MONTANA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS 44^{TH} CONFERENCE REGISTRATION MARCH 20^{TH} – 22^{ND} , 2024 HERITAGE INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER GREAT FALLS, MT

Employer:	Operator #:	
Employer: Operator #: Your Title or Position: Phone #:		
Billing Address:		
City/State/Zip:		
Email to receive training and oth	ner notifications:	
Full	Registration March 20 th – 22 nd	
	sses, Exhibit Hall, meals & breaks and Meet & Greet)	
•	nt included (By 1/26/24) \$250.00	
	adline\$300.00	
•	ayment included (By 1/26/24) \$375.00	
	ird deadline	
	\$500.00	
•	Significant other, child)\$100.00	
	des exhibit hall and meals only.	
_	e:	
Operator Certification Reviev	w sessions (No CEC's)	
	w Sessions (No CEC's)WaterWW \$175.00 take the certification Exam.	
This is for people preparing to		
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MRWS 9 3rd Street N. #304 Great Falls, MT 59401

406-454-1151 or Email: MTRuralWater@mrws.org



MRWS 44th Conference & Exhibition March 20 - 22, 2024

Conference Happenings at a Glance

Operator Certification Review & Exam

Operator certification review sessions will begin at 9 AM Wednesday, March 20th, all day Thursday, March 21st, and the morning of Friday, March 22nd. MT DEQ will give the certification exam on Friday, March 22nd, after lunch in the American/Britain Room. Anyone wishing to take the exam <u>MUST</u> register with DEQ at least 30 days before the test date. Contact Kevin (406-444-3434) or Jen (406-444-4584) with any questions.

WaterPac Raffle

Monies raised from this raffle are used as contributions to political campaigns to allow National Rural Water (NRWA) and all its state affiliates, including MRWS, access to the decision makers that champion our cause on both the federal and state levels. If any individual, system, or exhibitor would like to contribute an item to the raffle, please contact Tanya at the office 406-454-1151.

Best Tasting Water in Montana

Do you think your system's water is the **best**? Put it to the test! We are looking for the best-tasting water in the state to represent Montana in the nationwide contest that will take place in Washington, D.C., in February 2025. The state contest winner will win a trip to the national competition with the airfare, meals, and lodging paid by MRWS.

If you would like to submit a sample of your water for the test, bring a ½ gallon of water in a glass container to the registration desk. The first round of testing will take place on Thursday morning, and the final judging will take place at the banquet on Thursday evening.

Business Meeting

The annual MRWS Business Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 21st, 2024, in the Lewis & Clark room. Attendance is encouraged! This is when membership approves the MRWS operating budget, receives updates from DEQ and DNRC, updates on legislative issues, and elects three (3) board members. Current membership is required to vote in the board elections.

MRWS Conference Hotel Information

If you are planning on attending our conference and need hotel accommodations, we have secured room blocks at the following hotels:

(Please be sure to mention MRWS when making room reservations to secure room rates.)

Heritage Inn

1700 Fox Farm Rd., Great Falls, MT

406-761-1900

114.00 + tax

Room Block Open

Sleep Inn/ Mainstay

520 Country Club Blvd Building A, Great Falls, MT

406-761-4600

30 Rooms Available

 $115.00 + \tan x$

Room Block Open

Motel 6

#2 Treasure State Drive, Great Falls, MT

406-453-1602

35 Rooms Available

\$90.00 + tax

Room Block Open

Holiday Inn

1100 5th St S., Great Falls, MT

406-727-7200

35 Rooms Available

 $114.00 + \tan x$

Room Block Open

Hampton Inn

2301 14th St. SW, Great Falls, MT

406-453-2675

20 King Rooms Available

\$139.00 + tax

Room Block Open

Hampton Inn

1801 Marketplace Drive, Great Falls, MT

406-453-2675

20 Rooms Available (Double Queen)

 $107.00 + \tan x$

Room Block Open



Heritage Inn 1700 Fox Farm Road Great Falls

Room block: Open

Room Rates \$114 per night + taxes

Reserve by phone 406-761-1900 Make sure to mention MRWS

Check-In/Check-out 3 pm/11 am

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

8:00 am Registration Opens 8:30 am – 12:30 pm W²ASACT Meeting

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Operator Certification Exam Review Begin

9:00 am Exhibit Hall Opens

WaterPAC raffle sales open in Russell Room

10:30 am Classes Begin 2:30 – 5:00 pm Business Meeting

5:30 pm Social Hour & No-host bar

Thursday, March 21, 2024

7:00 am Registration Opens 8:00 am Exhibit Hall opens

Opening Session

11:30 – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Afternoon Classes Begin

6:00 pm Awards Banquet

Friday, March 22, 2024

7:00 am Registration Opens

8:00 am Classes Begin

Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 – 11:00 am Booth Breakdown

11:30 am Lunch – Raffle Drawings

1:00 pm Operator Certification Testing

44th MRWS Conference



Partners for Growth - Investing in Our Future

Wednesday (3/20/2024) 7:30 am—5:30 pm Registration in Convention Area For All Sessions Visit the Vendors All Day!!



Wednesday Sessions - March 20, 2024 Canadian Room Britain Room Lewis & Clark Room American Room Missouri Room **Online Water Analyzers:** Unique Project Conditions at the 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Morning Session Maintenance, Calibration, & Lake McDonald Lift Station **Guidelines for Anyone** Austin Wargo, Robert Peccia and **W2ASACT Funding Workshop** Brittany Baker, ABB Inc. Associates **Funding Agencies** 10:30 This session will focus on the overal Is your process pH sensor a to nermanent headache? Or is it just lift station rehab project including 11:30 installed wrong? During this planning, design, & construction, We session we will discuss some of the will highlight the limitations imposed and unique conditions of this project common errors we experience with 0.400 CEC's Clerks/Dual online water analyzers and provide including wintertime construction & you tips to help solve them. seasonal usage 0.1 CEC's Dual 0.1 CEC's Wastewater **Lunch on Your Own** Put It In a Pipe! Closed Vessel How to Improve Efficiency wth What Is LoRaWAN? A New LWSD Phase 3 - Extending Sewe Introduction to Line Stops, the Use of Meters **Global Standard for Utilities UV for Municipal Treatment Into a Developed Community** Miquelle Bernard, Ferguson Hot Taps, Valve Insertions, & Bryce Possiel, Xylem Richard Sanders, Zenner USA Stenhanie Seymanski & Jill Cook IV is frequently used for disinfection of Waterworks We will learn the future of smart Pine Freezing 1:00 PM Morrison-Maierle, Inc both drinking and wastewater. While We will explore meter testing & its city & utility communication is Jamie Weidner, Tapmaster, Inc This presentation will summarize the to the most common form is openimportance to getting the most out LoRaWAN & will focus on planning & design of the Lockwood This presentation will cover the 2:00 pm channel, closed-vessel systems are of the meters installed. Plus what Water & Sewer District Phase 3 Sewe explaining the technology & how it basics of line stops, hot taps, valve growing in popularity. They offer other tools are available, & ways to Subdistrict project to extend sewer works, as well as what the insertions, and pipe freezing. advantages that make them worth identify meters that are not mains into developed areas. advantages are going forward. considering for municipalities. performing as expected. 0.1 CEC's Water 0.1 CEC's Water 0.1 CEC's Dual 0.1 CEC's Water/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Wastewater **History of Water Service Cybersecurity Awareness for Water Treatment Solutions for** Fort Smith Wastewater: Water & Wastewater Services **Line Pipe Small Water System Quality Upgrades to Overcome** Across Montana Whit Hall, Rehau-Municipex Issues **System Challenges** Travis Light & Joe Frohlich, DHS CISA 2:30pm Division **Danny Bauer, Applied Process** Jeremy Perlinski, Robert Peccia & We will cover free federal gov. resources This session will take a look at past Associates Equipment, Inc to available for increasing cybersecurity and current materials and some of We will focus on the facility planning We will address the importance of 3:30pm resilience. We'll discuss the latest cyber **Delegate Assembly** the pros and cons of using them. conserving water and delivering turnkey process & briefly summarize the 20threats, cyber incident response planning water filtration solutions so that water vear planning criteria. Second focus Starting out all the way back to the convergence of physical & Meeting will be on the design of the preferred operators can manage water treatment clay pipes to the materials of cybersecurity, & assessment services efficiently and effectively. alternative designs. available through CISA. All members are today. 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks welcome to attend! 0.1 CEC's Water 0.1 CEC's Water 0.1 CEC's Wastewater Old Business, New **Nitrate Concerns & Treatment Beyond the Meter Business.** Legislative Billings 48- & 60-inch Sanitary for Small Water Systems Eric Ongstad, Sensus, a Xvlem Brand **Developing SOPs** Issues, Election of Board Sewer Interceptor Rehab Project McKenzie Butcher, Water meters are the cash register Kurtis DeShaw & Brad Heimbigner, John Schwartz, USABlueBook Members! **KLJ Engineering LLC** for utilities. However they have 4:00pm Morrison-Maierle, Inc John will discuss the importance We will focus on the increasing become so much more. Keys to Based on a study by the city, the to nitrate levels in groundwater of having Standard Operating customer service, leak detection. project was divided into 2 phases: a 5:00 pm within the state & exploring viable Procedures for all Water & manage pressure and temperature. 60-inch trenchless rehab phase. & ar treatment options. We'll discuss Wastewater duties. open cut 48- & 60-inch phase. We Learn what your meters can do for regulations & standards as well as will explore these phases. VOL cost assessments. 0.1 CEC's Water 0.1 CEC's Water/Clerk 0.1 CEC's Dual 0.1 CEC's Wastewater Thursday Sessions - March 21, 2024 8:00 am *Invocation, Star Spangled Banner and Welcome from City of Great Falls to *Program Changes, Vendor Announcement, Theme & MRWS—Salute to Operators "30 Years of Service" Awards 9:30am *USDA - invited *DEQ - invited *DNRC - invited 0.150 CEC's Dual *NRWA - invited 9:30 am to 10:30 am >>>>> BREAK <<< < < < 10:30am Partners for Growth - Investing in Our Future Speakers - Invited 11:30an 0.100 CEC's Dual 11:30am **MRWS LUNCHEON**





Guest Speaker - Invited





L	Thursday Afternoon Sessions - March 21, 2024						
<u>N</u> a	Canadian Room	Britain Room	American Room	Lewis & Clark Room	Missouri Room		
1:00pm to 2:00pm	How a Small Community Handles Large Water Infrastructure Projects - An East Helena Chronicle Kaela Murphy & Kyle Myhre, Robert Peccia and Associates A brief recap of the need for the project & design criteria will start this session. Then a look at the timeline, issues that arose, and the ability to maintain water service while the project was under construction. 0.1 CEC's Water	Using Artificial Intelligence to Manage Pipes Bridget Garlinghouse, VODA.ai An Al tsunami is here, transforming industries and lives. Al can help improve distribution network planning and reduce water loss by improving water management, detecting leaks, predicting failures, and optimizing maintenance. 0.1 CEC's Dual	Infrastructure Funding & Administration for Clerks Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering Jodi Rogers, MT League of Cities & Towns Craig and Jodi will explain how to secure grant funds and the steps to follow after receiving the award.	SCADA: A Force Multiplier for Operations Graham Arntzen, In Control, Inc. For utilities using SCADA or considering its use, there are often avenues to further use SCADA functionality to strengthen operations, including staffing & on-call capabilities. 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks	This Is Not Your Father's Wastewater: You Need a Good Inlet Screen Jim O'Leary, Or-Tec This session will examine how & why we screen, types of screening, specific applications, & how to clean screens. 0.1 CEC's Wastewater		
2:30pm to 3:30pm	Inserting Gate Valves on a Live Distribution Line Justin Garrison, Mueller Water Products This will discuss insertion valves, design, compliance & compatibility, & an analysis of insertion valves on the market. We will highlight similarities and purposes as well as installation & delivery options.	Total Control Gatlin Gold, Atlas Copco Compressors Automation can reduce maintenance, improve efficiency, and reduce the number of hours employees spend doing menial tasks. We will demonstrate how this all works!	Specifically tailored for clerks, Jodi & Craig will provide an overview of the clerk's role in managing infrastructure funding, including creating project files, tracking project funds, & meeting audit requirements. [This is a 2-hour class]	Preparing for the Funding of Your Water or Sewer Project Dan Semmens & Courtney Ellis, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP This session will explore the various resources of funding available and how communities should prepare for issuing bonds. Also an update on fed funding & top 3 snafus & what to do about them.	Utilizing Acoustic Inspection to Prioritize Sewer Cleaning Gene Hallum, InfoSense Gene will focus on discussing the practical development of an acoustic inspection program so systems can be proactive rather than reactive in their cleaning protocol.		
	0.1 CEC's Water	0.1 CEC's Dual	0.2 CEC's Dual/Clerks	0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks	0.1 CEC's Wastewater		
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Trenchless Installation Calculations for HDD, Pipe Bursting, & More Dan Landy, The Alliance for PE Pipe This class will provide detailed information on calculating important design installation equations such as wall buckling & compressive stress, pipe deflection, thermal expansion & more.	Water Hydraulics 101 Eric Stearns, DGR Engineering Basic hydraulic concepts will be presented with examples. We will talk about troubleshooting techniques and experience gained in the field. These concepts are useful in troubleshooting low-pressure complaints or planning a hydrant flushing program.	Revisions to Lead & Copper Rule & LSL Inventory Greg Montgomery, MDEQ A review of the new LCR improvements from EPA and how systems should prepare.	Strategies for Quality Lagoon Effluent Tom Daugherty, Triplepoint Environmental, LLC This session will profile real world case studies to evaluate the performance of lagoon rehab alternatives to lower maintenance, energy inputs, & improving treatment.	Wetlands: Yes, They Do Work in the Winter! Kristen Brush, Morrison-Maierle, Inc Employing the proper wetland configuration & design specs for the given environmental conditions & influent will result in properly treated wastwater with little to no operator interaction.		
	0.1 CEC's Water	0.1 CEC's Water	0.1 CEC's Water/Clerks	0.1 CEC's Wastewater	0.1 CEC's Wastewater		
Thursday Night Banquet - Awards - Montana's Best Tasting Water - Meter Contest - Guest Speaker Invited							
		Friday	Morning Sessions - March 22,	2024			
8:00am to 9:00am	Pipeline Contingency Planning & Selection of Mechanical Repair Fittings Mike Scholz, JCM Industries, Inc. Mike's class will provide an overview of water pipeline system documentation, questions that mechanical product manufacturers require to supply the correct product, installation tips, & examples of field installations. 0.1 CEC's Water	Knowing Your Board's Responsibilities Al Kelm, MRWS As operators and clerks, you deal with your boards/councils often. If you know their responsibilities, your dealings with them can go much easier. 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks	Empowering MT Rural Water Systems with the RIGHT IT Solutions Conor Smith, First Call Computer Solutions What does partnering with an MSP (Managed services provider) look like? We'll discuss levels of security & controls that can be put in place, what can be done today to protect their business, & where they need to get to for 2024. 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks	To Inventory & Beyond! LCRi Doesn't Have to Feel Like a Wild Goose Chase Joseph Duysen, 120Water Joseph will share some stories if best practices and what has been working as well as regulation updates and what they mean for you going forward. 0.1 CEC's Water/Clerks	Got Sludge? Now What? Planning For Successful Removal Rika Lashley, Morrison-Maierle, Inc This session offers options for responding to excess sludge volumes, including immediate operational changes, additives, & removal. We'll also look at several successful sludge removal projects. 0.1 CEC's Wastewater		
	More Than Just Alarming: Modern Monitoring Solutions	Trenchless Installations: Understanding & Benefits Richard Kolasa, WL Plastics Corp/Ineos	Funding to Mitigate Disasters with "FedFunds"	Tackling Aging Infrastructure in Montana	Solving Infiltration & Corrosion Problems in Sewer Structures Jim Swain, CIP Construction		

Group Karen Edwards-Lindsey, USEPA Kevin Stock, Streametric Mike Uthe, Mueller Water Products Technologies, Inc This session will provide an Our session will highlight free tools & 9:30am This session should empower utilities Mike will look at different options for We all know hydrogen sulfide gas and understanding of the various types of guides to assist utilities in detecting, making decisions on buried assets. We to install advanced data collection anaerobic bacteria make sulfuric acid trenchless technologies for municipal & planning, responding, and recovering 10:30am will discuss some real-life examples & technology, deploying a coninuous that's super corrosive. We'll explore sewer applications. Also, insight into the from water emergencies. Participants monitoring solution w/out needing to how utilities can save dollars with solutions such as new construction, benefits achieved by using these will learn about Fed FUNDs through a walk through the plant. proactive methods. spray on liners, pre-fab inserts, &methods from time savings, reduced demonstration and explanation process. cured-in-place liners. carbon footprint, to cost savings. 0.1 CEC's Wastewater 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Dual 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks **Rural Wastewater: Montana's** Peracetic Acid (PAA): What Is It? How Is It Applied? Jordan Sykes, AE2S Jacquelyn Wilson, Enviro Tech, An **Updates on Rates, Charges, & SRF Funding** Highlighting issues facing rural Arxada Company 10:45am Anna Miller, DNRC communities served by wastewater Information on the application & use A discussion on what's new in the State Revolving Fund funding and utility rates and charges. lagoons, including both similarities 11:45am of peracetic acid, an envronmentally and differences in these projects, friendly alternative disinfectant for drawing from real world project municipal wastewater disinfection. examples. 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Dual/Clerks 0.1 CEC's Wastewater 0.1 CEC's Wastewater

11:45am to 1:15pm



MRWS LUNCHEON & DRAWINGS
*Guest Speaker Invited



1:30pm to 5:30pm





STATE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION EXAMS

CANADIAN & BRITAIN ROOMS



AWARD NOMINATIONS

We need your input to help us recognize and nominate those individuals or systems that worked diligently behind the scenes or in the forefront this past year (2023) to ensure and maintain water quality across Montana. Do you know someone doing a great job or going above and beyond? Has your system achieved excellence this year or overcome some fantastic challenges?

These awards will be presented at the Conference Awards Banquet Thursday, March 21, 2024. Eligible nominees must be affiliated with a system member in good standing

Please send nominations to us at: MTRuralWater@mrws.org Deadline is January 26, 2024

Each nomination must state their accomplishment/contribution to be considered.

<u>Water Operations Specialist:</u> This award recognizes a Montana licensed drinking water operation specialist who is actively working in the field and has shown outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in 2023

<u>Wastewater Operations Specialist:</u> This award recognizes a Montana licensed wastewater operation specialist who is actively working in the field and has shown outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in 2023

<u>Clerk/Administration</u>: This award recognizes an administrative clerk for outstanding performance in office management, customer service, and any other contributions that have benefited the Utility or its customers in 2023

<u>Manager/Public Works Director</u>: This award recognizes a Manager/Public Works Director who has applied innovative ideas, inventions, or procedures that has benefited the operation of a public water/wastewater system and/or its customers in 2023

<u>System of the Year (Water and/or Wastewater)</u>: This award recognizes a Public Water and/or Wastewater Utility that has demonstrated exceptional efforts to manage, operate and maintain their systems in 2023 properly

2023-2024

MRWS Awards of Excellence Nomination Form

CIRCLE THE AWARD YOU ARE SUBMITTING THIS

NOMINATION FOR AND COMPLETE THE REQUESTED

INFORMATION BELOW:

 Water Operations Specialist Wastewater Operations Specialist Clerk/Administration Manager/Public Works Director Utility/System Award (Water) Utility/System Award (Wastewater) 	
A <u>brief narrative</u> (1-2 paragraphs) detailing ward must be included with each nomi	· · ·
NOMINEE Name:	Position/Title:
Employed at:	Number of years at the system:
JTILITY/SYSTEM:	
Name of Person making nomination	
Narrative detailing Accomplishment/Contribution:	

Nominations must be received (mail or email) no later than January 26, 2024

Montana Rural Water Systems 9 3rd St. N. #304 Great Falls, MT, 59401

Email - MTRuralWater@mrws.org

Questions: (406) 454-1151

Rural Water **2024 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING WORKSHOP** ***FRFF***



Counties, municipalities, water and sewer districts, infrastructure engineers, grant writers, and planners

PURPOSE

Provide information to help plan for and fund water and sewer projects in Montana

LEARN ABOUT

- How to fund your project
- Where to get technical assistance
- Lessons learned from a Montana project
- State government infrastructure initiatives

Technical and funding agencies will be available for individual consultation following the workshop



Can't make it in person? Register to attend on-line dnrc.mt.gov/Conservation/Conservation-Programs/WASACT/

Sponsored by the following members of W^2ASACT

WATER, WASTEWATER, AND SOLID WASTE ACTION COORDINATING TEAM

Montana Departments of Commerce, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Conservation, and the INTERCAP Loan Program; U.S.D.A. Rural Development, Montana Rural Water, and Midwest Assistance Program.



GREAT FALLS

Heritage Inn 1700 Fox Farm Road March 20, 2024 8:15 - 12:30 PM

Associated with the Montana **Rural Water Conference** mrws.org/conferences/

FUNDING PROGRAMS

USDA Rural Development **Loans & Grants**

DNRC Renewable Resource **Grants & Loans**

Montana Coal Endowment **Program Grants**

Montana INTERCAP loans

State Revolving Fund Loans

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Autumn Coleman Montana DNRC 406-444-6687

Autumn.coleman@mt.gov

The State of Montana will provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in the Workshop. Requests for special accommodations can be directed to Autumn Coleman.