

COOS BAY WASTEWATER CONFERENCE SEPT 28 & 29 2026

MONDAY 9/28/26

8-9am	Registration/Breakfast		
9-10:15	Classes		
Treatment	Collections	Maintenance	ALL
Digester Optimization This presentation explores a practical, data-driven approach to improving anaerobic digester performance. It highlights how understanding operations and identifying small, cost-effective changes can improve performance while minimizing implementation costs. Jeff Hart - West Yost	Root Management This presentation will discuss how to treat roots underground and provide information on how to effectively remove the roots with chemicals. As well as followup for root control. Sam Watson - Dukes Rooted Innovation	OSHA Inspections What to expect when having an OSHA inspection Larry Fipps - OSHA	What operators wish Engineers knew This session will give operations, collections and maintenance staff a repeatable operator's eye for reviewing a design before it gets built. Andrew Grant - Solidsdude Solutions LLC
10:15-10:30	Break		
10:30-11:45	Classes		
Treatment	Collections	Maintenance	Admin
Activated Sludge Process Control Concepts & Calcs This class covers concepts and calculations necessary for process control of the activated sludge wastewater treatment process. In addition to improving understanding of the activated sludge treatment process, attendees will learn how to apply the F:M ratio and MCRT to evaluate and adjust plant performance. Greg Pearson - Michigan Technological University	Maintenance for Vaccon Trucks & Trailers This session will provide collection operators and maintenance staff with knowledge of proper maintenance of hydrovac trucks and trailers to increase the longevity of their equipment. Nick Frappier - NW Hydrovac	Backup Power This presentation will provide all attendees with the information needed for testing and maintenance of their backup power systems. Along with simple troubleshooting codes and what they mean. Ben Barnes - ONTIVITY Legacy	Outfall Inspections & Repairs This presentation will walk attendees through the process of an outfall inspection and real-world repairs that have taken place. The presentation will explore the different ways to repair outfalls and perform inspections. Daylon Hutton - Ballard Marine
11:45-2	Lunch/ Vendor Show		
2-2:15	Break		
2:15-3:15	Classes		
Treatment	Collections	Maintenance	Admin

Nutrient Removal This class covers nutrient removal processes in wastewater treatment plants. Topics include nitrification, denitrification, and biological phosphorus removal. In addition, modifications and process control for small wastewater facilities will be discussed relative to nutrient removal optimization. Greg Pearson - Michigan Technological University	Storm Collection Backflow prevention by Elastometric check valve technology This technical presentation will chronically detail the history and performance results of 43+ years of both duckbill & in-line elastomeric check valve technologies. It will include Engineering, Adaptation and best practices for long term operation. Matthew Davidson - Antec Corp	Rotary Lobe Pump Review & Maintenance This class will walk attendees through Rotary Lobe pump operation & maintenance. Nick Ivers - Owens Pump	Lagoon Leak Testing This presentation will be discussing how lagoon leak testing is performed and the reporting that accompanies it to be in compliance with NPDES permitting regulations. The presenter will walk attendees through the different steps and equipment needed to make the final determination of if your Lagoon is leaking or not. Aaron Speakman - Dyer Partnership
3:15-3:30	Break		
3:30-4:45	Classes		
Treatment	Collections	Maintance /Treatment/Admin	Admin
SBR Operation Forum Operator forum to bring together the people who run the SBR facilities across the Oregon to share how these plants perform day to day. Panelists walk through real operational challenges. Tie operational performance back to specific design features. Mark Walter and others	Nozzles 101 This session will cover sanitary sewer or stormwater pipe cleaning basics and safety. Attendees will learn the basic nozzle construction and jets and how to select the proper nozzle for the application. Chris Young - SWS	WWTP Digester Hydrodynamic mixing & aeration mixing performance of elastomeric duckbill technologies over traditional membrane, mechanical and tube mixing aeration diffusers Presentation will detail the engineering and field performance benefits of Duckbill Technologies from various plants across the PNW. With Engineering modeling, momentum results and energy reductions associated with this technology. Matthew Davidson - Antec Corp	What is ACWA and how it can help your small community This presentation will highlight the work that ACWA is focusing on in 2026 and beyond. This includes information on how ACWA works with DEQ and other regulatory agencies to have reasonable, protective and implementable water quality permits and how ACWA collectively helps support communities across Oregon. Geoff Rabinowitz - ACWA

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9-10:15

Classes

Treatment

Collections

Maintenance

Admin

NPDES Permit Compliance Pitfalls

Presentation provides practical overview of common NPDES permit compliance pitfalls for wastewater utilities. Emphasizes the importance of understanding permit language, referenced regulations, monitoring requirements, reporting timelines and recordkeeping obligations.

Johnny Leavy - City of Medford

Underground Locating & Hydroexcavating

This session will provide collection operators with extensive knowledge in underground locating and hydroexcavating safety and process.

Nick Frappier - NW Hydrovac

Non-Chemical Solutions for scale, biofouling and flocculation in WW Facilities

Practical non-chemical water treatment applications that mitigate limescale accumulation prevent bio-fouling, and improve dewatering efficiency in belt presses and sand filters. Drawing from real-world regional case studies including successful implementations across Oregon

Municipal Plants.

Robert Freeman - Hydroflow NW

Mixing Zone studies, Outfall, RPAs

Attendees will learn how mixing zone studies are a key element in the development of the NPDES permits and how to apply the results to the RPAs. Specific examples of mixing zone studies that led to outfall design improvements will be reviewed for a range of discharges in Oregon.

Dave Wilson - Jacobs

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-11:45

Classes

Treatment

Collections

Maintenance/Treatment

Admin

Treatment Process Control Toolkit #1

This workshop draws on the classic EPA activated sludge process control manuals from 1974-1977 to reinforce a practical "see-test-trend-adjust" approach. Operators work through common symptoms using a portable set of checks and a shared troubleshooting language. This session is interactive with demos, breakouts.

Mark Walter - Waterdude Solutions

Safe practices for Hydroexcavation

This course will prepare attendees to perform hydro-excavations properly and safely. Operators will learn how to dig properly around sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities with proper digging and techniques and pressure control. Along with safety discussions and emergency preparedness.

Chris Young - SWS

Instrumentation Probes

Attendees will learn how to use and understand information given to them through instrumentation probes such as DO, pH, etc.

Dave Bobbett - WECL

Permitting 101

What to expect when you're expecting your renewed permit.

Jeff Navaro - DEQ

11:45-1

Lunch

1-1:15

Break

1:15-2:15

Classes

Treatment

Treatment/Maint/Admin

Maintenance/Treatment

Admin

Treatment Process Control Toolkit #2 Continuation of Class #1 Mark Walter - Waterdude Solutions	Facultative Lagoon Management This presentation discusses methods of troubleshoot FSLs when there appears to be solids overloading. The presentation goes over quantifying solids inventory and what chemical and biological analysis should take place to improve FSL performance. Jeff Hart - West Yost	Instrumentation Probes and choosing the right one for the right application This class will walk attendees through different instrumentation probes and their applications. Randy Zenke - Field Instruments Controls	Powering Wastewater Resilience: RUSA's Solar, Storage and Floating Solar Strategy Examine how RUSA developed the projects, selected projects and secured funding through Oregon Dept of Energy grants, CWSRF, federal clean energy tax credits and utility incentives. Provide practical lessons for wastewater utilities considering solar, battery storage and other renewable energy improvements. Kathleen Kelleher - Ameresco
2:15-2:30	Break		
2:30-3:30	Classes		
Treatment	Collections	Maintenance	Admin
Treatment Operator Roundtable/Discussion This session will give treatment operators the opportunity to come together to discuss experiences, share insight on similar issues and network. Mark Walter - Waterdude Solutions	Collection Operator Roundtable/Discussion This session will give collection operators the opportunity to come together to discuss experiences, share insight on similar issues and network. Rishia Latta - City of Coos Bay	Maintenance Worker Roundtable/Discussion This session will give maintenance workers the opportunity to come together to discuss experiences, share insight on similar issues and network. Andrew Grant - Solidsdude Solutions LLC	Management Roundtable/Discussion This session will give management professionals the opportunity to come together to discuss experiences, share insight on similar issues and network. Mike Morgan - City of Coos Bay