

2026 MRWA Wastewater Conference Agenda

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2026

TIME	CLASS TITLE	DESCRIPTION	CECs	SPEAKER
8am - 9am	Registration/Continental Breakfast			
9am - 10am	Dealing with Difficult Employees	This session provides practical, real-world strategies for dealing with difficult employees and challenging co-workers in municipal workplaces. Attendees will learn how to communicate effectively, document issues properly, and address negative behavior before it escalates. The instructor will also explain key legal considerations supervisors must understand to avoid liability and protect their organization. A valuable session for anyone who supervises staff or works in a team environment.	0.1 WWM	David Bryce, Masud Labor Law
10am - 10:10am	BREAK			
10:10am - 11:10am	Standard Operating Procedures	In this session, we'll walk through the process of developing and organizing SOPs tailored to water and wastewater systems. Participants will learn key components of strong SOPs and how they support operator training, system reliability, and day-to-day efficiency. We will also share practical examples and a template to help you begin improving or building your own SOPs right away.	0.1 WWM	Jonathan Edwards, MRWA
11:10am - 11:20am	BREAK			
11:20am - 12:20pm	Wastewater Operator and Collection System Certification Updates	EGLE will provide an update on changes to the wastewater operator certification program, the exam application process, and proposed collection system certifications and general permit.	0.1 WWM	Alyssa Sarver, EGLE
12:20pm - 1:20pm	LUNCH IS PROVIDED			
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Ground water / Monitoring Well Sampling updates	Facilities that collect samples under a Part 22 Groundwater Discharge permit must have an EGLE-approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP). EGLE's Groundwater Discharge Program recently published guidance for preparing an SAP to help facilities ensure that they are collecting high-quality, reproducible data. This presentation will: Review the required components of an SAP; Explain how facilities can leverage the example language and procedures included in EGLE's guidance to save time when preparing or revising their own SAP; Clarify some common sampling and analysis issues that should be addressed in an SAP.	0.1 WWT	Andrew Gelderloos, EGLE
2:20pm - 2:30pm	BREAK			
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Budgeting, Capital Improvement & Rates	From Budgeting to Equipment Replacement, to Capital Improvement Projects and finally to Water & Sewer Rates, How these things all tie together and can make your life dramatically easier.	0.1 WWM	Kyle Bond, MRWA
3:30pm - 5pm	Social Hour			

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2026

TIME	CLASS TITLE	DESCRIPTION	CECs	INSTRUCT
8am - 9am	Registration/Continental Breakfast			
9am - 10am	Cultivating effective utility-regulator relationships: Lessons learned	This course highlights current staffing challenges in wastewater operations and how increasing regulatory demands affect operator retention. Using real case studies from the field, we'll discuss practical communication strategies and the importance of maintaining strong, productive relationships with regulators.	0.1 WWM	Amanda White, MRWA
10am - 11am	Nanobubble Technology: Enhancing Municipal Wastewater Treatment Performance	Nanobubble technology provides an innovative solution for municipal wastewater treatment, including lagoons and traditional activated sludge systems. It improves nutrient removal, better solids separation, and the elimination of odor issues. Real world installations showcase the proven effectiveness of this technology: achieving 10-15% capacity increases, 25-40% increases in nitrogen removal and 15-40% energy and chemical savings.	0.1 WWT	John Crisman , Moleaer
11am - Noon	Using artifical intengency Chat GPT	Using artifical intengency inteligently. We'll give you practical tips on how to use artifical intelgence (AI) to make you more efficient and productive on your job.	0.1 WWT	Mike Engels, MRW

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