



The EffluentLine

Volume 55 | Number 2

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Find out who the winner was inside this edition!



Overview

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) is a member association of the Water Environment Federation, a not-for-profit technical and educational organization that was founded in 1928. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the global water environment. Federation members are 41,000 water quality specialists from around the world, including environmental, civil and chemical engineers, biologists, government officials, treatment plant managers and operators, laboratory technicians, college professors, students, and equipment manufacturers and distributors.

The Effluent Line is an official publication of the Nebraska Water Environment Association, published by the Public Communications and Outreach Committee (PCOC). The Association is a non-profit corporation in the State of Nebraska dedicated to the improvement of water quality in the State of Nebraska. Editorials, Articles, Web Page content and Outreach Committee opinions are not necessarily official positions or endorsements of the Association, its officers, or committee member employers.

To submit news-articles or organization-related correspondence please go to the "Article Submittal Form" on the website (www.nebwea.org) under the **NEWSLETTER** drop down at the top of the main page.

For any other inquiries about the newsletter, website, or social media platforms please contact:

Brittni Stephens, PE - PCOC Chair

Nebraska Water Environment Association
2111 S. 67th Street, Suite 200 Omaha, NE 68106

Office: (402) 938-2463 **Cell:** (402) 430-1610

Email: bstephens@olsson.com

Where to Find Us

Online	www.nebwea.org
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/nebraska-water-environment-association
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWEA/
Twitter/X	https://twitter.com/NebraskaWEA

SAVE THE DATES

Conference Dates	
Heartland Conference	July 17-18, 2024
Joint Fall Conference	November 6-8, 2024
Snowball Conference	January 22-23, 2025
Joint Fall Conference	November 5-7, 2025

Executive Board Meetings	
July 18, 2024	1:30-3:30
November 5, 2024	3:00-5:00
November 6, 2024	1:30-3:30
November 7, 2024	10:00-12:00

Public Education Committee Volunteer Opportunities	
World O! Water (Chalco Hills Recreation Center)	Sept 7, 2024

Training Opportunities	
August 26-29, 2024	Lincoln, NE
September 30, 2024	Norfolk, NE
October 1-2, 15-16, 2024	Norfolk, NE

<https://nebwea.org/training>

Events	
27th NWEA Scholarship Golf Outing	August 19, 2024
Contact: Jamie Bausback at jamie.bausback@hdrinc.com or 402.548.5001 nebwea.org/meetinginfo.php?id=115&ts=1717632546	
2024 Annual Clay Shoot	September 6, 2024
Lunch at 11:30 AM, Shoot at 1:00 PM Oak Creek Sporting Club 2890 West Rd, Brainard, NE	
Fishing will be available on a self-service basis before and after shooting and not part of the main event	



Contact Us: Board and Chairpersons

2024 Executive Board		
President	Brittany Travers	(402) 880-0321
President Elect	Blake Birkel	(402) 937-3680
Vice President	Marc Rosso	(531) 207-3244
Federation Delegate	Scott Aurit	(402) 926-7082
Federation Delegate	Lucas Billesbach	(402) 319-5951
Treasurer	Ryan Hurst	(402) 443-3222
Secretary	Jeremy Walker	(402) 458-5657
Director at Large	Doug Glaze	(308) 324-3902
Director at Large	Darren Jack	(402) 742-2941
Director at Large	Shawn Ovenden	(402) 399-4896
Past President	George Hunt	(402) 554-4842
At Large Member	Scott Seelhoff	(402) 742-2941
At Large Member	Kylie Wilmes	(402) 727-2672
At Large Member	Lee Dunn	(402) 709-3646
2024 Committee Chairpersons		
Arthur Sidney Bedell Award	Mike Milius	(308) 227-2630
Finance and Audit	Mike Milius	(308) 227-2630
Awards	Aaron Dressel	(402) 580-9758
Collection System	Adam Wilmes	(402) 250-3001
Constitution & Bylaws	Jeremy Walker	(402) 458-5657
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Garrett Lane	(402) 829-1328
Governmental Affairs	Derek Gardels	(402) 926-7121
Great Plains Waste Management	Daria Sakharova	(412) 580-2314
Industrial/Hazardous Waste	Dillon Devitt	(402) 926-7109
Life Member/Quarter Century	Jeremy Walker	(402) 458-5657
Mfr. & Representatives Committee (MARC)	Lee Dunn	(402) 709-3646
Membership	Jeff Saltzman	(402) 669-6016
Nominating	Lucas Billesbach	(402) 319-5951
NWOC Advisory/Training	Scott Seelhoff	(402) 727-2672
Pretreatment/Industrial Waste	Abhijeet Saraf	(217) 979-6333
Program	Blake Birkel	(402) 937-3680
Public Communications and Outreach	Brittni Stephens	(402) 430-1610
Public Education	Scott Seelhoff	(402) 727-2630
Resource Recovery/Biosolids	Keegan Bell	(402) 444-3503
Safety	Joel Jirak	(402) 458-5657
Scholarship	Dr. George Hunt	(402) 554-4842
Scott Wilber Award	Aaron Gustin	
Student Activities	Dr. George Hunt	(402) 554-4842
Training	Ryan Hurst	(402) 443-3222
William Hatfield Award Chair	Aaron Dressel	(402) 580-9758
Young Professionals	Abhijeet Saraf	(217) 979-6333
5S Award	Jon Harger	(515) 233-8599

PCOC Committee	
Chair - Brittni Stephens	(402) 430-1610
Newsletter	
HDR Graphics	(402) 399-4814
Daria Sakharova	(412) 580-2314
Jake Hansen	(402) 214-5301
Ryan Hurst	(402) 443-3222
Todd Boling	(402) 441-7965
Brian Gongol	(515) 979-2837
Scott Aurit	(402) 926-7082
Blake Birkel	(402) 937-3680
Aaron Dressel	(402) 580-9758
Sarah Espinosa	(515) 979-2837
Jay Holz	
George Hunt	(402) 554-4842
Jim Mahony	(515) 306-6000
Roger Protzman	(402) 844-3897
Jake Rink	
Leah Boudreau	
Marc Rosso	(531) 207-3244
Mike McBride	(402) 471-4244
Mike Milius	(308) 227-2630
Website	
Shawn Ovenden	(402) 399-4896
Social Media	
Edie Spencer	(402) 548-5049

Contributing Photographer

[Daryl Kottwitz Photography](#)

Letter from the President

Spring has officially sprung, and with that, I find myself filled with a mix of emotions. The recent tornadoes that swept through Nebraska have left a path of destruction and heartbreak in their wake. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to all those affected by these devastating storms. It is in times like these that the true spirit of our great state shines brightest. The dedication and compassion shown by all are a testament to the strength of Nebraska.



Amidst the challenges, we have had some great successes within NWEA. The 68th annual Great Plains Conference was held in March and had 289 attendees and 17 sponsorships. The DE&I committee hosted another successful Women in Water luncheon with great discussion, and the Young Professionals committee organized a very popular social event with a 24-team bags tournament.

Quite a few of our members have been active in the mentorship program in conjunction with the university students. This program has come to a close for the year but has proved to be beneficial and rewarding for both the mentors and mentees. We look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come.

A handful of our board and committee members have attended WEFMAX's held in Alexandria, VA, Park City, UT, and St. Petersburg, FL. These gatherings are hosted by WEF and the local Member Associations to bring together like-minded members to share ideas. Each WEFMAX has a different theme, so our attendees discuss various topics relevant to our organization and bring back a plethora of ideas that could be implemented into NWEA.

The Public Education committee has been busy attending Children's Groundwater Festivals, teaching elementary-age students about the value of water. They have also participated in state science fairs, judging water and wastewater related projects presented by high school juniors and seniors. They will select a winner to attend the

Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition this summer to represent the state of Nebraska.

The above are just a snippet of what our dedicated committees and members have accomplished so far this year.

Moving forward, we have a lot going on within NWEA. The Heartland Operators Conference will be held in Kearney, NE, from July 17-19. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for us to gather, share ideas, and learn from one another. I encourage everyone to attend and participate in this enriching experience.

In addition to the conference, we have important updates regarding our Constitution and Bylaws. Over the past months, a dedicated committee has been working diligently to review and propose necessary revisions to ensure that our governing documents reflect our current values and operational needs. These updates were presented at the Great Plains Conference and sent to the membership following the conference for a 30-day comment period. Our goal is to have the finalized document sent to the membership following the Heartland Conference. Your voice and vote are crucial in this process, and I urge all members to familiarize themselves with the proposed changes and participate in the decision-making.

As we navigate through both the trials and triumphs of this year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your unwavering support and active involvement in our organization do not go unnoticed.

Warm regards,

BRITTANY TRAVERS
NWEA President

The Next Generation of Operators

Congratulations to the 65 new and upgraded wastewater operators certified to date in 2024!

Need to become certified? Several certification training events and testing date remaining this year. Contact Mike McBride, NDEE WW Certification Coordinator, for more information.

Questions?

Contact: Mike McBride

NDEE WW Certification Coordinator

402-471-4244

mike.mcbride@nebraska.gov

<http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>

CONGRATULATIONS! New and Upgraded Certified Wastewater Operators <i>(Updated June 5, 2024)</i>							
Bowde Johnson	Class L	Derrick Cox	Class I	Bryan Christensen	Class II	Tom Heesacker	Class II
Carol Ellis	Class L	Dustin Gushard	Class I	Caleb Greenfield	Class II	Travis Ayala	Class II
Danny Patterson	Class L	Eric Peterson	Class I	Chad Shuda	Class II	William Benson	Class II
Earnest DeGunia	Class L	Erik Johnston	Class I	Cody Reifsteck	Class II	Zachery Fry	Class II
Gerald Jackson	Class L	George Miramontes	Class I	Craig Degenhardt	Class II	Charles Dresch	Class III
Jeremy Hill	Class L	James Scott	Class I	Darren Kuester Sr	Class II	Daniel Wescott	Class III
Jerry Henscheid	Class L	Justin Getzfred	Class I	James Peatrowsky	Class II	Deven Clark	Class III
Kaden Kratke	Class L	Kaleb Kuhlmann	Class I	Kenny Furrow	Class II	Tyler Urbanec	Class III
Kelly Daughenbauh	Class L	Kenley Reimers	Class I	Kevin Huxhold	Class II	Matthew Shoop	Class IV
Kyle Lussetto	Class L	Mathew Bower	Class I	Kevin Rogers	Class II	Robert Huntley	Class IV
Nathaniel Sheehan	Class L	Nathaniel Hitchins	Class I	Mark Vanek	Class II	Joseph Epp	IND 1
Seth Heitz	Class L	Shane Schukei	Class I	Matthew Johnson	Class II	Matthew Scheel	IND 1
Timothy Barry	Class L	Steven Rodriguez	Class I	Patrick Callaway	Class II	Craig Dubbs	IND 2
Alex Kuhl	Class I	Terry Stueben	Class I	Rick Dolan	Class II	Dustin Poynor	IND 2
Brandon Vega	Class I	Troy Sonnenfeld	Class I	Robert Lewis	Class II	Kenny Wineman	IND 2
Chad Mackling	Class I	Brandon Erdman	Class II	Skyler Joyce	Class II	Resul Orazov	IND 2

Current Number of Nebraska Certified Wastewater Operators Per Class.	
Certification:	No.
Class I	147
Class II	357
Class III	66
Class IV	111
Class L	151
Class IND 1	33
Class IND 2	55
Class IND 3	6
Class IND 4	1
<i>Total:</i>	927

The Next Generation of Operators Contd.

Newly Certified and Upgraded NDEE Wastewater Operators

January – April, 2024 (63 Total)

Operator	Class	Operator	Class	Operator	Class	Operator	Class
Alex Kuhl	I	Terry Stueben	I	Rick Dolan	II	Gerald Jackson	L
Brandon Vega	I	Troy Sonnenfeld	I	Robert Lewis	II	Jeremy Hill	L
Chad Mackling	I	Brandon Erdman	II	Skyler Joyce	II	Jerry Henscheid	L
Derrick Cox	I	Caleb Greenfield	II	Tom Heesacker	II	Kaden Kratke	L
Dustin Gushard	I	Chad Shuda	II	Travis Ayala	II	Kelly Daughenbauh	L
Eric Peterson	I	Cody Reifsteck	II	William Benson	II	Kyle Lussetto	L
Erik Johnston	I	Craig Degenhardt	II	Zachery Fry	II	Nathaniel Sheehan	L
George Miramontes	I	Darren Kuester Sr	II	Charles Dresch	III	Seth Heitz	L
James Scott	I	James Peatrowsky	II	Daniel Wescott	III	Timothy Barry	L
Justin Getzfred	I	Kenny Furrow	II	Deven Clark	III	Joseph Epp	IND 1
Kaleb Kuhlmann	I	Kenny Furrow	II	Matthew Shoop	IV	Matthew Scheel	IND 1
Kenley Reimers	I	Kevin Huxhold	II	Robert Huntley	IV	Craig Dubbs	IND 2
Mathew Bower	I	Kevin Rogers	II	Bowde Johnson	L	Dustin Poynor	IND 2
Nathaniel Hitchins	I	Mark Vanek	II	Carol Ellis	L	Kenny Wineman	IND 2
Shane Schukei	I	Matthew Johnson	II	Danny Patterson	L	Resul Orazov	IND 2
Steven Rodriguez	I	Patrick Callaway	II	Earnest DeGunia	L		

Operator Feature: Charlie Kraus, City of Aurora

Charlie Kraus is lead operator of the City of Aurora's Wastewater Treatment Facility. In addition to his work life, he spends a lot of free time attending motorsport racing events, including auto, boats, and tractors. Charlie recently participated in a question-and-answer session about his passion for water.



1. What does water mean to you?

The value of water is immeasurable. Look no further than the fact that the human body is 60 percent water and the planet we live on is 70 percent water. When you consider those things and the importance of water in agriculture/irrigation and the municipal infrastructure of our cities, it's a priceless commodity.

2. What are the biggest challenges in the water/wastewater field? How can we help overcome them?

Our two biggest challenges are promoting water conservation/reuse and managing regulations and compliance. I've always believed we should do more to encourage our population to conserve water. As far as regulations go, we as operators need to be proactive with suggestions and receptive of the feedback we get from local, state, and federal officials.

3. What are some ways people from your industry are making a difference in the world of water?

I think the industry is designing and manufacturing more efficient and reliable products. Some examples include pumps and instrumentation, wireless notification technology, and SCADA units.

4. What do you see in the future of water management?

Conservation needs to become more of a priority. Look what's happening at Lake Mead in the southwestern U.S. and some irrigation NRDs closer to us here in the Midwest.

5. What emerging or established technologies do you see making an impact in the water industry?

I believe direct air capture methods will be advantageous in our effort to reuse water, especially when those techniques are scaled up in the future.

6. What industry technology, event, or product is good or bad that people don't talk enough about?

Something good people are not talking about is the advancement of tech that has helped cities and operators be more efficient. Also, not enough is being said about how equipment is a more reliable and longer-lasting investment for businesses and cities.

7. Tell me about a product you recommend. What does it do, why should we look into it?

I recommend #838 ChemTreat polymer. It's excellent for a wide range of sludge conditions and good for dewatering.

8. What made you become a water professional? Was this a career you always wanted to pursue?

Even though I have been a lifelong water conservationist, I didn't know I would become a plant operator. I worked in auto parts sales, attended community college, and worked in facility maintenance for years before becoming licensed for an industry pretreatment plant and eventually winding up on the municipal side.

9. Tell us about your experience as a water professional: What's had the biggest impact on your career?

Joining NWOC and WEF has had the biggest impact for me. My career has been rewarding, largely because of the people I've worked with, and my experiences within the network of intelligent people in these organizations. My local managers and city council have also been generous with the budget for plant needs, which is very helpful.

Operator Feature: Charlie Kraus, City of Aurora Contd.

10. Tell us about one of your projects that you are proud of.

I was involved in the modernization from the old Chesterton seals in Yeomans style pumps to Gorman-Rupp. It was a very good project for my city with a lot of cost savings in the years since. Our 480-kw solar field project was exciting to bring online, as well.

11. What resources can the public use to learn more about the water industry?

I am all about public education, especially related to the disposable wipe issue, and teaching the youth in schools about water. I support several organizations and programs:

- Brave Blue World: braveblue.world
- Project Wet: projectwet.org
- Work for Water: workforwater.org
- Responsible Flushing Alliance: flushsmart.org
- Project Wet's Water for You and Me (school age children):
[Water for YOU and ME PDF - Choose Your Language! – Project WET Store](#)
- The NWEA water festival and various workshops



Call for Papers 2024 Joint Fall Conference

November 6 – November 8, 2024 | Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

Return by June 28, 2024 by email to Blake Birkel bbirkel@jeo.com

The 2024 Joint Fall Conference is currently being planned for Wednesday, November 6th through Friday, November 8th in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center again!

The planning committee for Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) is conducting a Call for Papers. Proposed presentations should conform to at least one of the following topics:

- Water Resource Recovery Facilities
- Wastewater Collection Systems
- Operations/Maintenance/Safety
- Stormwater Management
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment
- Water Reuse/Recycling
- How To/101 topics
- Advanced Technologies and Innovation
- Emerging Contaminants
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion topics
- Leadership Development/Project Management
- Young Professionals

**If you are interested in proposing a paper, please complete the following information
for consideration by the committee:**

1. Speaker Information:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

2. Title of Presentation: _____

3. Please provide a short description (abstract) of paper to be presented. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

4. Length of Presentation Desired (typically half hour slots are provided):

5. Other Comments or Notes:

6. Fall Conference Planning Contact Information:

Blake Birkel, Program Committee Chair

Phone No. (402) 392-9930

E-mail: bbirkel@jeo.com

68th Annual Great Plains Conference in Review

The 68th Annual Great Plains Waste Management Conference, held March 27th and 28th, 2024, was an educational event coordinated by NWEA. As has been our tradition for several years, the conference was held in conjunction with the Nebraska Chapter American Public Works Association (APWA) and the Nebraska Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). The two-day conference brought in a total of 289 participants from across Nebraska and neighboring states with 50 presentations.

The first day of the conference was divided into three separate tracks consisting of presentations from Stormwater/ Water Quality, Industrial Waste/Innovation Technology, and Young Professionals topics. The day concluded with the Icebreaker Social event that provided refreshments, appetizers, and conversation for all attendees. Back again

this year during the social event, the YP Group coordinated and hosted a bags tournament and the student networking tables. A total of 24 teams participated in the tournament which was a wonderful turnout! Congratulations to the tournament winners Jake Hansen (City of Omaha) and Kerry Klausner (McCarthy). Thank you to the many sponsors (20 total) for your generous contributions to help offset the costs of the event!

The second day of the conference consisted of presentations that highlighted many traditional Water Environment topics, such as: managing people and utilities, regulatory/ governmental affairs, wastewater, and combined sewer overflow programs. Miss Heather Keele with Clark & Enerson was the luncheon keynote speaker. Clark & Enerson was part of the design team for UNL's brand new Kiewit Hall and Miss Keele's presentation covered everything from conceptual design to construction. She touched on many of the "Sustainability on Display" aspects of the building. This was the first building in the Big 10 to be designed for LEED V4 and WELL V2 certifications!

Save the Date for the 69th Annual Great Plains Waste Management Conference, which is tentatively scheduled for April 16-17, 2025 at the Embassy Suites Omaha-La Vista Hotel & Conference Center. The conference planning committee will be meeting this fall to begin the planning process. If you wish to be a part of this process, please contact me at dsakharova@gbateam.com or Sean Bell at sean.bell@hdrinc.com.

Thanks,

DARIA SAKHAROVA

2024 Great Plains Conference Chair

SEAN BELL

2024 Great Plains Conference Co-chair



In Review: WEFMAX Conferences

WEFMAX means Water Environment Federation (WEF) Member Association (MA) Exchange (X). This program's mission is to offer a forum to share successes and lessons learned to strengthen Member Associations (MAs) and WEF.

WEFMAX is a budgeted annual program at the WEF level offering MA leaders an opportunity to attend one of four meetings each year that provides a forum to learn what is new from WEF and provides sessions for ongoing exchange of MA information. Typically, about 30-60 members attend from the various MAs. This year, Nebraska is proud to have the following representation – below, you can see some photos and summary of what each member learned through their participation:

1. April 10-12, 2024 at Alexandria, Virginia

THEME: "Collaboration and Engagement"

Highlights and Take Aways:

- Visiting Alex Renew which currently maintains capital assets valued at approximately \$1.2 billion and treats approximately 38 MGD (up to 116 MGD during wet weather) of wastewater at its WRRF, located in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Participating in the last tunnel site visit to celebrate [River Renew Project](#), which entails a 2.2-mile long, 100 feet below ground, 12-foot-wide [Waterfront Tunnel dig project](#) preventing over 130 million gallons of harmful combined sewer pollution from entering the Potomac River and Hunting Creek each year. See Photo 1.
- First WEFMAX Experience was super helpful thanks to my mentor Charles McAlister from Missouri MA for an enhanced conference experience – See Photo 2.
- Networked with attendees from across the US, broadening perspectives – See Photo 3.
- Engaged in discussions related to personal and professional growth.
- Co-presented on Nebraska MA successes related to theme focused on collaboration and engagement.
- Visited where I used to live before I moved to Nebraska – learn more about Virginia with the promotional video [HERE](#). Participated in the Virginia MA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) focused walking tour deep diving into the history of the Underground Railroad in Alexandria. Also participated in a river cruise – See Photo 4.



BRITTNI STEPHENS

Public Communications and Outreach Committee Chair

In Review: WEFMAX Conferences Contd.

"Virginia's WEFMAX was a great opportunity to engage with other MA's, learn about the great things others are doing, and has the benefit of building momentum for what we are doing locally. I was particularly inspired by the Hampton Roads Public Works Academy done in conjunction with the Virginia WEA. They are working with vocational and tech center programs to bring high school age students into public works careers. They utilize both a cadet program that includes course work as well as summer internship and apprenticeship programs. A graduate from the program attended WEFMAX and she was a shining example of a youth who became engaged in our industry and is now pursuing a degree in our field of work. Virginia had some very passionate individuals leading these programs that are leading to direct results in their area."

LUCAS BILLESBACH

Incoming Federation Delegate

2. May 15-17, 2024 at Park City, Utah

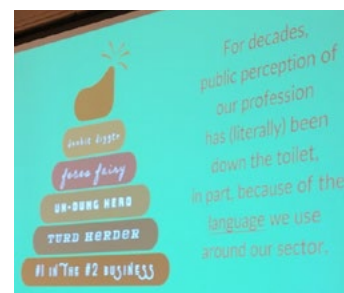
THEME: "Putting the WE in WEF"

Highlights and Take Aways:

- Park City, UT (mud season; in-between ski and hiking season)
 - 70+ attendees
 - 32 first-time attendees
 - 24 MAs from around the country represented
 - 21 from WEAU
 - 4-5 WEF staff

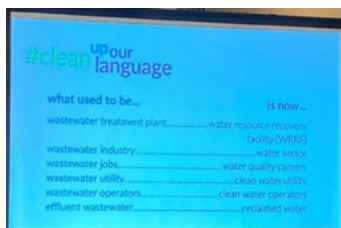


- The mountain adjacent to Park City, UT was home to some past winter Olympic ski and sled events including various ski jumps and steep terrain courses and multiple tracks for bobsled and luge sports.
- SLC has a bid in to host the 2032 Winter Olympics and many of the facilities toured will be utilized in the competition again.
- Celebrating 50 years of WEFMAX. Video montage highlighting the last 10 years of WEFMAX memories.
- Ice Breaker Event – drinks and appetizers while playing a resort-wide scavenger hunt. This really helped getting to know a few new people right off the bat and learn how to navigate the complex that we had the pleasure of enjoying for 2 days.
- Early-Bird Event – some participated in an early morning hike up one of the mountain trails prior to breakfast and full day ahead.
- Evening Social: WEFMAX attendees were treated to a tour of Utah Olympic Park to see the winter sporting event tracks and jumps and visit to the 2002 Winter Games Museum.



In Review: WEFMAX Conferences Contd.

- WEF Student Members. Discussion on how to best serve our students and get them engaged. Nebraska MA shared our success with the Great Plains “Bags Tournament” with student involvement and participation.
- Something for next year: WEF has a Student Chapter of the Year award that is recognized annually at WEFTEC (application due at end of May). We believe our student chapters have the potential and leadership to reach that honor!
- Alabama (this year’s winner) has a lot of ongoing student engagement and shared a number of current strategies. Some of these included: holding Board meetings on college campus and doubling up as meet & greet with industry professionals before/after the meeting (and of course, encouraging them to stay and listen to the discussion had during the Board meeting).
- Some states are even getting high school chapters to form.
- Workforce Development:
 - Arizona MA has been creating videos that promote water sector jobs (lab techs, well drillers, operator, etc.). They also have a training platform/website (WELL) that helps identify the needed training and pathways to long-term careers in water sector.
 - Another idea from IL chapter – have job descriptions and pay scale information available on your tours. Many people are surprised to learn about the job responsibilities and income potential (i.e. meaningful work).
- Water Advocacy:
 - [Click here](#) for information on the 2024 Fly-In
 - Mark Your calendar for the 2025 Fly-In – April 8 in Washington DC
 - Can’t attend? That’s okay – you can still advocate. Join the mailing list today which connects you immediately to valuable communication resources that protect water. [Water Advocates Program \(wef.org\)](#)



- Members participated in a “build a bike” activity service project.
- Scott presented on “Putting the We in WEF”. The presentation today highlights several ways that collaboration can occur at different levels within WEF. Discussed engagement opportunities such as YP Summit, 4-State Governmental Affairs Workshop, DE&I Committees, Operator Outreach & Membership, and getting to know WEF staff.



SCOTT AURIT
Outgoing Federation Delegate

DARREN JACK
NWEA Director-At-Large

BLAKE BIRKEL
NWEA President-Elect

In Review: WEFMAX Conferences Contd.

3. May 29-31, 2024 at St. Petersburg, Florida

THEME: "Leadership of the future"

One quote that resonated with me was *“Keep sharing your story”* which was mentioned during a presentation by a WEF Delegate in relation to a video that WEF has published that asks individuals, “What is your Water Story?” Some people may balk at the question which can then be followed up by asking “What is your favorite body of water and why?” Regardless of your career or involvement with water, water has greatly affected everyone at some point in their lives and just a simple question can open up a person’s mind to how valuable water can be.

- We learned about St. Petersburg's first urban use of a water reclamation system, which was initiated in the late 70s. This system doesn't allow for surface water discharges to the ocean. During dry periods, almost all reclaimed water is used by the City. During the wet season, deep injection wells are utilized. This project was almost entirely funded by the EPA and has strong backing by the City of Tampa Bay to lower St. Petersburg's water usage.
- We learned about growth opportunities for Young Professionals (YPs). They shared similar stories of how the NWEA's YP Committee hosts networking events at breweries, trap shoots, paintball, and sporting events. They also shared how YPs can participate at the WEF level through things like the WEF Service Project, WEF Springboard program, WEF Community Service Project, and WEF Fly-In Scholarships. All of these opportunities are funded by WEF grants and can be applied for through the WEF website.
- The Florida WEA engages directly with surrounding secondary education programs to promote their "What not to Flush" Scholarship Video Contest, where they offer over \$2500 to students who submit their 60-90 second "What not to Flush" videos to the FWEA. This contest started in 2017 and has grown in popularity across the state and actively engages young students in the water sector.

- The WEF has implemented the MA Grant Program which provides \$125,000 in funding annually to individual state's MAs for things like new initiatives, strategic planning and training, outreach to inclusive communities, or YP sponsorship to WEF events.

The FWEA has also implemented shirt pins to recognize outstanding operators and members of their WEA. They use different colors to represent their longer-tenured operators. They found these to be somewhat inexpensive and a good way to give back to their operator community, <https://signaturepins.com>.

LEE DUNN

At-Large Board Member

KEEGAN BELL

Resource Recovery / Biosolids Committee Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT: A virtual WEFMAX has been scheduled for August 1, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM (cst). Registration is now open: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlde6sgjwEtVm8MCn_WQoL5p5tNgeJBp9#/registration

Member Associations volunteer to jointly sponsor with WEF to host a WEFMAX meeting. The Nebraska MA last hosted this event in 2009 and is excited to announce we are on the schedule to host again in 2027!

Announcement: 4W Award Nomination

The NWEA Board along with the Maintenance Committee is proud to announce we have established the 4 W's (Wrenchers–Waiting–to–Wreck–a–Wrench) Maintenance Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the operators and maintenance technicians throughout Nebraska who work hard to keep the wastewater facilities equipment in top operating condition. Starting this year, the NWEA Maintenance Committee will bestow the 4 W's Maintenance Award each year to individuals who have exceeded expectations in the area of maintenance in the Wastewater Industry. Please help us recognize the hard-working maintenance staff at your facility by nominating them for the 4 W's Maintenance Award. This award will be presented at the Joint Fall Conference NWEA Banquet in

November of each year. The 4 W's Maintenance winner will be invited to be a part of the Maintenance Committee.

Nomination deadline is September 27th 2024.

You can complete and mail the form below or complete the form online by going to nebwea.org and click on **AWARDS** in the header and then click on **"4ws Maintenance Award"** at the bottom of the drop down list to open the award nomination form.

Thank you,

LEE DUNN
Maintenance Committee Chairman

NWEA 4 W's Maintenance Award Wrenchers – Waiting – To – Wreck – A – Wrench Award Nomination Form

The NWEA Maintenance Committee will bestow the 4 W's Maintenance Award each year to individuals who have exceeded expectations in the area of maintenance in the Wastewater Industry. Do you have a maintenance person in your facility or city who has shown exceptional capabilities in maintaining equipment? Please help the NWEA Maintenance Committee in showing them recognition deserved by nominating that person(s) for the 4 W's Maintenance Award by using this form.

This award will be presented at the Joint Fall Conference in November each year. The 4 W's Maintenance winner will be invited to be a part of the Maintenance Committee.

Nomination deadline: September 27th 2024

You can also complete and submit the form online. Go to nebwea.org, click AWARDS at the top of the page and click "4Ws Maintenance Award" at the bottom of the drop down list to open the form.

Send to Lee Dunn:

lee@bgagurney.com

Gurney and Associates

4428 S 108th St.

Omaha, NE 68116

Nominee: _____

Member ID #: _____

City/Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Number of years as a member of NWEA: _____

Number of Years at City/Company: _____

Nominated by: _____

Phone #: _____

Nominee is deserving of this award because: _____

Safety and Scott Wilber Award Applications – Due Friday, July 12

Applications for the Safety Awards are due Friday July 12.

The online application can be found on the website (www.nebwea.org) under the **Awards** drop down at the top of the main page.

To be eligible for the award, facilities need to have submitted applications the prior two years in addition to sending in an application for the 2023 -2024 year.

For questions contact:

Joel Jirak

Email: jjirak@olsson.com

Phone: 402-525-5519



Application for the Scott Wilber Award is due July 12.

Any member of the Nebraska Water Environment Association is eligible to apply or nominate a fellow member as a possible recipient of the Scott Wilber Award. All applicants will be evaluated by the Scott Wilber Award Committee. Award categories include Best in Class for each of the four facility size classes, Innovation, Outstanding Facility, as well as potential submission at a national WEF level. Those selected to receive an award will be notified and presented the award at the Annual Fall Conference.

Got to www.nebwea.org under the **Awards** drop down on the top of the main page.

For questions, contact:

Aaron Gustin

Email: gustin@wahoo.ne.us

Phone: 402-607-9470



Collection Systems Committee Update: Advancing Knowledge Sharing and Education

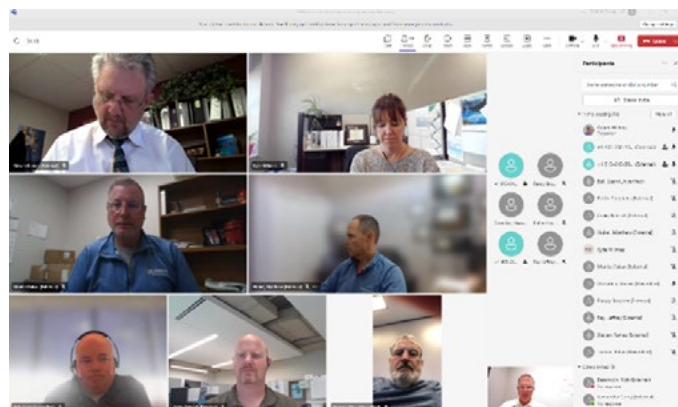
The Collection Systems Committee of the Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) convened virtually for its quarterly meeting on April 16, 2024, with a robust turnout of 14 out of 33 current members. The meeting was marked by a spirited discussion on the committee's purpose and how it can best serve its members, NWEA, and the broader water community. A good time was had by all.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the identification of several areas where the committee can enhance the professional development and knowledge base of its members. These include providing educational opportunities, updates on the latest technologies, best practices in collection systems management, and facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experience, and wisdom among its esteemed members.

Looking ahead, the committee outlined its objectives for the upcoming year, with a focus on providing training and educational resources tailored to collection systems professionals. This includes offerings such as the NASSCO Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) training and OSHA confined space training and awareness. The committee also aims to serve as a platform for disseminating information on recent industry trends, such as the removal of steps from collection system structures, advancements in coatings for structures, and the adoption of 360-degree inspection techniques, which have proven invaluable in the design, operation, and maintenance of collection systems.

In addition to these objectives, the committee identified several topics for further exploration and discussion at future meetings. These include strategies employed by communities and utilities in Nebraska to address illicit connections to sanitary sewer systems, particularly focusing on sump pump connections. The committee also seeks to gather insights from collection systems managers regarding the effectiveness of various tools in reducing inflow and infiltration (I/I), with specific interest in the use of frame seals. The preference for interior or exterior seals and experiences with composite rings and adhesives in reducing I/I are among the topics that generated interest and discussion within the committee.

Despite the myriad questions and challenges facing the committee, its members draw strength from their diverse



and extensive experience in the industry. Leveraging this wealth of knowledge, the committee is poised to delve deeper into these topics and provide valuable educational and training opportunities for the broader community in the coming year. The committee looks forward to continued collaboration and enlightenment in future meetings, with a focus on advancing the field of collection systems management in Nebraska and beyond.

ADAM WILMES

Collection System Committee Chair

Young Professionals Committee Update

Lincoln Water Plant Tour

On April 19th, 2024, a group of 19 students and young professionals toured Lincoln's water treatment plant. The tour began with a presentation on the history of the treatment facility and distribution system. The attendees got to learn about the various unit processes used for treatment of the public water supply and asked many insightful questions. Beyond learning about the system design, the tour helped educate the team about the process control,

laboratory testing, maintenance, and nuanced operations that go on day-to-day at the facility. One of the highlights of the tour was learning about the impact of 2019 floods on the facility and what measures that were taken to protect the water supply along with efforts to rebuild. The event concluded with a social networking event at a nearby restaurant for attendees. All in all, the tour was an excellent educational opportunity for the future water workforce.



Husker Spring Game Networking Event

The NWEA-NSAWWA Joint YP Committee organized a tailgate and watch party for the Huskers Spring Game organized on April 27th, 2024 at the Brewery's in Lincoln, NE.

Several young professionals attended this networking event and enjoyed watching the Spring Game.

ABHIJEET SARAF

Young Professionals Committee Chair



Constitution & Bylaws Committee Update

Last year, Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Constitution & Bylaws Committee recommended significant changes to Nebraska Water Environment Association's (NWEA) constitution and bylaws. The constitution and bylaws are the governing documents for NWEA. It was recommended by WEF that these two documents be merged into one concise document (Bylaws) to focus only on items which are required by WEF and Nebraska state statute. Language which is ancillary to these requirements will migrate to the NWEA Policies and Procedures (P&P), formerly known as Manual of Practice (MOP), in a forthcoming updated document. An additional consideration in delineating contents of the Bylaws and P&P is that revisions to NWEA's Bylaws require a vote of the membership while revisions to the P&P only require approval of NWEA's Board of Directors. Amendments to NWEA's current constitution and bylaws are necessary to accomplish these goals.

Amendments to these documents require a vote by the membership to be adopted. Voting ballots will be mailed (USPS) following the Heartland Conference in July, and votes will be received by the office of the secretary for a period of 30 days. All active members of NWEA are eligible to cast one voting ballot. **Look for the ballot to hit your mailbox in late July.**

Proposed amendments to the current constitution and bylaws can be viewed at [https://nebwea.org/Constitution and Bylaws](https://nebwea.org/Constitution-and-Bylaws). Feedback from legal counsel, WEF, and NWEA membership has been considered in the development of the amendments. In addition, here is a summary of facts for the proposed amendments:

- Merge the constitution and bylaws documents into a single Bylaws document.
- Reword the Purpose from the constitution to be more concise in the new Bylaws.
- Reword the Objectives from the constitution to be more concise in the new Bylaws.
- Replace Franchise from the constitution with Geographical Boundaries in the new Bylaws.
- Remove provisions for dividing the Association.
- Remove provisions for merging the Association with another Association.
- Changes to how an amendment to the Bylaws is initiated.
- Bylaws amendments will require 2/3 affirmative vote.

- Delete Membership Class and Category language from the bylaws and reference WEF membership classes in the new Bylaws.
- Replace Dues language from bylaws in the new Bylaws.
- Delete Admission from bylaws.
- Replace Expulsion language from the bylaws with Code of Conduct in new Bylaws.
- Merge Officers and Executive Board language from the bylaws into concise Board of Directors language in the new Bylaws. Some duties will be moved to P&P.
- Reduce Committees language from the bylaws in the new Bylaws. Committee duties will move to P&P.
- Change to allow creation and dissolution of committees by the Board of Directors in lieu of the President.
- Delete Publications from bylaws.
- Reduce Meetings language from bylaws.
- Reduce notice for Board meetings from 14 days to 7 days.
- Modify procedure for removing Board members to comply with state statutes.
- Delete Scholarship and Designated Contributions from bylaws. This content will move to P&P.
- Update Indemnification and Liability per legal counsel recommendations.

Sincerely,

NWEA Executive Board

Public Education Committee Update

It was another busy spring for the public education committee as we attended science fairs, water festivals, and selected the State Stockholm Junior Water Prize winner. In 2024, the public education committee attended two water festivals. At each of the festivals, we presented the game "Wastewater Jeopardy." As the students entered the room, they were split into 4 or 5 groups depending on how many students were in each session. The group that buzzed in and correctly gave the answer received the points and the ability to choose the next category and for how many points. At the end of each session a Final Jeopardy question was asked as the team debated how many points to risk. The final question was how much a gallon of water weighs. There were few right answers with some very clever ways of finding the correct response.

Amy Sliva, Blake Birkel and Scott Seelhoff attended the Elkhorn H2O Daze March 19th and 20th at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. This is a two-day festival aimed at educating 4th and 5th grade children on the importance of water. We had around 250 students participate in the "Our Water in Jeopardy" game. There were approximately 500 students and teachers total attending the festival from Norfolk and the surrounding communities. The committee handed out drawstring bags with the NWEA logo to all the students who attended.

The Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island was held on May 14th. Brittany Travers and Mark Carnes were the committee members that were able to help with the event. We had over 50 kids attend our Jeopardy session. We handed out the NWEA drawstring bags to the students that attended.

This year we also plan to participate in World O! Water in Omaha on Saturday September 7th. Last year Sarah Nguyen from the YP committee and Samantha Corey were able to attend this event on our behalf. This event is less structured than the groundwater festivals, but they were able to play Wastewater Jeopardy with the attendees and families at the event. They had a lot of great feedback from people who participated and hope to have this be a more permanent event on our yearly schedule.

We plan to attend all these festivals again next year. We feel that the children always have a great time competing

in the Jeopardy game and learn new facts about water and wastewater. I received many compliments and feedback from the teachers that attended with their students. If anyone is interested in attending the events, feel free to contact me though email, phone call, or adding your contact information to the email list.

Continued on the following page. >>>



Public Education Committee Update Cont.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

The Public Education committee is also in charge of naming a state winner for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

The SJWP is the world's most prestigious youth award for a water-research science project. The prize taps into the unlimited potential of today's high school students as they seek to address our water challenges. In the United States, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and its Member Associations (MAs) organize the national competition with support from Xylem, Inc. The MAs are responsible for judging state projects and selecting a winner to attend the national competition.

On March 27th, Grace Ecklund and Rachael Stramel attended the Central NE Science Fair in Kearney, NE to judge the water projects. There were many fitting projects to choose from and 3 projects were awarded the top 3 places and awarded a cash prize. The Greater Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair was held in Nebraska City on March 23rd. This was the first year that this Science fair had been held since 2019 in

person. Matt Thompson and Scott Seelhoff attended the event. Three projects were awarded the top places and given a cash prize. Scott Seelhoff and Amy Sliva judged the NJAS State Science Fair on April 18th at the East Campus of UNL. This was the first time having the event at UNL. There were multiple projects that qualified for the SJWP. It was a tough choice, but three projects were awarded the top prizes. April 15th was the deadline for students to apply for the SJWP and a winner was to be selected by April 30th. Amy Sliva, Grace Ecklund, Rachael Stramel and Scott Seelhoff conducted a Teams call to confirm a winner that will represent the State of Nebraska at the National Convention. This event is going to take place June 20th – 23rd in Golden Colorado. Hopefully our Nebraska representative will give the NWEA feedback on how the competition turned out and their experience. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped make this spring such a success for the Public Education Committee!

SCOTT SEELHOFF

Public Education Committee Chair



Public Communications and Outreach Committee Update: The Value of Podcasts

Podcasts offer several benefits for the water industry:

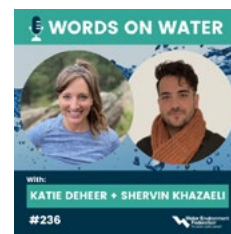
1. **Knowledge Sharing:** Podcasts provide a platform for experts to share insights, discuss current issues, and disseminate knowledge about various aspects of the water industry, including technology, policy, and management practices.
2. **Education and Training:** They serve as a valuable resource for professionals in the water sector to stay updated on the latest trends, advancements, and best practices. They can also be used for training purposes, helping professionals develop new skills and expand their expertise.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** Podcasts often feature interviews with industry leaders, researchers, and practitioners, offering listeners the opportunity to learn from their experiences and connect with like-minded individuals within the water community.
4. **Awareness and Advocacy:** Podcasts can raise awareness about water-related challenges, such as water scarcity, pollution, and infrastructure issues, and promote advocacy efforts aimed at addressing these issues at local, national, and global levels.
5. **Accessibility:** Podcasts are accessible to a wide audience and can be listened to at any time, making them a convenient tool for busy professionals to stay informed about developments in the water industry while on the go.

Overall, podcasts play a crucial role in fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation within the water sector, ultimately contributing to the sustainable management of water resources and the provision of safe and reliable water services.

One WEF podcast everyone in the Water Industry should know about is Words on Water, which features conversations with influential and interesting people from the water sector and news from the WEF. Check out some highlights below and click [HERE](#) for more information.

Episode 236: AI Predictive Modeling and Wastewater

Data Scientists with Trinnex discuss how Artificial Intelligence provides answers to current questions and ones in the future.



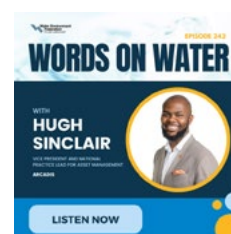
Episode 237: Funding Wastewater Upgrades with the Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act provides federal funds to the wastewater sector to address key challenges facing wastewater professionals in today's environment. Our guest today is Thomas Monter with ENGIE North America. He discusses how ENGIE can help wastewater treatment plants use the funding. This episode is sponsored by ENGIE North America.



Episode 242: WEF Celebrates Black History Month and Ways to Develop a Diverse and Passionate Workforce

Hugh Sinclair, Vice President and National Practice Lead for Asset Management at Arcadis and WEF DEI Committee Member, discusses how the water sector can be more welcoming, inclusive, and equitable.



Episode 243: What Does DE&I Really Look Like And How Can The Water Sector Support Everyone

DE&I not only comes from the heart, but can impact the bottomline. Steve Hamai, WEF's new Senior Director, of Culture and Belonging discusses further.



BRITTNI STEPHENS

Public Communications and Outreach Chair

Student Mentorship Program Update

The 2023-2024 NWEA/AWWA student mentorship program recently concluded its 6th year. 23 civil and environmental engineering students participated, ranging from freshman through graduate students. Mentors from consulting firms, the public sector, and academia volunteered their time to meet with students and provide insights into day-to-day life as a water professional. Students gained valuable exposure to the water industry and received advice on future career paths and navigating academics. Some mentors & mentees even participated in job shadows and industry tours.

**Be on the lookout in the fall for sign ups
for the 2024-2025 program!**



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Nebraska Water Environment
Association
HDR Engineering, Inc.
1917 S 67th Street
Omaha, NE 68106
Attn: Jamie Bausback

38th Annual Heartland Operators Conference



July 17, 2024

NWOC Ice Breaker
5:00 – 8:00 PM
Food, Drinks & Networking
For All Registrants!

July 18-19, 2024

Heartland Operators Conference

Holiday Inn
110 Second Avenue
Kearney, NE

Sponsored by:
**Nebraska Wastewater
Operators Committee**

Conference Information:

Pre-Registration Deadline: July 8, 2024

NWEA/WEF Members

Pre-Registration: **\$100** / Onsite: **\$110**

Non-Members

Pre-Registration: **\$150** / Onsite: **\$160**

Verify Membership Status at:

www.nebwea.org

Make Checks Payable to:

Nebraska Water Environment Assoc. (NWEA)

No Refunds after Friday, July 12, 2024.

Remit Pre-Registration/Payment to:

Heartland Operators Conference

Attn: Jamie Bausback

HDR Engineering, Inc.

1917 S 67th Street

Omaha, NE 68106

Hotel Accommodations:

Holiday Inn

110 Second Avenue - Kearney, NE

308.237.5971 **Rate:** \$134.95 1-4 persons

NDEE Education Credits:

Wastewater: 11 Contact Hours

Water Grades 1-4: 4.5 Possible Hours

Water Grade 6: 1 Possible Hour

*Sign in required for Water Hours

Nebraska Wastewater Operators Committee

Scott Seelhoff Chair

Joel Jirak Vice-Chair

Clint Smith Secretary

Doug Glaze NWEA Delegate

Amy Sliva

Blaine Gronewoller

Brannon Borchers

Connor Munk

Eric Christensen

James Burroughs

Jeff Tiemann

Jeremy Jurgens

Jim Mahony

John Geiser

Josh Dodson

Keith Kontor

Lee Dunn

Macy Diehl

Mike McBride

Patrick Harlan

Rachael Stramel

Rob Pierce

Ryan Hurst

Tim Talley

Todd Sukup

Billy Kaufhold

Brandon Koll

Charlie Kraus

Dave Sykora

Ethan Hall

Jeff Saltzman

Jeffery Hineman

Jerrad Sharp

John Borchers

John White

Kaden Ellis

Landyn Howell

Lynn Garton

Mark Carnes

Mike Milius

Pete Colpitts

Ray Hutzell

Ross Blackledge

Shaun Skudler

Todd Boling

Tyler Cruthers

38th Annual Heartland Operators Conference
Pre-Registration
Deadline: July 8, 2024

Register Online:

Verify your membership and renew/register online at:
www.nebwea.org

Or Print and Return with Payment To:

Heartland Operators Conference
Attn: Jamie Bausback
HDR Engineering, Inc.
1917 S 67th Street
Omaha, NE 68106
Make checks Payable to NWEA

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check One:

☐ **NWEA/WEF Member: \$100** (Onsite \$110)

Member #: _____(required)

☐ **Non-Member: \$150** (Onsite \$160)

Total Enclosed.....\$_____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Planning to attend the Ice Breaker
☐ Planning to attend the Thursday Golf Outing

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

3:30 PM ~ NWOC Business Meeting

5:00 – 8:00 PM ~ NWOC Ice Breaker

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

Thursday, July 18, 2024

7:30 AM ~ Registration and Welcome

8:00 AM ~ How to Blow Your Bugs Away

Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol and Associates, Inc.

*9:00 AM ~ VFDs in Water & Wastewater

Bob White, Electric Pump

10:00 AM ~ Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits

10:15 AM ~ Collection Systems Roundtable

Keith Kontor, Michael Kamler
Lee Dunn – Moderator

11:45 AM ~ Lunch

NDEE Updates from Mike McBride

* **12:45 PM ~ Confined Spaces Overview

Brian Davey, Cargill

*1:45 PM ~ pH – What Exactly Is It, and What Does It Mean?

Jeff Tiemann, Cargill

2:15 PM ~ Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits

*2:30 PM ~ Electrical Basics

Gene Reed, Rensenhouse

*3:30 PM ~ Equipment Preventative Maintenance

Lee Dun, Gurney and Associates
Charlie Kraus, City of Aurora

4:30 p.m. ~ Adjourn – Raffle Prizes

Friday, July 19, 2024

7:00 AM ~ Breakfast

NWOC & NWEA Updates

8:00 AM ~ How to Measure H₂S for Dosing

Tim Talley, Hach Company

8:30 AM ~ St. Paul SBR Startup Procedure

Brian Friedrichsen, Olsson
Trae Anderson, City of St. Paul
Matt Helzer, City of St. Paul

9:00 AM ~ Lagoon Biology & Upkeep / Regulations

Ryan Hurst, City of Wahoo
Mike McBride, NDEE

10:00 AM ~ Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits

10:15 AM ~ Operators Round Table

John White, Marty Eaton, Dave Diehl, Curtis Arnold, John Geiser
Joel Jirak – Moderator

11:45 AM ~ Adjourn – Raffle Prizes

*4.5 Water hour eligible if signed in. Grades 1-4

**1 Water hour eligible if signed in. Grade 6

3-day Training and Certification Exam

A 3-day training class and certification exam will be held this year,
separate from the conference. Both require advance registration.

Tuesday, July 16 – Thursday, July 18, 2024

Certification Training – Holiday Inn, Kearney

Register online at: www.nebwea.org

Friday, July 19, 2024

Certification Exam – Holiday Inn, Kearney

Exam Registration & Payment to NDEE

Required before **June 19, 2024**

Contact: 402.471.2186

Registration forms at: www.dee.ne.gov

Email Mike McBride with questions at:
Mike.mcbride@nebraska.gov

The EffluentLine

Nebraska Water Environment Association

Office of the Secretary

Jeremy Walker

601 P Street, Suite 200

Lincoln, NE 68508

402.474.6311

www.nebwea.org

[f /NebraskaWEA](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWEA)

The Effluent Line Volume 55 | Number 2

Quote

*"Water is life's matter
and matrix, mother and
medium. There is no life
without water."*

– Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, M.D.



2024 Great Plains Icebreaker Bags Tournament