



**TECHNICAL &
OPERATIONS
CONFERENCE**
*HUMAN FACTORS
AT THE SPEED OF CHANGE*

**DECEMBER 9–11,
2025**

Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN

MMUA
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

Tuesday, December 9

- 12:00 pm–
5:00 pm **Registration**
Holiday Inn & Suites
Ballroom Lobby
- 1:00 pm **Welcome and opening remarks**
Mike Willetts, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 1:15 pm–
2:15 pm **Opening keynote—Safety, leadership, excellence**
Jeff “Odie” Espenship, Target Leadership
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 2:15 pm–
3:15 pm **Small city initiative project**
Mike Willetts, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 3:15 pm **Refreshment break**
Ballroom Lobby
- 3:30 pm–
4:30 pm **Apprenticeship program: Full program review**
Mike Willetts, Cody Raveling, and Roger Avelsgard, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 4:45 pm–
6:00 pm **Welcome reception and apprentice lineworker recognitions**
Bill Bosch, Northwest Lineman College, Mike Willetts and
Cody Raveling, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom



Wednesday, December 10

- 8:30 am **CEO Minute**
Karleen Kos, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 8:45 am–
9:45 am **Keynote—High stakes teamwork**
Drew Moldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 9:45 am–
10:30 am **Grant project update: MMUA's statewide grid resilience tabletops**
Mike Willetts, MMUA
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 10:30 am **Refreshment break**
Ballroom Lobby
- 10:45 am–
11:45 am **Round table discussions*** (*two sessions*)
View round table topics on page 4
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 12:00 pm–
1:00 pm **Luncheon**
Celebration Room
- 1:00 pm–
5:00 pm **Learning tracks***
View schedule on page 5
Manager track in *Huskies Ballroom*
Crew leader track in *Johnnies-Gophers Ballroom*
Water/wastewater track in *Bennies Ballroom*
- 5:00 pm–
7:00 pm **Trade show and reception**
Atrium Court

* Professional development hours (PDH) are available.
Attendee is responsible for tracking their PDHs.

Wednesday, December 10: Round tables

Table	Round table topics (choose two sessions)	Presenter(s)
1	LMCIT Operations & Maintenance incentive program updates: New 2026 requirements for generation plant insurance credits	Julie Jelen, League of Minnesota Cities; Jeff Fassett, IEM Energy Consultants
2	MMUA On Site On Demand program offerings	Dan Nath, MMUA
3	Human resources changes for 2026	Amy Karbo, Marshall Municipal Utilities
4	Minnesota OSHA safety grant opportunities	Clayton Handt, MN OSHA Consultation Supervisor
5	Lead service line inventory, lead and copper rule improvements, funding availability	Hannah Mendez, MN Department of Health
6	MMUA's leadership development program	Shelly Dau, MMUA
7	Legislative update	Kent Sulem, MMUA
8	Unexpected visits by OSHA: What to expect	Kyle Van Lent, MN OSHA
9	PCB regulatory review	Josh Burman, MN Pollution Control Agency
10	Metering services and supply chain update	Chad Backes, Irby
11	MMUA Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium	Joe Schmidt, MMUA

Wednesday, December 10: Learning track schedule

Manager	1:00 pm	Cybersecurity essentials for electrical utilities	Christopher Watkins, MN Department of Commerce
	2:00 pm	Data centers: Dos and don'ts, community opposition, load control, center functions	Dave Meyer, Glencoe Light & Power; Tim Stoner, Blue Earth Light and Water
	3:00 pm	Break	
	3:15 pm	Substation basic features: The importance of testing and maintenance	Dave Krause, Electric Power Systems
	4:15 pm	Inside an LMCIT loss control visit: What to expect and why it matters	Julie Jelen and Marc Dunker, League of Minnesota Cities
Crew leader	1:00 pm	Directional drilling pre-plan considerations	Kevin Kolos and Jeff Goldsberry, Ditch Witch
	2:00 pm	GIS locating regulations	Michael Mendiola, MN Office of Pipeline Safety
	3:00 pm	Break	
	3:15 pm	SKYWARN® and weather spotting	Todd Krause, National Weather Service
	4:15 pm	Rodeo competitions: Benefits of participating personally and professionally	Tony Mead, Marshall Municipal Utilities; Mike Enright, Owatonna Public Utilities; Brad Carlson, Shakopee Public Utilities; Angela Hauge; Katy Olson, Elk River Municipal Utilities
Water/ wastewater	1:00 pm	Water and wastewater regionalization 101	Frank Stuemke and Stephen Slick, AE2S
	2:00 pm	Chlorine safety: leaks, responsibilities, and respiratory protection	Jim Bruender, MMUA
	3:00 pm	Break	
	3:15 pm	Why MnWARN	Timothy Hewett, MnWARN
	4:15 pm	Securing our water sources	Jason Overby, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System

Thursday, December 11

- 8:30 am–10:00 am **The road to self care—mental health, fatigue and driving**
Lisa Kons, Minnesota Safety Council
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 10:00 am **Refreshment break**
Ballroom Lobby
- 10:15 am **Closing keynote—The safe journey of an arc flash survivor**
Rodney Walker, Walk Safely Training Group
Johnnies-Huskies Ballroom
- 12:00 pm **Conference adjourns**

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Luncheon, reception hors d'oeuvres, and roundtable session

Northwest Lineman College

Welcome reception

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We hope to see you next year for the 2026 Technical & Operations Conference

December 8–10, 2026
Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud

2026 MMUA Events Calendar

Check out the
events calendar by scanning
the QR code here.



MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION



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MMUA
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