



CEU Application – Agenda, Program and Instructor Information, and Relevance to Wastewater Professionals

2026 ACWA Annual Conference

Wednesday-Friday, July 15-17, 2026

CEUs requested: This conference contains 12.9 hours of eligible content, equating to 1.3 CEUs being requested.

This document includes the information required to demonstrate eligibility for general CEUs, including: 1) the educational need for the program provided; 2) the learning outcome for attendees; 3) an outline of the course content; 4) the qualifications of the instructors; 5) the time schedule; and 6) the method of tracking on-line attendance for the duration of the workshops.

Educational Need and Learning Goals:

The ACWA Annual Conference is convened every year to educate and update wastewater and stormwater management professionals and utility managers across the state on current issues and trends impacting their work to protect Oregon's water quality; in particular, the conference focuses in on water quality and regulatory compliance challenges facing wastewater agencies, current and emerging technologies, and innovative, science-based solutions. The goal of the conference is to increase the knowledge and understanding of wastewater and stormwater managers, engineers and operations professionals regarding current and anticipated water quality regulations, water quality challenges, and technologies and operational controls for managing and improving water quality in the face of emerging pollutants issues of concern.

The course emphasizes science-based information, regulatory compliance pathways and strategies, and national and statewide priorities and actions that impact wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. The course also educates attendees regarding emergent issues and challenges that must be addressed through adaptive management, such as climate change impacts and affordability issues in the wastewater utility sector. Finally, the conference addresses sustainable utility management practices that are applicable to the wastewater sector.

Method of Tracking Attendance:

All attendees wishing CEUs will be required to sign a CEU registration and certification roster for the sessions each day, which will be attended by a conference logistical coordinator. ACWA will monitor attendance and the roster and will sign and maintain the roster as required.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Time	Topic	Presentation Description, Relevance to Oregon Wastewater Professional Knowledge; Instructor Information
9:30 am	Welcome and ACWA Announcements ...Torrey Lindbo, ACWA Chair	ACWA Chair Torrey Lindbo will provide a welcome and introductory overview of the conference.
9:40 am	Ready or Not: Our Shared Responsibility for a Resilient Oregon Speaker: Andrew Phelps, Chief Operating Officer, AC Disaster Consulting Moderator: Torrey Lindbo	Session Information Including Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This keynote presentation will provide a high-level overview of Oregon's emergency management and disaster resilience structures, systems, and strategies, with particular emphasis on the increasingly vital role of critical infrastructure operators. Andrew will explore how statewide preparedness efforts are evolving in

		response to emerging threats, shifting risks, and the growing interdependence of essential services. He will share key takeaways and lessons learned from recent events and planning initiatives, offering practical insights that attendees can bring back to their own organizations. The session will highlight opportunities for utilities, local governments, and partner agencies to strengthen coordination and build capacity before a crisis occurs. Andrew will close with a call to action designed to inspire long-term resilience and help ensure that Oregon’s communities and infrastructure are better prepared for future generations. Speaker Information: <i>Andrew Phelps</i> brings more than two decades of emergency management leadership experience to his role as Chief Operating Officer for AC Disaster Consulting. Prior to joining ACDC, Andrew served as the Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and as the governor’s Homeland Security Advisor for 8 years, leading the state’s response to nine federal disaster declarations and dozens of state-declared emergencies. He has worked for local and state government and in the non-profit sector across the country and has served on the board of the National Emergency Management Association and FEMA’s National Advisory Council. Andrew is an honors graduate from John Jay College in New York City and received his Master of Arts from the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, California.
10:40 am	Break	
11:00 am	Pendleton’s Sustainability Journey & Funding Strategies for 2026 Speakers: Kathleen Kelleher, Business Development / Grant Coordination, Ameresco; Layne McWilliams, VP, External Growth & Industrial Symbiosis, Cascade Energy; Alicia Li, Municipal Initiatives Manager, Energy Trust of Oregon Moderator: Johnny Leavy	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: What can a small community do to reduce its energy footprint, reduce its carbon footprint, and improve operational resiliency along the way? Funny you should ask! The City of Pendleton has been on an energy journey for more than a decade, and during that time, has implemented numerous projects and programs that have made (and are making) a significant impact on each of those measures. And, much of the funding for this work has come from alternative sources, incentive programs, and innovative financing packages. This session will showcase the City’s efforts in water, wastewater, and municipal services, and maybe spark an idea or two you can take home to your community. We will also present funding opportunities for similar projects available today to Oregon communities to help move your ideas to reality. Speaker Information: <i>Kathleen Kelleher</i> works with municipalities and public agencies across the Pacific Northwest to develop and fund energy, water, and infrastructure projects. With a background in engineering, industrial water treatment, and energy project development, she specializes in helping communities secure grants, incentives, tax

		credits, and financing for renewable energy, resiliency, and resource recovery projects. Kathleen has worked closely with water and wastewater utilities on solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and infrastructure modernization projects. Since 2010, <i>Layne McWilliams</i> has worked at the intersection of water, wastewater and energy to help facilities and systems lower their energy footprint in the Pacific Northwest and across the country. He has recently returned to Cascade Energy where he will continue that work, with an additional focus of working with industrial facilities and their communities on waste-to-resource projects. For the past five years, <i>Alicia Li</i> has focused her career in the energy sector on a powerful goal: making renewable energy and energy efficiency accessible and impactful. In her current role with the Renewables and Custom Solutions program at Energy Trust of Oregon, she collaborates with municipalities and both public and private customers to develop renewable energy and energy resilience projects that put community benefits first. Alicia is committed to helping communities build a resilient energy future.
12:00 pm	Lunch with roundtable discussions	
1:30 pm	Sensible Strategic Planning Through EUM (Effective Utility Management) Speakers: Ron Wieranga, Deputy Director, Clackamas WES; Erin Blue, Finance Manager, Clackamas WES Moderator: Todd Miller	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will showcase how Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) applied the Effective Utility Management (EUM) framework and its suite of tools to create a strategic plan tailored to the unique needs of their utility. Speakers will walk through the process they used to develop the plan, including how they engaged staff, identified priority focus areas, and aligned goals with operational realities. They will also describe how WES revisited and updated the plan in 2026 using EUM tools to measure progress and refine strategies. The presentation will highlight both successes and challenges encountered along the way, offering practical insights for utilities of all sizes. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how the EUM framework can support meaningful, achievable strategic planning and how these lessons can benefit ACWA members embarking on similar efforts. Speaker Information: <i>Ron Weiranga</i> is the Deputy Director for Clackamas Water Environment Services where he leads administrative services, budget and finance, policy development, regulatory affairs, and strategic planning. Ron graduated with a Master of Science degree from Washington State University with support from the State of Washington Water Research Center. <i>Erin Blue</i> is the Finance Manager for Clackamas Water Environment Services where she has more than 10 years of experience in local government utility finance and operations. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Linfield University and is a Certified Management Accountant and OGFOA Professional Finance Officer.
2:30 pm	Break	

2:50 pm- 3:50pm; Repeat 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<u>Concurrent Sessions</u> 1. Biosolids/PFAS Updates Speakers: Ron Wierenga, Deputy Director, Clackamas County; Frank Dick, Wastewater Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver Moderators: 2:50—Ron Wierenga and Frank Dick 4:00— Ron Wierenga and Frank Dick	Session 1 Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will provide an overview of the recent ACWA Biosolids Workshop held in May 2026, highlighting key themes and takeaways from the event. Topics will include best management practices, soil health, farm productivity, insights from agricultural partners, communication strategies, and both current challenges and emerging opportunities for biosolids programs. Presenters will also address ongoing PFAS-related issues affecting biosolids management and discuss how utilities are navigating this evolving landscape. The session will conclude with an update on the OSU–DEQ–ACWA biosolids/PFAS research study conducted in 2025 and 2026, offering attendees a look at preliminary findings and next steps. Speaker Information: <i>Ron Wierenga</i> is the Deputy Director for Clackamas Water Environment Services where he leads administrative services, budget and finance, policy development, regulatory affairs, and strategic planning. Ron graduated with a Master of Science degree from Washington State University with support from the State of Washington Water Research Center. <i>Frank Dick</i> oversees wastewater treatment engineering functions for Vancouver, including planning, capital project management, O&M contract administration and Vancouver’s fully delegated pretreatment program. Vancouver’s sewerage area serves a population of 250,000 and includes 13 Categorical Industrial Users, 8 other Significant Industrial Users, 6 Minor Industrial Users, and over 100 other written discharge authorizations, a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) management program and a dental mercury reduction program. Frank is leading a multi-year planning and engineering effort to transform Vancouver’s wastewater solids management program from incineration to resource recovery – biosolids for beneficial soil amendment and biogas for energy uses. Prior to his 18 years at Vancouver, he spent 14 years at semiconductor and electronics manufacturing facilities in the Portland-Vancouver area, in consultant and staff positions for facilities engineering and environmental compliance. Mr. Dick currently serves as the Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies’ Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee and is active Oregon ACWA and Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association. Mr. Dick earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from Washington State University.
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	2. Water Quality Permit Reporting in Your DEQ Online Speakers: Martina Frey, WQ Program Analyst, DEQ; Melissa Kays, WQ Program Business Systems Analyst, DEQ Moderators: 2:50—Martina Frey and Melissa Kays 4:00—Martina Frey and Melissa Kays	Session 2 Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will guide attendees through how to locate, complete, and submit discharge monitoring reports and other permit-required reports in Your DEQ Online. Presenters will demonstrate how to revise reports that have already been submitted and explain the steps to ensure corrections are properly recorded in the system. The session will also highlight where to find help resources, troubleshooting tools, and technical support when questions arise. Live demonstrations will walk participants through the reporting workflow from start to finish, offering practical tips for avoiding common errors. Designed specifically for NPDES individual permit holders, this training will prepare users for the transition from NetDMR to Your DEQ Online in November 2026 and help ensure a smooth shift to the new reporting platform. Speaker Information: <i>Martina Frey</i> is a Program Analyst in the Water Quality Division of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Since 2018, she has led DEQ’s Water Quality Permitting Data Management Team and is responsible for electronic reporting for water quality permits. For 20 years prior to joining DEQ, Martina was a consultant at Tetra Tech, Inc., where she assisted federal, state, and local agencies with stormwater management policy development, implementation, and permit compliance. Martina earned a master’s degree in environmental management from Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and a bachelor’s degree in ecology from Tulane University. <i>Melissa Kays</i> is the Water Quality Business Systems Analyst at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Since 2012, Melissa has worked on data analysis, reporting, and system maintenance and development. In late 2018, she transitioned to work on the Your DEQ Online implementation leading the effort for Water Quality. Prior to employment at DEQ, she worked at the Oregon Department of Agriculture for eight years in the confined animal feeding operations program, as a horticulturist and as a technician in the plant health lab. Melissa was born and raised in Oregon and earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Western Oregon University in 2003.
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	3. Building the Future Workforce Speakers: Jim Baird, General Manager, Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority; Auburn Mills, Manager, City of Portland; Charissa Rogers, Operations Supervisor, City of Portland Moderator: 2:50—Jim Baird 4:00—Jim Baird	Session 3 Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will highlight how the City of Portland developed and implemented its Wastewater Operator in Training (OIT) Program to address the growing need for qualified operators in the wastewater and stormwater sector. Speakers will walk through the creation of the Operations Support Team, securing organizational support and FTE resources, developing training materials, obtaining accreditation, recruiting OIT candidates, and navigating the many unknowns that come with launching a new program. The session will also address the broader workforce challenges facing Oregon and the nation, with one third of water and wastewater operators eligible to retire by 2030 and utilities continuing to struggle with recruitment and retention. Adding a complementary perspective, Jim Baird, General Manager of the Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority, will discuss innovative workforce development strategies and options for ensuring continuity of municipal wastewater operations. Together, these presentations will offer practical lessons learned and actionable insights for utilities looking to build or strengthen their own workforce development programs. Speaker Information: <i>Jim Baird</i> is the General Manager for the Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority (RUSA), a position he has held since 2017. He has over 35 years of experience in the wastewater industry as a technician, project manager, design technician, Engineering and Operations Manager and General Manager. He has served on many advisory boards and committees and has served as president of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association and the Southwest Oregon Operators Section. Jim has served on the Oregon DEQ Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee since 2021. Jim has an A.S. degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Umpqua Community College and holds Grade III Wastewater Collection System and Grade II Wastewater Treatment System Operator certifications. <i>Auburn Mills</i> has 14 years of experience in the wastewater industry and holds Grade IV Wastewater Operator certifications in Oregon and Washington. She has a B.A. in Chemistry and began her career in the wastewater laboratory with the City of San Leandro, California. Auburn currently serves as a Manager for the City of Portland’s Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, overseeing the Operations Support Team and Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. <i>Charissa Rogers</i> has 16 years of experience in the wastewater industry and is a graduate of Clackamas Community College’s Water Environment Technology Program with a focus on collections. Prior to entering the wastewater field, she worked as an international corporate trainer. Charissa holds Grade IV Wastewater Operator certifications in both Oregon and Washington and currently supervises the Operations Support Team and the Operator in Training Program for the City of Portland.
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	4. Between Rocks and Hard Places, Connecting Local Water to State Housing and Data Center Policy Speakers: Amy Maag, Development Engineering Manager, City of Wilsonville; Bobby Cochran, Senior Strategy & Policy Lead, Cities4Forests (WRI); Michael Jung, Co-Chair, Oregon Data Center Advisory Committee Moderators: 2:50—Tracy Rainey 4:00—Tracy Rainey	Session 4 Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: In January 2023, Oregon’s governor Kotek established an aggressive statewide housing production goal. In summer 2026, Governor Kotek’s Data Center Advisory Committee is meeting to recommend state policy on data centers, land use, energy, and water. How local governments manage their land use, master plans, standards, and financial models and associated fees to provide services, these state initiatives may change how jurisdictions make decisions on stormwater standards, tGoal 5 (vegetated corridors) protections, collection of SDCs, and community benefit and infrastructure agreements. This session will provide an overview of the actions already taken, or being considered, by the state that have implications for local governments’ ability to implement land use and fee programs and regulations that are needed to ensure compliance with federal and state water quality and quantity mandates. Local water quality and quantity program implementers need to be aware of and prepare for these potential changes. Speaker Information: <i>Amy Maag</i> is currently the Development Engineering Manager for the City of Wilsonville, with almost 25 years of experience working for small cities in the Portland metro area overseeing the development of industrial pretreatment, stormwater, and TMDL programs, in addition to capital projects and development review. Amy served 10 years on the ACWA Board and she currently serves on the League of Oregon Cities Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee and the Energy and Environment Policy Advisory Committee. Amy has a BS degree in Civil Engineering from University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. <i>Bobby Cochran</i> is the Senior Lead for Strategy, Policy and Delivery of World Resources Institute’s Cities4Forests Initiative. He focuses on project delivery in the Western United States to conserve, restore and sustainably manage nature in ways where all communities have what they need to thrive—no exceptions. Prior to WRI, Bobby worked as a Senior Mediator for Oregon Consensus, the State of Oregon’s policy conflict resolutions service. He co-founded the Oregon Water Policy and Innovation Service there and co-authored a policy analysis of Data Center and Water. <i>Michael Jung</i> is an energy policy leader with experience spanning cleantech, utilities, and government, and currently serves as co-chair of Oregon Governor Kotek’s Data Center Advisory Committee. He previously led government affairs at Modern Hydrogen and founded the ICF Climate Center as its Executive Director. Michael has worked across investor-owned and consumer-owned utilities, advised multiple governors, and was an early team member at cleantech startups including Utilidata, Varentec, and Silver Spring Networks. He also served as Vice President for Government Affairs at the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative and began his career managing environmental and climate policy at American Electric Power.
5:00 - 6:30 pm	<u>No-Host Reception</u>	

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Time	Topic	Presentation Description, Relevance to Oregon Wastewater Professional Knowledge; Instructor Information
7:30 am – Optional	NACWA Breakfast Host: Geoff Rabinowitz	Optional breakfast meeting: Updates from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies with Kaitlyn Montan, Director of Legislative Affairs,
8:30 — 9:10 am	Updates and Insights from the EPA Region 10 WQ Director Speaker: Krishna Viswanathan, EPA Region 10 Water Division Director, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Moderator: Geoff Rabinowitz	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will highlight EPA Region 10’s current priorities and water program initiatives, with a focus on funding and support available to help water and wastewater utilities address emerging contaminants and strengthen resilience. Krishna will discuss how EPA is working with communities to prepare for natural disasters, cyber threats, and extreme weather, and how these efforts align with broader regional and national goals. The session is designed to spark forward looking conversations and foster collaborative problem solving across programs that span water, land, and air. Speaker Information: Krishna was named EPA Region 10 Water Division Director in April 2025. Before this role, he served as the Region 10 Air and Radiation Division Director and worked extensively in air programs in both Region 9 in San Francisco and at EPA Headquarters in Washington DC, where he was a senior policy advisor. Krishna began his environmental career as an engineer with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, following positions in management consulting and the private sector. His deep expertise in both water quality and air quality makes him extremely insightful on cross-media topics and approaching problem solving from a broad perspective.
9:15— 10:00 am	PFAS: A Legal and Regulatory Update in a Changing Landscape Speakers: Kristin Denmark, Attorney/Shareholder, Thorp Purdy; Ashley Liuzza, Partner/CCO, Stag Liuzza LLC Moderator: Todd Miller	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will provide an update on the current status of the Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Multidistrict Litigation (MDL), which is addressing PFAS-related liability through a consolidated legal process. Speakers will also review the history of PFAS, how scientific understanding has shaped today’s regulatory framework, and how priorities continue to shift as new information emerges. The session will highlight key regulatory developments and pose important questions about the future direction of PFAS oversight, helping attendees understand what may be coming next for utilities and regulated entities. Speaker Information: <i>Kristin Denmark</i> is an attorney and shareholder with the firm. She enjoys assisting her clients and providing them with practical, efficient solutions. She primarily focuses her practice on business law, property issues, and local government law. Kristin’s business and real estate practice includes assisting clients with purchase and sale agreements, public/private development agreements, easements, entity formation, asset purchase agreements, lease

		agreements, general contract drafting and review, and policy drafting and review, among other issues. Kristin also has experience assisting clients with environmental compliance issues. Kristin advises several municipal clients on a wide range of issues. She assists clients with public contracting issues, public records requests, public meeting laws, and government ethics laws. Kristin has advised clients regarding elections law and special district formation issues. She also assists clients with negotiating and drafting intergovernmental agreements real property issues and drafting and reviewing resolutions and ordinances. She has assisted clients with complex real estate transactions and has experience negotiating and drafting development agreements, purchase and sale agreements, easements, and conservation easements. Prior to joining Thorp Purdy, Kristin clerked for the Honorable Karsten H. Rasmussen of the Lane County Circuit Court. She earned her Juris Doctorate (order of the coif) from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2011. <i>Ashley Liuzza</i> and her firm have been actively litigating PFAS cases for around 7 years. She is a frequent lecturer and contributing author on PFAS and its impact on municipalities. In the national PFAS MDL, Ashley has worked closely with leadership, including her partner Mike Stag who is a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee, to investigate scientific causation and defendant liability. Her firm represents over 350 municipal entities across 41 states and thousands of individuals in PFAS litigation.
10:00 am	BREAK	
10:20 am – 11:10 am	Practitioner's Journey Through Industrial Symbiosis Speakers: Frank Dick, Wastewater Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver; Steve Worley PE, Senior Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering Moderator: Frank Dick	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This presentation provides a practitioner's perspective on industrial symbiosis (IS), drawing on real-world project experience across the Pacific Northwest. Attendees will learn how different IS models—organic, intentional, need-driven, and preservation-based—shape project strategy, financing, stakeholder engagement, and risk. The session highlights lessons learned from major efforts including the City of Pasco's resource recovery facility and emerging opportunities in Longview/Cowlitz County. It will also explore the governance, political, and financial realities that determine whether IS projects succeed or stall. Special attention will be given to Oregon's evolving policy landscape and how utilities can position themselves to access funding and support. Participants will leave with practical insights and a readiness framework to help their own communities evaluate and advance IS opportunities. Speaker Information: <i>Frank Dick</i> oversees wastewater treatment engineering functions for Vancouver, including planning, capital project management, O&M contract administration and Vancouver's fully delegated pretreatment program. Vancouver's sewerage area serves a population of 250,000 and includes 13 Categorical Industrial

		Users, 8 other Significant Industrial Users, 6 Minor Industrial Users, and over 100 other written discharge authorizations, a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) management program and a dental mercury reduction program. Frank is leading a multi-year planning and engineering effort to transform Vancouver's wastewater solids management program from incineration to resource recovery – biosolids for beneficial soil amendment and biogas for energy uses. Prior to his 18 years at Vancouver, he spent 14 years at semiconductor and electronics manufacturing facilities in the Portland-Vancouver area, in consultant and staff positions for facilities engineering and environmental compliance. Mr. Dick currently serves as the Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee and is active Oregon ACWA and Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association. Mr. Dick earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from Washington State University. <i>Steve Worley, P.E.,</i> is a Senior Project Manager with Jacobs and a former Public Works Director for the Cities of Pasco and Vancouver, Washington. He brings over 30 years of experience leading complex public infrastructure programs, including water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation systems. Steve has guided major capital projects from concept through implementation, with a focus on integrating technical, financial, and political considerations. His work on industrial symbiosis initiatives includes leadership on the Pasco Process Water Reuse Facility and regional efforts to advance circular economy infrastructure. Known for his practical, solutions-oriented approach, Steve specializes in helping communities navigate complex decisions and deliver transformative projects. He is a licensed professional engineer and an experienced public sector leader.
11:10 am - 12:00 pm	Nutrient Strategy and Compliance Speakers: Shannon Richardson, WQ Program Analyst, DEQ; Jennifer Wigal, WQ Administrator, DEQ; Cody Luebbering, Principal WQ Scientist, Geosyntec; Adam Schnieders, WQ Resource Coordinator, Iowa Dept. of Nat. Resources Moderator: Todd Miller	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session is structured in two parts. It begins with an update on Oregon's multi-year Nutrient Reduction Strategy project, presented by Shannon Richardson, Program Analyst at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). She will outline key milestones, current progress, and the salient details shaping the next phases of the effort. Jennifer Wigal, DEQ's Water Quality Administrator, will then provide strategic context on the long-term goals of the initiative, highlighting where ACWA members can most effectively engage in the process and opportunities for meaningful partnership with DEQ. The second portion of the session transitions into a national perspective. Panelists Adam Schnieders (Iowa DNR) and Cody Luebbering (Geosyntec) will discuss how other states and regions are developing and implementing their nutrient reduction strategies. They will share insights on approaches that are proving successful, challenges that persist, and innovative solutions emerging across the country. This comparative discussion will help attendees consider practical pathways for advancing nutrient

		reduction planning at the local level and supporting Oregon’s statewide goals as they continue to take shape. Speaker Information: <i>Shannon Richardson</i> is the Water Quality Program Analyst at Oregon DEQ, working across the agency's Water Quality programs to strengthen coordination and support meaningful problem-solving. She holds a B.S. in Fisheries Science with an emphasis in Human Dimensions from Oregon State University and an Executive Master of Public Administration from Portland State University. With more than 20 years of experience in fisheries management, conservation, restoration, and community engagement, she brings technical depth and a people centered lens to water quality work. Growing up in the McKenzie River basin shaped her enduring connection to Oregon's waterways, and she remains committed to collaborative approaches that address complex challenges at the intersection of people, water, and place. <i>Jennifer Wigal</i> leads Oregon’s water quality efforts as the Water Quality Administrator at the Department of Environmental Quality. She’s been with DEQ for over 18 years, stepping into her current role in 2022 after holding several leadership positions in the program. Before that, she spent 10 years in D.C. working on national water programs at the U.S. EPA. With over 25 years in the field, Jennifer brings a deep understanding of both state and federal water policy. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest and holds engineering degrees from Washington State University and Johns Hopkins. <i>Cody Luebbering</i> has nearly 20 years of experience specializing in NPDES permitting in numerous states, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers environmental permitting, whole effluent toxicity testing, effluent limit derivation methods, site specific criteria development, and receiving water impact studies. He has led and managed extensive water quality certification, environmental permitting, point source nutrient trading, long-term lake nutrient monitoring programs, and water quality and ecological monitoring programs for states, federal, and private clients. <i>Adam Schnieders</i> has spent more than 25 years advancing water quality programs at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. His experience includes coordinating Iowa’s water quality standards, supervising the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program, and playing a central leadership role in developing Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy—a statewide effort uniting point and nonpoint source sectors to reduce nutrient pollution in Iowa’s waters and downstream. He now serves as Water Quality Resource Coordinator, overseeing the management and coordination of water quality policies and partnership programs for the DNR.
12:00 pm	LUNCH	
1:20 pm	2024 ACWA Priorities, Recognition of ACWA Board and Committees, and Announcements Geoff Rabinowitz, Executive Director, ACWA	

1:40 – 2:40 pm	Hot Topics in Oregon DEQ Water Quality Programs Speaker: Jennifer Wigal, WQ Administrator, Oregon DEQ Moderator: Johnny Leavy	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will be led by the DEQ Water Quality Division Administrator and will update ACWA members regarding current program and policy development that will impact future local government water quality permits, program management, and compliance with water quality regulations. The session will also provide the audience with a preview of upcoming water quality assessments and policy development that will lead to future requirements in NPDES and WPCF permits and TMDL implementation plans. Speaker Information: <i>Jennifer Wigal</i> leads Oregon’s water quality efforts as the Water Quality Administrator at the Department of Environmental Quality. She’s been with DEQ for over 18 years, stepping into her current role in 2022 after holding several leadership positions in the program. Before that, she spent 10 years in D.C. working on national water programs at the U.S. EPA. With over 25 years in the field, Jennifer brings a deep understanding of both state and federal water policy. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest and holds engineering degrees from Washington State University and Johns Hopkins.
2:40 pm	B R E A K	
3:00 – 4:00 pm	<u>Concurrent Sessions</u> 1. DEQ Water Quality Manager Forum DEQ Panel Speakers: Connie Dou, WQ Manager; Steve Mrazik, WQ Manager; Wyatt Stinnett, WQ Manager; Rebecca Bodnar, WQ Permitting and Prog. Manager; Chris Marko, Program Coordinator for Clean Water Revolving Fund, DEQ Moderator: Julia Crown	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: Effluent limits for phosphorus and nitrogen are increasingly being incorporated into NPDES permits by state regulatory agencies. Constructing new facilities to add advanced phosphorus and nitrogen removal are very expensive, so understanding treatment options and compliance strategies is very important for wastewater facilities managers, engineers and planners/analysts. This presentation will showcase Medford’s nutrient permitting experience and will provide examples of other permitting approaches in the United States. Speaker Information: <i>Connie Dou</i> is the Water Quality Program Manager in the Water Quality Division in Oregon DEQ. She currently manages the Water Quality Standards, Water Quality Assessment and the Drinking Water Source Protection programs. Before joining DEQ, she worked in water quality standards, TMDL and NPDES permitting in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She started her current position in December 2018. Connie obtained her Ph.D. degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nebraska. Connie is also a licensed Professional Engineer. <i>Steve Mrazik</i> works as a water quality manager overseeing the TMDL and Nonpoint Source programs for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He has worked for DEQ since 1997 in the water quality programs, the laboratory, and the environmental assessment division. Steve has a B.S.

		degree in Zoology (Aquatic Ecology) from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. <i>Wyatt Stinnett</i> is the Manager of Water Quality Permit Data Management & Special Programs for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He leads statewide initiatives supporting water quality protection through effective permit data management and oversight of water reuse, biosolids, and graywater programs. With a diverse technical background spanning environmental health, regulatory compliance, and public health protection, Wyatt brings extensive experience from previous roles as a Bioenvironmental Engineer and Industrial Hygienist. Wyatt has a B.S. degree in BioHealth Sciences from Oregon State University. <i>Rebecca Bodnar</i> is the Water Quality Permitting and Program Development Manager for DEQ. She oversees statewide NPDES individual and general permit development, WPCF general permits, pretreatment, and permitting policy initiatives. With over 25 years' experience in federal requirements, water quality regulation, and program management, Rebecca leads efforts to modernize permitting programs, improve regulatory implementation, and advance environmental protection across Oregon. She works closely with local governments, Tribal Nations, industry, environmental organizations, and regulatory partners to develop practical, science-based solutions to complex water quality challenges. Rebecca is passionate about fostering collaboration, improving program effectiveness, and ensuring Oregon's water resources remain protected for future generations. <i>Chris Marko</i> is the Program Coordinator for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program at Oregon DEQ, which provides below market interest rate loans for water quality and infrastructure projects in Oregon. Chris is a native Oregonian who has a passion for protecting environmental quality and quality of life for communities in Oregon. He holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oregon Planning, Public Policy, and Management Department (PPPM) in Public Affairs, focusing on Natural Resource Management and Community Economic Development. Chris has more than 30 years of experience working for local government and non-profit organizations in the areas of land use, affordable housing, energy, infrastructure, community economic development, and advocacy. He has extensive experience with training and technical assistance for communities to plan, develop, finance and manage water and wastewater systems. In 2011, Chris received the national Ron Shaffer Award for Collaborative Leadership for his work in program and policy coordination at the state and national levels.
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	2. NPDES Individual Permit Monitoring Reductions and Streamlining Speakers: Jeff Navaro, Sr. WQ Permit Program Analyst, DEQ; Aliana Britson, Senior Permit Policy Consultant, DEQ Moderator: Joshua Ernst	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will provide an overview of recent updates to monitoring requirements associated with NPDES permits, with a focus on the Copper Biotic Ligand Model (BLM). Presenters will outline changes to required monitoring processes, including new expectations for demonstrating reductions tied to technology based effluent limits. The session will also cover DEQ’s emerging process and policy updates aimed at streamlining monitoring requirements for both the copper BLM and the aluminum Lake Response Model (LRM). Together, these updates reflect DEQ’s ongoing efforts to improve consistency, reduce unnecessary monitoring burdens, and ensure that data collected supports scientifically defensible permitting decisions. Attendees will gain clarity on what has changed, why the changes matter, and how to prepare for implementation in upcoming permit cycles. Speaker Information: <i>Jeff Navarro</i> is a Senior Water Quality Permit Program Analyst who works with agency permit writers to issue consistent, implementable, and defensible permits in the State of Oregon. He graduated from Western Oregon University in 2005 and later earned an executive degree in LEAN Management from Ohio State University. Before joining Oregon DEQ in 2016, Jeff spent 12 years as an environmental, health, and safety leader and manager at a metal manufacturing facility, helping the regulated community meet compliance and sustainability goals. He now focuses on implementing new and existing policies, improving processes, and supporting continuous improvement efforts for wastewater discharge permitting. Outside of work, Jeff enjoys spending time with his family hunting, fishing, and camping throughout the Pacific Northwest. <i>Aliana Britson, Ph.D.</i>, is a Water Quality Permitting Specialist with DEQ and a leader in advancing Oregon’s wastewater permitting program. She develops complex NPDES permits, drives statewide permitting initiatives, and works to improve the consistency, effectiveness, and transparency of permit implementation across Oregon. Her work spans permit development, policy implementation, program modernization, and stakeholder engagement, bringing together technical expertise and practical problem-solving to address challenging water quality issues. Aliana is passionate about mentoring others, building collaborative partnerships, and developing innovative solutions that protect Oregon's water resources and communities. In recognition of her exceptional commitment to public service and collaboration, Aliana was honored with the 2026 Governor's Public Service Ambassador Award. She holds a dual title doctoral degree in Ecology and Biogeochemistry from The Pennsylvania State University.
4:15 pm (optional)	Informal Activities	

Friday, July 17, 2026

Time	Topic	Presentation Description; Relevance to Oregon Wastewater Professional Knowledge; Instructor Information
7:30 – 8:30 am	ACWA Energy Committee Meeting and Presentation	Optional Breakfast Meeting and Presentation Speakers: Layne McWilliams, VP, External Growth & Industrial Symbiosis, Cascade Energy
8:30-9:15 am	Oregon DEQ Update Speaker: Shannon Davis, Deputy Director, Oregon DEQ Moderator: Geoff Rabinowitz	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: Deputy Director Davis will provide reflections on the evolving landscape of water quality work, highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing the state and ACWA members. Drawing on real-world examples, she will discuss key issues affecting regulated communities, including declining federal resources and engagement, increasing expectations on states, and the importance of fostering strong partnerships and effective communication to support efficient compliance and achieve shared water quality goals. She will also explore DEQ’s prioritization of its work and resources, while recognizing the unique needs, circumstances and challenges of communities in Oregon. Speaker Information: <i>Shannon Davis</i> serves as the Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. As deputy, Shannon provides oversight and policy implementation guidance to DEQ’s three Regional Administrators and Laboratory Administrator. Among other responsibilities, she currently oversees DEQ’s Office of Compliance and Enforcement and works closely with the Central Services Division to further DEQ’s work and commitment on diversity, equity and inclusion as well as helping lead DEQ’s environmental justice efforts. She is very familiar with Land Quality programs and has a fondness (and background) in both this and air quality. She initially joined ODEQ in 2017 as the Materials Management Section Manager. Her expansive background includes serving as the Land Quality (or Waste Programs) Division Director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Shannon’s notable environmental work also includes tackling environmental issues while working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and working with a member of the U.S. Congress.
9:15 – 10:00 am	NACWA: National Updates Speaker: Kaitlyn Montán, Director of Legislative Affairs, National ACWA Moderator: Johnny Leavy	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: Kaitlyn Montán, the Director of Legislative Affairs at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) will provide an update on current legislative, regulatory, and legal activity impacting clean water utilities in the federal policy space. Focusing on both the challenges and opportunities presented by the current political landscape, Kaitlyn Montán will provide NACWA’s perspective and outlook for federal water funding, various pieces of legislation addressing flushable wipes, affordability and cybersecurity, and the water sector’s latest efforts to obtain a utility PFAS exemption under the Comprehensive

		Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Additionally, the presentation will provide perspectives on various ongoing administrative, Congressional, and judicial actions concerning PFAS, biosolids, financial capability assessments, and water reuse. Despite the challenging and uncertain outlook in the federal space, this session will provide helpful insight on federal policy developments that shape local wastewater programs nationwide and how NACWA is advocating to lift up the needs and challenges of the clean water community with our federal partners. Speaker Information: <i>Kaitlyn Montán</i> is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) with over nine years of experience in federal affairs. Prior to NACWA, Montán serving as the Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and as the Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Her career started on Capitol Hill, where she worked for over six years for several members in the Texas delegation. Most recently on Capitol Hill, Kaitlyn was the Legislative Director for Congressman Joaquin Castro.
10:00 am	B R E A K	
10:20 – 11:05 am	The Water Shoe is on the Other Foot: DEQ Asks Questions to an ACWA Member Panel Panel: Todd Miller, Deputy Director, Springfield Envir. Services; Frank Dick, Wastewater Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver; Johnny Leavy, Water Reclamation Facility Mgr, City of Medford; Julia Crown, Water Resources Analyst, Clean Water Services; Ron Wierenga, Deputy Director, Clackamas WES Moderator: Amanda Haney	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will create an engaging forum where Oregon DEQ can ask ACWA members targeted program-related questions to help inform strategic planning, program development, and implementation efforts. Discussion topics may include process improvement, communication strategies, approaches to rule development, and other program-specific issues. By opening this dialogue, the session aims to strengthen the partnership between DEQ and municipal clean water agencies across Oregon. This collaborative exchange supports shared goals to protect and enhance water quality while improving the effectiveness and efficiency of both state and local programs. Panel Information: <i>Todd Miller</i> has worked for the City of Springfield and the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission’s regional wastewater services program for Eugene/Springfield for the past 18 years and is currently Deputy Director. He has worked over his 35-year career in water resources and environmental planning and management and has lived and worked in both small rural communities and large metropolitan areas and across a range of small and large companies, nonprofit, and government employers. Whatever the regulatory or business driver or need is, Todd’s ultimate focus is on cost-effective and meaningful environmental outcomes. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Geology from the University of Rochester, NY and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon.

		<i>Frank Dick</i> oversees wastewater treatment engineering functions for Vancouver, including planning, capital project management, O&M contract administration and Vancouver’s fully delegated pretreatment program. Vancouver’s sewerage area serves a population of 250,000 and includes 13 Categorical Industrial Users, 8 other Significant Industrial Users, 6 Minor Industrial Users, and over 100 other written discharge authorizations, a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) management program and a dental mercury reduction program. Frank is leading a multi-year planning and engineering effort to transform Vancouver’s wastewater solids management program from incineration to resource recovery – biosolids for beneficial soil amendment and biogas for energy uses. <i>Johnny Leavy</i> is the manager of the City of Medford’s Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Leavy has over 20 years of experience operating and maintaining wastewater treatment plants throughout the Pacific Northwest. He currently also serves as the Vice Chair of Oregon ACWA, helping to provide science-based practical services to ACWA members through education, regulatory advocacy, and partnerships for the development of proactive solutions for water resource management. Leavy is a DEQ-certified Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator with an AAS degree in Manufacturing Technologies: Industrial Electronics from Southwestern Oregon Community College, Coos Bay. <i>Julia Crown</i> is a Water Resources Analyst for Clean Water Services where she implements NPDES permit requirements and engages with long term regulatory compliance strategy. She previously worked for the City of Gresham in the Industrial Pretreatment Program and at Oregon DEQ developing TMDLs and analyzing data for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships Program. Julia is the ACWA Water Quality Committee co-chair. Julia has a B.S. degree in Biology from Simmons College and an M.S. degree in Bioresource Engineering from Oregon State University. <i>Ron Wierenga</i> is the Deputy Director for Clackamas Water Environment Services where he leads administrative services, budget and finance, policy development, regulatory affairs, and strategic planning. Ron graduated with a Master of Science degree from Washington State University with support from the State of Washington Water Research Center. In his free time, Ron fly fishes for steelhead where he spends a lot of time standing in rivers thinking about how to make them healthier.
11:05 – 11:30 am	The Best of the Best Annual Awards and Recognition	Presented by ACWA
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Resiliency, Modeling, and How to Think about Addressing the Big Problems Speaker: Larry O'Neill, Associate Professor, College of Earth,	Session Information and Relevance to Wastewater Professional Knowledge: This session will explore the predictive capabilities of climate modeling and how to use both its strengths and limitations to support resiliency planning for water quality programs. Building on themes discussed throughout the conference, presenters will

	Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at OSU Moderator: Torrey Lindbo	connect climate projections to the real-world challenges facing municipal wastewater and stormwater agencies. Topics will include budgeting for future conditions, infrastructure maintenance and replacement, operational planning, emergency preparedness, continuity of operations, workforce development, and integrating regulatory requirements in areas that don't neatly fit existing silos. The session aims to help attendees understand how climate modeling can inform long-term decision-making and strategic planning. It's a not-to-miss discussion that offers a practical lens for addressing the complex challenges ahead. Speaker Information: Larry O'Neill is an Associate Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, Director of the Oregon Climate Service, and Oregon's State Climatologist. His research focuses on climate variability and hydroclimate extremes, air-sea interactions, and the processes that drive weather and climate across the Pacific Northwest and North Pacific Ocean. His work spans topics including drought, snowpack variability, atmospheric rivers, marine heatwaves, wildfire weather, and regional climate prediction, integrating observations, satellite remote sensing, and numerical modeling. Dr. O'Neill collaborates extensively with federal, state, and regional partners to improve understanding of extreme events and support climate resilience and water-resource planning across the Pacific Northwest.
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