

19th Annual Western Colorado
Water and Wastewater Conference



Registration & Exhibitor Networking 7:00-7:45am		Tuesday, October 20, 2026				Wednesday, October 21, 2026		
		Track 1 - Whitewater	Track 2 - Kannah	Track 3 - Exhibit Hall		Track 1 - Whitewater	Track 2 - Kannah	Track 3 - Exhibit Hall
		Water/Distribution	Wastewater/Collections	Exhibitors/Management		Water/Distribution	Wastewater/Collections	Exhibitors/Management
 Welcome! Session Abstracts: EventLeaf Guide App  <u>Conference Co-Chairs</u> Rick Huggins, David Lady <u>Program Steering Committee</u> Kurt Carson, Ashley Firl, Jackie Kingdom <u>Exhibitor Coordination</u> Kevin Bergschneider, Rick Huggins <u>Committee Members</u> Dave Payne, Cindy Goodburn, Mike Berry <u>Registration</u> Maci Burgart THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS!   	7:30-8:30am	KEYNOTE: Dave Payne – Ute Water/Colorado Water Congress “What Defines a Meaningful Career”			7:45-8:15am	A Pipe Dream? Long-Length Sliplining Beneath Highway 50 Taylor Ahrensdorf, Ryan Marsters	Cyber Ready Boardgame Kindra Brewer	Reactive to Resilient – The Hidden Cost of Infiltration and Inflow Patrick Roberts
	8:30-8:45am	Room and AV Setup			8:15-8:45am	Climbing the THIRD Mountain: Colorado's Statewide Water Loss Program Ascends to Even Greater Heights Ashlee Hollifield		Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation – It's far more than just a coating! Scott Wendling
	8:45-9:15am	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	8:45-9:15am	Collaborative Delivery Success at the Silt Water Treatment Plant Sam Franzen		
	9:15-9:45am	Demystifying SCADA Cybersecurity for Utilities Clay Tidwell			9:15-9:45am	Funding Options for PFAS Water Treatment Facilities Kyria Bosma		
	9:45-10:15am	Refreshments and Exhibitor Networking			9:45-10:15am	Refreshments and Exhibitor Networking		
	10:15-10:45am	Zebra Mussel Mitigation Nate Weisenburger	How to Rebuild a WWTP with No As-Builts Jacqueline Wong	Strategies to Optimize Performance & Scale Tony Tomasello	10:15-10:45am	The Rate of Resiliency: Securing Your Utility's Financial Future David Naumann	Aerobic Digester Intensification - Energy Savings and Class A Biosolids Matthew Williams	
	10:45-11:15am	Taking the Lead: State Implementation of the LCRI Bryan Pilson	City of Salida SCADA Upgrade Kevin Schmidt		10:45-11:15am	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 Albrandt
	11:15-11:45am	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	Practical Applications of Trenchless Utility Installation Justin Barrett	11:15-11:45am	Resiliency and Emergency Management in Drinking Water Systems: Trends, Lessons, and Regulatory Adaptations Chelsea Cotton	Seeing Is Building: Using 3D Scans to De-Risk A Progressive Design-Build Retrofit Michael Katalinich	From Downtime to Uptime: AI-Powered Asset Intelligence for Water Systems Bret Young
	11:45am-1:00pm	Lunch, Raffle Drawing, and Exhibitor Networking			11:45am-1:00pm	Lunch, Raffle Drawing, and Exhibitor Networking		
	1:00-1:30pm	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 Charles Kucherka	Microbial Induced Corrosion Protection for Critical Concrete Infrastructure Derrick Fischer	1:00-1:30pm	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	Designing for Startup Glory: Commissioning Without the Chaos Andrew Richardson
	1:30-2:00pm		Case Study of Two (2) Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) installation methods for Deteriorating yet Critical Drainage Pipelines Robert Freeman		1:30-2:00pm	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	
	2:00-2:30pm	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 Sonja Jamilla	2:00-2:30pm	New Monitoring Schedule Tool Training Priscila Lopez	In the Details: Avoiding Scope Creep on Lift Station Rehabilitation Projects Charles Kucherka	Getting a Grip on Grease Ashley Firl
	2:30-3:00pm	Break and Exhibitor Networking			2:30-3:00pm	Exhibitor Networking		
	3:00-3:30pm	Operator Safety: The Why Behind What We Do and How It Applies to Operating Fluoride Systems Aspen Coombs	Ready to Lift: Improving Reliability with Retrievable Aeration Grids McKenna Pearson	Optimizing coagulant and polymer chemistry with jar testing to achieve your water or wastewater treatment objectives Dr. Matt Bentley	3:00-3:30pm			
	3:30-4:00pm	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 Crouch		3:30-4:00pm			
	4:00-4:30pm	Jar Tests in the West: Jar Testing Basics for Utilities Greta Stetson	Solving sludge settling issues using simple tools Derek Belka	A Practical Toolbox for Translating Water Quality Testing into Improved Treatment Performance Allyssa Brauer	4:00-4:30pm			
	4:45-7:00pm	Social Event at Grand Junction Convention Center			Thank you for attending - drive safe!			