

Track Descriptions

- TRACK A Supervision & Leadership
- TRACK B Water Operations
- TRACK C Water Quality & Treatment

DAY ONE		Tuesday, July 28, 2026		
8:30 AM		Campus Opens		
		Welcome and introductions Housekeeping, What to Expect, Certification Process, and More.		
1	9:00-10:00am	Get Inspired: Create a plan for personal and organizational success		
		Wade Hathhorn, Ph.D.		
		Sunrise Water Authority		
		TRACK A: Supervision & Leadership	Track B: Water Operations	Track C: Water Quality & Treatment
2	10:20-11:20am	Talk It Out: Turning Operator Knowledge into SOPs with AI	Process Intensification	New Tools for Treatment Use
		Laura Oxsen, PE (WA & OR)	Mario Benisch, PE	Evan Hofeld
		<i>Grayling Engineers and Oxsen Learning</i>	<i>HDR</i>	<i>OHA</i>
3	11:25-12:25pm	Navigating Water Rights & Groundwater Challenges in Oregon and Well Maintenance	The Evaluation and Designation of Confined Spaces	Corrective Actions: Identifying, Investigating & Resolving Field Sampling Nonconformities
		Robyn Cook, RG, LG, CWRE	Frank Ray	Thomas Krause
		<i>GSI</i>	<i>EJCO</i>	<i>City of Portland Water Bureau</i>
	12:30-1:00 PM	LUNCH		
4	1:10-2:10pm	Source Water Protection Planning in an Agricultural Watershed	Factors Impacting Dewatering	Oregon Drinking Water Program Status Overview & Regulatory Updates
		Maly Haghsheenas & Robert Annear	Mario Benisch, PE	Kari Salis, Acting Section Manager
		<i>City of Hillsboro</i>	<i>HDR</i>	<i>OHA-Drinking Water Services</i>

5	2:15-3:15pm	Blueprints for Leadership in Collaborative Delivery	7 Pillars of Safety — Water Utility Training Session	Fire Drill for Filtration: Building Treatment Resilience to Wildfires through Conventional Filtration Piloting
		Michael Lubovich, PE, PMP, Assoc. DBIA	Taylor Maynard	Mac Gifford
		Black & Veatch	Milwaukee Tool	Portland Water Bureau
6	3:30-4:30pm	Applying the New Effective Utility Management Framework to Your Utility	Planning Consideration for Data Management and Visualization	PFAS 101 - Treatment history, current state of technologies and analyses, and next steps
		Michael Grimm, PE	Mario Benisch, PE	Andrew Nishihara
		Aquamize, LLC	HDR	Stantec
DAY TWO		Wednesday, July 29, 2026		
7:30 AM		Campus Opens		
		Welcome and introductions Housekeeping, What to Expect, Certification Process, and More.		
		TRACK A: Supervision & Leadership	Track B: Water Operations	Track C: Water Quality & Treatment
7	8:00-9:00am	Drinking Water Legislative Updates & Information and Lessons Learned	Confined Space	Intermediate Ozone in Water Treatment
		Michael Martin, Lobbyist	Greg McDonald	Kim Reid
		League of Oregon Cities	Ritz Safety	Veolia
8	9:05-10:05am	Approaches for Expanding Source Water Protection Programs	VENDOR DISPLAY-Gregory Forum	Mobile Treatment Plants for Emergency Use
		Suzanne de Szoeka and Mikaela Clarke		Evan Hofeld
		GSI Water Solutions, Inc.		OHA

9	10:20-11:20am	VENDOR DISPLAY-Gregory Forum	Linking GIS With Other Real-Time Data for Operational Decision-Making	Sandy Water: Chloramines vs Free Chlorine
		VENDOR DISPLAY-Gregory Forum	Peter Boone, PE, PLS	Bart Stepp and Natalie Lyons
		<i>VENDOR DISPLAY-Gregory Forum</i>	<i>Tualatin Valley Water District</i>	<i>Conсор</i>
10	11:25-12:25pm	A Model for Regional Collaboration	A Practical Guide to Utility Locating	Vendor Display Time
		Bonny Cushman, Managing Director	Brian Moss	
		<i>Regional Water Providers Consortium</i>	<i>RJM Company</i>	
	12:30-1:10 PM	LUNCH		
11	1:10-2:10pm	Fire Sprinkler Systems - Protecting Public Health Through Cross-Connection Control	Clackamas Community College Tunnel Tour: Backflow/Cross Connections and Distribution Systems	Let's play hide and seek – in the Laboratory – can you find the hazards?
		Kristi Lucht	Jim Nurmi, Ph.D.	Brandi S. Davis, MS, CIH, CSP
		<i>City of Vancouver</i>	<i>Clackamas Community College</i>	<i>Oregon OSHA</i>
12	2:15-3:15pm	Hybrid Utility Work: What Works, What Doesn't, and What's Next	Safety Committees: To Compliance and Beyond **Part 1**	PFAS Drinking Water Rule Overview
		Gabe Solmer	Mark Hurliman, CSHM VPP/SHARP Program Coordinator	Gregg Baird
		<i>Stantec</i>	<i>Oregon OSHA</i>	<i>OHA</i>
13	3:30-4:30pm	"Who Do I Include?"- Forays into Project Management Communications	Safety Committees: To Compliance and Beyond **Part 2**	PFAS Treatment Selection: Not Just About Cost & Performance
		Adam Bjornstedt, PE (Principal Engineer II)	Mark Hurliman, CSHM VPP/SHARP Program Coordinator	Andrew Nishihara
		<i>West Yost</i>	<i>Oregon OSHA</i>	<i>Stantec</i>
DAY THREE		Thursday, July 30, 2026		
7:30 AM		Campus Opens		

		Welcome and introductions Housekeeping, What to Expect, Certification Process, and More.		
		TRACK A: Supervision & Leadership	Track B: Water Operations	Track C: Water Quality & Treatment
14	8:00-9:00am	Effective Accountability Systems for Water Utilities	Control Valve Function	PFAS in Fish Tissues: Columbia Slough and other Surface Water Impacts
		Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM	Ray Velasquez, CPSC	Sean Payne
		<i>Oregon OSHA Voluntary Programs Coordinator</i>	<i>Cimco-GC Systems</i>	<i>USGS</i>
15	9:05-10:05am	Oregon's Voluntary Compliance Programs for the Water Industry	The Future Impact of Technology: Advantages, Hazards and the Unknown	Chlorine Source Selection – Key Considerations for Pacific Northwest Utilities
		Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM	Dr. Wade Hathhorn	Kate Bandettini
		<i>Oregon OSHA Voluntary Programs Coordinator</i>	<i>Sunrise Water</i>	<i>Carollo Engineers</i>
16	10:20-11:20am	Leadership at Every Level: Guiding Your Career in Water	Specialty Valves Explained	Learn about Chloramines!
		Kimberly Gupta, Manager III	Ray Velasquez, CPSC	Anna Vosa
		<i>City of Portland - PWB</i>	<i>Cimco-GC Systems</i>	<i>City of Portland Water Bureau</i>
17	11:25-12:25pm	Bull Run Filtration Project	PLC operations, instrumentation, and SCADA interaction for operators	Water Main Flushing: Benefits and Tips for a Successful Program
		Lyda S. Hakes, PE	Dennis S. Clinefelter	Pierre Kwan, PE
		<i>City of Portland - PWB</i>	<i>Carollo Engineers</i>	<i>HDR</i>
	12:30-1:10 PM	LUNCH		
		The Willamette Partnership	Sound Strategies: Pipe Condition Assessment and Water Loss Prevention Techniques	PFAS Mitigation in the PNW – Considerations for Design and Operation of PFAS Treatment Facilities

18	1:10-2:10pm	Patrick Barr, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor <i>City of Hillsboro</i>	Ray Velasquez, CPSC <i>Cimco-GC Systems</i>	Brandon Nakamura <i>Carollo Engineers</i>
19	2:15-3:15pm	1) Accelerated Project Delivery for New Groundwater Supply and 2) Impacts of Siting Water Infrastructure in Flood-Prone Areas: A Case Study of the Willamette Valley	LAKE OSWEGO PLANT TOUR (2 Hr)	Adaptive Strategies for Unforeseen Drinking Water Contaminants
		Corey Kipp, PE (w/DeEtta Fosbury, co-presenter) <i>Carollo Engineers (Summit Water)</i>	Austin Peters <i>Carollo Engineers</i>	Kevin Sheehan <i>Clear Creek</i>
20	3:30-4:30pm	Sniffing Out Sources of Stormwater Pollution – Using Canine-Assisted Screening to Find PCB Sources	LAKE OSWEGO PLANT TOUR (2 Hr)	I Love Math! Math Review for Water Ops I-II
		Julianne Ubigau & Jasper <i>Field Lab</i>	Austin Peters <i>Carollo Engineers</i>	James T. Nurmi, Ph.D. <i>Clackamas Community College</i>