

19th Annual Western Colorado
Water and Wastewater Conference



REGISTRATION and Meet with Exhibitors
7:00-7:45 a.m. Daily in Exhibit Hall



Welcome Participants and Guests

Session Abstracts: *click on 'Open in Browser'*



Conference Co-Chairs

Rick Huggins, David Lady

Program Steering Committee

Kurt Carson, Ashley Firl,
Jackie Kingdom

Exhibitor Coordination

Kevin Bergschneider and Rick Huggins

Committee Members

Dave Payne, Cindy Goodburn, Mike Berry

Registration

Maci Burgart

Thank You to Our Platinum Sponsors!



Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Track 1 - Whitewater

Track 2 - Kannah

Track 3 - Exhibit Hall

Water/Distribution

Wastewater/Collections

Exhibitors/Management

7:30am - 8:30am

Dave Payne – Ute Water

7:45am - 8:15am

A Pipe Dream?? Long Length Slip lining
Beneath Hwy 50
Taylor Ahrens Dorf
Ryan Marsters

8:30 am – 8:45am

Room and AV Setup

8:15am - 8:45am

Climbing the THIRD Mountain: Colorado's
Statewide Water Loss Program Ascends to
Even Greater Heights
Ashlee Hollifield

8:45am - 9:15am

CISA 101: Building Cyber Resilience Through Collective
Defense
Kindra Brewer

Startup and Optimization of Biological Nutrient
Removal in a Cold Climate Membrane Bioreactor
(MBR)
Zach Frieling

VFD Installation Best Practices
John Brocko (Rexel)

8:45am - 9:15am

Collaborative Delivery Success at the Silt
Water Treatment Plant
Water Treatment
Sam Frazen

9:15am - 9:45am

Demystifying SCADA Cybersecurity for Utilities
Clay Tidwell

Revolutionizing Wastewater Management at Melton
Hill WWTP with the Ydro Process
Meni Mancini

9:15am - 9:45am

Funding Options for PFAS Water Treatment
Facilities
Kyria Bosma

9:45am - 10:15am

Refreshments and Networking with Exhibitors

9:45am - 10:15am

Refreshments and Networking with Exhibitors

10:15am - 10:45am

Zebra Mussel Mitigation
Nate Weisenburger

How to Rebuild a WWTP with No As-Builts
Jacqueline Wong

Strategies to Optimize
Performance & Scale
Tony Tomasello (Rexel)

10:15am - 10:45am

The Rate of Resiliency: Securing Your Utility's
Financial Future
David Naumann

Aerobic Digester Intensification - Energy
Savings and Class A Biosolids
Matthew Williams

Practical Applications of Trenchless Utility
Installation
Justin Barret

10:45am -11:15am

Taking the Lead: State Implementation of the LCRI
Bryan Pilson

City of Salida SCADA Upgrade
Kevin Schmidt

Practical Applications of
Trenchless Utility Installation
Justin Barret

10:45am -11:15am

Avoid Shutdowns with Valve Insertion
Ryan Fugler

Building a Cohesive Utility Lessons in
Leadership, Ownership, and Growth from
Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant
Aaron Rice

Application of the EM Signal. Receiving the
EM Signal
Brent Albrant

11:15am - 11:45am

Understanding Line Stops, Hot Taps, Valve Insertions, and
Pipe Freezing
Duane McClanahan

From Design to Commissioning: Inside the New
Dewatering Facility at Persigo WWTP
Raegan Swartz

11:15am - 11:45am

Resiliency and Emergency Management in
Drinking Water Systems: Trends, Lessons, and
Regulatory Adaptations
Chelsee Cotton

Seeing Is Building: Using 3D Scans to De-
Risk A Progressive Design-Build Retrofit
Michael Katalinich

From Downtime to Uptime AI Power Asset
Intelligence for Water Systems
Bret Young

11:45pm - 1:00pm

Lunch, Raffle Drawing, and Networking with Exhibitors

11:45pm - 1:00pm

Lunch, Raffle Drawing, and Networking with Exhibitors

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Getting it Right the First Time: Leveraging Hydraulic Models
during Preliminary Design of Water System Facilities
Dave Christiansen

From Reactive to Proactive: A Strategic Approach to
Coating Rehabilitation
Blake Stelzer

Microbial Induced Corrosion
Protection for Critical Concrete
Infrastructure
Derrick Fischer

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Stuck in the Right-of-Way: When a Utility
Permit Becomes the Critical Path
Michael Katalinich

The WHY in what we do; the Colorado
Water Quality Control Act and Discharge
Permit System (CDPS)
Aspen Coombs

1:30pm - 2:00pm

Case Study of Two (2) Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP)
installation methods for Deteriorating yet Critical
Drainage Pipelines
Robert Freeman

1:30pm - 2:00pm

Strategies for Enhancing the Longevity of
Ductile Iron Pipe
Penny Wolfe

Activate your Activated Sludge: Startup
and Commissioning of Persigo's Aeration
Basins
Ryker McDaniel

2:00pm - 2:30pm

Lessons Learned from 10+ Years of Deep Injection Well
Operation
Emily Phaneuf

Maximizing Aeration Efficiency: Fundamentals and
Case Studies for Optimization of Aeration Systems
Michael Syverson

Asset Management Planning
for Small Utility Systems
Allison Mazan

2:00pm - 2:30pm

New Monitoring Schedule Tool Training
Priscila Lopez

In the Details: Avoiding Scope Creep on
Lift Station Rehabilitation Projects

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Break and Networking with Exhibitors

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Break and Networking with Exhibitors

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Operator Safety; the why in what we do and how it applies to
operating fluoride systems
Aspen Coombs

Ready to Lift: Improving Reliability with Retrievable
Aeration Grids
McKenna Pearson

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Designing for Startup Glory: Commissioning
Without the Chaos
Blake Stelzer

3:30pm - 4:00pm

Supporting Colorado Water Systems Through the Lead and
Copper Rule Revision: Lessons from the WSP Technical
Assistance Program (TAP)
Caroline Miller

A Pump Station Upgrade with Plot Twists: Navigating
Constraints
Jenna Grouch

3:30pm - 4:00pm

Reactive to Resilient – The Hidden Cost of
Infiltration and Inflow
Patrick Roberts

4:00pm - 4:30pm

Jar Tests in the West: Jar Testing Basics for Utilities
Greta Stetson

Solving sludge settling issues using simple tools
Derek Belka

4:00pm - 4:30pm

Social Event – Grand Junction Convention Center

Thank you for attending - PLEASE drive safely!