

# 2026 TRAINING CALENDAR

for Water, Wastewater, and other Environmental Professionals

by: Montana Rural Water Systems



# 2026 Montana Rural Water Systems Training Calendar

The 2026 Montana Rural Water Systems Training Calendar has been compiled and published by Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc. It is provided as a tool for planning your environmental training activities. The calendar lists and describes seminars and workshops to be sponsored by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ), Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc. (MRWS), Montana Section of American Water Works Association (MSAWWA), Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA), and the Montana Water/Wastewater Operator Initiative. **Information about each sponsor is located in the back of the calendar.**

*The calendar includes only seminars and workshops planned as of printing time.* Any additional seminars and workshops will be announced separately. Agendas from the sponsoring agency are posted on the agency's website or will be sent to interested people and organizations prior to the scheduled seminar. If you have not received an agenda at least one week prior to the scheduled date, please call the sponsor directly for information. As hard as we try to avoid it, unforeseen circumstances may cause a change of date on the calendar. **Please note that Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and seminar costs are approximate.**

The 2026 Training Calendar also includes information on **online training courses, webcasts, webinars**. Should you have questions or would like further information on specific courses please contact the corresponding training provider or the Montana DEQ Operator Certification Office at 406-444-4584.

## **The Mission of Montana Rural Water Systems shall be:**

**"To provide quality services for member systems to enable them to produce the best product with their available resources."**

Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc. (MRWS) is a nonprofit association of towns, cities, rural water & sewer districts, water users associations, home owners associations, trailer parks, and private systems. In addition, MRWS welcomes Associate Memberships from engineers, suppliers, financial institutions, contractors, attorneys, accountants, and other organizations interested in water & wastewater.

<b>MRWS</b> <b>Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc.</b> <b>406-454-1151</b> <b>mrws.org</b>	<b>MTDEQ</b> <b>Montana Department of Environmental Quality</b> <b>406-444-4584</b>	<b>MAP</b> <b>Midwest Assistance Program</b> <b>406-290-3325</b> <b>map-inc.org</b>	<b>MWEA</b> <b>Montana Water Environment Association</b> <b>406-546-5496</b>	<b>MSAWWA</b> <b>Montana Section American Water Works Association</b> <b>406-546-5496</b>	<b>MW2OI</b> <b>Montana Water and Wastewater Operators Initiative</b> <b>406-994-7402</b>
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**MRWS would like to thank the following organizations for helping provide the training calendar to Montana's water and wastewater operators and other environmental professionals:**

Big Sky Chapter American Backflow Prevention Association  
Midwest Assistance Program  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc  
Montana Section of the American Water Works Association  
Montana Water and Wastewater Operators Initiative  
Montana Water Environment Association  
Technical Learning College

**We are not always able to finalize training sessions in time for this calendar. So, please call our office or check our website for the most current information on upcoming training. Check out our webpage: [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)**



# Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) Basic Rules

## CERTIFICATION RENEWAL FEES

Every year operator certification renewal fees are due by June 30. The renewal fee pays for the following fiscal year (July 1- June 30).

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS (CECs)

Every even-numbered year appropriate CEC requirements must be met by May 31. *The current two-year biennium began on June 1, 2024 and will end on May 31, 2026*

## OPERATORS CERTIFIED BEFORE JANUARY 2024 ARE REQUIRED TO EARN THE FOLLOWING CECs:

Class 1 **WATER** operators (either or both **water distribution or treatment**) must earn 2.0 CECs (20 hours).  
Class 2, 3, or 4 **WATER** operators (either or both **water distribution or treatment**) must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 5 **WATER** operators must earn 0.4 CECs (4 hours).  
Class 1 **WASTEWATER** operators (either or both **municipal or industrial wastewater**) must earn 2.0 CECs (20 hours).  
Class 2, 3, or 4 **WASTEWATER** operators must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 2, 3 or 4 **ON-SITE WASTEWATER** must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 2, 3 or 4 **INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER** must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).

## OPERATORS-IN-TRAINING (OITs) ARE REQUIRED TO EARN THE FOLLOWING CECs:

Class 1 **WATER** OITs (either or both **water distribution or treatment**) must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 2, 3, or 4 **WATER** OITs (either or both **water distribution or treatment**) must earn 0.5 CECs (5 hours).  
Class 5AB is no longer offered as a new certification.  
Class 1 **WASTEWATER** OITs (combined class 1 & 2 **municipal**) must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 3 **WASTEWATER** OITs (combined class 3 & 4 **municipal**) must earn 0.5 CECs (5 hours).  
Class 1 **INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER** OITs must earn 1.0 CECs (10 hours).  
Class 2, 3 or 4 **INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER** OITs must earn 0.5 CECs (5 hours).  
Class 2, 3 or 4 **ON-SITE WASTEWATER** OITs must earn 0.5 CECs (5 hours).

## COURSE APPROVAL and REPORTING

Before CECs can be earned for a course, the course must be approved for credit. Courses not listed in this calendar may be approved for CECs if deemed applicable by the Certification Office. Courses MUST BE reported on an **INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FORM** which contains the signature of the course provider or a Certificate of Completion submitted with the form.

## CORRESPONDENCE COURSES & ALTERNATIVE TRAINING COURSES

Correspondence courses and alternative training courses (CD-ROM, internet, videos) must be fully completed and proof of completion from the course provider must be sent to the Certification Office for CECs. (See Lists of Approved Correspondence Courses and Alternative Training Courses in the back of this calendar.)

## COURSES APPROVED for DUAL CECs

Operators who hold certification in both water and wastewater can earn CECs for both certifications when attending a course MTDEQ has approved as a dual CEC course.

## COURSES ONLY APPROVED for ONE-HALF CECs

Training not directly applicable to water or wastewater plant operation can be approved for training but may only earn one-half the amount of CECs.

## TRAINING NOT LISTED in TRAINING CALENDAR

There may be courses that apply towards your CEC requirements which are **not listed in the Training Calendar**. If you are looking for courses in your area, email the Certification Program Office, [operatorcertification@mt.gov](mailto:operatorcertification@mt.gov), for information on approved courses.

## CEC STATUS REPORTS

An informational status report can be viewed online at <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/operatorcectotal/>. Please contact the Certification Program Office, [operatorcertification@mt.gov](mailto:operatorcertification@mt.gov), if you find any errors on this report.



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### January 5-10, 2026      Location: Helena **Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Course & Exam**

The 6-day course is comprised of lectures on backflow and cross-connection control and guided exercises in a wet lab to provide an understanding of the field testing methods for four types of backflow prevention assemblies. It is designed for **first-time testers and those needing a refresher course**. ABPA administers written exams on the afternoon of the fifth day and practical exams on day six. **Check [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more information.**

CECs: up to 3.6 Dual



January 13-14, 2026

### **Small System and Colony Training**

**Location: Holiday Inn, Great Falls**

This workshop consists of a variety of topics relevant to small system water & wastewater operators. Specific topics for this session were not determined at the printing of this calendar, but an agenda will be posted on the MRWS website at least 2 weeks prior to training. **Check it out at [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org).**

CECs: 0.70 TBA

FEE: \$70/day Members   \$105/day Non-Members



January 15-16, 2026

### **Operator Certification Exam Review**

**Location: Holiday Inn, Great Falls**

This review will help prepare operators for all levels of certification exams, but primarily focuses on *groundwater and wastewater systems*. **Operators need to study before attending** this full day review. MRWS will cover as many areas as time allows, including terms, safety, math, treatment, distribution, wastewater, etc.

**Check the MRWS website for updates and to register [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)**

CECs: None

FEE: None

**Interested in advertising or sponsoring a month of your choice on the 2027 MRWS calendar? Contact the MRWS office before October 1, 2026 to reserve your space. Full page and half page spaces are available: 406-454-1151 or [MTRuralWater@mrws.org](mailto:MTRuralWater@mrws.org)**

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium is <b>MAY 31, 2026!</b>				1 New Year's Day 	2	3
4	5	6 W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Cut Bank	7	8 W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Helena  VFDs in Water and Wastewater MAP - Sidney	9	10
		Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester's Training MRWS - Helena			ABPA Tester New Cert & Recert Exam Helena	
11	12	13 Small System & Colony Operator Training MRWS - Great Falls Holiday Inn	14 Small System & Colony Operator Training MRWS - Great Falls Holiday Inn	15 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Great Falls Holiday Inn	16 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Great Falls Holiday Inn	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr Day 	20	21 Water & Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Virtual	22	23	24
25	26	27 W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Libby	28	29 W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Choteau	30	31
Christine Maday cmaday@mrws.org 406-595-3502 www.mrws.org for more details on workshops		Robin Franzen rfranzen@mrws.org 406-781-8775 www.mrws.org for more details on workshops			VFDs in Water and Wastewater -general electrical background to operate and maintain VFDs Lance Goodman lgoodman@map-inc.org MAP 307-247-0760 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee	

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# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium is <b>MAY 31, 2026!</b></b>	2 <b>Groundhog Day</b> 	3	4	5	6	7
	February 2-4 National Rural Water Rally Washington, DC					
8	9	10 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Havre	11	12 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Glasgow	13	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 
	Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers Training MRWS - Great Falls				ABPA Tester New Cert & Recert Exams Great Falls	
15	16 <b>Presidents Day</b> 	17	18 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Miles City	19 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Miles City	20	21
22	23	24 Deadline - New Applications for Certification Exams Given on 3/25/2026 Billings	25	26 VFDs in Water and Wastewater MAP - Helena <a href="http://www.map-inc.org">www.map-inc.org</a>	27	28

Christine Maday [cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
406-595-3502

[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

Robin Franzen [rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
406-781-8775

[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

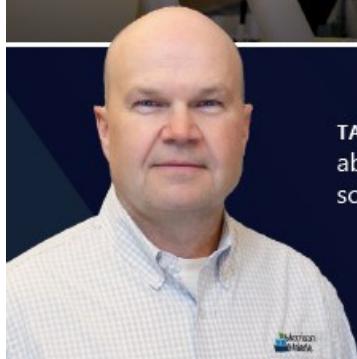
VFDs in Water and Wastewater –general electrical background to operate and maintain VFDs Lance Goodman [lgoodman@map-inc.org](mailto:lgoodman@map-inc.org)  
307-247-0760 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee

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# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium is <b>MAY 31, 2026!</b></b>	2	3 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Butte	4 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Butte	5 Water/Wastewater Operator Training	6	7
8 Daylight Savings 	9	10 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Malta  Registration Deadline for Certification Exams Given on 5/14/26 MTDEQ—Billings	11	12 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Havre	13	14
15	16 PFAS Regulations & Compliance  Asset Management MAP-Bull Lake	17 St Patrick's 	18	19	20	21
22	23 Operator Math Review MAP - Billings	24  NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR  46th Technical Conference and Exhibition Show MRWS - Billings Convention Center	25 Certification Exams MTDEQ - Billings	26	27 Happy Birthday Josh!	28
29	30	31				
Christine Maday cmaday@mrws.org 406-595-3502 www.mrws.org for more details on workshops	Robin Franzen rfranzen@mrws.org 406-781-8775 www.mrws.org for more details on workshops	MAP: PFAS Basics, Regulations and Compliance- Discussion of PFAS characteristics, Regulations and how to stay in compliance. Sasha Marlatt smarlett@map-inc.org 406-955-9112 0.4 Water CECs; no fee	MAP: Asset Management- for operators, utility managers, clerks and board members. Training will cover asset management basics for water and wastewater utilities and how to start an asset management program Sasha Marlatt smarlett@map-inc.org 406-955-9112 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee			
MAP: Operator Math Review- Covering math concepts for water and wastewater systems; geared toward operators studying for certification exam. Devin Beal dbeal@map-inc.org 406-290-3325 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee						



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Photo by Christine Maday, MRWS, Backflow testers



**April 14, 2026**

### **New Application Deadline for DEQ Exams**

To take a water or wastewater operator exam on May 14, 2026 in Miles City, you must submit an application to the DEQ Operator Certification Program and application fee by April 14, 2026. You must send in the exam date registration form and pay the appropriate exam fees April 30, 2026

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# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium is <b>MAY 31, 2026!</b>			1	2 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Virtual	3	4
5 Easter	6	7 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS—Hamilton	8 Pumps and Control Valve MAP - Libby	9 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda	10	11
12	13 Water & Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Virtual	14 Deadline - New Applications for Certification Exams Given on 5/14/26 Kalispell	15 Bookkeeping for Clerks and Utility Managers MAP - Kalispell W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Billings	16 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Virtual	17	18
19	20	21 Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems MRWS - Columbia Falls	22 <b>Earth Day</b>	23 Sampling & Monitoring for Small Water & Wastewater Systems MRWS - Thompson Falls	24	25
26	27	28 MWEA Preconference Butte	29	30 Registration Deadline for Certification Exams Given on 5/29/26 MSAWWA - MWEA Joint Conference Butte Copper King Hotel & Convention Center		

Christine Maday  
[cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
406-595-3502  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

Robin Franzen  
[rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

MAP: Pumps and Control Valves – focus will be on pump operation and maintenance as well as control valve applications Will Meyer [wmeyer@map-inc.org](mailto:wmeyer@map-inc.org)  
406-830-6105 0.4 water CECs; no fee

MAP: Bookkeeping for Clerks and Managers –will cover bookkeeping and financial topics to maintain a sustainable utility Sasha Marlatt [smarlatt@map-inc.org](mailto:smarlatt@map-inc.org)  
406-955-9112 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee

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# May 2026

#Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium is <b>MAY 31, 2026!</b>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Montana Municipal Institute for Clerks, Treasurers, & Finance Officers <b>Billings Doubletree Hilton May 3-7</b>		Glacier Park & Small System Operator Training MRWS - West Glacier			
	American Backflow Prevention Association Conference <b>ABPA - Las Vegas, NV May 4-6</b>					
<b>10 Mother's Day</b> 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <b>Memorial Day</b> 	26	27	28	29	30
31	Last day of the 2024-2026 CEC Biennium! All CECs, all classes, for all operators due <b>May 31, 2026!!</b>		Board Training <b>MAP - Virtual</b>		Water & Wastewater Operator Training <b>MRWS - Virtual</b>	
	Christine Maday cmaday@mrws.org 406-595-3502 <a href="http://www.mrws.org">www.mrws.org</a> for more details on workshop		MAP: Operator Math Review- Covering math concepts for water and wastewater systems; geared toward operators studying for certification exam Devin Beal dbeal@map-inc.org 406-290-3325 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee		MAP: Board Training-Focus will be on how to be an effective Board Member, conduct meetings and support a successful utility Will Meyer wmeyer@map-inc.org 406-830-6105 0.3 Dual CECs; no fee	
	Robin Franzen rfranzen@mrws.org 406-781-8775 <a href="http://www.mrws.org">www.mrws.org</a> for more details on workshops					



## MONTANA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

<http://www.montanawater.org>

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) aims to build partnerships and provide education for the water environment community to support Montana's commitment to protect public health and water resources. A non-profit organization, the Association was organized in 1944 and soon thereafter affiliated with the Federation of Sewage Works Association, now known as the Water Environment Federation (WEF) [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org). MWEA's vision is to achieve the nation's highest water quality with help from all of Montana's water environment community. Present membership in MWEA is approximately 130.

Environment Association

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a nonprofit professional, education, and technical organization devoted to providing leadership, knowledge and guidance in the management of our nation's water resources. Founded in 1928, the Federation has more than 30,000 members in 75 member associations. Water Environment Federation members include engineers, scientists, wastewater operators and managers, and others working in state and local government, federal agencies, industry, academia, and private practice.

WEF and its global network of members and member associations provide water quality professionals around the world with the latest in water quality education, training, and business opportunities. WEF is operating under a Strategic Plan built on the vision of a life free of water challenges. WEF's ultimate goal is a world where each person has access to clean water and sanitation, where communities prosper, and where nature thrives.

**OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS:** MWEA has allocated funds for certified operators looking for assistance in paying for continuing education and/or training event costs. Applicants must complete a scholarship application one month ahead of the training session they plan to attend. Awards up to \$500 can be realized by each applicant. When approved in advance, the award money can be used to pay for travel, lodging, registration fees, and other eligible costs associated with attending. Applicants must be a Montana certified operator or operator-in-training. Applications are available online at <http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/>.

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

WEF Delegate Scott Buecker (406) 570-5184	Past President Bruce Souder (406) 850-1046	President Rickey Schultz (406) 532-2238	President Elect Matt Waite (406) 247-4455	Vice President Rodney Lance (406) 217-1792	Sr. Trustee Adam Marsh (406) 7552-6679	Jr. Trustee Camaree Uljua 406-388-3578	Secretary/Treasurer Rika Lashley (406) 431-7049	Executive Director Robin Barnes (406) 546-5496
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## MWEA MEMBERSHIP & COMMITTEES

If you would like to become a member of MWEA and WEF please contact anyone of the Board of Directors at the numbers listed above.

If you are a member please consider becoming active in MWEA by joining one or more of the committees listed below. To get a description of each committee contact the Secretary/Treasurer. To join a committee contact the Secretary/Treasurer at the number listed above.

### MWEA Committees:

Grants for Teachers  
Membership  
Pretreatment  
Stockholm Junior Water Prize  
Stormwater

Beneficial Reuse  
Education  
Government Affairs  
Honors & Awards  
Long Range Planning

### Joint MSAWWA/MWEA Committees:

Cross Connection Control  
Exhibitors  
Host City  
Program Committee  
Information Management

Lifetime Achievement/Todd Teagarden Awards  
Public Outreach  
Scholarship  
Student & Young Professional

## WEF WEBCASTS, CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Each year WEF hosts a series of webcasts, conferences and seminars on various water and wastewater related topics ranging from wastewater plant operations to water conservation. All WEF webcasts, conferences and seminars listed by WEF at the time of calendar printing and their dates and times are listed on the calendar pages.

For information on each webcast, conference or seminar and fees contact MWEA at (406) 546-5496 or go to the WEF website [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org). For information on CEC availability contact MTDEQ at (406) 444-4584.

# June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">First day of the 2026-2028 CEC Biennium!</div>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 National Rural Water Association Water In-Service Training Spokane, WA June 8-11	11	12	13
			Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester's & Refresher Course MRWS - Kalispell		ABPA Tester New Cert & Recert Exams - Kalispell	
14 Father's Day 	15	16	17 Consumer Confidence Report Training MRWS - Virtual	18	19 	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			ACE24 - AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition Washington DC			
28	29	30 Operator Certification Renewal Fees Due June 30, 2026 MTDEQ  Consumer Confidence Reports Due June 30, 2026 MTDEQ				
Christine Maday cmaday@mrws.org 406-595-3502 <a href="http://www.mrws.org">www.mrws.org</a> for more details on workshops	Robin Franzen rfranzen@mrws.org 406-781-8775 <a href="http://www.mrws.org">www.mrws.org</a> for more details on workshops	Interested in advertising or sponsoring a month of your choice on the 2027 MRWS calendar? Contact the MRWS office before October 1, 2026 to reserve your space. Full page and half page spaces are available: 406-454-1151 or <a href="mailto:MTRuralWater@mrws.org">MTRuralWater@mrws.org</a>				



# Call For Abstracts!

Call for Abstracts  
closes October 16, 2026

Don't wait! Share your expertise and make an impact in 2027!

Visit [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for full details and to submit your abstract today.

We're looking for dynamic presentations that educate, inspire, and provide real-world value to system operators, managers, and community leaders.

Topics may include but not limited to:

- Water and wastewater operations
- System maintenance and technology
- Source water protection
- Utility management and leadership
- Sustainability and innovation
- Or any other water/wastewater topic of interest.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or a first-time presenter, we invite you to submit your abstract and be part of this exciting event!

# July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Christine Maday [cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
406-595-3502

[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

Robin Franzen [rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
406-781-8775

[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

We are not always able to finalize training sessions in time for this calendar. So, please call our office or check our website for the most current information on upcoming training. Check out our webpage: [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)



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cmarez@mrws.org





**Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc.**

**August 18-20, 2026**  
**35th Annual Advanced Wastewater Training**  
**Location: Yellow Bay**

This three day seminar will address current advanced wastewater troubleshooting techniques and laboratory procedures as related to biological nutrient removal (BNR) technology and other advanced types of wastewater treatment technology.

**[Check the website for more information, www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)**

**CECs: 2.0 Wastewater**

**FEE: TBA**



# August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
		<b>CALL FOR ABSTRACTS</b> Submission deadline to be consider for presentation at 2027 MRWS Conference is October 16, 2026				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Christine Maday [cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
 406-595-3502  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on  
 workshops

Robin Franzen [rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
 406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on  
 workshops

MAP: Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance— For operators, utility  
 staff, board members and mayors; discussion of the Safe Drinking  
 Water Act, with focus on PFAS and Lead and Copper Rule.  
 Devin Beal [dbeal@map-inc.org](mailto:dbeal@map-inc.org) 406-290-3325  
 0.4 Water CECs; no fee



Photo by: Roger Skogen, MRWS, Kalispell WWTP



Photo by: Kurtis Hillier, MRWS, Fort Peck



## September 15, 2026 New Application Deadline for DEQ Exams

To take a water or wastewater operator exam on October 15th, 2026 in Bozeman you must send the DEQ Operator Certification Program a state application and application fee by September 15, 2026. You must send in the exam date registration form and pay the appropriate exam fees by September 30, 2026.



Photo by: Leo Malinak, MRWS, Trout Creek



### WEBINARS & WEBCASTS

For information on WEF webcasts contact Robin Barnes at MWEA or go to [www.WEF.org](http://www.WEF.org).



For information on AWWA Webinars contact Robin Barnes at MSAWWA or go to [www.AWWA.org](http://www.AWWA.org).

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS—Forsyth	2	3 Water/Wastewater Operator Training MRWS - Sidney	4	5
6	7 <i>Labor Day</i> 	8	9 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - TBA	10 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - TBA	11 <i>Patriot Day</i> 	12
13 <i>Grandparents Day</i> 	14	15 National Rural Water Association Water Pro Conference Phoenix, AZ	16	17	18	19
		Deadline - New Applications for Certification Exams Given on 10/15/26 Bozeman				
20	21	22 W/WW Operator Training MRWS - Wolf Point	23 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Glasgow	24 Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - Glasgow	25	26 WEF/TEC - Sept 26– Sept 30, New Orleans, 
27	28	29 Wastewater Exam Prep MAP - Helena	30 Registration due for Certification Exams on 10/15/26 MTDEQ - Bozeman			
MACO Annual Conference September 27-30 2026 Delta Colonial Hotel, Helena				<b>CALL FOR ABSTRACTS</b> Submission deadline to be consider for presentation at <b>2027 MRWS Conference is October 16, 2026</b>		
WEF/TEC - Sept 26– Sept 30, New Orleans, LA						

Christine Maday [cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
406-595-3502  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

Robin Franzen [rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

MAP: Wastewater Exam Prep– training geared toward operators studying to take their certification exam  
Steve Shope [sshope@map-inc.org](mailto:sshope@map-inc.org) 406-570-5293  
0.4 Wastewater CECs; no fee



# 2027 MONTANA RURAL WATER CONFERENCE

MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> - MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> 2027

REGISTRATION  
OFFICIALLY OPENS  
**OCTOBER 19, 2026**

💡 PRESENTER REMINDER:

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS ARE DUE  
**OCTOBER 16, 2026.**

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN  
PRESENTING A TRAINING  
SESSION OR WORKSHOP, BE  
SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR  
ABSTRACT BEFORE THE  
DEADLINE.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THE MONTANA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS  
2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD  
**MARCH 23-25, 2027**, AT THE BILLINGS  
HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER IN  
BILLINGS, MONTANA.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL FOR ONLINE  
REGISTRATION DETAILS, BOOTH AND  
SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION, AND  
UPDATES ABOUT TRAINING SESSIONS AND  
CONFERENCE EVENTS. YOU'LL ALSO FIND  
THE LATEST INFORMATION POSTED ON  
OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MRWS.ORG](http://WWW.MRWS.ORG).

JOIN US IN MAKING THE 2027  
CONFERENCE OUR BEST ONE YET—SAVE  
THE DATE AND PLAN TO BE PART OF THIS  
EXCITING EVENT IN BILLINGS!

# *October 2026*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
		<b>CALL FOR ABSTRACTS</b> Submission deadline to be consider for presentation at 2027 MRWS Conference is October 16, 2026		To register for the Fall or Spring Water Schools please visit MSU's Academic and Technology website at <a href="https://eu.montana.edu/contininged/index.html">https://eu.montana.edu/contininged/index.html</a> or call (406) 994-655 or email <a href="mailto:ato@montana.edu">ato@montana.edu</a>		
4	5	6 Water/Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - TBA	7 Water/Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Review MRWS - TBA	8	9	10
		Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester's & Refresher Course <b>MRWS - Billings Heights</b>			Montana League of Cities & Towns Annual Conference <b>October 7-9 Helena Delta Hotel</b>	
					ABPA Tester New Cert & Recert Exams <b>Billings Heights</b>	
11	12 <b>Columbus Day</b>	13 92nd Annual School for Water and Wastewater Operators and Managers <b>MTDEQ, MW2OI - MSU Bozeman</b>	14 Operator Math Review <b>MAP - Bozeman</b>	15 Certification Exams <b>MTDEQ - Bozeman</b>	16 <b>Abstracts due for 2027 MRWS Conference</b>	17
18	19 <b>Registration Opens for 2027 MRWS Conference</b>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b>



**Christine Maday cmaday@mrws.org  
406-595-3502  
www.mrws.org for more details on  
workshops**

**Robin Franzen** rfranzen@mrws.org  
406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on  
workshops

**MAP: Operator Math Review- Covering math concepts for water and wastewater systems; geared toward operators studying for certification exam. Steve Shope [sshope@map-inc.org](mailto:sshope@map-inc.org)  
406-570-5293 0.4 Dual CECs; no fee**



American Water Works Association

# MONTANA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.montanawater.org>

## The Montana Section of AWWA

(MSAWWA) is one of 43 sections of the American Water Works Association. MSAWWA is part of the largest organization of its kind in the world. As the foremost water organization in the world, AWWA ([www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)) leads the industry in meeting the needs and requirements of a water consuming public.

The Montana Section is composed of over 250 members from utilities, engineering/consulting firms, state and local health agencies, and educational institutions in Montana. The Section has been active since it was first formed in the 1926. Paramount to its function, the Montana Section of AWWA provides educational opportunities to the water industry at the local level. The Section also supports an active small systems initiative, watchdog on legislation, and a strong public education program.

The Montana Section of AWWA is a nonprofit organization that relies on member activity for success. You too can be part of this organization and enhance Montana's awareness of potable water issues. The current Board of Directors for the Montana Section of AWWA are listed below and may be contacted for more information.

**OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS:** The creation of the One AWWA Operator Scholarship addresses the present and future workforce need for operators by providing training and educational funding. It also creates an opportunity for collaboration between the Association and Sections within The Water Equation Campaign. AWWA's The Water Equation Campaign and the Montana Section AWWA will award (2) **One AWWA Operator Scholarships** in the amount of \$500 each for water operator training and education. The scholarship award can be used for certification/licensure, two-year water related associate degree, technical school program, professional training program, books and manuals and operator related conferences. More information available at <http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/>. Each scholarship recipient will also receive a one-year AWWA Operator membership.

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

**National Director** - Carrie Gardner (406) 268-6176

**Past Chair** - Matt Mudd (406) 495-6169

**Junior Trustee** Kevin Christofanelli 406-655-4051

**National Director Elect**—Nate Weisenburger 406-217-3711

**Chair Elect** -Andy Schultz (406) 552-6758

**Sec./Treas.** - David Carlson (406) 268-0626

**Chair** – Jarret Morgan (406) 624-8753

**Senior Trustee** – Ben Rigby (406) 202-5179

**Exec. Sec.** - Robin Barnes (406) 546-5496

## MSAWWA MEMBERSHIP & COMMITTEES

If you would like to become a member of MSAWWA and AWWA please contact anyone of the Board of Directors or the Executive Secretary at the numbers listed above.

If you are a member please consider becoming active in the Montana section by joining one or more of the committees listed below. To get a description of each committee contact the Executive Secretary. To join a committee contact the Executive Secretary at the number listed above.

### MSAWWA Committees:

Awards  
Education  
Legislative  
Membership  
Water for People

### Joint MSAWWA/MWEA Committees:

Cross Connection Control  
Exhibitors  
Host City  
Information Management  
Lifetime Achievement  
Program  
Public Outreach  
Scholarship  
Student & Young Professional

## AWWA WEBINARS, CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Each year AWWA hosts a series of webinars, conferences and seminars on various water related topics ranging from water plant operations to water conservation. All AWWA webcasts, conferences and seminars listed by AWWA at the time of calendar printing and their dates and times are listed on the calendar pages.

For information on each webcast, conference or seminar and fees contact MSAWWA at (406) 546-5496 or go to the AWWA website [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org). For information on CEC availability contact MTDEQ at (406) 444-4584.

# November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	2	3 Election Day 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day 	12	13	14
15	16	17 Roles and Responsibilities MRWS - Virtual	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving 	27	28
29	30					

Christine Maday [cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
406-595-3502  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops

Robin Franzen [rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) for more details on workshops



One-on-one or group trainings

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scan to see our full training list!

[www.map-inc.org](http://www.map-inc.org)  
(406) 290-3325



**Devin Beal**  
406.290.3325  
[dbeal@map-inc.org](mailto:dbeal@map-inc.org)



**Steve Shope**  
406.570.5293  
[sshope@map-inc.org](mailto:sshope@map-inc.org)



**Will Meyer**  
406.830.6105  
[wmeyer@map-inc.org](mailto:wmeyer@map-inc.org)



**Chad Thompson**  
619.387.6344  
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**Lance Goodman**  
307.247.0760  
[lgoodman@map-inc.org](mailto:lgoodman@map-inc.org)



**Sasha Marlatt**  
406.955.9112  
[smarlatt@map-inc.org](mailto:smarlatt@map-inc.org)

MAP is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other protected classification, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

# December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Pearl Harbor Day 	8	9	10 Safe Water Act Compliance MAP - Virtual	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter Begins 	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve 		

Christine Maday  
[cmaday@mrws.org](mailto:cmaday@mrws.org)  
 406-595-3502  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)

Robin Franzen  
[rfranzen@mrws.org](mailto:rfranzen@mrws.org)  
 406-781-8775  
[www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org)

MAP: Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance– For operators, utility staff, board members and mayors; discussion of the Safe Drinking Water Act, with focus on PFAS and Lead and Copper Rule.  
 Devin Beal [dbeal@map inc.org](mailto:dbeal@map inc.org) 406-290-3325 0.3 Water CECs; no fee



**Executive Director**  
Ben Rigby  
(406) 202-5179



**Executive Assistant**  
Tanya Shadrick  
(406) 231-0909



**Env. Finance Center  
Training Specialist**  
Nikki Rogers  
(406) 525-5184



**Technical Assistance**  
Roger Skogen  
(406) 788-2089



**Wastewater  
Technician**  
Kurtis Hillier  
(406) 956-0051



**EPA Training  
Specialist**  
Robin Franzen  
(406) 781-8775



**Source Water  
Specialist**  
Haley Sir  
(406) 750-4845



**Wastewater  
Technician**  
John Paddock  
(406) 460-1934



**Source Water  
Specialist**  
Kyla Terry  
(406) 217-2103



**Circuit Rider**  
Dennis Eaton  
(406) 812-0392



**Circuit Rider**  
Leo Malinak  
(406) 899-8228



**Circuit Rider**  
Bobbie Shular  
(406) 899-5924



**Apprenticeship  
Coordinator**  
Cody Marez  
(406) 231-9338



**Training  
Specialist**  
Christine Maday  
(406) 595-3502



**Finance & Adminis-  
trative Specialist**  
Chelsea Dodd  
(406) 381-8813



**WW Technical  
Assistance**  
Pete Boettcher  
(406) 465-6798

**RURALWATER  
STRONG**



**Montana Rural Water  
Systems, Inc.**

**9 3rd St. N #304  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
Phone: (406) 454-1151  
FAX: (406) 454-3116**

**Website: <http://www.mrws.org>**

**Email: [MTruralwater@mrws.org](mailto:MTruralwater@mrws.org)**

The following correspondence and online courses have been approved by the Operator Certification Program for CEC's.

## APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDERS

An Approved Training Provider is an organization whose primary focus is to train and provide continuing education opportunities to water and wastewater operators. The organization cannot have a vested interest in selling or marketing any product or service related to water or wastewater other than training. This organization has met the approval of the Department of Environmental Quality Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program, with guidance from the Continuing Education Credit Review Committee, and the Montana Water and Wastewater Operator Advisory Council. For anyone who wants to be an Approved Training Provider (ATP) they must turn an application in to the MTDEQ Operator Certification Office. ATP status is good for two years. At the end of the two years the ATP must re-apply. The current two-year period began on June 1, 2024 and will end on May 31, 2026.

### 2024 - 2026 Approved Training Providers

- 360 Water
- California State University (CSU)
- Back Municipal Consulting (BMC)
- J Reif Consulting, LLC
- MAP (Midwest Assistance Program)
- Jacobs Engineering Group
- MRWS
- NTT (National Technology Transfer, Inc.)
- TLC (Technical Learning College)
- WaterLMS

### CONTACT

Please contact Marleigh Steinke at (406) 444-3434 or [operatorcertification@mt.gov](mailto:operatorcertification@mt.gov) for information regarding training providers or becoming an approved training provider.

### WEBSITE

<https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance>



### Online Courses Available Through Montana Rural Water Systems

E-learning courses are approved for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) through Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality, Operator Certification Program.

NOTE: Credit is given for each course only once per CEC period.

Go to [www.mrws.org](http://www.mrws.org) and the training dropdown.

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
Submission deadline to be consider for presentation  
at 2027 MRWS Conference is October 16, 2026  
[www.MRWS.org](http://www.MRWS.org)





## - MW<sup>2</sup>OI -



The Montana Water and Wastewater Operators Initiative (MW<sup>2</sup>OI) is a collaborative effort between the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Civil Engineering at Montana State University to provide training to the operators so critical to Montana's communities. The goal of MW<sup>2</sup>OI is to:

- Develop an operator training program - including Fall and Spring Water Schools- that is responsive to the training needs of operators in Montana
- Utilize operational expertise from across Montana and nationwide to provide targeted operator training.
- Coordinate with DEQ and other water and wastewater professional organizations to expand operator training opportunities.
- Develop flexible, resilient operator training program capable of both in-person and on-line program delivery that changes with the needs of Montana's operators.

To register for the Fall or Spring Water Schools please visit MSU's Academic and Technology website at <https://eu.montana.edu/continuinged/index.html> or call (406) 994-655 or email at [ato@montana.edu](mailto:ato@montana.edu)



# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations.

## MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1520 6th Avenue  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Website: <http://www.deq.mt.gov>

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DEQ** are the legal guidelines, values, and beliefs of the DEQ.

- Upholding the constitution in a consistent manner.
- Working for a clean and healthful environment.
- Improving cooperation and coordination among various bureaus and divisions and with Federal, State, and Local organizations.
- Reaching potential with our employees, enhancing professional judgment in carrying out their duties.

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SECTION

Monitoring/Reporting - Gino Pizzini 444-6972  
Field Services - Lisa Kaufman 444-5313  
Helena Office - 444-4400  
Kalispell Office - 755-8985  
Billings Office - 247-4445

## STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF)

Drinking Water & Wastewater SRF  
Sandie Koenig - 444-6770

## PUBLIC WATER & SUBDIVISION ENGINEERING REVIEW

Rachel Clark 444-1277

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Main Office - 444-5546

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Mike Abrahamson 444-6776

## OPERATOR CERTIFICATION & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Libby Murray-Henrikson 444-6781  
Jen VandenBos 444-4584  
Marleigh Steinke 444-3434

# MONTANA PUBLIC UTILITIES FUNDING AGENCIES

**Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)**  
Resource Development Bureau-Renewable Resource Grant & Loan Program (RRGL)  
Grants & Loans (State)  
a. Renewable Resource Grants and Loans  
b. Project Planning Grants  
c. Emergency Grant Program  
Contact: Autumn Coleman (406)444-6687  
Autumn.Coleman@mt.gov  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601  
Website: [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov)

**Montana Department of Commerce (DOC)**  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program  
Public Facility Grants & Planning Grants (State/Federal)  
Contact: Division Staff (406) 841-2770  
docddd@mt.gov  
P.O. Box 200523  
Helena, MT 59620-0523  
Website: [www.commerce.mt.gov](http://www.commerce.mt.gov)

**Montana Coal Board Grant Program (DOC)**  
Community Development Division (406) 841-2770  
301 S Park Ave  
P.O. Box 200523  
Helena, MT 59620-0523  
Website: [www.commerce.mt.gov](http://www.commerce.mt.gov)

**Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) (DOC)**  
a. Construction Grants  
b. Preliminary Engineering Grants  
c. Emergency Grants  
Contact: 406-841-2700  
301 S Park Ave,  
Helena, MT 59620  
Website: [www.commerce.mt.gov](http://www.commerce.mt.gov)

**INTERCAP Loan Program (DOC)**  
Loans (State)  
Contact: (406) 444-0001  
MT Board of Investments  
P.O. Box 200126  
Helena, MT 59620-0126  
Website: [www.commerce.mt.gov](http://www.commerce.mt.gov)

**United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA/RD)**  
Water & Environmental Loan & Grant Program  
Grants & Loans (Federal)  
Contact Office: (406) 585-2520  
2229 Boot Hill Court  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Website: [www.rdev.usda.gov/mt](http://www.rdev.usda.gov/mt)

**Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)**  
Loans (Federal)  
Contact: (406) 841-2840  
301 S. Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 200528  
Helena, MT 59620-0528  
Website: [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)



**Do you know someone who would be a good water or wastewater operator?** If so, get them in contact with MRWS Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Cody Marez (See MRWS info for contact details)! In the US, about 10,000 baby boomers reach retirement age a day!! Help your system be prepared! Get involved!!



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

