



Nebraska Water Environment Association

40TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND OPERATORS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

3:30 – 5:00 PM NWOC Business Meeting; Executive Room, 2nd floor

5:00 - 8:00 PM NWOC Ice Breaker - Sponsored by the NWOC Vendors!; Ballroom

Sponsored by the NWOC Vendors! This event is open to all registrants and exhibitors. All attendees will be given 2 drink tickets, and food will be served from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Thursday, July 16, 2026

(All sessions will be held in Staterooms D,E,F – Breaks and Lunch will be in the Ballroom)

- 7:30 AM **Registration and Welcome**
- 8:00 AM* **The High Stakes of Wastewater Treatment;** AJ Kurtzer, Olsson
- 9:00 AM* ** **DWEE NPDES Compliance Program Update;** Phillip Halsted, NDWEE
- 10:00 AM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 10:15 AM* ** **Setting up Operator Credentialing Portal;** Mike McBride, NDWEE
- 10:45 AM* **Certification Exam Updates;** Mike McBride, NDWEE
- 11:15 AM* **Loctite MRO Adhesives;** Mike Jones, Henkel/Loctite
- 11:45 AM **Lunch – NWEA & NWOC Updates;** Marc Rosso, City of Lincoln & Joel Jirak, Olsson
- 12:45 PM* ** **Cybersecurity Basics for OT Environments;** Daniel Macias & Zachary Roth, City of Lincoln
- 1:15 PM* **Stormwater Inspections Made Easy;** Mark Pomajzl, JEO
- 1:45 PM* **Wastewater Sampling for Pathogens;** Tommy George & Tyler Cruthers, City of Lincoln
- 2:15 PM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 2:30 PM* **Occurrence of PFAS in Small Wastewater Treatment Plants in Nebraska;** Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- 3:30 PM* ** **Small Communities Assistance Planning (SCAP) Tool;** Tyler Cotner, Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center
- 4:30 PM **Adjourn – Raffle Prizes**

Friday, July 17, 2026

(All sessions will be held in Staterooms D,E,F – Breakfast and Break will be in the Ballroom)

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast – Networking**
- 8:00 AM* ** **UV vs Chemical Disinfection;** Kaden Ellis & Paul Koehler, JCI Industries
- 8:30 AM* **Navigating the Complexities of Industrial Wastewater;** Kari Leonhard, JBS
- 9:00 AM* ** **NPDES: Proposed Program Fees;** Patrick Ducey, NDWEE
- 10:00 AM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 10:15 AM* **Movie: Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong;** Joel Jirak - Moderator, Olsson
- 12:00 PM **Adjourn – Raffle Prizes**



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Wastewater* - up to 10.75 hours / **Water**** - up to 4.5 hours Grades 1-4 only

1-Day Training and Certification Exam (Holiday Inn – StatEROOM C)

1-Day Exam Refresher Class

Thursday, July 16, 2026

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Free to all conference attendees but due to space limitations, you *must* register to attend.

Certification Exam (Grade 1-2)

Friday, July 17, 2026

8:00 AM

* You **MUST** register/pay for this separately through the NDWEE (there is a link to this on the NWEA website)



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