membership meeting at the conference. The bylaws will not be ready for membership approval until sometime after the conference.

MWEA will be soliciting nominations for the positions of Junior Trustee and National Delegate at the conference. Nominees will be voted on during the MWEA membership meeting at the conference the morning of April 27, 2023. Please consider nominating fellow MWEA members for these positions and discuss with them your intent to nominate them. Or if you would like to serve on the MWEA board yourself please contact myself or one of the current board members. It is a great way to expand your knowledge of the association and WEF, expand your connections to those working in water and wastewater, and build on your professional skills.

In an effort to have more continuity and cohesiveness between the MWEA board and committees the MWEA board agreed to assign board oversight of the same committees for entire terms of the board members. We hope this will provide for two long term members on each committee who can encourage activity within each committee and see projects through to completion.

Don't forget Early Bird registration for the conference closes April 3, 2023! See you all in Butte!

~Barb Coffman, MWEA President

## Activities Taking Place at the Conference

**Pub-style Trivia Challenge**—Bring your team of 4-5 to the main Exhibitor Area during the Thursday morning break to challenge friends, competitors, and coworkers in a pub style trivia wager of wits. There will be both water and wastewater related questions and there will be a great prize for members of the winning team!

Rules:

- Teams will be made of 4-5 members.
- No electronic devices or any type of outside sources are allowed. Teams that are reported using any outside devices will be disqualified.

**Best Tap Water Taste Test Challenge**—Once again we will be leaving it to the judges to crown an official winner of the 9th Annual *Best Tap Water Taste Test* Competition. The City of Bozeman continues to be the reigning champion so bring a water sample of your community's water and see if a new winner can break their streak! The Taste Test Challenge will take place in the Exhibitor Area during the Thursday morning break. The winning system will compete at the national level at ACE23 in June.

Rules:

- Participant must not have incurred any state or federal drinking water violations (MCL, monitoring, recordkeeping, etc.) during the previous 12 months.
- Samples should be brought in glass containers with the name of the water system clearly identified and delivered to Robin Matthews-Barnes at the front desk by 5 pm on Wednesday of the conference. Please deliver at least 1/2 gallon of water total (can be in multiple containers).
- Samples will be served at room temperature to help the judges better assess each sample.
- The official judging panel will be a mix of local public figures and flavor-profile analyzers.
- Samples will be judged on a 10-point scale from Good (1) to Best (10).
- Scores will be tabulated and the winner will be announced immediately following the contest.

**SYP Poster Competition**—The Joint Student & Young Professionals Committee is sponsoring the 5th annual poster competition at this year's conference. Posters will be displayed throughout the Exhibitor Area during the conference and the winner will be announced at the banquet on Wednesday evening. The winner will receive free registration and travel to ACE23.

**Game Night**—Join the fun after the banquet on Wednesday evening for Game Night! Partake in different games and enter for great prizes. There will be something for everyone and you have to be there to win!

## **2023 JOINT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Please go to: <https://www.montanawater.org/joint-conference/2023-joint-conference/> for more information and to fill out the registration form, or simply click on the link below.

**CEC Information**—Approximately 7 hours of training will be available for attendance at the preconference & 10 hours of training will be available for attendance at the conference, with a possible additional 2 hours for attendance at the Thursday afternoon facility tours. Actual number of credit hours are awaiting MT DEQ approval. Additional information & CEC forms will be included in your registration packet at the conference.

You can register and pay by check or with credit or debit card. See the website for more detail. Please contact Robin Matthews-Barnes at [Info@montanawater.org](mailto:Info@montanawater.org) with any questions.

**Attendees:** [Click here to register for the 2023 Joint Conference](#)

**Exhibitors:** [Click here to reserve a booth for the 2023 Joint Conference](#)

**For lodging reservations**—please call the Copper King Hotel & Convention Center at 406-533-6960 and mention the conference to obtain the conference rate of \$149/night + tax. To register online go to [www.copperkinghotel.com](http://www.copperkinghotel.com)





**MWEA PRECONFERENCE**  
**“Collection & Conveyance: Just FluSH IT”**  
**Tuesday—April 25, 2023**

**7:00 am—5:00 pm Registration Desk Open**

**8:00 am—5:00 pm All Day Session including Lunch**

**5:00pm—6:30 pm Ice-Breaker—Beer & Wine and Appetizers**

<b>Preconference Session — Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: Jeremy Perlinski, Robert Peccia & Associates	
8:00 – 8:45	<b>Priming Your Project for DEQ Review of Collection Systems and Lift Stations</b> Jenny Warren, MT DEQ
8:45 – 9:30	<b>Collection System Asset Management in Bozeman—Transparent, Defensible &amp; Repeatable</b> Lance Lehigh, City of Bozeman & Trevor Datwyler, AE2S.
9:30 – 9:45	<b>BREAK</b>
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Collection System Planning: Davis Lane (Bozeman)</b> Coralynn Revis, HDR Engineering & John Alston, City of Bozeman
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Westside Interceptor Project - Planning without Boundaries</b> Ryan Mitchell, RPA & Susie Turner, City of Kalispell
10:45 – 11:00	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Rountable Discussion: Growth in Gallatin &amp; Flathead Valleys</b> John Alston, City of Bozeman; Craig Workman, City of Whitefish; Susie Turner, City of Kalispell; Julie Spencer, Town of Bigfork
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Lunch (hosted)</b>
1:00 – 1:45	<b>Sewer Rehabilitation – What Are Our Options?</b> Gina Barry, Great West Engineering
1:45 – 2:30	<b>City of Billings 48" and 60" Interceptor Rehab</b> Brad Heimbigner & Kurtis DeShaw, Morrison Maierle
2:30 – 2:45	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45 – 3:30	<b>Lift Station Overview &amp; Rehab Alternatives</b> Matt Mudd, Great West Engineering
3:30 – 4:15	<b>Glacier National Park Lift Station Rehab</b> Anders Nord & Chance Maes, HDR Engineering
4:15– 4:30	<b>BREAK</b>
4:30 – 5:00	<b>Odor Control</b> Bill Flanagan, isiWest

**MSAWWA-MWEA 2023 JOINT CONFERENCE**  
**“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”**  
**Wednesday—April 26, 2023**

<b>7:00 am—8:00 am</b>	<b>Early Morning Break (Exhibitor Area)</b>
<b>7:00 am—5:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>
<b>8:00 am—11:45 am</b>	<b>Morning General Session &amp; Awards</b>
<b>11:45 am —1:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 pm—5:30 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Concurrent Sessions</b>
<b>5:30 pm—6:30 pm</b>	<b>Beer &amp; Wine Reception (Exhibitor Area)</b>
<b>6:30 pm—8:30 pm</b>	<b>Banquet &amp; Awards</b> <u><b>Water For People Raffle Drawing</b></u> 1st Prize: Winston Pure (light weight) 9’, 4 piece, 4 wt, Cigar Wood Handled Fly Rod and RX-2 Charcoal Reel. Valued at \$1550 Donated by Great West Engineering & R.L. Winston Rod Company 2nd Prize: \$200 cash prize <u><b>Scholarship Fund Raffle Drawing</b></u> Grand Prize: \$1000 Fairmont Hot Springs gift card 2nd Prize: \$300 Scheels gift card 3rd Prize: \$200 Amazon gift card Donated by: AE2S, Morrison Maierle, HDR, Great West, Yellowstone Waterworks & Robert Peccia & Associates
<b>8:30 pm—10:00 pm</b>	<b>Game Night!</b>

**Morning General Session**

<b>Wednesday General Session— Room location:</b> Moderator: Keeley Barry, MSAWWA Chair and Barb Coffman, MWEA President	
8:00 – 8:30	<b>Welcome and Opening Session</b> Keeley Barry, MSAWWA Chair and Barb Coffman, MWEA President J.P. Gallagher, Chief Executive of Butte-Silver Bow
8:30 – 9:30	<b>AWWA &amp; WEF Guest Speakers</b> Ken Lykens, AWWA Water Utility Council Chair Stephen Sanders, WEF Trustee
9:30 – 9:45	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
9:45 – 10:15	<b>History of Butte Water</b> Shanna Adams, HDR Engineering & Jim Keenan, Butte-Silver Bow
10:15 – 11:00	<b>TBD</b>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>Awards followed by lunch in Exhibitor Area</b>

**CEC Information**—Approximately 7 hours of training will be available for attendance at the preconference & 10 hours of training will be available for attendance at the conference, with a possible additional 2 hours for attendance at the Thursday afternoon facility tours. Actual number of credit hours are awaiting MT DEQ approval. Additional information & CEC forms will be included in your registration packet at the conference.

## Wednesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

<b>Drinking Water Sessions—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
1:00 – 1:45	<b>How a Small Community Handles Large Water Infrastructure Projects – An East Helena Chronicle</b> Kaela Murphy, Robert Peccia & Associates
1:45 – 2:30	<b>Water Loss Reduction Techniques</b> Mike Uthe, Mueller Water Products
2:30 – 3:15	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
3:15 – 4:00	<b>PFAS: A One Water Contaminant</b> Nate Weisenburger, AE2S
4:00 – 4:45	<b>Water Treatment Process Optimization: A First Principles Approach</b> Chance Collins, City of Bozeman
4:45 – 5:30	<b>Complete Replacement of the Roundup Water System</b> Greg Lukasik, Great West Engineering

<b>Wastewater Treatment Sessions—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
1:00 – 1:45	<b>Sun Prairie Village WW System Upgrades</b> Craig Nowak & Rika Lashley, Morrison Maierle
1:45 – 2:30	<b>Biological Nutrient Removal with Membrane Bioreactors</b> Scott Buecker, AE2S
2:30 – 3:15	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
3:15 – 4:00	<b>Chenango, NY Selects Energy-Efficient Batch-Style MBR for Plant Consolidation</b> Dave Holland, Aqua-Aerobic Systems
4:00 – 4:45	<b>What's the Deal With Nutrients? Update on Nutrient Permitting in Montana</b> Rika Lashley, Morrison Maierle
4:45 – 5:30	<b>Ultrasonic Degassing of Residual Solids from a Dissolved Air Floatation Thickener for Increased Thickening in a Gravity Thickener</b> Zach Frieling, AE2S

<b>Miscellaneous—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
1:00 – 1:45	<b>Heat Trace &amp; Control - A Vital Part of the Waste Water Treatment Ecosystem</b> Nathan Ehresman, Thermon
1:45 – 2:30	<b>“Almost Free” Solar Panels at the Missoula WWTP</b> Ross Mollenhauer & Logan McInnis, City of Missoula; Matt Thompson, Ameresco
2:30 – 3:15	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
3:15 – 4:00	<b>20 Years of Reuse in Big Sky, What Does the Next 20 Look Like?</b> Scott Buecker & Jordan Sykes, AE2S; Ron Edwards, Big Sky County Water & Sewer District
4:00 – 4:45	<b>Lessons Learned Building a Water Service Line Inventory</b> Susan Fenhaus, Morrison Maierle
4:45 – 5:30	<b>IOT Devices and Data Collection</b> James Sletten, AE2S



**MSAWWA-MWEA 2023 JOINT CONFERENCE**  
**“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”**  
**Thursday—April 27, 2023**

- 7:00 am—8:30 am**     **Early Morning Break (Exhibitor Area)**
- 7:30 am—8:30 am**     **Joint MSAWWA-MWEA Membership Meeting and Election of Officers**
- 7:30 am—10:00 am**   **Registration Desk Open**
- 8:30 am—12:30 pm**   **Morning Concurrent Sessions**
- 10:00 am—11:00 am** **Mid-Morning Break—Operator Trivia Challenge & Best Tap Water Taste Test (Exhibitor Area)**
- 12:30 pm—1:30 pm**   **Lunch & Prize Drawings—Must be present to win from a great selection of Exhibitor sponsored prizes!**
- 1:30 pm—3:30 pm**     **Facility Tours: Basin Creek Water Treatment Plant & Butte-Silver Bow Metro & Sewer Treatment Plant**

**Thursday Morning Concurrent Sessions**

<b>Drinking Water Sessions—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
8:30 – 9:15	<b>Yellowstone River 2022 Flood – Successful Navigation of Source Water Extremes</b> David Carlson, AE2S
9:15 – 10:00	<b>Who’s Lurking In Your Files?</b> Jason Mercer, Morrison Maierle
10:00 – 11:00	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>Emerging Contaminants</b> Elizabeth Henrickson, MT DEQ
11:45 – 12:30	<b>TBD</b>

<b>Wastewater Treatment Sessions—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
8:30 – 9:15	<b>Mammoth Hot Springs Temporary WWTP</b> Jarrett Moran, HDR
9:15 – 10:00	<b>Upgrading Montana's Lagoon Systems For More Efficient BOD, TSS and Nutrient Removal</b> Tom Birkeland, Lemna Environmental Technologies
10:00 – 11:00	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>Wastewater and Carbon Nexuses: What Can We Do Beyond the Obvious</b> Scott Buecker, AE2S
11:45 – 12:30	<b>TBD</b>

<b>Miscellaneous—Room location: tbd</b> Moderator: tbd	
8:30 – 9:15	<b>Climate Resiliency Planning: Case Study Whitefish MT</b> Karin Hilding, City of Whitefish; Alyssa Hall, The Cadmus Group; Audrey Ramming, US EPA
9:15 – 10:00	<b>Studying Ashley Creek to Understand Water Quality and Aquatic Life in Light of Stringent Nutrient Regulations</b> Rickey Schultz, HDR Engineering
10:00 – 11:00	<b>BREAK – Exhibitor Area</b>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>DEQ Technical Assistance</b> Michael Kropp, MT DEQ PWS
11:45 – 12:30	<b>TBD</b>

### Don't forget about the Joint Membership Meeting!

This meeting is where members from both organizations are updated with what is happening at the board meetings. New officers are also elected at this time. The meeting takes place at 7:30 am Thursday morning—there is a drawing for a great prize just for showing up!

### Joint Student & Young Professional Poster Competition

The 6th Annual Joint Fresh Ideas Poster Competition will be taking place during the Joint Conference. The posters will be presented and judged on Wednesday, the schedule is below. Please come and support the students and young professionals that have brought posters to present. The winner of the competition wins a trip to ACE23 to compete at the national level.

#### Spotlight on YP Member

**Alex Ciessau, Graduate Engineer II—Water/Wastewater**

Current Joint SYP Committee Chair

Contact Alex at: [aciessau@sehinc.com](mailto:aciessau@sehinc.com)



▪ **Background:**

- Grew up in Chicago burbs
- White Sox Fan

▪ **Education:**

- Environmental & Ecological Engineering @ University of Minnesota, graduated in May 2020
- Interned with AE2S in Minnesota spring 2019 - May 2020

▪ **Work Experience:**

- Short, Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. - Present
- AE2S 2019 - 2022
- Largely working in the Wastewater Practice

▪ **Project Highlights:**

- Belgrade WRF—Construction Administration and Observation of new \$33M Water Reclamation Facility
- Gallatin River Task Force—Effluent Reuse and Snowmaking Study  
Preliminary evaluation of snowmaking efficacy, characterization of reuse supply & demand, present and future water balance for reuse users in Big Sky, analysis of the seasonality of reuse and additional reuse planning
- Big Sky County Water & Sewer District—Reuse Management Plan  
Reuse chain of custody outline for District reuse operations in Meadow Village, water budget analysis for reuse operations in Meadow Village, nutrient analysis to determine appropriate irrigation limits in Meadow Village, Re use application planning and preliminary implementation cost estimation

**Thank you Alex and all members of the SYP Committee for all that you do!**



*Thank You To All Of The Exhibitors & Sponsors  
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MSAWWA & MWEA produce **Newswaves** twice yearly for the memberships. Our subscribers include professionals in the water and wastewater industries including Montana cities and towns, engineering firms, and suppliers.

We certainly would like to hear from the education/student community. For each newsletter we encourage submission of student papers of 1000 words or less. If more than one article is submitted, they will be judged and the top pick will be printed in the newsletter. In addition, the student will receive a \$200 scholarship along with a 1 year membership to AWWA or WEF. The next **Newswaves** will be published this coming fall. Articles must be received by August 15, 2023. 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)



A BIG Thank You to the following that have agreed to sponsor the 2023 Joint Conference:

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## Customer communications key to Revised Lead and Copper Rule



October 16, 2024, is coming.

That is the date when **all U.S. water utilities**, whether they have lead service lines or not, must comply with certain requirements established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under its [Revised Lead and Copper Rule](#) (LCRR) to reduce exposure to lead and copper from water pipes and plumbing.

The compliance deadline is Oct. 16, 2024. However, EPA anticipates making [further revisions](#) to the rule and plans to announce those changes prior to the compliance deadline.

“We highly recommend that all water systems act now to develop effective communication strategies to comply with the LCRR,” said Matthew Junker, chair of the Lead Communications Committee for the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) Public Affairs Council.

“The rule includes many new requirements for water utilities of all sizes, including expanding consumer awareness, developing service line inventories, communicating about public health and testing at schools and child-care facilities,” he added. “This is a critical time for utilities to prepare to engage proactively with their customers and community to build public trust. The revised regulation requires some communications even if a system does not have lead service lines.”

The Public Affairs Council developed a [Lead Communications Guide and Toolkit](#) to help water utilities prepare for the expanded communication requirements of the LCRR. The guide draws on insights and examples from utilities that have already begun to take such steps and provides a summary of LCRR requirements and guidance on approaching required communication and outreach. It also includes specific adaptations for water systems serving less than 50,000 customers.

Other AWWA resources about [managing lead](#) and [lead communications](#) are available for download, including an animated [video](#) that helps consumers understand how to protect their households from the risk of lead getting into their drinking water through service lines or plumbing fixtures, fittings and solder that contain lead.

Even water systems that can demonstrate that they do not have lead service lines must comply with specific requirements of the LCRR by Oct. 16, 2024, including the bulleted items below. Notably, there are requirements for utilities with galvanized service lines that are or could have been downstream of a lead service line, or that have “lead status unknown” service lines.

### **Publish a lead service line inventory or a statement of no lead service lines.**

Every water system must provide a publicly accessible inventory. This should include a description of how the system determined if, how many, and where there are lead, galvanized requiring replacement, non-lead, and lead status unknown service lines in its service area. Systems that can demonstrate there are no lead, lead status unknown, or galvanized requiring replacement lines must still release a statement and explain its basis.

### **Communicate with customers that participate in LCR compliance monitoring.**

The LCRR sets higher expectations for assurance that sample sites are valid and includes a new sampling protocol. It also requires notice of results over the lead action level within three calendar days and a follow-up investigation of observations above the lead action level. Utilities will need to revise protocols, supporting materials and outreach procedures to support customer participation in compliance monitoring.

### **Prepare for Tier 1 public notice if a system exceeds the lead action level.**

Tier 1 public notification must occur within 24 hours of recognition of a lead exceedance. It will likely involve communicating to the system service area through local media. This requires prior preparation and will work best if there is an established, ongoing lead communication program.

### **Integrate LCRR requirements into equity communication efforts.**

Equity (or environmental justice) is a planning requirement in the LCRR and will be an area of emphasis in the rule revisions, especially with respect to lead service line replacement. Rule requirements will necessitate planning and policy decisions, both of which will entail a community-appropriate communication strategy.

### **Develop communication materials and practices for distribution system activities.**

The LCRR emphasizes communication with customers in advance and at the time of field work that may disturb lead service lines. Water systems with unknown service line materials, galvanized service lines requiring replacement, and lead connectors -- as well as those with lead service lines -- must be prepared for this communication. Systems that do not have lead service lines should consider the impact of these requirements on their customers’ expectations.

**Produce annual Consumer Confidence Reports that include new lead health effects language.** The following mandatory health effects language must be included in Consumer Confidence Reports, public notices and public education materials: “Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.” (cont. next page)

George	Barrett	AE2S
Devon	Burton	US Pipe & Foundry
Jim	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering
Sam	Dennis	Town of Phillipsburg
Bryan	Duffy	Headwater Engineered Systems
Triston	Firth	City of Missoula
Thomas	Fitzgerald	Intrinsic Consulting, PLLC
Leslie	Frye	Headwater Engineered Systems
Chris	Handley	City of Columbia Falls
Shawn	Hickman	City of Great Falls
Casey	Kinman	Headwater Engineered Systems
Caleb	Lockyer	Water Environmental Technologies
Brian	Mills	Rocky Mountain Operations
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Cody	Walter	
Peter	Weckwert	Culligan Water Conditioning
Mark	Wipf	Elk Creek Colony
Chad	Wolfe	City of Great Falls
Lisa	Wyrick	Glacier Park Inc.



**Montana  
Section**

American Water Works Association

**Welcome new members!**

The names on the left are members who have joined MSAWWA since last spring. Thank you for being a part of MSAWWA! Hope to see you all at the conference!

(continued from previous page)

**Produce annual Consumer Confidence Reports that include new lead health effects language.** The following mandatory health effects language must be included in Consumer Confidence Reports, public notices and public education materials: “Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.”

**Sample for lead in schools and licensed child-care facilities.**

Beginning Oct. 16, 2024, all water systems (even those without lead service lines) will be required to sample for lead at schools and licensed child-care facilities. They also must provide sampling results to state and local health agencies and provide information about sources of lead in drinking water, the health effects of lead, steps to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, information on any find-and-fix activities, and any changes made to corrosion control.

Other lead resources include AWWA’s [Managing Lead in Drinking Water](#) page, [Lead Communications](#) page, and the [Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative](#). AWWA presented a virtual symposium on [Contaminants of Concern](#) March 14-16 that included information about strategies for communication and public outreach. The information is available in the link until April 17th for review.

Questions? Reach out to Peggy Hofstra, AWWA Sr. Manager, Communications



## **Please Support Your Association's Committees**

Please remember that the committees cannot survive without member participation. You can sign up to be on a committee at any time during the year, however, the Joint Conference is the ideal time to do so and there will be sign-up sheets in your registration packet. Please consider participation in at least one committee. If you have questions about the committees, please contact the chair of that committee to find out more about how you can help (contact info on next page).

If you are currently serving on a committee and wish to continue serving, please be sure to sign up at each conference. The slate is wiped clean after each conference, and unless we have the new sign-up form, we do not know if you wish to continue serving.

**Thank you to everyone who volunteers! Below are descriptions of the committees you can join.**

### **MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Committees**

Cross Connection Control - Work with DEQ to implement the administrative rules for cross-connection control. Assist other groups in providing pertinent education and training.

Exhibitors - Increase exhibitors' involvement in section activities & technical education. Encourage exhibitors' strong presence at the Joint Conference.

Host City - Organize & plan for annual conference, working closely with Executive Secretary. The 2024 Joint Conference will be in Missoula

Information Management - Provide ongoing guidance for functionality of the joint website including incorporation of social media and preservation of historical documents of MSAWWA and MWEA.

Lifetime Achievement - Select the awardee(s) & present award at annual conference.

Program - Prepare & distribute "Call for Program Abstracts" to solicit interest in program presentations for annual conference. Review abstracts & select/schedule speakers & topics.

Public Outreach - Promote Water Week, Stockholm Junior Water Prize, as well as other educational activities for school age children. Assist in publicizing MSAWWA/MWEA activities.

Scholarship - Select one/two students annually whose course work will lead to employment in the water and/or wastewater fields. The Scholarship is to be used toward the cost of tuition & books & includes a one year student membership for MSAWWA or MWEA. Work on fundraising at conference or as needed to support the awards.

Student & Young Professionals - The committee is intended to include members less than 35 years in age and who have worked less than 10 years in the industry. The purpose is to encourage involvement of college students and young professionals in either organization and at the Joint Conference.

### **MSAWWA Committees**

Awards - Assist in identifying and awarding water system safety awards. Assist in selecting AWWA Operator Meritorious award recipient.

Education - Promote educational opportunities and provide training and assistance for small systems. Work with program committee to pick topic and solicit/select speakers for 2024 Preconference.

Legislative - Promote continual involvement with AWWA. Be aware of, respond to, and distribute information on changing legislation on both national & state levels. Recommend legislative tracking consultant.

Membership - Increase membership by identifying & contacting potential members. Provide membership benefit materials to recruiting members. Mentor first-time conference attendees.

Water for People - Continue to actively support WFP. Continue fund raising activities at the annual conference.

### **MWEA Committees**

Beneficial Reuse - Obtain nominations & select a system best demonstrating the management of biosolids.

Education - Enhance the professional competency & qualifications of members.

Grants For Teachers - To provide money to Montana teachers to buy materials or equipment to conduct experiments and educate children on water and other environmental topics and issues. Provide an application for interested teachers to complete and submit for funding consideration. Periodically review and improve the application. Establish a ranking and selection process for teacher applications. Provide advice and guidance to teachers as requested. Connect teachers with mentors and professionals to assist them, as needed. Advertise and make teachers aware of the availability of these funds. Contact the Office of Public Instruction and any other agencies that can help spread the word and reach teachers. Provide follow-up on grant awards.

Honors & Awards - Help select awardees & give recognition to individuals & facilities for exemplary performance.

Long Range Planning - Develop & implement the long-range plan that identifies the direction of the association.

Membership - Maintain current members, attract new members, & diversify professionally.

Pretreatment - The pretreatment committee is a forum for discussion of both existing and new pretreatment programs and will provide direction to new programs being implemented. This committee will also serve as a round-table for existing communities with pretreatment programs to discuss problems or regulations.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Encourage student participation in water-related projects within regional & state science fairs in Montana. MWEA members participate as judges in regional & state fairs as judges to select a state winner to attend the WEF-SJWP competition.

Stormwater - MWEA has added a stormwater committee recently. The purpose of the committee is to provide support and information to communities, engineers, and operators as they deal with stormwater issues.

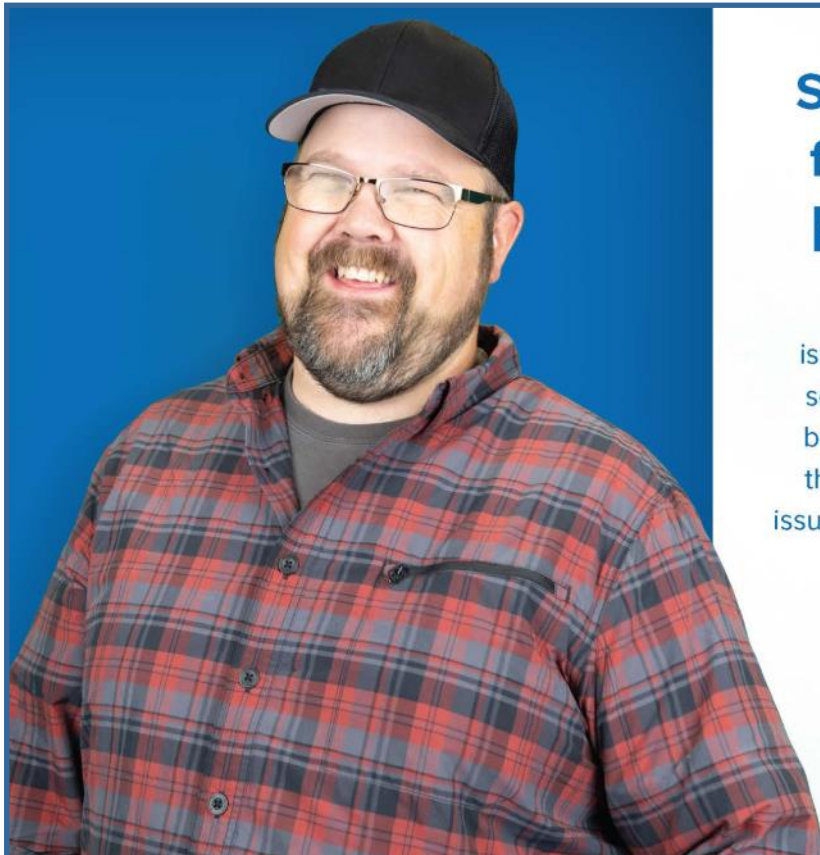


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*Ross Hanson, AE2S I&C Specialist*



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- Increase Awareness and Recognition in Your Field
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### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- WEF Dues \$20, plus local Member Association dues
- Free registration for WEFTEC, WEF Conferences, and WEF Webcasts
- Save 50% off of the member price on WEF technical manuals and books
- Eligibility for the \$25,000 Canham Scholarship
- Access to the University Center - Online tools including Career Resources, listings of Student Chapters and local WEF Member Associations, and WEFTEC for Students

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- WEF Dues \$49, plus local Member Association dues
- Special WEFTEC YP registration rate
- Eligibility to join the WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee
- Special WEFTEC activities, geared to meet the needs of Young Professionals

Available to water quality professionals with five or fewer years of work experience in the industry and who are under 35. This program is available only to new member applicants and WEF Student members. Valid for three consecutive years of WEF membership.



For more information, or to join WEF, visit:  
**[www.wef.org/JoinWEF](http://www.wef.org/JoinWEF)**  
email: **[csc@wef.org](mailto:csc@wef.org)** or call: **1-800-666-0206**.

### MEMBERS!

Please pass the word to students or young professionals that you know about the benefits of belonging to MWEA and MSAWWA. Both organizations have reduced membership rates for these groups. What a great way to help encourage young people to pursue their interests in water and wastewater related fields.

## MWEA National Delegate Notes

What does the national delegate do? The MWEA national delegate is a member of the WEF House of Delegates (HOD) and represents the interests of MWEA on a national level. The primary function of the WEF HOD is to exchange information between the member associations (MAs) and WEF and to serve as advisors to the WEF Board of Trustees. The national delegate typically responds to informational requests from WEF staff and work groups or coordinates responses from the MWEA board. The delegate also passes on information communicated to the delegate in quarterly WEF HOD zoom meetings. As outlined in HOD policy, it is expected that the delegate attend WEFTEC and WEFMAX as well as serve on a WEF work group or committee. As a member of the MWEA board, the national delegate also helps with the implementation of MWEA activity and business. It is exciting and rewarding to learn what is going on nationally, to represent the interests of MWEA and to help execute the WEF mission.

I attended the 2022 WEFTEC and HOD meeting in New Orleans. The focus of the HOD this year is national and local advocacy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Code of Conduct Policy, strategic plan rollout, future structure and policy of HOD, and continued execution of WEFMAX.

The Advocacy Work Group will focus on state and local issues, federal legislation and identified priority issues. It is the intent of WEF to ultimately turn the work group into a full committee. The work group surveyed national delegates this year and indicated there may be an effort by WEF to coordinate MA and WEF advocacy efforts.

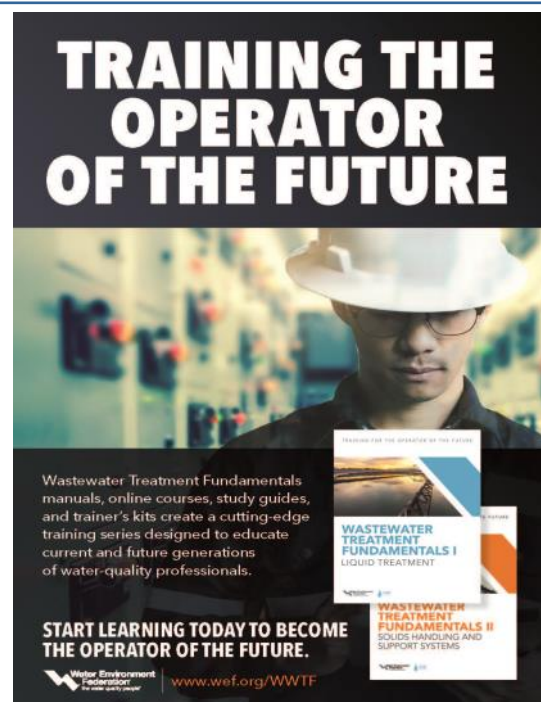
It is the intent of WEF to integrate DEI into all we do. Several resources have been developed to help both WEF and MAs implement DEI including a DEI toolbox and quarterly MA/DEI networking calls. The InFLOW program is a networking and scholarship initiative developed by WEF to introduce students to the water industry. I intend to promote this program with Montana's universities this year. WEF is also currently helping MWEA prepare a Code of Conduct Policy.

I also attended an HOD of the Future Work Group meeting. The purpose of this work group is to align the structure of the HOD with the new strategic plan, improve delegate participation and predict how WEF and MAs will look in the future. The deliverable is a list of recommendations for consideration by the HOD leadership and WEF Board of Trustees and ultimately revisions to HOD policy. The work group conducts monthly zoom meetings. Look for the results in October of this year.

Finally, the Strategic Plan Task Force continues to work on MA rollout of the new strategic plan. MWEA is currently working on a request from this task force to outline how our current activities align with the new strategic plan. ~David Aune, current MWEA National Delegate

## MONTANA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) has allocated funds for 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 on the website at [www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/](http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/) or can be obtained by emailing MWEA Secretary/Treasurer, Rika Lashley at [rlashley@m-m.net](mailto:rlashley@m-m.net)



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## 2022—2023 Committee Chairs

Below is a list of the members of MSAWWA and MWEA that have volunteered to chair each organization's committees. Volunteers are always welcome, so if you wish to help your association and serve on a committee you may sign up at any time 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/members

#### Host City

- Shanna Adams (406) 546-1483  
[shanna.adams@hdrinc.com](mailto:shanna.adams@hdrinc.com)

#### Information Management

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

#### Lifetime Achievement

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 447-5054  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Program

- Amy Deitchler (406) 465-6160  
[adeitchler@greatwesteng.com](mailto:adeitchler@greatwesteng.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

- Alex Ciessau (708) 209-8814  
[aciessau@sehinc.com](mailto:aciessau@sehinc.com)

### MWEA Committee Chairs

#### Beneficial Reuse

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

#### Education

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 447-5054  
[jperlinski@rpa-hln.com](mailto:jperlinski@rpa-hln.com)

#### Grants For Teacher

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

#### Honors & Awards

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 447-5054  
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#### 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  
[kjfarm@mtintouch.net](mailto:kjfarm@mtintouch.net)

#### Stormwater

- No chair at this time

### MSAWWA Committee Chairs

#### Awards

- No Chair/members

#### Education

- No Chair/members

#### Legislative

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

#### Membership

- Matt Mudd (406) 495-6196  
[mmudd@greatwesteng.com](mailto:mmudd@greatwesteng.com)

#### Water For People

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

## 2022—2023 MSAWWA Board of Directors

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### Secretary-Treasurer

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### Junior Trustee

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[mwaite@mt.gov](mailto:mwaite@mt.gov)

### Executive Secretary

Rika Lashley  
(406) 431-7049  
[rlashley@m-m.net](mailto:rlashley@m-m.net)

### 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 late summer/early fall, so keep it in mind!