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The Official Publication of the Water Environment Association of Utah

# DIGESTED news

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## 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

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INSIDE:

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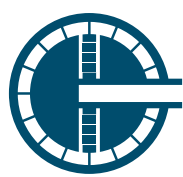


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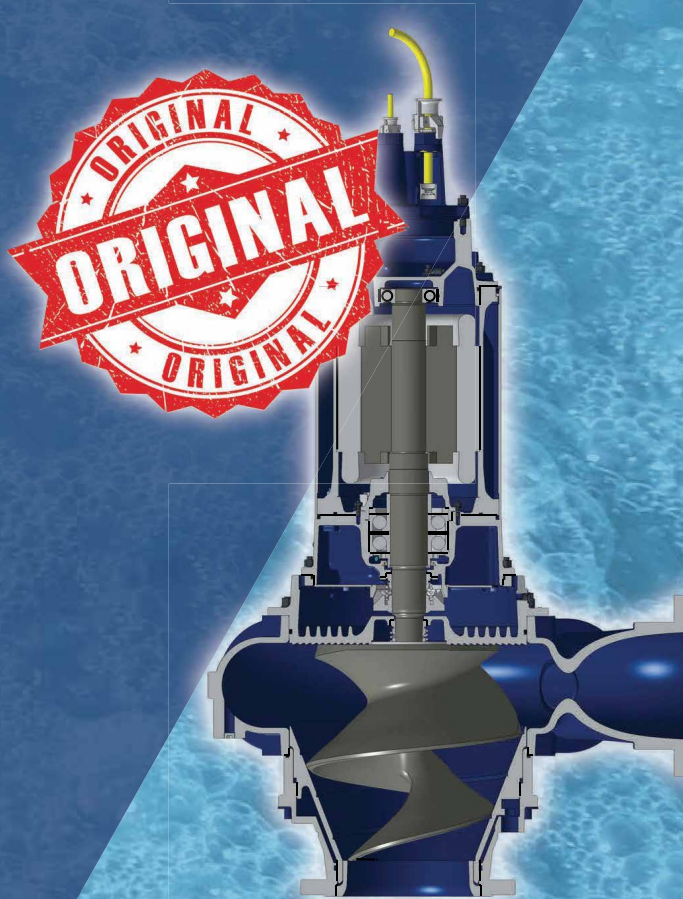
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# Trusting Ourselves When the Future Isn't in Spec



Steve Myers

Uncertainty feels like the background noise of our time. Whether it's climate change, population growth, regulation, technology, the future of work, or the future of water. None of it feels particularly settled right now. This was a theme at a recent keynote speaking event I attended on the future of work, and one idea stuck with me. The speaker emphasized the concept: "Skills may keep you relevant, but mindsets make you indispensable."

That idea resonated with me, and I feel maps are cleaning onto the water sector where we've all made our profession. At the personal level, it is almost too obvious how impactful mindset can be. We all know people operating in the exact same world we are. Same constraints. Same headlines. Same pressures. Yet they are having very different experiences, which can't entirely be linked to massive differences in intelligence or effort. It is a mindset.

The speaker went on to name what they thought was the most important mindset, which again resonated with me. That is the mindset of "I trust myself completely." If you think about it, it makes a lot of sense. It does not mean having all the answers. In fact, the antidote to uncertainty is not certainty. It is self-trust. Trusting that whatever comes next, you will figure it out, you will rise to the occasion... because you've done it before. Trusting yourself to know what you do not know. Trusting that you will meet the moment, even when things are unclear.

Water professionals live this every day. I was reminded of this when thinking back to the first time I ever presented at a WEAU conference. I remember sitting there beforehand with my heart pounding out of my chest. I was asking myself if I had prepared enough, if I even understood what the heck I was talking about myself, and why I had bothered to sign up for this in the first place. It felt like a terrible idea. Not worth the stress. I honestly cannot remember what I even spoke about. But I can vividly remember the stress of trying something new. It was harrowing.

What I did not realize at the time was that moment started me on a journey of self-trust.



A realization that I could do this. That my experiences and learnings might actually be valuable to someone else. And that even if it was uncomfortable, I would figure it out.

That same mindset shows up every day in our work. Water professionals make judgment calls with incomplete data. You adapt when plans meet reality. You troubleshoot systems that rarely behave exactly as designed. Most of this happens quietly and without recognition, simply because it needs to get done.

That mindset is not just helpful right now. It is actively shaping the future of one of Utah's most critical ecosystems, the Great Salt Lake.

Here is a fact that does not always get much attention. Roughly eight to ten percent of the water reaching the Great Salt Lake today comes from recycled water discharged by publicly owned treatment works. That's us. That's meaningful. Across the Wasatch Front, water professionals and utilities have already moved beyond talking about protecting the lake and into real action.

North Davis has invested more than fifty million dollars in a dedicated pipeline and pump station to deliver water and nutrients directly to Gilbert Bay. Salt Lake City, South Davis, and Central Davis have dedicated their discharges to Farmington Bay. Central Davis works directly with Forestry, Fire and State Lands on phragmites removal in Farmington Bay through both hands on cutting and financial support for broader state efforts. The Wasatch Front Water Quality Council serves as a principal researcher for Farmington Bay. Central Davis also conducts monitoring for toxic cyanobacteria and makes that information publicly available.

None of this happened because someone waited for perfect clarity. It happened because people trusted themselves, focused on what they could influence, and took ownership.

This starts with seeing reality clearly and focusing energy on what is within our control instead of lingering on what is not. When we fixate on things we cannot change, we give our power away. When we focus on what we can influence, we create momentum.

## President's Message

Water professionals already practice this mindset every day. And yet even in an industry built on competence and adaptability, we sometimes hesitate. We wait for permission we do not really need. We underestimate the value of our experience. We hesitate to step forward, whether that is presenting at a conference, sharing lessons learned, or putting our name in the mix for something new.

That hesitation is not about capability. It is about mindset. When you trust yourself, you stop worrying about validation from others. You do not need to be perfect before you participate. You trust that if something goes sideways, you will adapt, because that is what you have always done. That self-trust

scales. Teams do not build trust without it. Organizations do not move forward without it. And industries do not solve complex problems without people willing to step into that space.

Which brings me to April. Our Annual Conference is right around the corner, and it is shaping up to be one of the highlights of the year. It is our chance to gather in person, recognize accomplishments, learn from one another, cheer on the Operations Challenge, and reconnect with colleagues who understand the work and the responsibility that comes with it. It will also be a meaningful moment as I hand off the Golden Shovel to a very capable Gary Vance, who will be anointed as WEAU President.

As always, none of this happens without the presenters, participants, exhibitors, attendees, and especially the volunteers and conference committee members working behind the scenes to make it all possible.

As we head into another year of uncertainty, I will leave you with this.

Trust yourself.

Focus your energy where it actually matters.

Take initiative without waiting for permission.

The future of Utah's water, including the fate of the Great Salt Lake, is not happening to us. It is being created through us.

I look forward to seeing many of you in April. [DVI](#)



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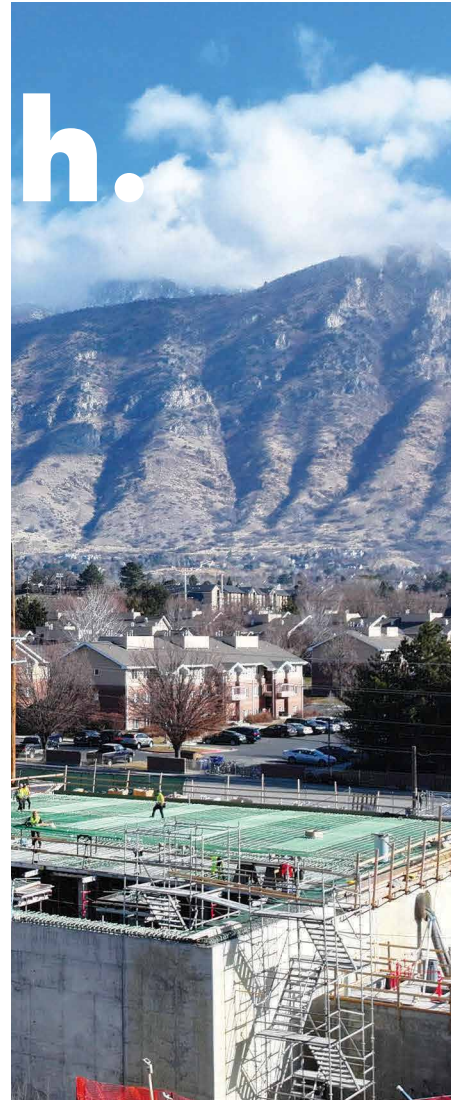
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# Daunting Snowpack for Utah

Wyatt Andersen

**H**ello *Digested News* Readers, In this issue of *Digested News*, I would like to highlight how scarce the snowpack has been in Utah through the end of January 2026 and how that might play out in the wastewater industry. According to ABC4 News through the end of January 2026, this has been the lowest snowpack on record statewide. The previous record for low snowpack at this time of year was in 1981 with a Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of 5.2 inches. Utah is currently sitting at 5.1 inches SWE at the end of January 2026. Salt Lake City has measured 0.42 inches of rain in January 2026 and 0 inches of snow. The average for Salt Lake City in January is 1.42 inches of rain and 12.6 inches of snow. The average temperature in Salt Lake City in January 2026 has been almost 5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the 30-year normal of 30.5 degrees Fahrenheit.



How will this low snowpack impact Utah's water and wastewater industry in 2026? If the remainder of the winter continues to have a record low snowpack for Utah, then there will be many negative impacts on the state's water supply. Utah has experienced years of drought in the past, but a record low snowpack with a record high population could result in water and wastewater infrastructure and supply being in extreme stress. Utah could see record-low water levels at the Great Salt Lake and other

crucial reservoirs/lakes around the state. Utah has been growing in population rapidly over the past five years, and the growth rate could significantly decrease if the water supply becomes a big issue in a significant drought year.

As a Utahn who enjoys recreating in the mountains in the winter months, a healthy snowpack is crucial for the state. Let's hope that Mother Nature turns on the faucet for colder temperatures and higher precipitation in February and March. [DM](#)

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# Collections Quiz

- 1. What is the primary purpose of membrane cleaning in an MBR system?**
  - A. Increase influent flow
  - B. Reduce sludge production
  - C. Restore membrane permeability
  - D. Improve aeration efficiency
- 2. Which chemical is typically used to remove organic fouling from MBR membranes?**
  - A. Hydrochloric acid
  - B. Sodium hypochlorite
  - C. Citric acid
  - D. Alum
- 3. Why is air scouring important in MBR operation?**
  - A. To increase sludge age
  - B. To reduce nutrient load
  - C. To prevent membrane fouling
  - D. To improve effluent color
- 4. Which maintenance activity helps prevent irreversible membrane fouling?**
  - A. Increasing hydraulic retention time
  - B. Regular backwashing and chemical cleaning
  - C. Increasing influent BOD
  - D. Reducing aeration
- 5. How often is recovery (deep) chemical cleaning typically performed in MBR systems?**
  - A. Daily
  - B. Weekly
  - C. Monthly
  - D. When TMP cannot be restored by routine cleaning
- 6. What is the main purpose of regular lubrication of centrifuge bearings?**
  - A. Reduce sludge dryness
  - B. Prevent overheating and wear
  - C. Increase bowl speed
  - D. Improve polymer mixing
- 7. How often should vibration levels of a wastewater centrifuge be monitored?**
  - A. Only during shutdown
  - B. Monthly
  - C. Continuously or during regular operation checks
  - D. Once per year
- 8. Which maintenance activity helps extend the life of the centrifuge wear parts?**
  - A. Operating at maximum speed at all times
  - B. Skipping routine inspections
  - C. Replacing wear parts before excessive damage occurs
  - D. Reducing cake dryness
- 9. Which maintenance task is essential to prevent overheating of aeration blowers?**
  - A. Increasing discharge pressure
  - B. Cleaning or replacing air intake filters
  - C. Reducing airflow
  - D. Closing discharge valves
- 10. Excessive vibration in an aeration blower most commonly indicates which issue?**
  - A. High dissolved oxygen
  - B. Electrical overload
  - C. Misalignment or bearing wear
  - D. Excess polymer dosage

## Answers

1. C, 2. B, 3. C, 4. B, 5. D, 6. B, 7. C, 8. C, 9. B, 10. C

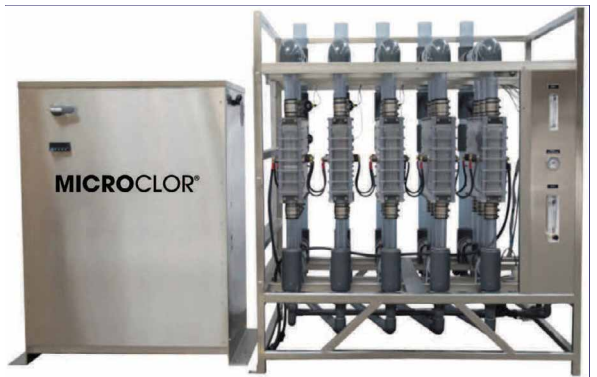


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# PWO Message

By Taylor Byrum



It's the start of another year, and that means we're already gearing up for the annual conference and Operations Challenge. We had our kickoff meeting back in December, and the teams have been hitting the ground running with practices since early January. This year, we have nine teams competing – six from the North and three from the South. It's been great to see the southern teams keeping the momentum going and stepping up to the plate.

I want to give a huge thanks to all the head judges and the operations committee. They put

in a ton of time and effort behind the scenes, going through the rules and supporting the teams whenever they're needed.

One of the highlights from the midyear conference was the "Shart Tank." It was a cool opportunity for anyone – operators, maintenance, collections, lab – to share ideas on how to improve things at their plants. A big thanks to the judges and the presenters who stepped up to take part in that. If you missed it, we'll be doing it again at the Annual Conference in St. George, so start thinking of your ideas now.

#### A few dates to keep on your radar:

- **March 19:** Training opportunity focused on level/pressure control and the principles behind how it works.
- **June 4:** The PWO golf tournament at Thanksgiving Point. Keep an eye out for more details on that soon. [DTI](#)

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# PWO Spotlight: Jon Moreno



“ Jon’s favorite thing to do is hang out with his wife and three kids.

Jon’s a South Jordan guy who’s been working in the water industry for a while now. He started back in 2016 doing operations at South Valley, but in 2021 he moved over to the maintenance crew at Jordan Basin.

Before he got into this line of work, Jon actually spent his time fixing ATMs and security systems. A friend of his told him about the great benefits and the chance for better opportunities in the wastewater world, so he decided to give it a shot. He’s already earned his Grade 2 license and has really made the most of the opportunity.

Jon’s also the kind of guy who jumps in headfirst when there’s a team event. He spent a few years competing in the Operations Challenge at his old job and was a huge reason the competition was brought back at Jordan Basin. Just this past year, he competed with the All-Star team and travelled to WEFTEC to represent Utah on the national stage.

When he’s not at work, Jon stays moving. He’s a certified trainer, runs Hyrox fitness races across the country (similar to CrossFit), and coaches his sons’ football teams. But even with all that going on, his favorite thing to do is relax and hang out with his wife and three kids. [on](#)



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# Treatment Certification Quiz

1. **Wastewater discharges from the food and beverage sector do not exhibit this characteristic.**
  - A. High salt concentrations
  - B. High temperatures
  - C. High concentrations of organic compounds
  - D. High heavy metals concentrations
2. **Which of the following is not included in pretreatment standards and requirements?**
  - A. General and specific prohibitions
  - B. Source control measures
  - C. Categorical pretreatment standards
  - D. Local limits
3. **What two parameters are most often considered when calculating pretreatment surcharges for industrial users?**
  - A. COD and BOD
  - B. BOD and TSS
  - C. TSS and TDS
  - D. TOC and BOD
4. **The effects of polymers used in industrial wastewater processes are neutralized by the activated sludge at the WRRF and do not affect settleability?**
  - A. True
  - B. False
5. **Why would heavy metal-laden wastewaters be pretreated before discharge to a WRRF?**
  - A. Reduce toxicity
  - B. Minimize effect on biosolids quality
  - C. Both a and b
6. **What is the most common material used for ionic exchange regeneration?**
  - A. Lime slurry
  - B. Hydroxide
  - C. Polymer
  - D. Carbon slurry
7. **Name a nontraditional disinfection technology**
  - A. Chlorine gas
  - B. Sodium hypochlorite
  - C. UV
  - D. Ozone
8. **Advanced oxidation processes are used to remove?**
  - A. Trace organic pollutants
  - B. Inorganics
  - C. Heavy metals
  - D. Chlorine residual
9. **What can cause bacteria to get through a membrane?**
  - A. Operating at too low of a pressure
  - B. Backwashing too frequently
  - C. Not enough backwashing
  - D. Tears or holes in the membrane
10. **Granular activated carbon systems are effective at removing \_\_\_\_\_ Organics?**
  - A. Floating
  - B. Dissolved
  - C. Wet
  - D. Particulate

## Answers

1. B, 2. B, 3. B, 4. B, 5. C, 6. A, 7. D, 8. A, 9. D, 10. B

## FIND THE HIDDEN GOLDEN SLUDGE SHOVEL!\*


Each quarter, *Digested News* has this golden sludge shovel icon hidden somewhere in the content of its pages.

**Be the first to find it and email the editor** ([digestednews@weau.org](mailto:digestednews@weau.org)) the correct page number to **win an Amazon Gift Card – now \$50!**

Emails should include:

- Subject: I found the golden shovel
- Correct page number
- Your name and work address

Winners will be notified directly and named in the next issue of *Digested News*.

\*For those of you new to WEAU, volunteers who give notable time and service to WEAU are awarded a “5S” golden lapel pin shovel. With that award, they become members of the **Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers**. WEAU is always looking for volunteers and maybe one day, you too can become a 5S member. 



### Have feedback or suggestions?

We'd love to hear from you about what parts of *Digested News* you find helpful, or about what you'd like to see.

Email us at [digestednews@weau.org](mailto:digestednews@weau.org).





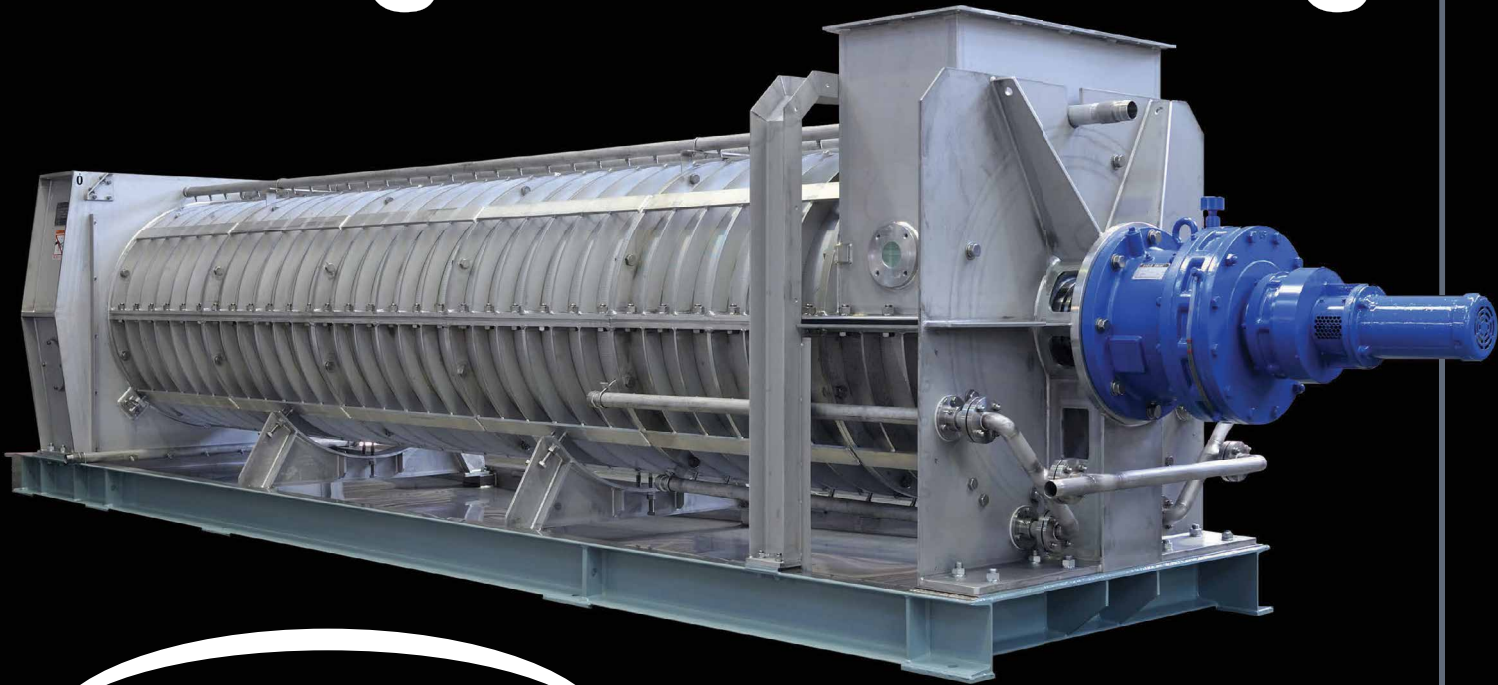
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# WEAU Young Professionals 2026 Annual Conference Events

## Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> | Ops Challenge & Social

### ◆ 8:00AM - 4:00PM | Dixie Convention Center

Stop by the exhibit hall to watch the YP Team compete in the Operations Challenge! The event is expected to run most of the day Wednesday, so you are welcome to stop by at any time to support our WEAU teams and learn more about the important role that operators have in our industry.

### ◆ 6:00PM - 8:00PM | Crush Golf + Grill (Formerly BigShots)

*1108 W Black Mountain Drive, St. George, UT 84790*

For the third straight year, we are excited to host the Young Professionals conference social in conjunction with the Operations Challenge team members and volunteers! Join us for two hours of game play, dinner, and fun. Please visit the WEAU website for registration details and to sign-up. [Registration is required in order to attend and will close on FRIDAY 4/3 EOD.](#)

## Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> | Networking Lunch & Blood Drive

### ◆ 12:00PM - 1:00PM | Dixie Convention Center

Look for round tables labeled "Young Professionals" during the lunch break on Thursday to network and play an icebreaker game with your fellow YPs.

### ◆ 10:00 AM - 4:00PM | Dixie Convention Center

This year's blood drive through American Red Cross will be held in the Exhibit Hall. Stop by anytime time from 10AM to 4PM if you would like to donate.

## Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> | YP Committee Open Forum

### ◆ 9:15AM - 9:55AM | Dixie Convention Center

Join us on the final day of the conference for a YP Committee Open Forum where we will cover the basics of the committee and leave time for open discussion. New to WEAU or the YP group? This is your chance to learn more about how you can get involved. Already involved with the YP group? This is great opportunity to give feedback directly to the committee chairs on how we can improve.

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# Wastewater Laboratory Operations – Practice Questions

- 1. Which laboratory test is used to estimate the amount of biodegradable organic material in wastewater?**
  - A. TSS
  - B. BOD<sub>5</sub>
  - C. pH
  - D. Turbidity
- 2. What is the volume of a standard BOD bottle used in the BOD<sub>5</sub> Test?**
  - A. 300
  - B. 250
  - C. 30
  - D. 10
- 3. Which preservative is commonly used for BOD samples if analysis cannot be started immediately?**
  - A. Hydrochloric acid
  - B. Sodium hydroxide
  - C. No preservative; cool to 4°C
  - D. Nitric acid
- 4. A lab technician measures 25 mL of a wastewater sample and dries the residue, which weighs 0.005 grams. What is the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentration in mg/L?**
  - A. 50 mg/L
  - B. 100 mg/L
  - C. 200 mg/L
  - D. 500 mg/L
- 5. What is the primary purpose of running laboratory blanks?**
  - A. To verify sample temperature
  - B. To detect contamination or analytical error
  - C. To calibrate laboratory balances
  - D. To speed up sample analysis
- 6. Which parameter is most critical for determining proper chlorine disinfection efficiency?**
  - A. Alkalinity
  - B. Turbidity
  - C. Residual chlorine
  - D. Ammonia
- 7. Which lab glassware provides the most accurate volume measurement?**
  - A. Beaker
  - B. Erlenmeyer Flask
  - C. Conical Tube
  - D. Graduated Cylinder
- 8. Which quality control measure is required to verify the accuracy of an analytical method used for compliance reporting?**
  - A. Equipment duplicate
  - B. Field duplicate
  - C. Laboratory control sample (LCS)
  - D. Sample preservation check
- 9. A laboratory's BOD results consistently show lower values than expected. Which corrective action should be taken first?**
  - A. Increase incubation temperature
  - B. Review dilution water quality and seed viability
  - C. Change sample preservation procedures
  - D. Shorten incubation time
- 10. Which documentation is most critical for defending laboratory data during a regulatory audit?**
  - A. Operator shift logs
  - B. Chain-of-custody records
  - C. Daily flow reports
  - D. Plant process control charts

## Answers

1. B, 2. A, 3. C, 4. C, 5. B, 6. C, 7. D, 8. C, 9. B, 10. B



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# 2026 WEAU MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS

Elections for WEAU leadership positions are now underway. Members should have received their electronic ballots in February at the email address associated with their WEF membership profile. Voting remains open through March 13, 2026, and all completed ballots submitted by that date will be counted.

This year's ballot includes candidates for several leadership positions, each listed below and accompanied by a brief professional biography to help members make informed choices. We encourage all eligible members to participate in this important process and help shape the future direction of WEAU.



## PRESIDENT: UP FOR ELECTION

### GARY VANCE



Gary first became involved with WEAU back in 2007, volunteering for the Young Professionals committee. Other duties over the years have included organizing the student design competition and chairing the Annual Conference Committee. He has served on the Board for 6 years now as Vice President, Secretary, and Director. Gary notes, "My involvement with WEAU has been a great experience and has provided me the opportunity to get to know many terrific people in this industry. Like anything in life, you get out of it what you put into it."

Gary received his undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho and M.S. in Civil/ Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado. After that, he served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic living in a rural village and constructing gravity fed drinking water systems for more than two years. Since then, he's been here in Utah for the past 19 years working as a program manager for wastewater treatment projects with J-U-B Engineers. He has many hobbies including hiking, camping, and skiing. His wife and two kids love exploring the southern Utah red rock country and visiting/working on their cabin up at Bear Lake. He also enjoys playing soccer, music, and traveling.

## PRESIDENT ELECT: UP FOR ELECTION

### BEN SKOUSEN



Growing up in Utah, it didn't seem to matter if it was a family outing or BSA camp, Ben always ended up playing in water and coming home soaked. Many of his favorite activities, which include fishing, alpine skiing, and SCUBA diving revolve around water. So, it was a natural fit for Ben to study Civil Engineering with an emphasis on Water Resources at the University of Utah. Today, Ben is a Senior Associate Engineer with Brown and Caldwell where he works in the master planning and modeling group. This has given Ben the opportunity to work on local and nationwide projects over the last 11 years. Local clients include Central Valley Water Reclamation, North Davis Sewer District, Central Weber Sewer Improvement District, and Timpanogos Special Service District. Nationally, Ben has been involved in projects from New York, South Carolina, Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, Hawaii, Guam, and Diego Garcia. Previously, Ben worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory (top secret, hush hush) and at MWH.

Ben's involvement with WEAU started with the YP committee where he helped coordinate the annual conference blood drive and the summer Bee's baseball game. He then transitioned to be the Technical Program Chair followed by the Annual Conference Chair. For the past year, Ben has served as the WEAU Vice-President. He considers his support of WEAU to be one of the most rewarding aspects of his career. What is the best part? WEAU has given Ben the opportunity to meet great people who all love water as much as he does.

Ben is married with two daughters that love theater and dance. Spending time with his family, either around the house or traveling, is his favorite activity. He enjoys going to school plays and dance competitions.

# 2026 WEAU MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS

## VICE PRESIDENT: UP FOR ELECTION | TIFFINI ADAMS OR RANDY ZOLLINGER

### TIFFINI ADAMS



Tiffini Adams has been a Director for WEAU for two years. She has also spent the past 20 years out and about, judging the Laboratory Event, both locally and at WEFTEC, or greeting people at the conference registration desks. She took a turn as a member of Central Valley's Wasted Gas challenge team and competed at WEFTEC. She has also been involved with the Mid-Year and Annual Conference planning for many years. She is a proud member of the 5S club. She spent 14 years as the quality assurance officer at Central Valley, South Valley Water, and Jordan Basin Water Reclamation Facilities and enjoyed the friendships and connections at each plant. She has been the Laboratory Director at Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District since 2017. She and her husband Carl have been together for 30+ years and have two kiddos, Wiley and Pamela, who are off adulting near and far. They are looking forward to camping in their Casita and kayaking out on the many lakes and rivers that we all strive to preserve.

### RANDY ZOLLINGER



Randy is a professional wastewater engineer with Carollo Engineers and has worked in the wastewater business for almost 30 years since graduating from USU in 1996. He has worked with several Utah wastewater utilities before and after living in Idaho for 15 years and became a more active WEAU member in 2015 when he helped organize annual Engineering Symposiums for several years. For the past three years, Randy has served as WEAU's treasurer, taking over for Myron Bachman and is now handing off the position to Lauren Schmidt. Randy enjoys the friendships he has been able to make through WEAU and appreciates the all-volunteer work WEAU does to support our local Utah wastewater family. Beyond work and WEAU, Randy is a father of three twenty-year olds and enjoys everything outdoors.

## TREASURER: UP FOR ELECTION

### LAUREN SCHMIDT



Lauren Schmidt is a licensed project engineer at J-U-B Engineers in Salt Lake City, UT. She is a member of J-U-B's Water Treatment Group, with experience in planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment plant projects in Utah and Idaho. In addition to her work in the wastewater industry, Lauren has a strong passion for the growth and development of young professionals, serving as the WEAU Young Professionals Co-Chair for two years. She is the current WEAU Deputy Treasurer and has previously volunteered her time as the Website Chair, assisted on the Mid-Year and Annual Conference planning committees, and is Team Captain of the YP Ops Challenge team. Lauren also makes it a priority to bring

WEAU's efforts to the national level through her work on WEF committees, such as the WEF Students & Young Professionals Committee, the WEF YP Summit Committee, and the WEF Membership Community Committee. One of her most recent accomplishments includes attending her first WEFTEC and competing on the WEAU Wasatch All-Stars Operations Challenge Team. In her free time, Lauren loves to bake, dance, hike, visit family, and compete in speed puzzling competitions.

## SECRETARY: UP FOR ELECTION

### BRANDON WYATT



Brandon Wyatt is a Professional Engineer with Bowen Collins & Associates (BC&A) in Draper, Utah. He attended Utah State University where he earned his degrees in civil and environmental engineering. His early career included stints as a laborer, framer, telemarketer, surveyor, and draftsman. Brandon has worked for BC&A for 18 years. A member of WEAU since 2013, Brandon has been part of the Mid-Year Conference Planning Committee and the Annual Conference Planning Committee. He has served as Secretary for the Board of Directors since 2024 and enjoys the role. His favorite part of WEAU is getting to meet all the great people in the industry and he is constantly amazed at the dedication, skills, and talents of those who are part of the organization.

When he's not at work, Brandon enjoys the outdoors and his family. He's most happy when he can combine the two in family camping, hunting, or fishing trips.

# 2026 WEAU MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS

## DIRECTOR COUNCIL 1: UP FOR ELECTION | MIKE CHANDLER OR JAMES DIXON

### MIKE CHANDLER



Mike attended USU for Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering, while working for Logan City. He is a level IV certified wastewater operator in Collections and Treatment. He split the last two decades between consulting engineering at Bowen, Collins & Associates, and public service at the Ash Creek Special Service District as their Superintendent. Mike is overtrained and overqualified in all of the left-brained pursuits of math and science. At heart, he is a right-brained artist and musician. He loves music, preferring a wide range from classical jams to love ballads to protest rock. Giacomo Puccini to Bob Dylan to Peter Cetera to Rage Against the Machine. He considers the 'soon to be completed' District's Confluence Park Water Reclamation Facility a serious study in environmental industrial art, referred to by those who know as "Mike's Duomo". However, far and away, Mike's favorite medium is people. His favorite people are those who live with him (wife, two daughters and two sons) and a couple goldendoodles to boot. Mike has loved serving people in a variety of professional organizations and in a variety of capacities at WEAU. He is always eager to learn from new people and hopefully leave people better than he found them.

### JAMES DIXON



James got his first taste of WEAU over 15 years ago when he was invited to attend a young professionals meeting. Through friends that he met among the YPs, he got a job as a consulting professional engineer and became more involved within WEAU. Over the years, he has helped on several committees and has been the chair of the Student Activities committee and Midyear Conference committee. In other words, he has spent a lot of time watching other people do amazing work to keep this organization running and he is excited to continue serving in WEAU and supporting its members.

James began working in sewer back in 2009 before transitioning to consulting in 2011. He has since repented and returned to the public sector where he has been working at Central Weber Sewer for the past 6 years. He is a licensed professional engineer and certified Grade 4 operator in Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collections. He currently lives in Davis County with his wife and four kids.

## DIRECTOR COUNCIL 3: UP FOR ELECTION | NATE CLOWARD OR TAYLOR BYRUM

### NATE CLOWARD



Nate Cloward is the Operations Manager at Central Davis Sewer District, where he enjoys problem-solving and building strong, collaborative relationships. He is actively involved with WEAU and currently serves as a board director, an experience that has supported both his professional and personal growth. Nate's goals include continuing to develop his leadership skills, strengthening relationships, and working with intention.

Outside of work, Nate has been married to his wife, Nicolette, for 11 years. They have two sons, Donovan (9) and Bronson (7), and enjoy spending time together mountain biking, camping, fishing, and hunting.

### TAYLOR BYRUM



Taylor Byrum is currently an Apprentice Electrician (one more semester to go) in the maintenance department at North Davis Sewer District. His career in the wastewater industry started about nine years ago when he was hired as a treatment plant operator; Taylor enjoyed the work so much that he decided to make a career out of it. Since then, he has gone back to school to keep moving forward and has picked up his Grade IV Treatment and ISA CCST certifications along the way.

Taylor has been involved with WEAU for about seven years now and is currently serving as the PWO Representative. One of the highlights for him has been competing twice at Nationals with the Wasatch All Stars – he loves the competition, but honestly, has just as much fun just getting to know everyone else in the industry during these conferences.

When not at work, Taylor is usually hanging out with his wife and their three kids. They're big on anything outdoors, so if they aren't at a sporting event, you'll probably find them camping or fishing.

# 2026 WEAU MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS

## PWO REPRESENTATIVE: UP FOR ELECTION

### COLE TUBBS



Cole is a lifelong resident of Hooper, Utah – a small-town community he's proud to call home. He lives there with his wife, Emily, and three wonderful children. Cole is proud to say he grew up in the '80s and graduated from Fremont High School in 1999. He has always appreciated the values and sense of connection that come from living in a close-knit community.

For the past 20 years, Cole has built his career in both the wastewater and drinking water industry, working to ensure safe and efficient water management for our communities. His journey began with 14 years at a Service District that managed both a collection system, and a small water distribution network. For the last six years, he has served as Lead Collections Operator at Central Weber Sewer Improvement

District. Cole holds a Grade IV Operator License in wastewater treatment, collections, and drinking water distribution.

Cole is honored to serve on the Board of Trustee's at Hooper Water Improvement District, where he has worked to advocate for the needs of his community and ensure sustainable water practices. He enjoys engaging with the public to educate them about the fascinating world of water – how we treat it, to provide clean drinking water and manage it responsibly on the wastewater side. After all, "Sewer happens!"

Cole still enjoys the agricultural lifestyle he grew up in. He owns and uses horses and has a small herd of beef cattle. His family also enjoys the variety of outdoor activities that this great state of Utah has to offer, such as skiing, hiking, and camping. He really enjoys sharing his passions for outdoor activities with his family and others. Cole is running for this position because he cares deeply about his community and is committed to contributing to its continued success. With his experience, dedication, and passion for serving others, he would be honored to represent and serve you. He humbly asks for your consideration and support.

## PWO REPRESENTATIVE ELECT: UP FOR ELECTION | AUSTIN PETERSEN OR JONATHAN BARANOWSKI

### AUSTIN PETERSEN



Austin Petersen is an experienced operator with over thirteen years of experience and 7 years as a lead operator for Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility. Austin has also served as the Operations Challenge chair from 2023-2025. Austin has competed at the state level as a competitor and has competed at nationals three different times. He is known for his strong work ethic, leadership, and commitment to maintaining high standards in operational performance and environmental responsibility.

Outside of his professional life, Austin values time with his family. He is a devoted husband and father to three daughters, and he enjoys creating meaningful experiences with them through travel, camping, and anything his girls want to do. His dedication to both his career and his family reflects his strong sense of responsibility, integrity and balance.

### JONATHAN BARANOWSKI



Jonathan Baranowski serves as the Safety and Security Coordinator for the South Valley Water Reclamation Facility. He began his career at the plant in September 2016 as a Wastewater Treatment Operator and quickly earned his Grade 4 certification. Since then, he has become the key leader in implementing policies and programs focused on keeping employees safe. In his current role, Jonathan has successfully updated and modernized employee's access and understanding of Safety Data Sheets (SDS), reformed training opportunities, and enhanced many aspects of security around South Valley. He has also obtained multiple instructor certifications across various safety and training areas. Before getting into wastewater, Jonathan spent several years in Corrections and Law Enforcement which helped enhance his resilience, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. That experience has been instrumental in shaping Jonathan's personal and professional success.

In addition to his professional achievements, Jonathan has been involved in the Wastewater Operations Challenge for five years, including three years competing at the national level, showcasing his dedication and expertise in the wastewater industry.

Outside of work, Jonathan has been happily married for 12 years and is a dedicated and loving father of four. He enjoys spending his time playing and coaching his children in various sports including hockey, softball, football, and baseball and staying active by playing on a hockey team himself. His natural leadership skills, passion for teamwork, and strong work ethic carry over from the rink and field into his role at South Valley. [dm](#)

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# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH



# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH

## WEAU PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP - APRIL 14

Digital Transformation in Water Management

8:00 am-12:00 pm      Workshop Session

## 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

### TUESDAY, APRIL 14

6:45 am	Dixie Center Doors Open
8:00 am-12:30 pm	Registration
8:00 am-12:00 pm	Pre-Conference Workshop
10 am	Pre-conference Break
9:00 am-4:00 pm	Vendor Setup
11:00 am-1:00 pm	Ops Challenge Setup
1:00 pm	Ops Challenge Process Test
2:00-4:00 pm	WEAU Tour of Ash Creek WRF with Water Quality Partners
3:00 pm	WEAU Golf Tournament - Dixie Red Hills

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 am	Dixie Center Doors Open
8:00 am-4:45 pm	Registration
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8:00 am-4:00 pm	Operator Challenge (Exhibit Hall)
12:00-1:20 pm	Opening Luncheon (Exhibit Hall)
1:30-4:45 pm	Technical Sessions
2:45-3:30 pm	Break (Exhibit Hall)
5:00-9:00 pm	Ops Challenge Pizza Party and Fiesta Fun Night
6:00-8:00 pm	YP Social (Crush Golf + Grill, 1108 W Black Mountain Dr. 84790)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 16

7:00 am	Dixie Center Doors Open
8:00 am-4:45 pm	Registration
8:30 am-3:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30-11:45 am	Technical Sessions
9:55-10:30 am	Break (Exhibit Hall)
12:00-1:20 pm	Business Lunch (Exhibit Hall)
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Blood Drive (Exhibit Hall)
1:30-4:45 pm	Technical Sessions
3:00-3:30 pm	Break (Exhibit Hall)
5:00-6:00 pm	Women of Water Happy Hour at the Office Lounge (Hilton Garden Inn, 1731 S Convention Center Dr.)
6:00-8:00 pm	Banquet and Awards (Ballroom)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17

6:45 am	Dixie Center Doors Open
7:00-8:30 am	WEAU Board Meeting
8:00-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
8:30-11:35 am	Technical Sessions
9:15-9:55 am	YP Committee Open Forum
9:55-10:10 am	Break
12:00 pm	FINAL RAFFLE (Lobby, Must Be Present to Win)

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# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH

## TECHNICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

12:00-1:20 pm	OPENING AWARDS/LUNCH					
TIME	ENTRADA A	ENTRADA B	ENTRADA C	SUNBROOK A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK C
TOPIC	MISCELLANEOUS	WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WASTEWATER FACILITIES	NUTRIENT REMOVAL	FINANCING/ RATE STUDIES
1:30-2:10 pm	<b>Optimizing Backup Power Transfer for Water &amp; WW: An Analysis of Evolving Technologies for Selection</b>  Gary Gluck - Siemens	<b>Turning Waste into Wealth: Technologies Powering the Future of Water Reuse</b>  Murthy Kasi - Ardurra	<b>Sewer Inspections and Repairs</b>  Kelly Casper - Dawson Infrastructure Solutions	<b>Low Head Applications with Cloth Media Filtration</b>  CJ Strain - Nexom	<b>Nitro-Brew in Your Lagoons: How Bugs Beat Total Nitrogen</b>  Jordan Wanlass - Triplepoint Environmental	<b>Navigating Federal Shifts: Wastewater Funding in Utah</b>  Sam Fankhauser - AE2S
TOPIC	DIGITAL WATER	WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WASTEWATER FACILITIES	NUTRIENT REMOVAL	FINANCING/RATE STUDIES
2:15-2:55 pm	<b>From Inspection to Insight: Turning Condition Data into Action</b>  Nino Rivas - CUES	<b>Lessons Learned in the Design and Construction of a 350 MGD UV Facility</b>  Adam Festger - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Reducing Pathogen Exposure During Jet and CCTV Operations</b>  Thomas Suiter - Hydro Products Corp.	<b>Clarifying the path for Retrofitting CAS to MBR</b>  Brian Codianne - Kubota Water and Environment USA	<b>Breaking the Tradeoff: MOB Process Enables Both Nitrogen and Phosphorus BNR at TMWRF A/O Plant</b>  Savanna Haygood - Nuvoda	<b>Utah Wastewater Project Assistant Funding</b>  Ken Hoffman - Utah DEQ
3:00-3:30 pm <b>BREAK</b>						
TOPIC	DIGITAL WATER	WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WASTEWATER FACILITIES	NUTRIENT REMOVAL	MISCELLANEOUS
3:35-4:15 pm	<b>Findings from a Live Operational Digital Twin of the North Davis Sewage District WWTP</b>  Bruce Johnson - Jacobs	<b>Orem WRF Reuse Facility: A Project Decades in the Making</b>  Jenny Calderon - Water Works Engineers	<b>Corrosion Resistance in Underground Sewer Structures</b>  Armorock	<b>Beyond Clarifiers: Innovative Applications of Pile Cloth Media Filtration for Primary and Wet Weather Treatment</b>  Vedansh Gupta - Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.	<b>Breaking Boundaries in Nutrient Removal with SBR Innovation</b>  Jeremy Jensen - Xylem	<b>A Day in the Life of a Lab Tech</b>  Latchmie Edwards - NDSD
TOPIC	DIGITAL WATER	WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WASTEWATER FACILITIES	SUSTAINABILITY	MISCELLANEOUS
4:20-5:00 pm	<b>Securely Interfacing with Our SCADA Systems</b>  Jason Stansfield - NDSD	<b>From Concept to Implementation: Lessons Learned from Long-Term AWP and DPR Program Development</b>  Benjamin W. Lee - Water Works Engineers	<b>Design, Construction, and Challenges of a Long and Flat Gravity Sewer Pipeline</b>  Wyatt Andersen - Bowen Collins & Associates	<b>Grit Happens: Grit System Design and Update</b>  Will Hentz - Smith & Loveless, Inc.	<b>Wastewater as an Energy Resource: Improving Efficiency and Resilience at WWTPs</b>  Nathan Madding - HUBER Technology, Inc.	<b>Building a Sustainable Water Workforce</b>  Katie Reams - J-U-B Engineers Inc.

# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 | AM

TIME	ENTRADA A	ENTRADA B	ENTRADA C	SUNBROOK A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK C
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>SHART TANK</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>NUTRIENT REMOVAL</b>	<b>RESIDUALS/ BIOSOLIDS</b>
8:30-9:10 am	<b>Testing Takeover: How to Take Your Wastewater Operator Certification Exam</b>  Tessa Scheuer - DEQ	TBD	<b>From Smell to Science: Tackling H2S in Collection Systems</b>  Kurt Carson - AE2S	<b>Trench-Type Wet Wells: Theory and Application</b>  Nicholas Griffith - AECOM	<b>Achieving Low TIN and TP Through Integrated Denitrification and Chemical P Removal</b>  Parry Osborn - Hazen & Sawyer	<b>Full-scale Design of the Microbial Hydrolysis Process</b>  Stephanie Cope - Jacobs
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>SHART TANK</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>RESIDUALS/ BIOSOLIDS</b>
9:15-9:55 am	TBD	TBD	<b>Keeping Our Head Above the Groundwater - 5300 West Lift Station</b>  Whitney Davidson - J-U-B Engineers Inc.	<b>Pumping 101 - Even Flow</b>  Erik Larson - Vaughan Company, Inc.	<b>Embedding Sustainability in Delivery of a Treatment Facility</b>  David Kibbie - AECOM	<b>Status of advanced thermal processing of biosolids nationally and globally</b>  Mohammad Abu-Orf - Hazen & Sawyer
9:55-10:30 am	<b>BREAK</b>					
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>RESIDUALS/ BIOSOLIDS</b>
10:35-11:15 am	TBD	<b>Training the Next Generation of Operators at SVWRF</b>  Spencer Parkinson - SVWRF	<b>Construction Management Strategies for Successful Sewer Rehabilitation Projects</b>  Brett Dunkley - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Wastewater Screen Technologies and Design Considerations</b>  Jeff Austin - Hydro-Dyne Engineering	<b>Under Pressure, 30 Miles by 2030: Regional Reuse Purification System Hydraulic &amp; Surge Analysis</b>  Michael Roman - Stantec	<b>Implementing Mechanical Dewatering For SLC's New WRF</b>  Grant Davies - AECOM
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>PROJECT DELIVERY</b>	<b>RESIDUALS/ BIOSOLIDS</b>
11:20 am-12:00 pm	TBD	<b>Unlocking Efficiency: The Benefits of Job Order Contracting for Agencies</b>  Jason Kelly - Archer Western Construction	<b>Eliminating Existing Lift Stations</b>  Chad Hardinger - SBWRD	<b>Wastewater Process Matchmaking: Technology Selection That's Right for You</b>  Kelsey Wagner - AE2S	<b>CMGC-How to issue the perfect RFQ</b>  Dan Taylor - MGC Contractors	<b>Regional Biosolids: Lessons on Managing Uncertainty Through Shared Governance &amp; Scale</b>  Manon Fisher - Brown & Caldwell

# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 | PM

TIME	ENTRADA A	ENTRADA B	ENTRADA C	SUNBROOK A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK C
12:00-1:20 pm	<b>BUSINESS LUNCH</b>					
TOPIC	OPERATIONS TEST PREP	OPERATIONS INCENTIVE TRACK	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WATER QUALITY	PROJECT DELIVERY	RESIDUALS/BIOSOLIDS
1:30-2:10 pm	TBD	<b>Operating a Temporary Trickling Filter Activated Sludge Plant</b>  Brady Adams - CVWRF	<b>Main Line Ratings by Likelihood of Failure</b>  Olivia Murphy - Orem City	<b>Innovative Application of UVARP: Pioneering New Frontiers in PFAS Destruction</b>  Susheera Pochiraju - Hazen & Sawyer	<b>What to Expect from Your CM/GC</b>  Nathan Antonneau - Archer Western Construction	<b>Biosolids Reuse Under a Microscope - When Sustainable Policy Meets Worst-Case Risk Modeling - A Utah Approach</b>  Leland Myers - Wasatch Front Water Quality Council
TOPIC	OPERATIONS TEST PREP	OPERATIONS INCENTIVE TRACK	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WATER QUALITY	PROJECT DELIVERY	RESIDUALS/BIOSOLIDS
2:15-2:55 pm	TBD	<b>Flexible Integration of High-Efficiency Blowers into Existing Wastewater Control Systems</b>  Taylor Byrum - NDSD & Inovair	<b>Latest Advancements in Large Diameter Sewer Renewal</b>  Firat Sever - CDM Smith, Inc.	<b>UPDES Individual Permit Issuance 101</b>  Danielle Lenz - Utah DEQ	<b>Building It Smarter: How CM/GC Is Reshaping Utah Water and Wastewater Projects</b>  Brian Bergantine - AE2S	<b>We Bought a Farm with a Farmer</b>  Dave Parry - Jacobs
3:00-3:30 pm	<b>BREAK</b>					
TOPIC	OPERATIONS TEST PREP	OPERATIONS INCENTIVE TRACK	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WATER QUALITY	PROJECT DELIVERY	RESIDUALS/BIOSOLIDS
3:35-4:15 pm	TBD	<b>DNA Analysis: Another Tool for Your Process Control Toolkit?</b>  Sherry Sheffield - SVWRF	<b>Sonde Locating Evolution Below and Above Ground</b>  Tucker Black - SBWRD	<b>Calculating a UPDES Wasteload Analysis</b>  Christopher L. Shope - Utah DEQ	<b>Setting up for Success: Leadership Lessons from an 8-Year Infrastructure Delivery</b>  Will Peterson - AECOM	<b>Can Pyrolysis Solve the PFAS Problem? Test Results from Two Biosolids Studies</b>  Lloyd Winchell - Brown & Caldwell
TOPIC	OPERATIONS TEST PREP	OPERATIONS INCENTIVE TRACK	COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS	WATER QUALITY	PROJECT DELIVERY	RESIDUALS/BIOSOLIDS
4:20-5:00 pm	TBD	<b>Distributed SCADA Systems for Wastewater Collection</b>  Marisha Lunde - AE2S	<b>Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation: Utah Case Studies</b>  Biraj Subedi - Consor Engineers	<b>Discharging to Impaired Waters: How Could This Impact Your Effluent Limits?</b>  Nicholas von Stackelberg - Utah DEQ	<b>Just Because Its Called Collaborative... Lessons Learned From Collaborative Delivery</b>  Trevor R. Lindley - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Aerobic Digester Intensification - Energy Savings and Class A Biosolids</b>  Matthew Williams - Thermal Process Systems

# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

TIME	ENTRADA A	ENTRADA B	ENTRADA C	SUNBROOK A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK C
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS SYSTEMS</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>WQB</b>
8:30-9:10 am	TBD	<b>Future of Reuse Operating Permits in Utah</b>  Andrew Pompeo - Utah DEQ	<b>Bridging Cities Below Ground: The 11800 South Sewer and Water Project</b>  Justin Booher - Bowen Collins & Associates	<b>From Empty Basins to Membrane-Ready: Navigating the Startup of a Full-Scale BNR Membrane Bioreactor Facility</b>  Clint Rogers - Stantec	<b>Single-Chamber Microbial Electrolysis Cells for High-Strength Wastewater Treatment and Hydrogen Production</b>  Luguang Wang - Utah State University	<b>Reserved</b>  Water Quality Board
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE</b>	<b>SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>YP FORUM</b>	<b>WQB</b>
9:15-9:55 am	TBD	<b>Emerging Technologies for Management and Reuse of RO Concentrate</b>  Kinnari Shah - Hazen & Sawyer	<b>What You Don't Know But You Should</b>  Spence Felsted - Blue Stakes of Utah	<b>CFRP Repair of TSSD 30-Inch RCP Clarifier Influent Piping</b>  Mark Poppe - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Reserved</b>  YP Committee Chairs	<b>Reserved</b>  Water Quality Board
9:55-10:10 am	<b>BREAK</b>					
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE</b>	<b>SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>PROJECT DELIVERY</b>	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATION</b>
10:10-10:50 am	TBD	<b>Reimagining Water Use with Reuse in Utah</b>  Tim White - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Arc Flash 101: Understanding the Risks and Mitigation Strategies</b>  Adam Wahler - AE2S	<b>Worried about Being Dense? Let Confluence Park WRF Help You Settle Down</b>  Nate Rogers - Bowen Collins & Associates	<b>Planning Smarter, Building Better: Lessons Learned from years of Central Valley WRF Projects</b>  Elias Bishop - Skyline Electric	TBD
	<b>OPERATIONS TEST PREP</b>	<b>WATER RECLAMATION/ REUSE</b>	<b>SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>	<b>PROJECT DELIVERY</b>	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATION</b>
10:55-11:35 am	TBD	<b>Spanish Fork and Mapleton WRF - Leaping Across the Street and Into Advanced Water Reclamation</b>  Gary M Vance - J-U-B Engineers Inc.	<b>Construction Safety: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices</b>  Susan Spore - Brown & Caldwell	<b>Foam Fractionation of PFAS in WWTPs: A Path Forward to PFAS Management</b>  Ramesh Goel - University of Utah	<b>The Human Side of Alternate or Collaborative Project Delivery: Lessons Beyond the Technical</b>  Raj Chavan - Ardurra	TBD
<b>FINAL RAFFLE</b>						

# 2026 WEAU ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 14-17 | DIXIE CENTER | ST. GEORGE, UTAH



## 2026 WEAU Annual Golf Tournament

*Join us for an Afternoon on the Course!*  
Format: Four-Person Scramble

WHEN:	WHERE:	GREEN FEES:
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Shotgun Start at 3:00 PM	Dixie Red Hills Golf Course 645 W 1250 N St. George, UT 84770	\$75 per person Only 9 holes – Limited to the first 70 golfers

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** April 3, 2026  
**REGISTER ONLINE AT:** [www.weau.org](http://www.weau.org)  
*We will match single players to fill foursomes*

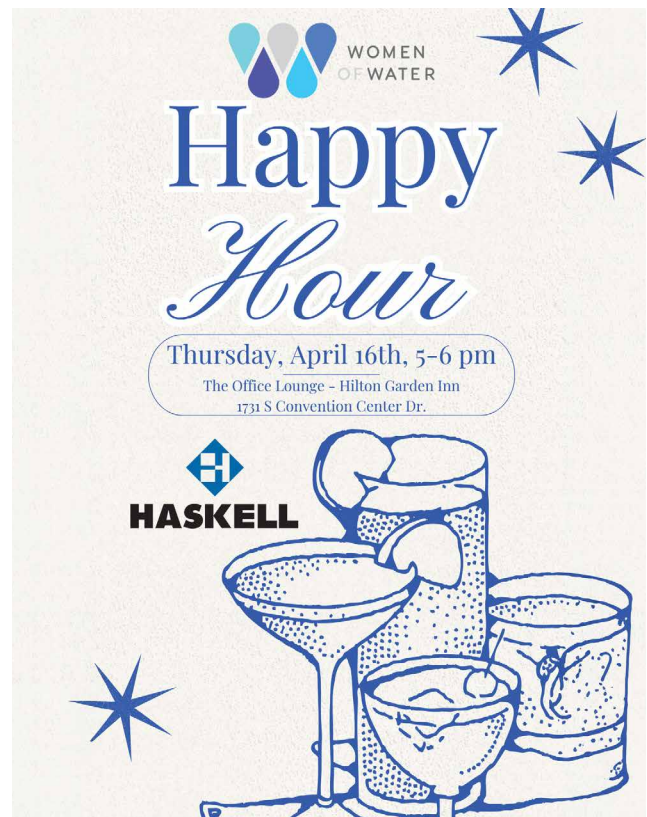
**CONTACT:**  
Drew Geiger, Horrocks Engineers  
2162 West Grove Parkway, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062  
208-705-5244 | [drewg@horrocks.com](mailto:drewg@horrocks.com)



## ZUMBA® With Latchmie

**WEAU Annual Conference**  
**CLASS ON FRIDAY 4/17**  
**8:30am in Sunbrook C**

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WOMEN OF WATER

## Happy Hour

Thursday, April 16th, 5-6 pm  
The Office Lounge - Hilton Garden Inn  
1731 S Convention Center Dr.

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# EXCELLENCE DELIVERED FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER

**Celebrating the successful completion of a collaborative CMGC project in Utah, the Confluence Park Water Reclamation Facility.**

The Confluence Park Water Reclamation Facility stands as a testament to what early collaboration and shared accountability can achieve. Through the CMGC delivery method, our team worked alongside Ash Creek Special Service District (ACSSD), Bowen Collins & Associates and Washington County Water Conservancy District to support an integrated design process, informed cost decisions and a confident path to delivery.



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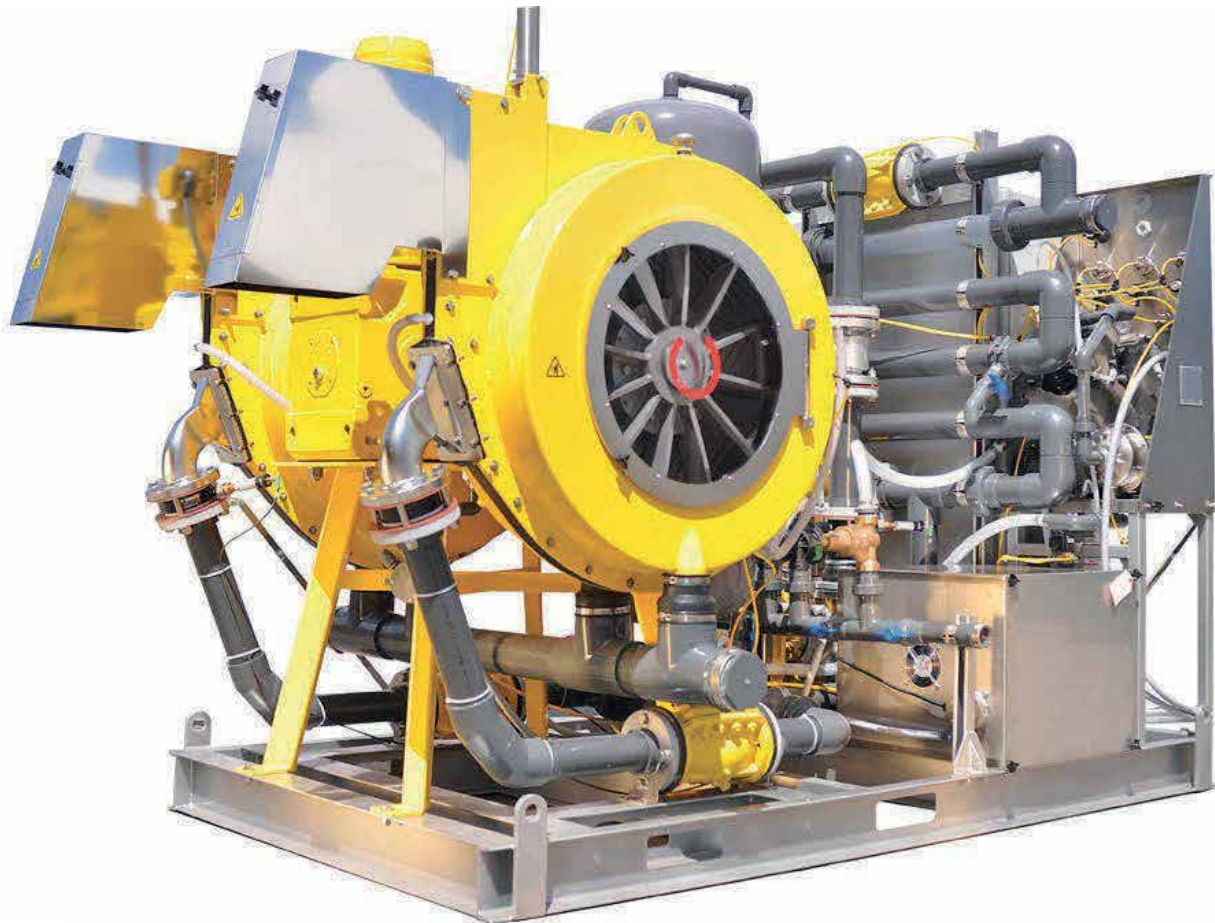
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# WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF UTAH ANNOUNCEMENT

# SHART TANK

# SOLUTIONS COMPETITION

The PWOs are pleased to announce the call for entries for the second ever WEAU Shart Tank Solutions Competition at the Annual Conference! This exciting event will take place at the WEAU Annual Conference on April 16, 2026, at the Dixie Convention Center in St. George, Utah.

### WHAT IS THE SHART TANK SOLUTIONS COMPETITION?

The Shart Tank Solutions Competition highlights innovative solutions to real-world wastewater challenges. We're looking for practical, impactful ideas from the front lines of our industry. This competition is open to dedicated wastewater professionals, including:

- Wastewater operators
- Maintenance personnel
- Collections personnel
- Laboratory technicians
- Pretreatment technicians
- Samplers

Please note: This competition is not open to supervisors, managers, consultants, or students.

Participants will deliver a presentation of up to 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A session with judges. Presentations must clearly demonstrate a connection to a utility and address a current or anticipated utility need.

### COMPETE FOR A STIPEND!

Beyond the opportunity to showcase your groundbreaking ideas, participants will compete for a stipend to help advance their solutions:

- 1st Place: \$1000
- 2nd Place: \$500
- 3rd Place: \$250

### HOW TO ENTER

To be considered for the competition, preliminary entries must be submitted by March 18, 2026. Your preliminary entry needs to include a 1-2 paragraph summary that highlights utility support and proposes innovative solutions to current industry challenges. Please include:



- Your name, title, contact information, facility name, and department.
- A descriptive title for your innovative idea.
- A concise explanation of your innovative project.
- Any results to date, and proposed next steps in the efforts being made.
- Please use the dedicated competition form to submit your entry and send it to [pwo@weau.org](mailto:pwo@weau.org).

### QUESTIONS?

For more information, feel free to contact:

Taylor Byrum: [pwo@weau.org](mailto:pwo@weau.org)

Cole Tubbs: [pwoelect@weau.org](mailto:pwoelect@weau.org)






# CONGRATULATIONS 2025 AWARD NOMINEES

Thank you to everyone that submitted nominations, everyone that interviewed the nominees, and everyone that supported the WEAU Awards Committee.

Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility	
North Davis Sewer District	
Brandon Rice	South Davis Sewer District
Devin Sagers	Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District
Shawn Vockler	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Kevin Thomas	Mt. Olympus Improvement District
Kyle Moyes	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Braxton Crystal	Ash Creek Special Service District
Provo City Collections System	
Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation Facility	
Ash Creek Special Service District	
Midvalley Improvement District	
Alex Perry	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Jason Smith	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Jason Stansfield	North Davis Sewer District
Provo City Water Reclamation Facility	
Nick Mabey	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Steven Sneddon	Jordan Basin Improvement District
Corrine City	
Ash Creek Special Service District	
Aaron Plott	Jordan Basin Improvement District
David Barnes	Central Davis Sewer District
Jason Schuring	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Jayson Dlugas	South Davis Sewer District
John Fernandez	St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Kody Roholt	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Neal Stoddard	Mt. Olympus Improvement District
Richard Whittaker	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Sean Fischer	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Ty Johnson	Ash Creek Special Service District
Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility	
Jordan Basin Improvement District	
Salt Lake City Corporation	
St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility	

## CONGRATULATIONS 2025 AWARD NOMINEES

Nicholas Begay	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Cesar Sandoval	Jordan Basin Improvement District
North Davis Sewer District	
Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility	
Chet Cloward	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Jared Gentry	St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Jose Rubalcaba	Salt Lake City WRF
Kevin Draper	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Kevin Hewitt	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Nathan Fife	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Shawn Bosen	North Davis Sewer District
Tyler Barfuss	North Davis Sewer District
Zac Staheli	Spanish Fork WRF
Zackery Van Wormer	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Gary Wilcox	Ash Creek Special Service District
John Fernandez	St. George Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Jonathan Porter	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Kyle Catano	South Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Matthew Burlison	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District
Zach Lindemann	Jordan Basin Improvement District
Allison Taylor	Salem City Water Reclamation Facility
Brent Jones	Payson City Water Reclamation Facility
Jordan Basin Improvement District	
Central Valley WRF	Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
Hyrum City WWTP	
Salem City Water Reclamation Facility	
South Davis Sewer District - South Plant	
Bryan Reynoso	North Davis Sewer District
Josh Matson	PCL Construction
Meagan O'Hare	Brown and Caldwell
Rowdy Stucki	Central Weber Sewer Improvement District 

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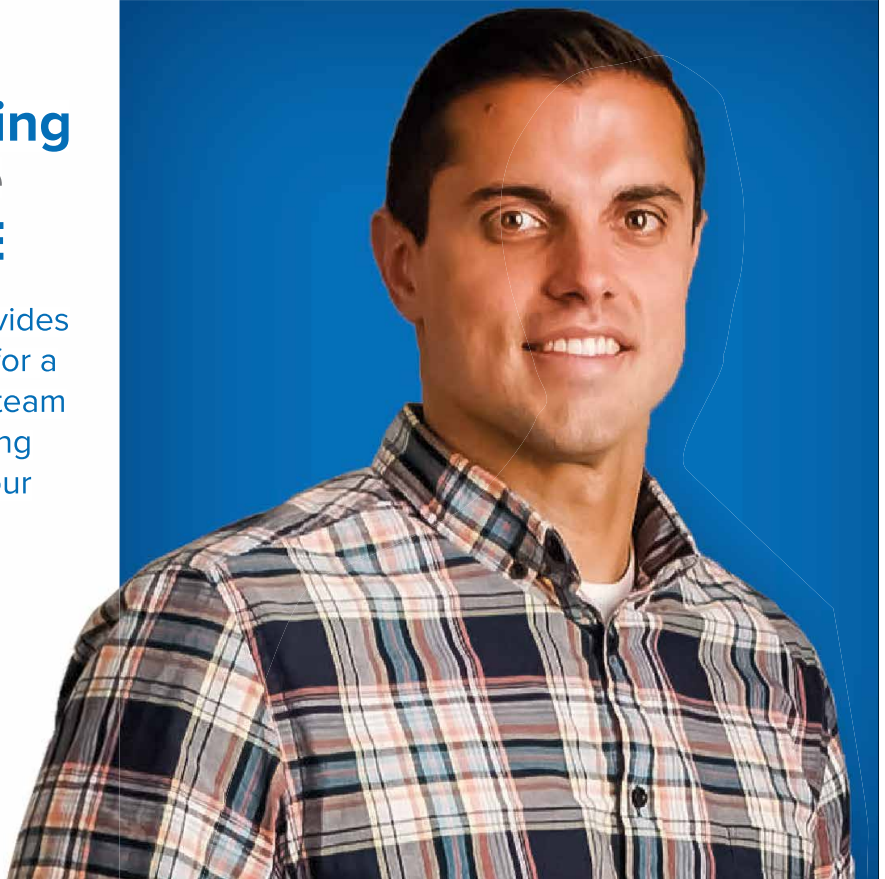
“My military background provides the perspective of working for a common goal, working as a team with my clients, and creating solutions that truly serve our communities.”

*Sam Fankhauser, PE  
AE2S Engineer*



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# Quarter Century Operator Club: Eligibility Requirements

**W**EAU would like to make all of those that work in the wastewater field aware of the requirements to be eligible for the Quarter Century Operator Club:

The Quarter Century Operator Club recognizes operators of wastewater treatment facilities for their service and dedication in a difficult and dangerous profession. The Club was created under the sponsorship of Frank Woodbury Jones, who served as the Clubs' first registrar.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Member of WEF for a minimum of five consecutive years immediately preceding application.
- Significant, full-time participant in the water environment profession for a minimum of 25 years,
  - 10 years of which must have been in active participation in the day-to-day collections, maintenance, operations, laboratory, or management of a wastewater transportation or treatment facility.

- Completed and signed application (found on the WEF website under Quarter Century Operator Club)
- Applications Accepted From: WEF Professional Wastewater Operations Members

### E-mail or Mail Applications to:

Water Environment Federation  
Attn: Rebecca Culhane 6  
01 Wythe Street Alexandria, VA 22314  
[rculhane@wef.org](mailto:rculhane@wef.org) Ph: 703-684-2400 ext. 707

If you have questions and want to talk to a local, feel free to reach out to Chad Burrell, [cburrell@sbwrld.org](mailto:cburrell@sbwrld.org) 435-659-5805. If application is approved by WEF in time for our annual conference, recipients will be recognized at the conference. You may choose to have the award mailed to Chad Burrell so he has it for the presentation at the conference: SBWRD, Chad Burrell, 2800 Homestead Road, Park City, Utah, 84098. [DH](#)

# Hidden Golden Shovel Winner from Winter issue of Digested News

**C**ongratulations to Garrett Colwell, Safety Coordinator at North Davis Sewer District.

Garrett spotted the shovel on page 31, right hand corner, next to ops challenge results. [DH](#)



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## 2026 Rocky Mountain Chapter NASTT



# Hike and BBQ

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | Pioneer Park  
Hiking from 4:00pm-6:00pm | 375 Red Hills Pkwy  
BBQ from 6:00pm-7:00pm | St George, UT  
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Haskell	41	385-258-2425	www.haskell.com
Hidrostal	5	630-948-3355	www.hidrostalpumps.com
Integrity Inspection Solutions, Inc.	4, 11	208-442-4470	www.iispipeline.com
JWC Environmental	8	877-873-4392	www.jwce.com
MGC Contractors	12	801-739-6948	www.mgccontractors.com
MISCOwater	26	801-842-7704	www.miscowater.com
Mountainland Supply Company	2	801-224-6050	www.mountainlandsupply.com
Nickerson Company	14	801-973-8888	www.nicopumps.com
Prime Solutions	42	269-694-6666	www.psirotary.com
Sauereisen, Inc.	14	412-963-0303	www.sauereisen.com
Smith & Loveless Inc.	13	800-898-9122	www.smithandloveless.com
Sunrise Engineering Inc.	10	801-523-0100	www.sunrise-eng.com
Val Kotter & Sons	17	435-734-9598	www.valkotterandsons.com
Victaulic	24	801-557-3273	www.victaulic.com
Waterford Systems	16, 22, 35, 51	801-463-9900	www.waterfordsystems.com
Xylem Water Solutions	32	385-347-3105	www.xylem.com

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Represented by:



Jeff Wiest 801.597.4962  
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# Great White Center/Dual Flow Screen

Dual spray wash unloading

All maintenance above channel

Stainless steel links and supported panels are significantly stronger than plastic hooks and unsupported panels

Fully enclosed above channel for safety, aesthetics and odor control

Proprietary low friction UHMWPE guide links reduce maintenance and operations costs

Heavy-duty reinforced structural supports for unlimited differential

Proprietary grid-to-frame and panel-to-panel sealing system held to <0.5mm tolerance for life

Rear bypass gate eliminates need for additional channel

No submerged sprockets, bushings or bearings

Replaceable lower track

## At-a-glance

### Models

- Center Flow (center entrance/side exit)
- Dual Flow (side entrance/rear exit)

### Grid Opening Range

- 0.5-25mm

### Flow Capacity

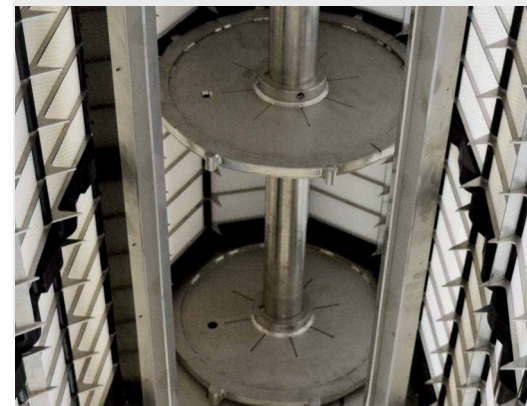
- 0.1mgd (5 L/s) to 125+mgd (5,500+ L/s)

### Grid Types

- Stainless steel laced link
- Stainless steel wire mesh
- Stainless steel perforated panel
- UHMWPE perforated panel

## Patented Drive Features

- Grid does not contact drive or unloading mechanism
- Direct drive uses no chains or sprockets
- Fully supports grid for negligible wear
- Fractional hp requirements



## Optional Equipment

- Specialty stainless steel construction
- Cold weather/freeze protection
- Basic to sophisticated automation controls
- Sectional construction for restricted area assembly
- Integrated screenings handling equipment
- Electric, hydraulic or explosion-proof drives

