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2025 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE RECAP

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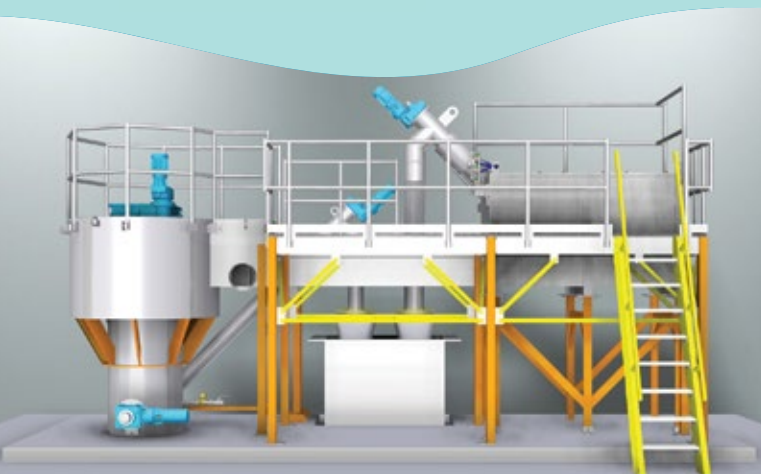
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Reflections and Ripples: Looking Back, Leaning Forward



Steve Myers

How is 2025 almost over? Maybe it *is* already over by the time you're reading this! Time seems to be moving faster every year, right? Perhaps a clear sign that I'm getting old... Indeed, as my kids point out all the time, I'm a product of the "Nineteen Hundreds" – why do they have to put it that way??

This past year has absolutely flown by, and I've been reflecting a lot on the journey that brought me here. Like many of you, my WEAU story started small. My first volunteer role was helping manage the association website – back at the onset of "Google Sites". It wasn't fancy, but it worked. From there, I found myself speaking at conferences, joining the laboratory committee, and eventually serving on the Board. Each new opportunity led to more connections, friendships, and experiences that have shaped my career and perspective in profound ways.



One of the people who helped set me on this path was **Paul Krauth**, who many of you will remember as one of the most genuine and loveable people in our industry – albeit a bit controversial. Paul always brought a presence and a knack for engaging others to get involved – not through pressure or position,

but by example... and maybe the promise of good food. He took chances (remember the joint conference with Nevada? – the meal budget has become legendary), built bridges, and wasn't afraid to try new things, talk to new people, or get involved in any number of professional organizations. He was the one who first encouraged (and maybe "volunteered") me to support a **WEF hands-on workshop**

years ago, an experience that has completely changed how I viewed professional engagement. What started as a small role turned into a recurring opportunity to teach, collaborate, and connect with peers from across the country. I am currently the chair of this workshop that has the distinct honor of being the longest running WEF workshop and one that sells out first every year. That simple act of inclusion from Paul became a defining ripple in my career – one that continues to expand to this day.

That "ripple effect" has been on my mind a lot lately – especially after spending time with the **Young Professionals (YP) group** at their recent summit. It was a blast reflecting on my own ripples while encouraging them to think about theirs. The relationships and experiences they're building now will pay dividends in ways they can't yet imagine. Their curiosity, energy, and willingness to engage are exactly what will sustain the future of Utah's water community.

At the YP Summit, **Mike Chandler** led an engaging session on leadership that reminded me of some core lessons from two books that have guided my own growth: *Crucial Conversations* and *Radical Candor*. Both highlight that effective leadership – whether in the workplace, at home, or within organizations like WEAU – depends on a few key principles:

- **Be authentic and care.** People respect realness more than perfection.
- **Be courageous and drive accountability.** Hard truths delivered with care create stronger trust than silence ever will.
- **Be curious.** Try to understand what drives the person across from you. Ask what they value, what they're trying to achieve, and how you can help.

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President's Message



Those principles have served me well, not just professionally but in life. They remind us that leadership isn't about authority –



it's about connection, humility, and service. And if the YPs in that room are any indication, the future of our industry is in very good hands.

That same spirit of service is also alive in **Global Water Stewardship (GWS)**, an

organization near and dear to me that works to bring sustainable wastewater solutions to central American communities in need. We've now started integrating the GWS design challenge into our own **WEAU Student Design Competition**, giving Utah students a chance to apply their creativity and problem-solving skills to real-world global water issues. It's a powerful way to help them see how what they're learning in school can make a tangible difference – not just here at home, but around the world.

As we look ahead, volunteer opportunities abound within WEAU – from committees and event planning to outreach and education. You'll find open positions listed on our website, and I strongly encourage everyone to jump in where they can. Your time, ideas, and enthusiasm are what make this association so special.

And yes, believe it or not, the **2026 Annual Conference** in St. George is already right around the corner. These events don't happen by magic (though it sometimes feels that way when

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President's Message



everything comes together). They're made possible by the countless hours our volunteers dedicate to making sure every detail is covered – from the technical program and student activities to registration,

awards, and everything in between. I can't thank you all enough for what you do.

So as 2025 wraps up, take a moment to reflect on your own ripple effect. Think about who inspired you, who you've influenced along the way, and who might be waiting for that same spark of encouragement to get involved.

The water keeps flowing – and so do we. Let's keep learning, connecting, and building the kind of community that makes this work so fulfilling.

See you all soon and may your 2026 at least *feel* like it moves just a little slower (but I won't hold my breath). [DIT](#)



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Growing Pains in Southern Utah

Wyatt Andersen

Hello *Digested News* Readers, In this issue of *Digested News*, I would like to highlight an initiative and system of projects that will be crucial in the continuation of sustainable growth in Southern Utah. Washington County in Southern Utah has brought forward and developed an initiative named One Water Washington County, which is a collaboration between Washington County Water Conservancy District and its municipal partners: St. George City, Washington City, Hurricane City, Santa Clara City, Ivins City, Toquerville City, La Verkin City, and Virgin City. The goal of One Water Washington County is to “develop and secure additional, drought-proof and locally controlled water supplies that can meet the region’s needs now and in the future.”

The components of One Water Washington County are as follows from the District’s website:

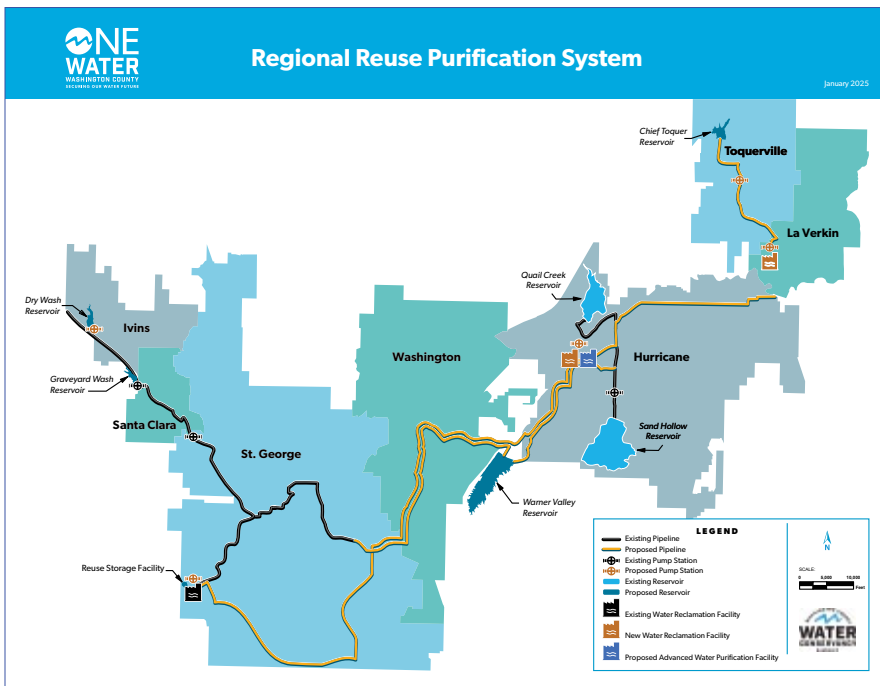
- Conserve – Reduce per capita water use by an additional 15% in the next decade to free up existing water supplies.
- Reuse – Construct a regional water reuse system to purify increasing amounts of reclaimed water in the system and augment potable water supplies.
- Develop – Invest in local infrastructure projects to produce, clean, store, and deliver water to municipal partners.
- Convert – Evaluate additional water supplies from agricultural land as it is converted to municipal and industrial development.
- Optimize – Evaluate whether groundwater rights can reliably generate additional supply.

The system of projects mentioned above is part of the reuse component of One Water Washington County and is called the Regional Reuse Purification System, which is projected to produce more than

24,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2042, enough to serve more than 40,000 homes.

Washington County relies heavily on the Virgin River for water supply and this river is prone to drought. The Regional Reuse Purification System will utilize new and existing water infrastructure networks to purify, store, and deliver water throughout the County. The Regional Reuse Purification System will comprise of three water reclamation facilities, one advanced water purification facility, four new reservoirs, sixty miles of pipeline, and multiple pump stations. I have included a graphic of the proposed system as part of this article.

The One Water Washington County initiative and the Regional Reuse Purification System will be fascinating to follow over the next few decades to see how it helps with sustainable growth in Southern Utah. [DM](#)



“The goal of One Water Washington County is to “develop and secure additional, drought-proof and locally controlled water supplies that can meet the region’s needs now and in the future.”



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Collections Quiz

1. **Which of the following best describes a positive displacement pump?**
 - A. It imparts velocity to the fluid to create flow
 - B. It delivers a fixed volume of fluid per cycle
 - C. It depends on centrifugal force to move fluid
 - D. It cannot handle viscous fluids

2. **What happens if the discharge line of a positive displacement pump is blocked?**
 - A. The pump will stop automatically
 - B. The flow will decrease and pressure will remain constant
 - C. The pressure will increase rapidly and may damage the pump
 - D. Nothing will happen

3. **Positive displacement pumps are best suited for:**
 - A. Low viscosity fluids
 - B. High flow and low head applications
 - C. High viscosity fluids and accurate dosing
 - D. Large-scale irrigation systems

4. **What is the main purpose of shaft alignment between a pump and motor?**
 - A. To make the shafts look straight
 - B. To minimize wear and vibration
 - C. To increase motor power
 - D. To reduce pipe friction

5. **What tool is most commonly used for precise shaft alignment?**
 - A. Vernier caliper
 - B. Spirit level
 - C. Dial indicator or laser alignment system
 - D. Feeler gauge

6. **A flexible coupling between a pump and motor is primarily used to:**
 - A. Increase torque transmission
 - B. Allow for slight misalignment and absorb vibration
 - C. Increase shaft speed
 - D. Lock the shafts together rigidly

7. **What is the most likely reason for uneven wear on a pump shaft coupling?**
 - A. Over-lubrication
 - B. Shaft misalignment or bent shaft
 - C. High suction pressure
 - D. Balanced operation

8. **Which of the following is the most critical safety concern in digester gas systems?**
 - A. Odor nuisance
 - B. Gas leakage leading to explosion or fire
 - C. Noise pollution
 - D. Condensate collection

9. **What is the function of a flame arrestor in a digester gas system?**
 - A. Increase gas flow rate
 - B. Prevent flame from traveling back into the digester
 - C. Remove moisture from gas
 - D. Measure gas pressure

10. **What maintenance action should be performed before opening a digester gas line?**
 - A. Increase gas pressure
 - B. Vent and purge the line with air
 - C. Vent and purge with an inert gas (e.g., nitrogen)
 - D. Heat the line to evaporate gas

11. **What is the primary function of a blower in a wastewater treatment plant?**
 - A. Pumping sludge
 - B. Supplying air for aerobic biological processes
 - C. Circulating digester gas
 - D. Mixing chemicals

12. **What is the likely effect of a clogged air intake filter on blower operation?**
 - A. Increased airflow
 - B. Reduced airflow and higher temperature
 - C. Decreased pressure loss
 - D. Increased motor efficiency



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13. What type of lubricant is generally used in blower bearings and gears?
- A. Water
 - B. Engine oil
 - C. Manufacturer-specified grease or oil
 - D. Any available oil
14. What maintenance step should be performed before starting a blower after a long shutdown?
- A. Start it immediately
 - B. Check oil level and rotate the shaft by hand
 - C. Block the discharge valve
 - D. Clean the blower casing with water
15. Which fire extinguisher is suitable for electrical fires (Class C)?
- A. Water extinguisher
 - B. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) extinguisher
 - C. Foam extinguisher
 - D. Wet chemical extinguisher

16. What type of fire is a foam extinguisher mainly used for?
- A. Class B – Flammable liquids
 - B. Class D – Combustible metals
 - C. Class C – Electrical fires
 - D. Class K – Cooking oils

17. What is the main hazard when using a CO₂ extinguisher in a confined space?
- A. Fire spread
 - B. Oxygen displacement leading to suffocation
 - C. Electrical shock
 - D. High noise level **DN**



Answers

1. B, 2. C, 3. C, 4. B, 5. C, 6. B, 7. B, 8. B, 9. B, 10. C, 11. B, 12. B, 13. C, 14. B, 15. B, 16. A, 17. B



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SVI₅ comparison of aerobic granular sludge (left) and conventional activated sludge (right)



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WEAU Makes Utah Proud at WEFTEC 2025 Operations Challenge

Chicago hosted this year's WEFTEC, and the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) was there in full force, demonstrating incredible skill and teamwork at the annual Operations Challenge.

This year, Utah was proudly represented by three outstanding teams competing in **Division 2: the Wasatch All Stars** (Shawn Bosen, Morgan Jeppson, Jon Moreno, Lauren Schmidt, and Kylee Nelson), the South Valley WRF **Deuces** (Jason Schuring, Jason Smith, Jonathan Baranowski, Cory Zeman, and Taigon Worthen), and the Central Valley WRF **Wasted Gas** (Jeff Bullock, Brock Thompson, Jonathan Porter, Nelo Nau, and Jay Nowell). All three teams delivered exceptional results and showcased the high

level of talent within our state. The **Wasatch All Stars** earned **2nd place in the Safety event**, **Wasted Gas** took **3rd place in the Maintenance event**, and the **Deuces** secured a strong **5th place overall**.

Beyond the impressive results, one of the best parts of the event was the atmosphere. It was fun watching the enthusiastic support from the Utah contingent, cheering on each team as they prepared to perform.

That spirit of support was also evident behind the scenes. The Operations Challenge relies on dedicated volunteers, and WEAU stepped up significantly to help run the events. A huge thank-you goes to the many Utah members who participated as judges,

including **Gordon Call, Austin Peterson, Jeremy Deppe, Chris Reilly, Tiffany Adams, Josh Hunsaker, Nate Cloward, Marlo Davis, and Mario Campos**.

It's truly cool to see how much support Utah gives to the Operations Challenge each year. Congratulations to all the competitors, judges, and supporters for representing WEAU so well on the national stage!

There's really nothing like the excitement of being at the Ops Challenge. If you've never been, I can't recommend it enough – you should get involved. It's not just about the events; it's about the connections you make and the friendships you build with people from our field stick with you. [DN](#)



“ There's really nothing like the excitement of being at the Ops Challenge. It's not just about the events; it's about the connections you make and the friendships you build with people from our field stick with you.



Operator Spotlight: Bryan Reynoso

Bryan Reynoso is a dedicated wastewater operator at the North Davis Sewer District. In his first year with the district, he has already demonstrated significant commitment and skill by achieving his Grade 4 certification within an impressive eight-month timeframe.

Originally from West Wendover, Bryan moved to Utah with his family at age 17. He was drawn to the wastewater industry

through curiosity of what was happening behind the fence as well as family influences and a clear recognition of the potential for opportunity and growth.

Bryan thrives in the field, valuing the autonomy it provides to “carve his own path” and his ability to actively find new ways to improve processes. Being pretty new to the field, he is not shy about voicing his ideas. He is eager to continue

his professional development and expand his connections by networking within the WEAU organization. In the upcoming year, he is hoping to represent North Davis at his first operations challenge competition.

Outside of work, you will find Bryan enjoying one of his new favorite hobbies playing disc golf at his local city park. He also enjoys riding around on ATV’s, playing video games and being his own food critic. **DN**

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*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. **DN**



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.

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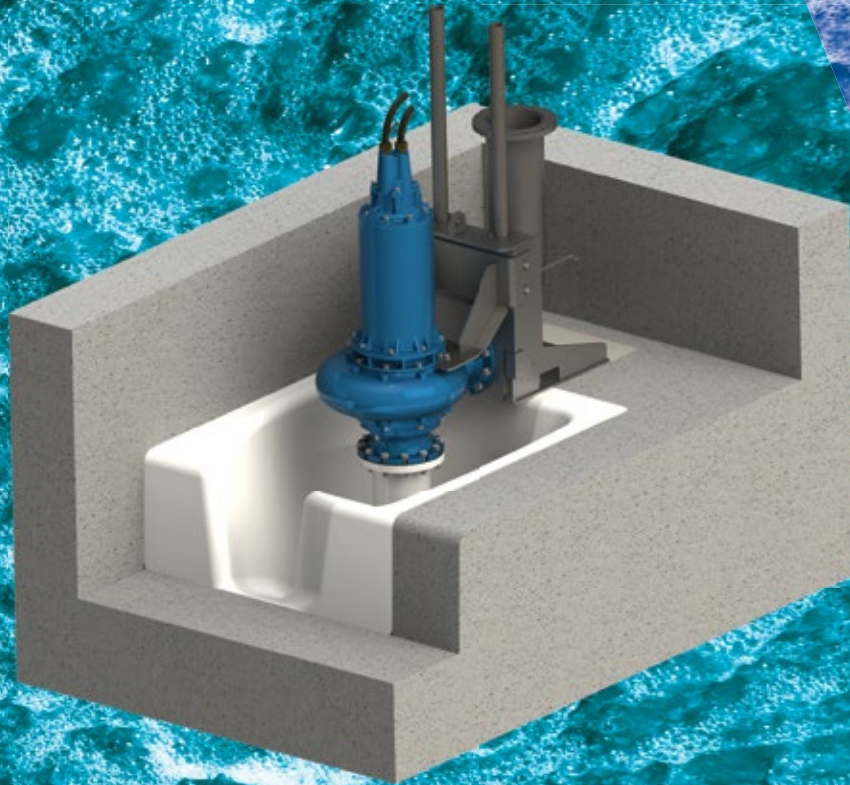


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Third Annual YP Summit

The WEAU Young Professionals (YP) Committee hosted the third annual WEAU YP Summit on Thursday, November 6th at Jordan Basin Improvement District in Bluffdale, UT. The theme of this year's summit was "Elevate and Evolve" - right on brand with this year's key themes for WEF, Involve and Elevate. The Summit is designed to bring together professionals who are at the early stages of their careers in the water and wastewater sector. Having an event dedicated to young professionals opens the door for us to focus more on the soft skills necessary for growth, regardless of career path. The event also offers the chance to connect with peers from across Utah, collaborate on shaping the future vision for WEAU, and engage in meaningful discussions about strategies to address global water issues.

The summit kicked off with a message from current WEAU President Steve Myers on how being a part of WEAU has helped him build meaningful connections throughout his career. "What can WEAU do for me?" is an underlying question we are always trying to educate our members on and hearing Steve's story was great example of exactly that.

This year's 'How to Make Toast' icebreaker went beyond the typical bingo card conversation starter. While it may seem simple at first, making toast can be a very

drawn-out process. Attendees engaged in conversation and artistic competition among their table groups with plenty of laughs and confusion mixed in. On top of breaking the ice, the activity also demonstrated that by visualizing processes and encouraging group input, teams can better understand problems and design more effective solutions.

The remainder of the day was focused on the five technical modules:

Module I Elevating Teams featured a presentation from Michael Chandler (Ash Creek SSD) on building high-performing teams by prioritizing what matters most, fostering positive interactions, and maintaining authentic communication. Attendees also learned that leadership is based on relationships, service, and sacrifice, not just authority or position.

Module II Evolving Communications had teams simulate real-world project scenarios to identify and overcome communication barriers. The goal of this exercise was to improve teamwork by understanding different perspectives, consolidate priorities, and develop strategies to communicate effectively and adapt to unexpected changes.

Module III Operations Circuit Challenge gave attendees the chance to test out their operator skills with hands-on stations simulating real-world wastewater operations challenges. During this module,

teams rotated through components of the Operations Challenge and gained an appreciation for the operations that lie at the core of our industry.

Module IV YP Power Hour put the spotlight on a few YP's to briefly present on what they do and how they have elevated and evolved in the workplace. During this module, Bryan Reynoso (North Davis SD), Maggie Shalvoy (Hazen and Sawyer), Victor Rosales (Snyderville Basin WRD), and David Kibbie (AECOM) each presented their own unique experiences on career changes, learning new skills, overcoming challenges, and evolving in their roles.

Module V Accountability and Ownership was led by Katie Reams (JUB) and Tess Laffer (AECOM) and focused on how to be accountable in the workplace. The "Blame Game" exercise created open discussions around responsibility, ownership, how to communicate mistakes. These conversations helped to drive home the message of complete ownership, teamwork, and a united approach to challenges.

The summit also featured WEAU swag giveaways, catered lunch, and plenty of networking opportunities throughout the day. Thank you to the summit planning committee, speakers, and WEAU Board members for their help with making this year's summit a huge success. [bn](#)



Giving Back to Our Community

The WEAU Young Professionals group showed their dedication to the Salt Lake community by collaborating with AWWA's YP group for a joint service project at Horizonte Instructional Center. During the school's Día de los Muertos themed open house, volunteers connected with students and families through pumpkin painting, serving warm cider, and preparing apples for a candy apple station. These activities helped create a welcoming and festive environment, build connections, and celebrate the spirit of the season. Horizonte is 'many schools within a school' as they put it and it was inspiring to learn about all of the programs they offer to the community. The event highlighted our YP Group's commitment to service and ability to bring together industry partners for meaningful community engagement. [Dn](#)



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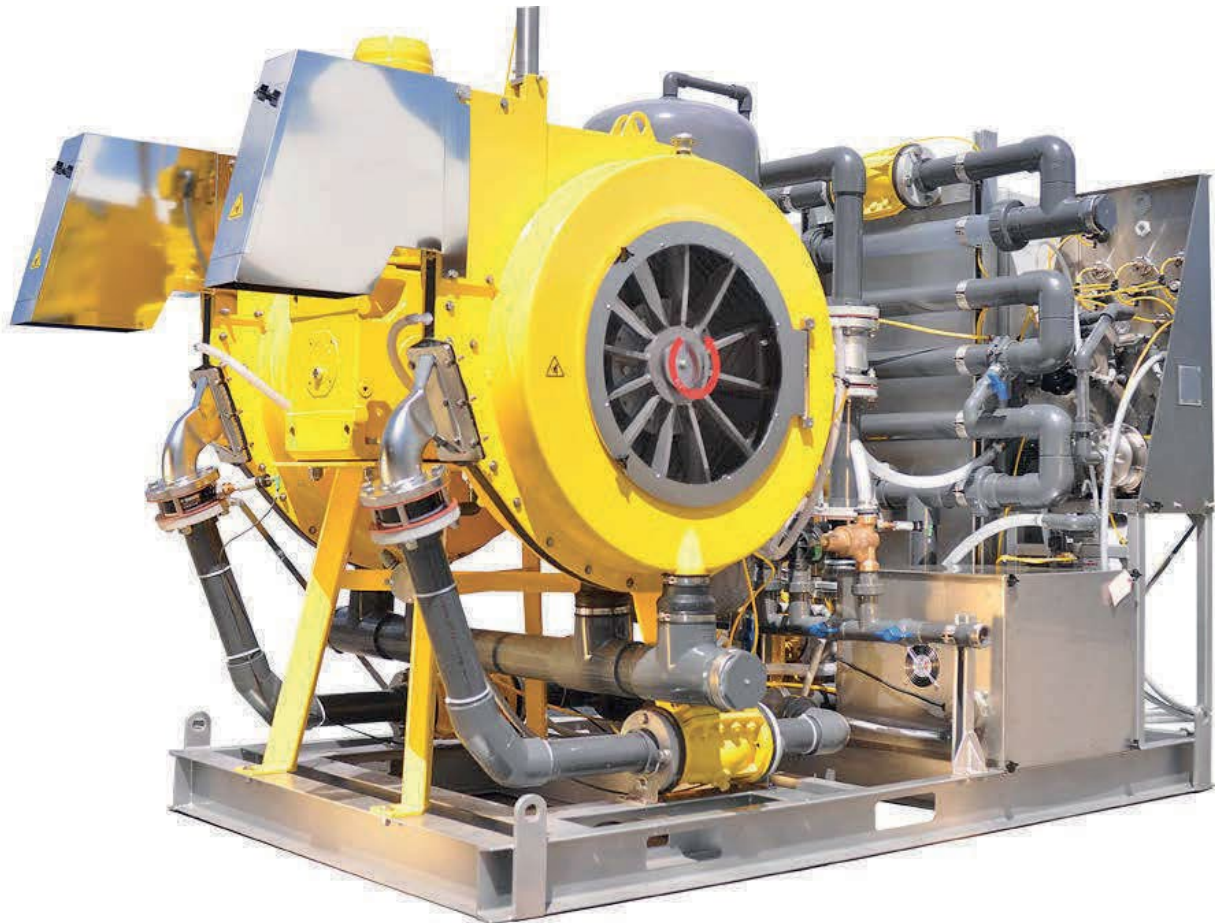
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Science with Heart: Inside the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Laboratory

By the WEAU Laboratory Committee

At Utah's largest wastewater treatment plant, science and service go hand in hand. The Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility (CVWRF) in Salt Lake City is a cornerstone of environmental protection for the region, treating more than 50 million gallons of water every day. Its analytical laboratory – founded in the early 1980s – serves as the scientific engine behind that mission, generating the data that keeps the facility compliant, efficient, and forward-looking.



Every drop that enters the lab tells a story. The team performs a wide range of analyses: biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), ammonia, total suspended solids (TSS), total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and both total and orthophosphate testing. Their instruments – an Agilent 7850 ICP-MS, a Dionex ICS-5000 ion chromatograph, and a SEAL AQ400 discrete analyzer – bring precision to every sample. Microbiological methods such as Colilert, Quant-Tray, and MPN testing monitor pathogens, ensuring the water released back to the environment meets the highest standards. Field samples arrive daily from across Salt Lake County, and data are managed through advanced LIMS and WIMS systems that turn numbers into insight.




At the helm is Ed Harrison, Laboratory Director, who joined CVWRF in 2018 and describes the lab as “The Central Valley Family.” His leadership emphasizes openness and connection. Around him works a dedicated group of professionals – Dwaine Funk (Lab Tech III), Melissa Willes (Lab Tech III), Paul Pope (Chemist), Nick Mabey (Lab Tech II), and Porscha Swain (Laboratory Technician) – each bringing expertise in chemistry, microbiology, and instrumentation. Together, they represent over 60 years of combined experience at Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility.



While the science is complex, the spirit of the team is simple: collaboration, respect, and pride in serving their community. As Melissa notes, the work is about “maintaining the accuracy, consistency, and quality of data essential to daily compliance monitoring.” From its beginnings in the early 1980s to today, the CVWRF laboratory has grown not only in capability but in heart. The strength of this lab lies in its people – individuals who genuinely care about one another, their craft, and the communities they serve.



From left to right: Paul Pope, Nick Mabey, Porscha Swain, Dwaine Funk, and Ed Harrison. Not Pictured: Melissa Willes

The Central Valley team reminds us that true excellence isn't achieved by technology alone, but by people who believe in their mission and in one another. Their unity, professionalism, and quiet pride set a high standard for laboratories across Utah – proving that when science meets service, everyone downstream benefits. 

Treatment Certification Quiz

1. A clarifier drive mechanism has a broken shear pin. The operator should

- A. Replace the shear pin and restart the drive
- B. Determine and correct the source of the overload condition
- C. Decrease the drive motor speed
- D. Adjust the gear-to-pinion teeth ratio

2. Scum and other floatable material

- A. Passes under the scum baffle and into the effluent
- B. Is pushed by the skimmer arm onto the egress ramp
- C. Consists primarily of grease and sand
- D. Should be removed upstream in preliminary treatment

3. Cold water affects settling velocity because

- A. Cold water contains more dissolved gases
- B. There is less drag on particles
- C. Microbial activity increases as temperatures drop
- D. Water is denser at colder temperatures

4. As water temperatures decrease in a primary clarifier

- A. Particles will settle slower
- B. Odor potential increases
- C. Particles will settle faster
- D. Water becomes less viscous

5. Weirs should be kept clear of debris, level, and clean to prevent

- A. Uneven flow distribution
- B. Retention of fine particulates
- C. Unsightly growth of algae
- D. Clogging of the flush valves

6. A 1-ton chlorine container has how many fusible plugs

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 6
- D. 9

7. Which of the following chlorine cylinders is likely to have the highest gas pressure

- A. Cylinder stored at 10 degrees C
- B. Cylinder containing 75% liquid chlorine
- C. Cylinder located outdoors on a hot day
- D. Cylinder with a closed metal to metal seal

8. Chlorine injectors function based

- A. on Pressure
- B. Coriolis effect
- C. Vacuum
- D. Plug flow

9. Ultraviolet light disrupts DNA by

- A. Blasting apart the two halves of the double helix
- B. Substituting adenine for thymine in bonds
- C. Causing the formation of thymine dimers
- D. Directly interfering with base pair repair

10. Ultraviolet light is generated

- A. When liquid mercury fluoresces
- B. As a byproduct of static electricity
- C. Only at a wavelength of 254 nm
- D. By passing electricity through mercury vapor **DT**

Answers

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

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2025 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE RECAP

Utah Cultural Celebration Center | November 18, 2025



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We hope to see you all again in 2026.**



Mentor Award Winners

Brian Lamar, Christi Priest, Dallas Henline, Phil Heck, Sarah Ward, Spener Parkinson, Terrance Price, Tiffini Adams, Tyler Barfuss, Tyler Seamons



Shart Tank Presenter Awards

1st Place: Tucker Black, 2nd Place: Bryan Reynoso, 3rd Place: Cole Tubbs



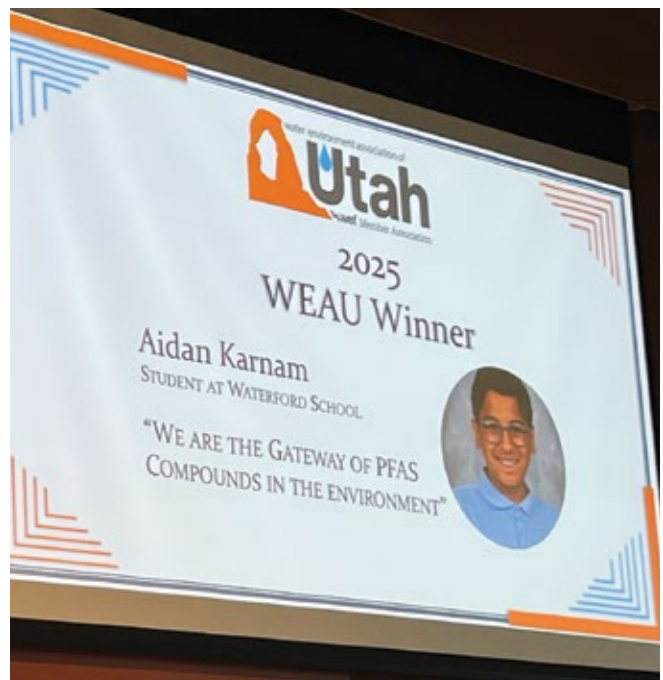
Okey Scholarship Winner and Student Presenter Award

Tayyab Qureshi



Operator and Professional Scholarship Award Winner

Juliette Curtis



Stockholm Junior Water Prize Winner

Aidan Karnam

WEFTEC Ops Challenge Results Presentation



Keynote Speaker
Ashley Sumner, Deputy Director Utah DEQ



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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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Submit abstracts online at www.weau.org.

Abstracts will be reviewed and you will be notified if your presentation is accepted. The presentations will be made to attendees at the conference and formal paper submissions are not required. [DM](#)

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2025 Engineering SYMPOSIUM

The 2025 Engineering Symposium topic, “Reimagining Capacity: Intensification,” attracted a diverse crowd of wastewater professionals. A multitude of presentations on intensification technologies like inDENSE, BioMag, AGS, miGrate, and more led to informative discussions on implementation and results at local wastewater treatment facilities.

Presentation 1:

The first presentation was given by Zac Staheli, the Wastewater Division Manager for Spanish Fork City and Gary Vance, Project Engineer at JUB. They spoke about the expansion project happening at the Spanish Fork Water Reclamation Facility. Zac cited aging infrastructure, regulation changes, nutrient limitations, and regional population boom as project drivers. This project faced a number of engineering challenges such as retrofitting the solids handling facility and making ground improvements to manage settlement. Zac highlighted several key successes from the project including preselecting major equipment. Preselecting equipment allowed the engineering team to design around a specific product and lock in pricing during a volatile market. For the first time, Spanish Fork WRF’s ammonia levels are below limit, which Zac attributes to a quality seed that was introduced. During construction, the team made it a priority to update a “work in progress” drawing set with any RFI design changes. This effort made compiling the finished drawing set simple at the end of construction.

Presentation 2:

Jill Jones, Manjot Masson, and Nate Cloward from Central Davis Sewer District teamed up to present on improving settling time with the

inDENSE skid. The team’s water reclamation facility was experiencing high solids volume index (SVI) in their clarifiers due to a high percentage of filamentous bacteria present in their sludge. During a visit to WEFTEC, the Central Davis team learned about inDENSE, a gravimetric selection technology designed to separate lighter filament material from denser biological material. The district was able to secure a deal with the manufacturer to purchase one skid for \$250,000 and get a second one for free. After installing the inDENSE skid at their facility, the district observed lower SVI as inDENSE worked to waste out the filamentous material from the sludge stream. Overall, the inDENSE technology was a success at Central Davis, allowing them to lower their SVI and sludge blanket levels while keeping costs low.

Presentation 3:

Craig Ashcroft, PE, and Erin Anderson, PE, from Carollo Engineers presented on the use of BioMag at the Logan Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (LRWWTF). Starting with the science behind their project, Craig and Erin explained how the BioMag intensification system takes advantage of magnetite’s high specific gravity. Acting as a ballast, magnetite adds weight to biological floc, resulting in an improved clarification process. Around 90% of the magnetite can





then be recovered by magnetic recovery drums. LRWWTF's need for BioMag stemmed from problems with the project location. At the site of Logan's lagoon system, there was potential for 34 inches of settlement due to clay soils. The solution was shrinking the footprint of the new mechanical plant to offset the high cost of using piles. One initial struggle with the project was a high quantity of filaments; however, once chlorine was added, the BioMag system's effectiveness improved greatly. The project has been largely successful at lowering total nitrogen and phosphorous, SVI, and sludge blanket depth. Now that the initial expansion project is complete, Carollo is working to improve the system by removing the maintenance-intensive shear mills and updating pump design.

Presentation 4:

Jeff Beckman, PE, and Nate Rogers, PE, from Bowen Collins & Associates gave a presentation on Confluence Park Water Reclamation Facility. Southern Utah is experiencing an extreme population growth of 5-6% annually. With the booming population, plans for a new water reclamation facility were conceived. Jeff and Nate shared their experience designing and constructing Confluence Park WRF to meet this demand. The presenters explained that they decided to use a relatively new technology for this treatment plant, and the first of its kind in Utah. This technology, "aerobic granular sludge" (AGS), is a form of densification/intensification selected due to its efficiency, simplicity, and size constraints at the site. This process uses a single reactor that has three carefully timed phases to achieve the necessary treatment. The resulting sludge granules are dense with different microbial zones, providing heavy-duty treatment and allowing for 15 times faster settling than conventional processes. Jeff and Nate also explained some of the hurdles with designing an AGS plant including challenges with the regulatory system and manufacturers with strict NDAs.



Presentation 5:

The final presentation of the day was given by David Foster with World Water Works. This presentation focused on process intensification technologies. Jason talked about miGRATE, which is a carrier media made of compostable materials and manufactured in the United States. miGRATE allows for even biofilm growth and improved settling, making it a cost-effective intensification process. Foster explained how miGRATE can also be paired with inDENSE technology. He shared the success of a project in Pennsylvania using a combination of both technologies. This project involved an 8 MGD plant, which was anticipating greater effluent limits for nitrogen and phosphorus. As a solution, the inDENSE skid and miGRATE media were implemented at this plant, which lowered the SVI and sludge blanket height significantly. This solution saved 39 million dollars in capital costs and improved plant capacity significantly. [D&E](#)

WEAU Expands Its Public Outreach Efforts

The WEAU Public Outreach committee has been active this year, guided by our mission: *to increase public awareness of the value the Utah wastewater industry brings to communities and the diverse career paths it offers; to promote WEAU as a supportive professional community, a resource for growth, and a meaningful way to get involved whether you're exploring career options or already working in the field.*

This summer and fall, we participated in several events to share the story of Utah's wastewater professionals and connect with future members.

- SLCC Job and Internship Fair – September 10
- APWA Annual Convention – September 23-24
- Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium – November 19-20

At SLCC, we met students pursuing certifications and degrees in fields such as environmental science, diesel mechanics, and information technology. Many expressed interest in WEAU's scholarships and discounted student memberships. At the professional events, we connected with colleagues across public works, engineering, and environmental sectors to highlight WEAU's role in conserving Utah's water resources.



Continuing our mission to raise awareness, the committee has also begun coordinating guided public tours of wastewater treatment facilities, particularly those that have recently experienced significant changes. We help promote these opportunities through local outlets and provide PPE for up to 40 participants. One such public tour is in the works for this fall and another tour is planned for the spring. To support these efforts, WEAU has invested in customized hard hats and high-visibility vests for participants. These can also be made available to other committees for future site visits.

By expanding our public engagement, WEAU aims to build stronger community connections and inspire the next generation of water professionals. We also welcome volunteers for upcoming events who want to help share the story of our industry. [DRI](#)



“By expanding our public engagement, WEAU aims to build stronger community connections and inspire the next generation of water professionals.”

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Thursday, February 26 at 7:00pm
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 Keep an eye out for registration details coming January.

Shout Out to the USU Student Chapter



UtahState
University

The WEAU Student Committee made a strong showing at Utah State University as WEAU board members met with the USU Student Chapter to discuss opportunities for involvement in WEAU. Thanks to the coordination of Dr. Dupont and chapter president Jake.



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1. Search under CATEGORY LISTINGS for the products/services you require.
2. Note the companies listed under your products/services.
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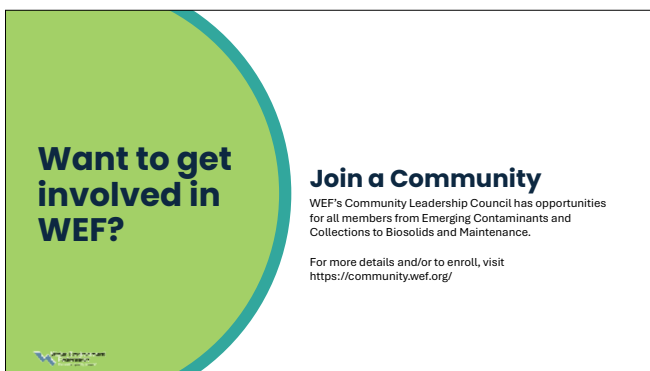


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