

# 44th Annual Technical Conference

## February 17-19, 2026

# Mindful Momentum



## Attendee Information

Keller Convention Center - Effingham, IL

Host Hotel  
**SOLD OUT!**

## **HOST HOTEL**

Holiday Inn  
1301 Ave. of Mid-America  
Effingham, IL  
Phone: 217-540-7777  
\$130.00 + tax per night

## **Auxiliary Hotel**

LaQuinta  
1103 Ave of Mid America  
Phone: 217-540-1111

## **Auxiliary Hotel**

Country Inn & Suites  
1200 N. Raney St.  
Phone: 217-540-5555

## **Auxiliary Hotel**

Holiday Inn Express  
1604 Fayette Ave  
217-994-9949

## **Auxiliary Hotel**

Best Western-Delta Inn  
1509 Hampton Drive  
217-342-4499

## **Auxiliary Hotel**

Hampton Inn & Suites  
1305 N Keller Dr  
217-540-5050

## **CONFERENCE LOCATION**

The conference will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center located at 1202 N. Keller Dr. The convention center is attached to the host hotel.

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration & badges are required for all conference attendees. Please register each attendee using the registration form included.

### **Pre-Registration:**

To pre-register complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

*IRWA, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568*

To pay on-line with your credit card, go to [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and click on the conference link on the home page under Upcoming Events.

### **CONFIRMATIONS OF REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE SENT!**

Pre-registration must be received by February 6, 2026.

### **On-Site Registration:**

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Keller Convention Center. Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration. **Registrations received after the pre-registration deadline are considered on-site.**

An event membership of one-cent per person is included in your registration fee(s) allowing participants in NRWA fundraising activities. This is required by Federal Election Commission laws. If you wish to opt-out, please go to the registration booth at the conference for your refund of this one-cent fee.

## **CANCELLATION & REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be given in the event of emergencies. We must have a written notice of cancellation to issue a refund. You may e-mail Heather—[ilr wahm@ilrwa.org](mailto:ilr wahm@ilrwa.org).

## **REGISTRATION HOURS**

### **Pre-Registration PICK UP ONLY**

Monday, February 16 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### **Regular Registration Hours**

Tuesday, February 17 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## **EXHIBIT HALL**

Over 100 companies from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions.

The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday, February 17 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Exhibitors Hospitality Night**

Tuesday, February 17 4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

All food and beverages for the evening is provided by our exhibitors.

### **Pub Crawl**

Tuesday, February 17 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Thank you to the Effingham Tourism Department for their continued support of the pub crawl! The buses will begin picking up at the Holiday Inn at the conclusion of Hospitality Night.

### **Casino Night**

Wednesday, February 18 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## **CERTIFICATION EXAMS**

State certification exams for water and wastewater will be given on Thursday, February 19, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m. They are available for attendees and non-attendees alike.

- You must have a valid **Letter of Admission** issued by the IEPA. You **must** bring the Letter of Admission and a photo ID.
- There are no conference fees associated with the exam. If you are only taking the exam (not attending the conference) **Please submit a registration form circling the exam you will be taking to ensure that enough materials are on hand.**
- If you are only coming to the conference for the overview and will be taking the exam on Thursday, you may sign up for a Wednesday only registration and circle the exam you will be taking.



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## ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete one form for each attendee

Make check payable to: Illinois Rural Water Association  
P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568

You may also pay on-line at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) with a credit card

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### FULL REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for all 3 days)

Member—\$190.00     Spouse—\$190.00     Non-Member—\$240.00

### ONE DAY REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for 1 day only)

Member—\$165.00     Spouse—\$165.00     Non-Member—\$215.00

### PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH DAY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING (for one day registration only)

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

### WATER CERTIFICATION EXAM—PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH EXAM YOU ARE TAKING (if applicable)

CLASS A

CLASS B

CLASS C

CLASS D

### WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION EXAM—PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH EXAM YOU ARE TAKING (if applicable)

CLASS I

CLASS II

CLASS III

CLASS IV

***Registrations must be postmarked by February 6, 2026 to receive pre-registration pricing.***

***All registrations received after this date are considered on-site and will be charged an additional \$25.00***

***All fees must be paid when registering***

- No purchase orders or special billings accepted***
- Confirmations of registration will not be sent***
- NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 6, 2026***



Have a Question?  
Call 1-800-762-3547



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# Mindful Moment

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### February 17-19, 2026

Keller Convention Center - Effingham, IL

Attendee Information

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER  
ASSOCIATION

# Conference At A Glance

**Tuesday, February 17 - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.**

**4.5 Water Credit/3.5 WW Credit Hours**

9:00 a.m.	Opening Session/Awards Ceremony/Rural Development Update*		
10:00 a.m.	<b>Break/Exhibit Hall Opens</b>		
	<b>WATER</b>	<b>WASTEWATER</b>	<b>BREAKOUT</b>
11:00 a.m.	Meet the IEPA*		
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required</b>		
1:00 p.m.	WaterISAC: Cyber Resilience for Rural Water and Wastewater Systems. <i>Not as Scary or Expensive as it seems*</i>	Lagoon Fine Bubble Improvement	Protecting Our Waterways: Managing Runoff and Environmental Responsibility
1:45 p.m.	PFAS Remediation in Drinking Water: 3 Case Study Alternatives	A Surprise Discovery: Using a Hydraulic Model to Better Understand Your Collection System	Advanced Metering Technology
2:30 p.m.	<b>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</b>		
3:00 p.m.	J.U.L.I.E. Mandatory Positive Response System*	BMP's to Reduce Nutrients	Billing Software
3:45 p.m.	Prepare for the Unexpected*	Metering for Wastewater Professionals	Optimizing Field Operations with Smart Mapping & Data Driven Workflows*
4:30 p.m.	Water Taste Test		

**Wednesday, February 18 - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.**

**5.5 Water or WW Credit Hours**

8:00 a.m.	<b>Exhibit Hall Opens</b>			
9:00 a.m.	Factors to Consider When Pondering a Filter Media Replacement	Sand Filter Troubleshooting	Water Math Review (9:00—11:00)	
9:45 a.m.	Handling and Disposal of Water Treatment Residuals *	Phased Assessment Strategy for Sewers		
10:30 a.m.	<b>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</b>			
11:00 a.m.	IEPA Regs and Policy Update			
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch Buffet</b>			
1:00 p.m.	Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention	Understanding Inflow and Infiltration	Disinfection Review and Wells Review	
1:45 p.m.	Update on PFAS Litigation	Pilot Testing ANITA Mox at Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District		
2:30 p.m.	<b>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</b>			
3:00 p.m.	Optimizing Protective Coating Projects: From Specification to Completion	Manhole and Lift Station Rehabilitation	Sequestration/Oxidation Review (2:45—4:00)	
3:45 p.m.	Trenchless Technologies for Pipe Repair and Rehabilitation*	Lagoon Life: With and Without Enzymes		

**Thursday, February 19**

**3 Water/2.25 WW Credit Hours**

7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Buffet—Convention Center C &amp; D</b>				
8:30 a.m.	Level Up from Binders: Affordable & Accessible Asset & Maintenance Management	WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION EXAM Roosevelt Room (until 11:30)	WATER CERTIFICATION EXAM Convention Center A & B (until 1:30)		
9:15 a.m.	CCR and Public Notification Updates				
10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>				
10:15 a.m.	OSHA 101 Inspection*				
11:00 a.m.					
11:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Ceremony/ Grand Prize Drawing</b>				

# Sessions At A Glance

## WATER SESSIONS

Rural Development Update - Julie Hatfield, RD – Julie will give an update on any new happenings at Rural Development.

Meet the IEPA - IEPA Staff – Many changes to the IEPA staff have occurred in the past few years. Come to this session to meet the staff and what they can do for you.

WaterISAC: Cyber Resilience for Rural Water and Wastewater Systems...Not as Scary or Expensive as it Seems – Jennifer Lyn Walker; WaterISAC – Basic (no-cost and low-cost) actions that rural utilities can do (and stop doing) to improve cyber resilience at their systems.

PFAS Remediation in Drinking Water: 3 Case Study Alternatives – Mike Buzicky; MSA Professional Services – Case Studies of 3 PFAS remediation projects for Municipal Drinking Water Systems. Remediation alternatives, before and after metrics, and overall status of current PFAS regulations and funding.

J.U.L.I.E. Mandatory Positive Response System – Roger Watwood; J.U.L.I.E., Inc. – Starting January 1, 2026, all JULIE member companies and excavators must utilize JULIE's Positive Response System. Learn what that entails and the options for compliance with the law.

Prepare for the Unexpected - Kim Cole; Drop Collaborative & Sarah Towle; C & C Pumps - A discussion of how to prepare, report, and respond to emergencies for utilities.

Factors to Consider When Pondering a Filter Media Replacement – Jim Groose; Watersurplus - Review different filter media including underbedding gravels, filter media like sand, anthracite and catalytic filter media, and adsorption media like Granular Activated Carbon, PFAS anion resins, and arsenic adsorption media.

Handling and Disposal of Water Treatment Residuals – Cheryl Head; IEMA/Office of Homeland Security – Discussion on the history of water treatment residuals regulations, which facilities are impacted and the requirements of the new rule, 32 Illinois Administrative Code Part 622.

IEPA Reqs and Policy Updates – Matt Maas; IEPA - This session will get you up to date on new regs and policies coming down from EPA.

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention – Brad Kempski; Mid-Continent – Learn key terminology, understand the importance of backflow preventers in safeguarding drinking water & become familiar with essential concepts for maintaining water system integrity.

Update on PFAS Litigation – Hank Naughton & Sam Wade; Napoli Shkolnik Law - Includes all systems tested under UCMR5 and are getting their results back currently. Also making systems aware of potential settlements under CERLA and potential litigation for 1.4 Dioxane microplastics and firefighter turn-out gear.

Optimizing Protective Coating Projects: From Specification to Completion – Kevin Zei & Sean Meracle; The Sherwin Williams Company – Successful coating projects require more than selecting the right material—they demand a comprehensive strategy that integrates technical rigor and effective team collaboration. Explore best practices for improving project outcomes.

Trenchless Technologies for Pipe Repair and Rehabilitation – David Mosier; Core and Main - Trenchless technologies provide innovative solutions that offer numerous advantages, including reduced environmental impact, cost savings, and faster project completion.

Level Up from Binders: Affordable & Accessible Asset & Maintenance Management – Chris Sosnowski; Wately - Learn how to both build a simple DIY asset register and how to ask intelligent questions if you are considering software to help.

CCR's and Public Notification Updates – Mary Reed; IRWA - Breaking down several of the FAQ's how to properly put together your CCR and the latest updates on other public notifications.

OSHA 101 Inspection- Joseph Thomas; OSHA - Excavation Safety and other inspection topics

## WASTEWATER SESSIONS

Lagoon Fine Bubble Improvements - John Hinde; Air Diffusion Systems - Hear about how fine bubble improvements can help you in your new or existing facilities.

A Surprise Discovery: Using a Hydraulic Model to Better Understand Your Collection System – David Ecklund; Burns & McDonnell – Case study of Decatur Sanitary District as a case study example to highlight ways a collection system hydraulic model can lead to a better understanding of capacity and operations in your system.

BMPs to Reduce Nutrients - Kim Cole; Drop Collaborative – Describing how wastewater utilities, the agricultural community, landowners, manufacturing industries, and even residents impact nutrient contributions to our local streams and ultimately the Gulf Hypoxic Zone.

Metering for Wastewater Professionals – John Rigdon; Hach - Using a meter and probe to measure pH, DO and other common parameters.

Sand Filter Troubleshooting - Robert Risley; Water Treatment Technology – We will discuss the purpose, design and solutions for sand filters.

Phased Assessment Strategy for Sewers - Brad Franklin & Kevin Foppe; Key Equipment - Various methods for inspecting sewer lines. Strategies for small to large municipalities will be discussed.

Understanding Inflow and Infiltration - Jonathan Younger; VisuSewer What is it and how does it effect a Sanitary Sewer System.

Pilot Testing ANITA Mox at Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District – Wade Lagle; Donohue & Associates – UCSD's successful pilot highlights the effectiveness of anammox-based side stream treatment in achieving these goals and the results, next steps, and lessons learned will be outlined in the conference presentation.

Manhole and Lift Station Rehabilitation - Jonathan Younger; VisuSewer - Navigating the maze of product choices.

Lagoon Life: With and Without Enzymes - Jack Wissmiller; Essence Chemical - The case for enzyme use on sludge reduction.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Protecting Our Waterways: Managing Runoff and Environmental Responsibility – Lee Edington; E-Environmental Services - Highlights to clean water act compliance, IEPA reporting requirements and best management policies for mitigating pollution.

Advanced Metering Technology – Devin Peterson; E.J. Prescott - Advanced metering technology, particularly the use of ultrasonic water meter data, enhances our capability to detect water main leaks. Learn how in this session.

Billing Software – Daniel Brown; United Systems & Software - Advanced solutions for the modern utility and customer.

Optimizing Field Operations with Smart Mapping & Data Driven Workflows – Jeremy Linley; Civil Design - Best practices through a few project use cases for planning, organizing and completing field activities for both water and wastewater using an interactive smart mapping and data-driven workflows.

Water Math Overview – Jacob Benne & Jim Winslade; ERTC - Always a popular session. Math you can use to pass your certification test!

Disinfection Review and Wells Review – Jacob Benne & Jim Winslade; ERTC - An overview on disinfection and wells to assist you in passing your exam.

Sequestration/Oxidation Review – Jacob Benne & Jim Winslade; ERTC - New topic for the reviews this year.