48th Annual Management & Technical Conference - March 2026 - ESAC

Monday, March 2, 2026 Pre-Conference Schedule 0.6 Total CEUs

Great Hall 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Small Water System Training Course
This course will cover the basics of water system operations. A review of the SDWA Amendments, the State Revolving Loan Fund, and security issues. Review of technical, managerial and financial needs of a small system.
Tim Tice, OAWU – **0.6 W** CEUs
ESAC #TBA

Landmark I/II 9:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cross Connection Specialist Update
Obtain your Cross Connection Specialist updates and any updates on the cross-connection program.
Ray Johnson, BMI – **0.6 W** CEUs
ESAC #TBA

Heritage I 8:00 am – 11:15 am
Emerging Contaminants PFOS Workshop
Class will provide an overview of sources and treatment options as well as current trends in regulations.
Keith Bedell, OAWU **0.3 W/WW CEUs**
1:00 pm – 4:15 pm
Assessment and Emergency Response
How to complete a risk assessment and be proactive and prepared for an emergency at your water and wastewater system.
Scott Berry, OAWU **0.3 W/WW CEUs**

Heritage II 8:00 am – 1:15 pm
Flagger Certification
Attend this ODOT flagger course to obtain flagger requirements. Attendees completing this course and exam become an ODOT certified flagger.
Bill Buterbaugh, ODOT **0.5 W/WW** CEUs
ESAC #TBA

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Conference Schedule 0.575 Total CEUs

10:00 – 10:30 am (0.05) Great Hall – **Utility Leadership Challenge –** What are we doing and saying? Our words and actions have real meaning to those we work with - are they accurate; are they with purpose; are we carrying out our charge at the utility effectively?
Jason Green, OAWU Executive Director. **W/WW**

10:30 – 11:00 am (0.05) Great Hall – **NRWA Update** – *Russ Cooper, NRWA Director, City of Monmouth*. The State of Water & Wastewater at the national level. **W/WW**

11:00 – 12:00 pm (0.1) Great Hall – **Legislative Update** – *Mark Landauer, OAWU/SDAO Lobbyist* – The latest issues of the State Legislature activities concerning water and wastewater utilities. **W/WW**

12 – 1 pm Lunch Break

1 – 2:45 pm (0.175) Training Sessions

Great Hall
What to Expect in an Inspection
What to expect and how to be prepared for an OR-OSHA inspection.
Larry Fipps, OSHA

Landmark I/II
Defensive Driving for Utility Professionals
Utility workers in the water and wastewater industries consistently travel in vehicles to perform various tasks. Attendees of this class will learn what is in their control, behavior related risks, potential hazards associated with speed, aggressive driving, and space management. Attendees will discover good habits of defensive driving and evaluate, improve on alternative safe driving practices.
Bill Buterbaugh, ODOT

Heritage I
One Water Approach to Management Through Policy, Compliance and Code Enforcement
Join three seasoned City of Bend professionals as they demonstrate how integrating water supply, water storage, wastewater principles, leak detection and conservation programs creates a unified approach to utility management. This session explores how coordinated policy development, proactive communication, and strategic enforcement across all water sectors ensures system reliability and customer compliance. Attendees will learn how Bend's cross-departmental collaboration, from AMI systems and leak detection to industrial pretreatment and landscape irrigation management - protects infrastructure, maintains reservoir levels, and keeps production steady. Discover how emphasizing education and clear

Heritage II
Wastewater Modeling Process & Benefits
The benefits of a working model in regard to inflow & infiltration rehab, planning and development studies and future flow predictions for design storms and urban growth boundary expansions.
Samuel Novac, Novac Industries LLC

W/WW	**W/WW**	communication before enforcement creates better outcomes for both the purveyors and the communities they serve. This practical framework can help utilities of any size develop their own integrated water management strategy. *Spencer Cashwell, City of Bend* **W/WW**	**WW**
2:45 – 3 pm Break			
3 – 5 pm (0.2) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **System O&M** Successfully operate and maintain a water and/or wastewater system. Everything from paperwork you keep, critical parts inventory, budget, training, staff succession, outlining and delegating tasks, monthly reports and tracking, staff and council/ board communication and public relations. *OAWU Board (Mike Edwards, Matt Johnson)* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Defensive Driving for Utility Professionals** Continued *Bill Buterbaugh, ODOT* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **Decoding Combination Control Valves** Automatic control valves with multiple pilots and functions. Aimed towards the more experienced operator, this course will review basic valve functions then look at the difference between hydraulic override and hydraulic backup. *Patrick Miller, CIMCO-GC Systems* **W/WW**	**Heritage II** **Cyber Security Threats & Best Practices for the Water Sector** CISA has identified the Water/Wastewater sector as a high priority. General cyber threats and more specifically, on OT cybersecurity best practices and current threats. *Leslie Kainoa, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency* **W/WW**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 Conference Schedule			0.7 Total CEUs
8 – 9 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Locating Essentials** NW Hydrovac is here to help identify different locating options for the underground utilities. Weather it is a utility locator or a ground penetrating radar system we will help show multiple different tools for the job. In this class we will show an array of different options that help find the utilities that are below grade. We will put a lot of Focus on GPR and how it can help be the tool for the non ferris utilities on the job. *Nick Frappier, NW Hydrovac* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Smart Certification Test Taking Strategies** We're diving into real-world insights for Certification exam prep tips, and the kind of stories only water and wastewater pros can appreciate. *Jake Obrist, City of Bend* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **AMI's Role in Your World** Technology advances can provide a critical role in your day to day. We will explore the many options available and how they will benefit your team and your customers! *Pat Hart, HD Fowler* **W**	**Heritage II** **Intelligent Pumping Systems** How to utilize the technology to meet the goals at your wastewater system. *Alden Meade, Xylem-Flygt* **WW**
9 – 9:15 am Break			
9:15 – 10:15 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Top 10 Ways to Save on SCADA and Control System Projects** Practical tactics to cut lifecycle and capital costs on SCADA and control systems—without sacrificing reliability or compliance. We cover over ten savings moves across standardization, phased delivery, remote diagnostics/telemetry, documentation & backups, service	**Landmark I/II** **How to Start and Fund Asset Management from Scratch** Good asset management enables you to get the most from your assets, understanding how to do it right is the key. This is easier to achieve than you might think, and your citizens will appreciate the ramifications - better service, rates, and responsive govt. This is an immersive session that will discuss the basics and go beyond to equip	**Heritage I** **Streaming Current and Particle Counters: How Two Unique Instruments Contribute to Effective Water Treatment** Presentation covers how streaming current measurement works and how it can contribute to effective coagulant dose control. Also covered are particle counters and how they can be used in conjunction with turbidity measurements to efficiently	**Heritage II** **Basics of Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Technology** Overview of Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) technology, covering key aspects of its design, operation, and troubleshooting. Produce effluent that meets Class A recycled water standard. Achieve nitrogen and phosphorus limits. *Hiro Kuge, KUBOTA Membrane USA Corporation*

agreements, and funding alignment. Includes a Control Philosophy exercise and a short hands-on worksheet, so attendees leave with a 30 to 60-day action plan. *Jonathan Frank, Advance Control Systems* **W/WW**	you with the knowledge and a real time data driven approach to implement or enhance asset management programs for your utilities. *Arnab Bhowmick, AAKAVS AKTIVOVW* **W/WW**	operate filters and monitor filter breakthrough *Tim Owens, Correct Equipment* **W**	**WW**
10:15 – 10:30 am Break			
10:30 – 12 pm (0.15) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Financial Roundtable** Panel Discussion of funding opportunities for water and wastewater systems. Concludes with Q&A to allow systems to discuss their specific projects. *USDA-RD; IFA; CoBank, Puttman Infrastructure* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **The Show Must Go On: Business Continuity, Succession Planning, and Emergency Response** Local Govt. operations do not stop even in a pandemic or during natural calamities, emergencies, disruptions, and staff turnovers. There are established rules about the upkeep of the operations during any major events, crisis situations, and loss of critical human resources. This class covers normal disruptive events, deals with bigger showstoppers, and helps strategize dealing with workforce turnover. We will discuss business continuity, emergency response, and succession planning concepts and tools. *Arnab Bhowmick, AAKAVS AKTIVOVW* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **THE ABC's of LEGIONELLA** The "ABCs of Legionella" class provides participants with essential knowledge regarding Legionella bacteria, including what it is, how to detect its presence, and the importance of testing for it. The class covers: • Fundamental characteristics of Legionella • Recent Outbreaks • Potential health risks, especially related to Legionnaires' disease, and how it can affect vulnerable populations. • Testing Protocols • How to prepare and prevent • Remediation Participants will learn effective sampling and detection methods to identify contamination in water systems. The class emphasizes the critical role of regular testing in preventing outbreaks and safeguarding public health. By understanding the implications of Legionella, attendees will be better equipped to implement prevention strategies and mitigate potential damage caused by this hazardous microorganism. *Daniel Huson, Rose City Laboratories, LLC* **W**	**Heritage II** **Sunriver Wastewater Plant Tour** See the real-life examples of a Conventional Activated Sludge System was upgraded into Membrane System *Andy Carlton, Sunriver LLC* **WW**
12 – 1 pm Lunch Break			
1 – 3 pm (0.2) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Chlorine and Chemical Metering Pumps** The fundamentals for Operators to understand the importance and properties of chlorine. Also, metering pump basics, the good, the bad and the downright frustrating. *Sean Moriarty, Furrow Pump*	**Landmark I/II** **Confined Space** The ins and outs of confined space entry and describing what to look for and use the applicable equipment. *Bill Buterbaugh, ODOT*	**Heritage I** **Optimizing Water Wellfield Performance** Long term well performance is dependent on many factors including how the well is designed, constructed, and later how it is operated and maintained. This presentation will provide engineering consultants with important tools for optimizing long term	**Heritage II** **Package Lift Stations for Fast Retrofits** Look at when a package list station will save time and money and we will dive into the different types and sizes of positive displacement pump. *Rich Owens, Owens Equipment*

W/WW	**W/WW**	well performance and wellfield operation. Most problems with well performance are preventable, and start with well construction and development, and are then exacerbated by water quality conditions, well operation and rehabilitation efforts. Mr. Bailey will present the important elements that are responsible for the design, construction and care of water wells. He will use real world examples that demonstrate the science to maximize well performance. *Jim Bailey, Shannon & Wilson* **W**	**WW**
3 – 3:30 pm Break			
3:30 – 5 pm (0.15) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Easements and Encroachment** Obtaining or expanding easements for water and wastewater infrastructure maintenance, repair or replacement. *Laura Schroeder, Schroeder Law Offices, P.C.* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Flow Meters for Monitoring** Location choices and meter considerations for monitoring your water and wastewater to insure minimal leakage. *Ken Navidi, Bainbridge* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **Hydrants and Valves** Some current model O&M and finish with the future of fire hydrants and valving and emerging pressure monitoring features and benefits. *Vaughn Barber, M&H/Kennedy Valve Co.* **W**	**Heritage II** **How to Work with Your Engineer** Communication is a 2-way street when it comes to working with your engineer in achieving a successful project. *Chad McMurry, Mackay Sposito* **W/WW**

Thursday, March 5, 2026 Conference Schedule			0.675 Total CEUs
8 – 9 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Basic Math for Water/Wastewater Operators** Water and wastewater math problems typically encountered in the Level I & II certification exams. Percent and proportions and solving for X, volumes, detention, flow calculations, hydraulic and organic loading. Bring reliable calculators and notebooks to the workshop. *OAWU Staff* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Laboratory Work and Sampling** Best practices for drinking water and wastewater sampling, laboratory work, navigating compliance, and importance of laboratory-client relationship. *Michelle Angland, Eurofins Edge Andalytical* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **Eyes and Ears on Your Water Systems** This Class will explain solutions for leak detection programs and pressure and flow monitoring that allow water operators to reduce their non-revenue water and prevent costly main breaks. We will cover the principles and advantages of differential metering on control valves as well using acoustic correlators to develop a robust leak detection and pressure control program. Getting remote data from the field will allow water operators to know where they should be spending precious work hours to get the best results. *Patrick Miller, CIMCO-GC Systems* **W**	**Heritage II** **Bylaws Rules & Regulations Policy** Dive deeper into how to run your utility and how to help your board or council. *Laura Schroeder, Schroeder Law Offices, P.C.* **W/WW**
9 – 9:30 am Break			
9:30 – 10:30 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Basic Math for Water/Wastewater Operators** (Continued) **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Sampling and Laboratory Work; Client & Laboratory Relationship** Continued *Michelle Angland, Edge Analytical Bend* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **LCRI Compliance** How to comply with the changes and manage compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements *Laura Vidal, 120 Water* **W**	**Heritage II** **YDO for DMRs** How to use Your DEQ Online to fill out your DMRs. *Mark Bentz, DEQ* **WW**

10:30 – 11:00 am Exhibits

11:00 – 12 pm (0.1) Training Sessions

Great Hall	Landmark I/II	Heritage I	Heritage II
Basic Math for Water/Wastewater Operators (Continued) **W/WW**	**Automatic Control Valves: Operation, Applications, and Maintenance** Operation, Applications, Troubleshooting and Maintenance of Automatic Control Valves. Begin with what a Control Valve is, the basic premise of how and why they work, Applications and Maintenance. Spend time on the Parts that make up the Main Valve – the materials of construction, what their function is, and how to inspect them. Will talk about Flow Rates, Dimensions, Pressure Drop, and various optional materials of construction. Talk about Pilot Valves – What they are made of, how they work, how to set, how to troubleshoot and how to repair. Spend time on Applications: Pressure Reducing, Pressure Relief, Altitude, Electronic, and Pump Control. Then talk about Troubleshooting to find out why a valve won't come open or won't close or won't regulate. And, finally, Will talk about Maintenance that includes Valve Assessment, and run through how to take a Valve apart, install a new Rubber Goods Repair Kit, put it back together and re-start the Valve. *Jim Lugo, Watts Water Technologies* **W/WW**	**Water & Wastewater Disinfection Technology** Using UV disinfection at your water and wastewater system. When and why to use it, tips and trick to general maintenance. *Rich Owens, Owens Equipment* **W/WW**	**Permit Development and Issuance** Find out how DEQ determines what to put into your system's permit and how it is issued to you. *Jeffrey Navarro, DEQ* **WW**

12 – 1:30 pm (0.1) Lunch Break with Exhibits — Learn the latest applications, equipment, tools and techniques for the water and wastewater industry. **W/WW**

1:30 – 2:45 pm (0.125) Training Sessions

Great Hall	Landmark I/II	Heritage I	Heritage II
Basic Math for Water/Wastewater Operators (Continued) **W/WW**	**Automatic Control Valves: Operation, Applications, and Maintenance** Continued *Jim Lugo, Watts Water Technologies* **W/WW**	**Tip Selection and Vactor Trucks** Hydro excavation, new technology, proper methods, equipment used, safety, and the use and applicability of different nozzle types. Tips, Tricks & Safety. *Shawn Patrick & Dan Nelson, Owens Equipment* **W/WW**	**Monitoring and Impacts to Permit Development** What might be new impacts to your system when a new permit is developed. *Jeffrey Navarro, DEQ* **WW**

2:45 – 3:30 pm Exhibits

3:30 – 5 pm (0.15) Training Sessions

Great Hall	Landmark I/II	Heritage I	Heritage II
Basic Math for Water/Wastewater Operators (Continued)	**Leading Your Gen Zs** You will learn what this generation needs from you as a director/ supervisor/ superintendent/ manager so you can get the	**From Tank to Trend: How SCADA Sees Your System** If the screen looks "wrong," is it the instrument, the I/O, the PLC, the network, or SCADA itself? By following real	**DEQ Wastewater Operator Certification Basics** This presentation will cover the application and certification process, tips to avoid mistakes, an overview of where to find the

W/WW	best performance from the incoming Gen Z staff at your water or wastewater system. *TJ Grisel, Core & Main* **W/WW**	examples from field to screen, this class will help your troubleshooting instincts. *Greg Chast, Portland Engineering, Inc.* **W/WW**	information you need on DEQ's website, and an opportunity for program feedback. *Kimi Gryzb DEQ* **WW**

Friday, March 6, 2026 Conference Schedule			0.375 Total CEUs
8 – 9 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Master Planning - an Engineer's Perspective** Get a better understanding of what an engineer will be looking for when developing a project at your utility. *Chad McMurry, Mackay Sposito* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Utilizing AI at your system** How to use AI to Assist with creating sampling plans, or to assist with AWWA, DEQ, OHA, or other regulating agencies requiring on site plans or benchmarking for water and wastewater systems *Mike Edwards, City of Bend* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **Excavation Safety** OSHA safety requirements for working in and around excavations and confined spaces. Competent Person and employee/employer requirements. "Watch Out!" scenarios. *Scott Berry, OAWU* **W/WW**	**Heritage II** **Killing Three Birds with One Stone** A municipality had been treating for odor and corrosion in their collection system for many years using a nitrate-based product, when they were informed of a new, more stringent nitrogen limit. At the same time, their influent alkalinity was low, indicating the need for supplemental alkalinity feed in order to perform effective nitrification at the WRRF. Rather than initiating the feed of caustic soda at the WRRF, the decision was made to replace the nitrate product with a highly reactive form of magnesium hydroxide in the hopes that the pH boost imparted to the collection system would also suffice to provide sufficient alkalinity at the WRRF. Not only was this strategy successful, but in addition, they discovered a line cleaning benefit from the gradual release of hydroxide into the system. This presentation provides the details and data from the study performed. *John Van Wingerden, IER* **WW**
9 – 9:15 am Break			
9:15 – 10:15 am (0.1) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Effective Utility Management** A presentation on utilizing effective utility management at a utility to help manage a change in leadership. *Michael Grimm, West Slope Water Dist.* **W/WW**	**Landmark I/II** **Utilizing AI at your system** Continued *Mike Edwards, City of Bend* **W/WW**	**Heritage I** **Excavation** Continued *Scott Berry, OAWU* **W/WW**	**Heritage II** **Operation of an Anerobic Lagoon** The ins and outs of operating, managing, and maintaining an anerobic lagoon system. What it can treat and how it works. *Dick Heard, Heard Farms* **W/WW**
10:15 – 10:30 am Break			
10:30 – 12 pm (0.15) Training Sessions			
Great Hall **Utility Leadership** Maximizing growth opportunities through delegation & responsibility while improving your team's depth of experience, knowledge and reliability.	**Landmark I/II** **Best practices for safe hydro-excavator operation.** This course will prepare attendees to perform hydro-excavations properly and safely. Operators will learn how to dig	**Heritage I** **WMCPs Explained** How Water Rights, water Planning, and Permit Extensions of time Fit Together *Kerri Cope, OWRD*	**Heritage II** **Recent Trends in Water Rights Development and Transfers** Recent updates for developing new water sources (e.g., backup sources), and the

Jason Green, OAWU **W/WW**	properly around utilities with proper digging wand techniques and pressure control. Additional discussions will revolve around vacuum safety, personal protective equipment, overhead safety, fall protection, and emergency preparedness. This session will also emphasize OHSA requirements for trench safety and confined space entry requirements. *Chris Young, SWS Equipment* **W/WW**	**W**	practicality of transfers to change the terms of water rights. *Sarah Liljefelt, Dunn Crney Allen Higgins & Tongue LLP* **W**
12:00 – 12:15 pm (0.025) Great Hall – **Closing Session – Utility Leadership Challenge –** (continued) *Jason Green, OAWU Executive Director.* **W/WW**			