

# CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR OPERATORS

## Henderson County Extension Expo

3341 Zion Road  
Henderson, KY 42420-8610

Presented by  
**Kentucky Rural Water Association**  
April 7-8 2026

**All times Central Daylight Time**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

**DW-6hrs WW- 2.5hrs**

### **SESSION 1**

**8:00AM – 9:00AM      Algae 101**  
**Corey Harper, Hawkins, Inc.**

**Core Content: F3 - Algae Control**  
**(DW-1 hr)**

This session provides an overview of algae control in drinking water and wastewater systems. Participants will review common algae types, conditions that promote growth, and practical prevention and control strategies. Emphasis is placed on maintaining water quality, optimizing treatment performance, and supporting regulatory compliance.

### **SESSION 2**

**9:00AM-11:00AM      Chemical Safety for Operators**  
**Corey Harper, Hawkins Water Treatment Group**

**Core Content: B3 - Chlorine Safety; B13 - Safe Handling of Water Treatment Chemicals and Materials**  
**(DW/WW-1hr)**

This session focuses on safe handling and management of chemicals used in water and wastewater operations. Participants will review commonly used treatment chemicals, their purpose, and best practices for safe storage, handling, and disposal. The session reinforces operator responsibilities related to safety and regulatory compliance.

**11:00AM-12:00PM      Lunch**

**SESSION 3****12:00PM-1:30PM****Communications: Day to Day Basics****Pete Conrad, Kentucky Rural Water Association****Core Content:****H3-Community/Public Relations/Compliant Response****(DW/WW-1.5 hrs)**

This session focuses on effective communication within utilities and with the public. Participants will explore strategies for clear internal communication, customer interactions, and handling complaints. Emphasis is placed on building trust, improving service delivery, and maintaining a consistent communication approach.

**SESSION 4****1:30PM-3:00PM****Lead Service Line Inventory, Now What?****Pete Conrad, Kentucky Rural Water Association****Core Content: G4 Distribution Systems; G5 Drinking Water Standards and Rules****(DW 1.5 hrs)**

This session provides an overview of Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) requirements. Participants will review service line inventory development, replacement planning, and key compliance deadlines. The session also covers public notification requirements and strategies for maintaining compliance.

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026****DW-6hrs WW- 6hrs****SESSION 5****8:00AM – 9:00AM****Protective Coatings for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure****Ethan Conley, Sherwin-Williams****Core Content: G17 - Trenchless Technologies; E15 - Trenchless Technologies for Pipe Rehabilitation****(DW/WW-1 hr)**

This session covers the role of protective coatings and linings in maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure. Participants will review coating selection, application considerations, and performance in corrosive and high-demand environments. Emphasis is placed on extending asset life and supporting effective maintenance planning.

**SESSION 6****9:00AM-10:00AM****Sampling and Lab Procedure****Angela Mullins, Pace Analytical****Core Content: F35- Sampling & Lab Analysis; D16 -Sampling/Analysis****(DW/WW-1 hr)**

Accurate sampling and laboratory analysis are essential for ensuring the quality, safety, and regulatory compliance of water and wastewater systems. This course provides an overview of proper sampling techniques, chain of custody protocols, and analytical methods used in both field and laboratory settings. Participants will review key principles of sample preservation, handling, and documentation, as well as common sources of error that can affect data reliability. The session will also cover quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) practices, regulatory requirements, and best practices for interpreting and reporting laboratory results.



**SESSION 7****10:00AM– 11:00AM Energy Efficiency****Jason Pennell, Kentucky Rural Water Association****Core Content: H6- Energy Efficiency/Energy Conservation at W/WW Facilities (DW/WW-1 hr)**

This session provides Kentucky water and wastewater operators with an overview of energy efficiency principles applicable to treatment, distribution, and collection systems, consistent with Kentucky Division of Water expectations and industry best practices. Participants will learn how energy is used across water and wastewater operations, identify common areas of energy loss, and apply practical strategies to improve efficiency in pumps, motors, aeration, and system operations. Emphasis is placed on operator-level actions that support cost-effective operations, system reliability, environmental stewardship, and regulatory compliance.

**11:00AM-12:00PM****Lunch****SESSION 8****12:00PM-1:00PM****Cyber Security****Jason Pennell, Kentucky Rural Water Association****Core Content: H5 – Emergency Response Planning & Security Training (DW/WW-1 hr)**

This session introduces Kentucky water and wastewater operators to cybersecurity fundamentals aligned with state and federal guidance. It covers common threats, operator responsibilities in protecting OT and SCADA systems, and practical steps to identify, prevent, and report incidents—supporting system reliability, critical infrastructure protection, and regulatory compliance.

**SESSION 9****1:00PM-2:00PM****Overview of KY Operator Certification Program****Byron “BJ” Bland, KY Operator Certification Program****Core Content: H18 – Regs (CWA/SDWA, State & Local such as Operator Certification Requirements), NPDES Permit Requirements, Compliance (DW/WW-1 hr)**

This session provides an overview of the Kentucky Operator Certification Program. Participants will review requirements for certification, testing eligibility, and maintaining licensure. The session also covers key compliance expectations for certified operators.

**SESSION 10****2:00PM-3:00PM****Regulatory Update****Jackie Logsdon, KY Division of Water****Core Content: H18 – Regs (CWA/SDWA, State & Local such as Operator Certification Requirements), NPDES Permit Requirements, Compliance (DW/WW-1hr)**

This session provides updates on current and emerging regulatory requirements affecting water and wastewater utilities. Topics include PFAS, lead and copper rule changes, nutrient limits, and other compliance considerations impacting system operations.

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Pete Conrad** has over 25 years of experience across multiple utility sectors, with a primary focus on water and wastewater infrastructure. He began working with water and sewer systems while serving as an infrastructure planner at the Green River Area Development District, where he supported utilities through



funding, planning, and coordination with engineers and system leadership. In 2013, Pete became Superintendent of Henderson County Water District, where he led system operations, regulatory coordination, and stakeholder engagement. He brings extensive experience in utility management, infrastructure planning, and collaboration across water systems.

**Corey Harper** serves as Technical Manager for Hawkins Water Treatment Group and has extensive experience supporting water systems with chemical treatment solutions. He has worked with utilities to optimize treatment processes and improve water quality through proper chemical application and system setup. Corey is an experienced instructor, having delivered training for organizations including the Kentucky Rural Water Association, Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association, and AWWA. His expertise focuses on practical water treatment operations and chemical management.

**Ethan J. Conley** is a Protective and Marine Sales Representative with Sherwin-Williams, specializing in coatings for water and wastewater infrastructure. He is a Certified NACE Coating Inspector and provides expertise in protective coating systems that enhance the longevity and performance of utility assets. Ethan works with utilities and contractors to ensure proper coating selection and application for tanks, pipelines, and treatment facilities, supporting long-term asset protection and compliance.

**BJ Bland** works with the Operator Certification Program within the Kentucky Division of Water, where he supports the certification, training, and continuing education of water and wastewater operators. He provides technical assistance to utilities and helps ensure compliance with regulatory standards. His work focuses on strengthening operator competency and supporting the effective operation of water systems across Kentucky.



**Angela Mullins** is the Commercial Growth Representative for Pace Analytical Services. Eleven years ago, she started her career at McCoy & McCoy Laboratories, now Pace Analytical Services, as a Sample Receiving Technician. Angela has held several positions within the laboratory including Accounts Receivable Specialist, Project Manager, Quality Analyst, and her current role, Commercial Growth Representative. In this role, she works with current clients and potential clients to issue pricing for budgetary purposes, coordinate with the lab on new and existing projects, and exhibit and present at conferences in KY, IN and TN. Angela has been a resident of Western KY her entire life and played college basketball at Murray State University. Angela is the proud mother of two wonderful children.

**Jackie Logsdon** is an Environmental Scientist Consultant with the Kentucky Division of Water, with nearly 25 years of experience supporting water systems. She has served in multiple regulatory and technical roles and currently leads efforts to help utilities prepare for emerging PFAS regulations. Jackie works closely with utilities to support compliance, protect water quality, and address evolving regulatory requirements.

