

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR OPERATORS JENNY WILEY STATE RESORT PARK

Pine Mountain State Resort Park

1050 State Park Rd

Pineville KY, 40977

Presented by

Kentucky Rural Water Association

March 3-4, 2026

All times Eastern Daylight Time

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

8:00 – 9:00

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. Participants will learn how energy is used across water and wastewater operations, identify common areas of energy loss, and review practical strategies for improving efficiency in pumps, motors, aeration systems, and daily operations. Emphasis is placed on operator-level actions that support cost-effective operations, system reliability, environmental stewardship, and regulatory compliance.

9:00-10:00

GIS and Asset Management

Jason Pennell, Kentucky Rural Water Association

**Core Content: A4 - Geographic Info Systems (GIS)
(DW/WW-1 hr)**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become essential tools for effective asset management in modern water and wastewater utilities. This session introduces how GIS technology supports asset inventory, mapping, condition assessment, and lifecycle management. Participants will learn how GIS improves maintenance planning, capital improvement decision-making, and regulatory compliance through spatial analysis and data visualization. Real-world examples will demonstrate how utilities are using GIS to improve operational efficiency and long-term system sustainability.

10:00-11:00

Emerging Contaminants

Chloe Brantly, Kentucky Rural Water Association

**Core Content: H25 Surface Water/Groundwater/Watershed Protection
(DW/WW-1 hr)**

Emerging contaminants include pharmaceuticals, personal care products, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), microplastics, and other synthetic compounds increasingly detected in water and wastewater systems. This session provides an overview of the sources, characteristics, and environmental behavior of these contaminants. Participants will also review current monitoring methods, treatment considerations, and regulatory developments related to emerging contaminants.

11:00-12:00

Lunch

12:00 – 1:00

Sampling and Lab Procedure (Part 1 of 2)

Johnny Osborne, Pace Analytical

Kentucky Rural Water Association

**Core Content: F35- Sampling & Lab Analysis; D16 -Sampling/Analysis
(DW/WW-1 hr)**

Accurate sampling and laboratory analysis are essential for ensuring water quality and regulatory compliance. This session focuses on proper sampling techniques, chain of custody procedures, and field handling methods used in water and wastewater systems. Participants will review sample preservation requirements, documentation practices, and common sources of sampling error that can affect data reliability.

**1:00 –2:00 Sampling and Lab Procedure (Part 2 of 2)
 Johnny Osborne, Pace Analytical**

**Core Content: F35- Sampling & Lab Analysis; D16 -Sampling/Analysis
(DW/WW-1 hr)**

This session continues the discussion of laboratory procedures and analytical methods used to evaluate water and wastewater quality. Participants will review quality assurance and quality control practices, regulatory requirements, and best practices for interpreting and reporting laboratory results to support operational and compliance decisions.

**2:00-3:00 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 explores the role of protective coatings and linings used to safeguard water and wastewater infrastructure. Participants will review coating systems used for potable water storage tanks, wastewater structures, pipelines, and treatment facilities. Topics include corrosion protection, chemical resistance, regulatory standards such as ANSI/NSF and AWWA specifications, and maintenance strategies that extend infrastructure life and reduce operational downtime.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

**8:00 – 9:00 Metering Technology (Part 1 of 2)
 Tim Bailey, Consolidated Pipe & Supply**

**Core Content: G11-Metering
(DW 1 hr)**

This session introduces the evolution of water metering technologies, from traditional mechanical meters to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). Participants will review the basic principles of meter operation, data collection methods, and communication technologies used in modern metering systems

**9:00-10:00 Metering Technology (Part 2 of 2)
 Tim Bailey, Consolidated Pipe & Supply**

**Core Content: G11-Metering
(DW 1 hr)**

This session focuses on how metering data supports utility operations and decision-making. Topics include using metering data for leak detection, demand forecasting, and improved customer service. Participants will also review considerations for meter selection, installation, calibration, and maintenance.

Kentucky Rural Water Association

10:00-11:00 Risk/Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Planning
Presenter: Jeff Rayford, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: H5 – Emergency Response Planning & Security Training
(DW/WW-1 hr)

This session will review AWIA section 1433 requirements for Risk/Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Planning to include guidance of assessments, cyber-security concerns and certification requirements for the 5-year updates.

11:00-12:00 Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 Tim Blanton, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: G9 – Leak Detection/Water Audits
(DW-1 hr)

This session introduces the fundamentals of leak detection and water loss control in distribution systems. Participants will review common causes of system leaks, the impacts of water loss, and basic detection methods used by utilities to identify potential problem areas.

1:00-2:00 Leak Detection 101 (Part 2 of 2)
Tim Blanton, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Core Content: G9 – Leak Detection/Water Audits
(DW-1 hr)

This session focuses on practical field techniques used to locate and prioritize leaks in water distribution systems. Participants will review operator-level strategies for documenting leaks, prioritizing repairs, and reducing non-revenue water.

2:00-3:00 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 the requirements to obtain water or wastewater operator certification, eligibility to test, and the continuing education requirements needed to maintain certification.

Kentucky Rural Water Association

SPEAKER BIOS

Jason Pennell joined the Kentucky Rural Water Association staff in August 2017 through the Energy Efficiency Program. His experience in the water and wastewater industry began in Whitesburg, Kentucky, where he worked with Veolia Water in several roles including meter reader, water and wastewater treatment plant operator, laboratory manager, chief operator, and operations manager. Jason also served as a Utility and Regulatory Investigator for the Kentucky Public Service Commission and holds multiple Kentucky operator certifications in water treatment, distribution, wastewater treatment, and collection systems.

Chloe Brantley serves as the Source Water Specialist for the Kentucky Rural Water Association. Prior to joining KRWA, she worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specialist and previously served in the Kentucky Division of Water's Water Supply Section focusing on source water protection, water supply planning, water withdrawal permitting, and drought monitoring. Chloe holds a Master of Science in Ecology and Climate Change from Utah State University and a Bachelor of Science from Berea College.

Johnny Osborne is a Laboratory Manager with Pace Analytical in Pikeville, Kentucky. He specializes in laboratory operations, water quality testing, and quality assurance processes that support regulatory compliance for water and wastewater utilities.

Ethan J. Conley is a Protective and Marine Sales Representative with Sherwin-Williams and holds a Certified NACE Coating Inspector certification through AMPP. He works with utilities and infrastructure professionals to specify coating and lining systems for water and wastewater facilities and brings experience in commercial and industrial coatings applications.

Tim Bailey works with Consolidated Pipe & Supply assisting utilities with water metering technologies and distribution system solutions. His experience includes mechanical meters, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), system integration, and the use of metering data to improve water accountability and operational efficiency for utilities.

Tim Blanton joined the Kentucky Rural Water Association in 2006 as a Circuit Rider and provides technical assistance and training to water utilities throughout Kentucky. His background includes water system operations, leak detection, distribution system maintenance, and public works management.

Byron "BJ" Bland works with the Kentucky Division of Water's Operator Certification Program. In this role, he reviews operator experience credentials, certifies operators, and provides training and technical assistance related to Kentucky's operator certification requirements.

Jeff Rayford joined the Kentucky Rural Water Association in October 2025 as the Disaster Recovery Circuit Rider. In this role, he assists communities with strengthening system resilience, restoring critical water services, and navigating post-disaster recovery efforts. Jeff is a U.S. Navy Seabee veteran and environmental services professional with more than 20 years of experience in water system management, stormwater compliance, wastewater operations, and public infrastructure.

Kentucky Rural Water Association