



One Water, One Future

2026 Annual Conference
October 21-22



Session Descriptions





**One Water,
One Future**

Workshop Session I - Track A

Wednesday October 21 | 10:00am - 11:45am

Jumpstarting a Utility Cybersecurity Program **Kevin Morley**

Session Description:

The workshop provides step by step instruction on AWWA's newly updated Water Sector Cybersecurity Risk Management Guidance and Assessment Tool, which provides utility leadership with (1) A method to examine potential cyber vulnerabilities based on how a system implements technology to support operations, (2) Generates a risk-informed prioritization of actionable recommendations for cybersecurity controls to inform executive risk management decisions, (3) Demonstration of due diligence based on standards from NIST and others that create a foundation for a Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session I - Track A

Wednesday October 21 | 10:00am - 11:45am

Water Cybersecurity through Collaboration **Gus Serino**

Session Description:

Water utilities operate diverse, resource-constrained OT environments, making standardized cybersecurity impractical and potentially risky. This presentation introduces a Massachusetts-based collaborative model that standardizes decision-making—aligning utilities on threats, risk, and control intent. A shared advisor model translates threat intelligence into actionable guidance, reducing effort, building trust, and enabling scalable, resilient cybersecurity.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session I - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 10:00am - 11:45am

From Data to Decisions: AI-Driven Risk Modeling for Asset Reliability and Revenue Protection

Chuck Krohg

Session Description:

Utilities are using AI to drive smarter infrastructure decisions. This session shows how predictive risk modeling improves capital planning, leak detection, and system reliability. Learn how AI predicts pipe failure and prioritizes replacement. It also highlights water meters—the system's cash register—and how analytics quantifies revenue loss and supports ROI-driven meter replacement strategies.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session I - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 10:00am - 11:45am

From Data to Decisions: The Role of AI in Water Process Management

Diana Wagdy

Session Description:

This presentation explores three high impact AI use cases in the water sector: chemical dosage optimization, energy optimization, and predictive maintenance for membranes, and how they can be transversal across sub-segments.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session I - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 10:00am - 11:45am

Smarter Infrastructure Investments: A Data-Driven Framework for Maximizing Every Utility Dollar

Alyson Bryne & Alfredo Guerra

Session Description:

Water utilities face growing challenges ranging from aging infrastructure, regulations, workforce, climate to funding. While AMI, GIS, SCADA, CMMS, and other systems generate vast amounts of data, investment decisions often remain siloed. This presentation uses NRW to demonstrate how operational intelligence can integrate asset, operational, customer, and financial data to prioritize investments, improve performance, strengthen resilience, and support enterprise-wide decision making.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session II - Track A

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

AWWA Stormwater Management Standard: A Tool to Support Utility Operations **Chi Ho Sham**

Session Description:

In 2016, AWWA Standards Council authorized the development of the Stormwater Management for Water Utility Standard (G560). The first edition of the Standard was published in 2022. In 2026, the Council is updating the standard. This second edition of the Standard incorporated the One Water framework to make the standard more inclusive of collaborators outside the drinking water community. This paper is to present the development process and the content of the updated Standard.



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Workshop Session II - Track A

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Where's the Poop? Improving Methods and Thinking Outside the Box to Close Complex IDDE Catchment Investigations

Julia Vient & Colin Brown

Session Description:

As we near the end of the MA MS4 permit schedule for IDDE catchment investigations, many communities have found and resolved the straightforward sources of contamination, and are left with increasingly difficult problem areas, or anomalies. What tools do we need to use to close out these anomalies with perpetually unresolved contamination? While communities search for answers, adding new approaches to our current methods is needed in anticipation of stricter ammonia and chlorine requirements.



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Workshop Session II - Track A

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Reimagining Green Infrastructure in Urban Redevelopment: Engineering Out Catch Basins **Peter Enright**

Session Description:

Where discrete open space opportunities for Green Infrastructure (GI) have been seized, integrating GI into public streetscapes offers further benefits. GI can be used for pollutant removal and runoff reduction but challenges such as space constraints and maintenance needs can be barriers to adoption. This presentation offers a case study and practical approach to integrating GI into urban streetscape where catch basins are eliminated in favor of high flow biofiltration and pretreatment inlets.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session II - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Ahead of the Curve: BWSC's Proactive, People-Powered, Tech-Enabled Lead Sampling Program for Schools & Childcare Facilities

Ajay Sharma & Emma Page

Session Description:

In response to EPA's LCRI, which requires lead sampling in schools and childcare facilities by November 1, 2027, BWSC launched a voluntary, citywide sampling and education program nearly three years early. Developed with Kleinfelder, the program uses GIS, automated lab data feeds, and Power BI dashboards to manage logistics, visualize results, and share a replicable model for other utilities.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session II - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Preparing for Anticipated MDBPR Revisions & Addressing Legionella Concerns **Carleigh Samson**

Session Description:

The US EPA plans to propose MDBP rules revisions in 2027. An anticipated revision is a numeric minimum disinfectant residual level. The US GSA water quality tests show 26% of buildings nationwide have Legionella occurrence >1 CFU/mL. We analyzed the GSA Legionella data and conducted paired analysis of disinfectant residual data, finding no clear residual level linked to building Legionella. This presentation will help utilities prepare for MDBPR revisions and address Legionella concerns.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session II - Track B

Wednesday October 21 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Addressing Microplastics in Drinking Water Systems: A Multi-Stakehold Prespective **Cielo Sharkus**

Session Description:

Microplastics are an emerging concern for drinking water utilities, affecting source water protection, treatment, monitoring, and public communication. This session reviews current research on microplastic occurrence, transport, and treatment before a panel discussion featuring utility, regulatory, academic, and student perspectives. Attendees will gain practical insight into knowledge gaps, collaborative solutions, and strategies for addressing microplastics in drinking water systems.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track A

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

Challenges Associated with Incorporating PFAS Treatment Into an Existing Residential Water Supply System

Michael Shortell

Session Description:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are rapidly reshaping the way utilities approach drinking water treatment, particularly in small and existing residential systems not originally designed for advanced treatment processes. This presentation explores strategies for incorporating PFAS treatment into constrained infrastructure, use of real-world case studies to highlight practical solutions and lessons learned. Focusing on small-system applications, the session examines how utilities are adapting treatment approaches to overcome space limitations, aging infrastructure, and operational constraints while maintaining uninterrupted service. This presentation also addresses an overview of the financial and operational landscape, including life-cycle cost planning, media management, and the growing need for data-driven monitoring to optimize performance, anticipate breakthrough operations and maintenance considerations, and public engagement.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track A

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

Advanced PFAS Regeneration: Centralized Treatment **Nicole Bolea**

Session Description:

Utilities face growing pressure to meet stricter PFAS drinking water standards, highlighting the need for sustainable treatment. This abstract presents DEXSORB® regeneration, a closed-loop approach using renewable / cyclodextrin media. Kurita and Cyclopure's centralized facility enables media reuse, concentrates PFAS waste up to 500,000x, and supports destruction. A Massachusetts pilot achieved 97% PFAS recovery, with regenerated media performing like new.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track A

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

Why UV AOP Performance Varies: Lessons from Six New England 1,4 Dioxane Treatment Systems

Scott Binder

Session Description:

UV AOP is the most reliable treatment for 1,4 dioxane, which evades RO and GAC. Analysis of six New England UV AOP systems shows water chemistry strongly affects power demand (0.16–7.54 kWh/kgal). Alkalinity, UVT, nitrate, and radical scavenging drive performance. Findings highlight the need for bench scale testing, proper lamp/oxidant selection, and site specific design for effective micropollutant removal using UV AOP technology.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track B

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

From Skepticism to Strategy: Tough Questions about AI Prediction

James Fitchett

Session Description:

AI is finding assets at high and low risk of failure. But questions arise. We explore the most common issues utilities raise about AI prediction—and how to move forward confidently. Common concerns include: our data isn't ready, it's a black box, we can't afford major mistakes, and we don't have the staff or the knowledge. AI is remarkably accurate in predicting which pipes will fail in the next year and which will not, finding lead service lines, and detecting meter inaccuracies.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track B

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

Evolution of SCADA Communication **Joe Durrance & Noel Henderson**

Session Description:

DNP3 is a leading SCADA communication standard enabling reliable telemetry for water and wastewater systems. This session highlights how it addresses challenges such as remote connectivity, limited bandwidth, and system reliability. Key topics include cybersecurity, system architecture, and best practices to help utilities build more resilient and efficient communication networks.



**One Water,
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Workshop Session III - Track B

Thursday October 22 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

Goodbye ArcMap, Hello Utility Network: Modernizing Utility Operations **Francisco Brilhante**

Session Description:

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are critical to water and wastewater utilities, providing a centralized, spatially accurate view of assets enhancing planning. Utility Network serves as the foundation for a connected, data-driven utility, equipped to meet regulatory requirements, enhance customer satisfaction, and proactively manage infrastructure. You will learn about the UN and how to implement one through a 3 phased approach.