

**DRAFT SCHEDULE – VRWA 2024 ANNUAL EXPOSITION AGENDA
April 15-17, 2024**

Agenda is tentative. Times and topics are subject to change.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

5:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration
9:00 am – 4:00 pm Full Day Class – Pre-Registration REQUIRED
12 noon – 1:00 pm Lunch provided for Monday class attendees

Cross-Connections: Undetected is Unsafe
Tina Moffit & Paul Patterson (Hydro-Corp)

or

Skills to Help You Advance as an Operator
Donna Lawson (VRWA)

9:00 am VRWA Annual Clay Shoot
10:00 am VRWA Annual Golf Outing
11:00 am – 5:30 pm Exhibitor Set Up Time
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Registration Opens
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Exhibitors Sneak Preview with light refreshments

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

7:00 am Staff to Set Up Classrooms/Prepare/ Registration
7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration/Exhibit Hall Opens with Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:30 am Concurrent Training Classes (4)
Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management – M

1) Beyond Your CCR: Communications Strategies You Can Use (W)

Sarah Palazzolo (Virginia Health Catalyst)

Your CCR is complex – it reflects your team’s dedication to excellent service and compliance with national drinking water standards. Unfortunately, most CCRs are difficult to understand and contribute to mistrust at the tap. It’s time to go beyond your CCR. This session will review key insights from a toolkit created by Virginia Health Catalyst and includes a practice exercise to jumpstart your communications plan.

2) Right Sizing Your Sewer Rehab Program to Meet Short- and Long-Term Needs (WW)

Jeff Kapinos & Asmita Deshmukh (RK&K, LLP)

This presentation will focus on the benefits of collaborating amongst sewer system managers and operators. Learn about a teams development approach used by RK&K and the methodology and the implementation of the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Surveys program in Criticality Project Areas. See how such a program was implemented in the City of Lynchburg, one of the few communities originally served by a combined sewer system.

3) Raccoon Creek WTP PFAS Removal Pilot Project (W/WW)

Mark Romers (ITAC Water Technologies)

Learn about a pilot project using new technologies to remove PFAS in the Raccoon Creek in Georgia.

4) Emergency Preparedness for Water / Wastewater Utilities (W / WW / M)

Keith Webb (McGill Associates)

Is your water/sewer system prepared for the unexpected and the next emergency? Disruptions of service can result in customer complaints, create public health concerns and risk to public health, cause water quality violations,

subject your utility to fines and penalties, and create a negative media frenzy which can result in loss of trust in your utility. Emergency preparedness is critical to delivering safe drinking water, protecting water quality, and providing quality service to your customers at reasonable rates. In this session, we will use real case studies to dive into lessons learned and tips your utility can implement to be prepared for the next disruption of services which can create that emergency.

9:30 am – 10:00 am Break in the Exhibit Hall

10:00 am – 11:30am

Opening Session/Annual Business Meeting – Washington Lecture Hall

VRWA Annual Business Meeting

This is the meeting of the VRWA Delegates to discuss the business of the Association and to elect directors whose terms have expired.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm Women in Rural Water Luncheon (*Pre-registration REQUIRED*)
Connected by Water

12 Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Concurrent Training Classes (4)
Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management – M

1) EPA Regulatory Updates: PFAS and LCR (W)

Ruby Stanmyer, Dennis O'Conner, & Nicola Horscroft (EPA Region 3)

This presentation will share how PFAS enters our public drinking water sources, what to expect from PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels, compliance timelines, laboratory detection methods, and what to expect in the future. Additionally, learn about available technical assistance programs, regulatory updates, and upcoming deadlines for LCRR and LCRI.

2) Small Town – Mega Project: Financial and Technical Challenges (WW)

Nitant Desai, Taylor Dukes (Bowman Consulting Group)

Learn about a town experiencing inflow and infiltration issues along with a failing central WWTP. This presentation will review how this complex project was handled from the engineering challenges to funding work and from permitting to success.

3) Utility Resilience is Built on Reliable Power: More than Just Backup Generators (W / WW)

Don Dickinson, Frank Gonzalez (Graybar / Phoenix Contact)

A loss of power is devastating for water and wastewater utilities, along with the communities they serve. EPA recommends backup generators to keep pumps operational. However, power resilience is more than just backup generators. This presentation will provide an overview on the need for power resilience, EPA's power resilience program, and how reliable control systems maximize up-time for critical control and communications systems ensuring the availability and reliability of essential water services.

4) Proactive Approach to Cyber Defense of Critical Infrastructure: Basic Cyber Security Practices and Beyond (M)

Colonel Gerald Mazur & Major Andre Slonopas (US Army)

Cyber defense of critical infrastructure is becoming an urgency that is driven by the geo- and homeland political situations. This session will present on the necessity of cyber defense of critical infrastructure that supports Defense and Civilian sectors, bring real-world examples of effects from cyber compromises, discuss rudimentary cybersecurity measures that can be undertaken by every organization, and will present the proactive, advanced and large-scale Cyber Fortress collaboration between Federal, State, Local, private, academic and private partners.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Break in the Exhibit Hall

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Concurrent Training Classes (4)

Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management – M

1) The Benefit of Developing a CIP and Financial Model for Long-term Utility Fund Viability and Water System Interconnects (W)

Doug Chapman, Wes Flemming, Mike Dowd, Danny Bridges (McGill Associates)

In this class, learn about the benefits of developing a CIP and financial model for viability. Learn how to handle the financial side of your utility. Issues of creating such a model and plan and working with governing boards will be addressed and as well as ways to handle them.

2) PFAS Regulations and Methods Update for Environmental Professionals (WW)

Lindsay Boone (Pace Analytical)

EPA is rapidly increasing regulations involving PFAS that are impacting the environmental professional community. To maintain compliance with new requirements, it is imperative that environmental professionals be current in their understanding of available analytical methodologies for quantifying PFAS. This presentation will outline the available PFAS analytical methodologies and the best way to incorporate them. We will specifically focus on EPA 1633, TOPS Analysis, TOF, and AOF.

3) Understanding PVC Pipe: Design, Use, Specifications for Water & Wastewater (W / WW)

Dave Burns (Core & Main)

The class will review all aspects of PVC pipe – design, standards, and installation.

4) Virginia Commonwealth's Cyber Security Plan (M)

Michelle Tilley Oblinsky, Shawn Talmadge, & Tom Berry (VA Dept. of Emergency Management)

Participants will learn about Virginia's cyber security plan. Also, the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant will be discussed.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Break in the Exhibit Hall

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Concurrent Training Classes (4)

Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management – M

1) How Geologists Locate Groundwater Resources in Fractured Bedrock (W)

Ernest "Bubba" Beasley (HydroGeo Environmental, LLC)

In this session, various aspects concerning groundwater resources will be discussed. Learn the difference between fractured bedrock and sedimentary aquifers, and which one you have. Learn about the tools geologists use to find groundwater resources. And learn how to discern whether a consultant is using sound judgement and making reasonable recommendations.

2) Water Meter Technology and Proper Selection (W / WW)

Dave Miller (Ferguson Waterworks)

This session will be a discussion on the history of water meter technology. Also, it will provide an opportunity to determine the proper installation of the appropriate technology to meet your needs.

3) Small Town Serves Big Tech (W/WW)

Drew Arnold & Scott Ehrhardt (Dewberry)

What did the Town of Clarksville do when they had to start serving a large customer (peak of 700,000 gpd)? Learn how the town's plant and critical utilities were evaluated to discover possible "showstoppers." See what methods of inspection were used and what recommendations were made. Learn about the difference between the likelihood of failure versus the consequence of failure and how they equate to infrastructure condition risks.

4) Financing Alternatives for Virginia (M)

Nick Roederer (Rural Water Financing)

VRWA has partnered with Rural Water Financing Agency to provide financing for water and wastewater projects on a pooled basis. Learn how your system can benefit from this new program.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Vendor Night w/ light refreshments – Exhibit Hall
Prize drawing

5:30pm 2024 Water Taste Contest

8:00 pm – 10:30 pm It's Back! Casino Night is Back! Come join in the fun with "Southern Corrosion Casino" brought to us by Astro Entertainment with Kyle Edgell & Creative Associates. Enjoy drinks and light refreshments.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

7:00 am Staff to Set Up Classrooms/Prepare/ Registration

7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration/Exhibit Hall Opens with Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:30 am Concurrent Training Sessions (4)

Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management - M

1) A New Light in Turbidity Measurement (W)

Rick Sherman (Lovidbond)

Measuring and controlling turbidity is critical to the water treatment process. New developments in light sources, user interface, flow body design and stray light rejection have made the measurement more accurate, repeatable and user friendly all while reducing non-revenue water loss and the quantity of calibration / verification solutions.

2) Upgrading Lagoon Treatment Systems for More Stringent Limits for BOD, TSS, and Nutrient Removal (WW)

Mark Rasor (Lemna Environmental Technologies, Inc.)

Wastewater treatment process design modeling software can be used to optimize the design, performance and reliability of lagoon-based treatment systems. Learn if your lagoon system can be upgraded, what effluent qualities are achievable using modified lagoon systems, and what modifications can be made to achieve higher effluent quality.

3) Best Practices & Innovations in Pressure in Municipal Water / Wastewater Facilities (W / WW)

Ravi Jethra (WIKI)

There are numerous applications in water or wastewater facilities where pressure is monitored for optimal plant operation. This presentation delves into the best practices and recent innovations in pressure measurement technology from an installation / operations perspective.

4) Successful PFAS Crisis Communications: Protecting Your Utility's Reputation After UCMR-5 Related Discoveries (W, WW, M)

Mike McGill (Water PIO)

The EPA's PFAS related actions are a great threat to public confidence in water and wastewater services. This presentation will detail the latest impacts from a wide range of developments while showing attendees how water and wastewater utilities can develop necessary public and crisis communication plans and materials.

9:30 am – 10:00 am Break in the Exhibit Hall

10:00 am – 11:00am Concurrent Training Sessions (4)

Water – W / Wastewater – WW / Safety – S / Management - M

1) To Inventory & Beyond! LCRR, Now LCRI - Doesn't Have to Feel Like a Wild Goose Chase (W)

Sam Biltcliffe & Brenden Klenke (120Water)

With less than a year to complete your preliminary inventory, it is essential to ensure you are collecting and storing your water system's data in an organized way. We will discuss what LCRR requirements are important, how to develop verification and customer communication strategies, and tips for centralizing your data to make future reporting a breeze. We'll share some stories of best practices and what has been working as well as regulation updates and what they mean for you going forward.

2) Southwest Virginia Comprehensive Regional Wastewater Study (WW)

Matthew Lane (The Lane Group)

In a study funded by VA-DEQ, all existing sewer systems in the Cumberland Plateau, LENOWISCO and Mount Rogers Planning Districts in Southwest Virginia were evaluated. Learn about the unique issues facing rural wastewater systems and the importance of properly operating and maintaining wastewater systems. Also during this session, hear recommendations and possible solutions to overcome challenges confronting rural wastewater systems.

3) The Importance of a Complete Locate System (W / WW)

Jeff Pinkowski (Copperhead Industries) & David Rockacy (Rockacy Associates)

In this presentation, the class will learn the best practices and principles of underground utility locating. The relevance of proper installation and locating techniques will be discussed. Also, learn the differences between transmitter frequencies and how those affect the locate signal.

4) How to Have That Difficult Conversation (M)

Larado Robinson (City of Salem)

Are you afraid to have that difficult conversation? Do you ignore the issue and hope it will go away? Attend this presentation and learn how to have that difficult conversation. Taking a few smart steps throughout the process will help you more easily walk the path to having that difficult conversation, benefiting yourself, your organization and the person who needs to hear what you have to say.

11:00am – 11:30am Exhibit Hall Finale – Vendor Sponsored Drawing

11:30am – 12:30pm Concurrent Training Sessions (4)

Class Codes: Water – W, Wastewater – WW, Safety – S, Management - M

1) Phosphorus – A Holistic Approach to Corrosion Control and Water Quality (W)

Matt Tyrell (AquaSmart, Inc.)

Up to 35% of existing wastewater phosphates load comes from drinking water. An anticipated impact of the lead and copper rule is an increase in both the overall use and concentration of corrosion additives. Utilizing an equilibrium-blended phosphate can control lead corrosion using up to 90% less phosphorus. Learn what you can do to deal with corrosion control and water quality.

2) Quantifying Quality – A Lesson in Life Cycle Cost (W / WW)

Travis Snead (Kaeser Compressors)

We have all heard “Pay now or Pay Later.” This statement holds true for most mechanical equipment. Whether it be with regards to power savings or replacement parts, the cheapest equipment is rarely the cheapest to operate. Learn about life cycle cost, identify key questions to quantify life cycle cost and gain the ability to differentiate between suppliers of mechanical equipment.

3) Chlorine, Chemical Metering Pumps, and Complimentary Control Equipment (W / WW)

Jeff Leach (Accent PDIR)

In this session, learn how to achieve consistent chlorine residuals via proper chlorine feed and control equipment selection. Also, learn of the chemistry of chlorine and chlorine measurement methods and limitations.

4) UDSA Rural Development Funding Opportunities (M)

Cyndy Leonard & Dave Kolmer (USDA-RD)

Rural Development will discuss its various financing programs for the funding of water and wastewater projects, including eligibility requirements, who to contact and how to file an application.

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm

Break

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch (Attendees Only)

1:30 pm

Closing Session / Awards / Prizes