
Event Agenda

Montana Rural Water Conference

Monday, March 23, 2026

- 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **Registration Opens**
- 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM** **W2ASACT Funding Workshop 0.400 DW 0.400 WW**
Location: Boulder; Stillwater; Bighorn
Speaker: Autumn Coleman
- 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM** **Well Maintenance Made Easy 0.100 DW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Dean Foster
- 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM** **The Science Behind Using Tracer Wire to Locate Pipelines 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Craig Sasser
- 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM** **Beyond the Main: Targeting Non-Main I/I Sources 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Miriam Martens
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM** **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**
Location: Exhibit Hall
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Why Should I Optimize? Optimization for Public Water Systems 0.100 DW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Josh Seekins
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Solving the Pond Puzzle 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Sheri Desciak
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Upgrading Lagoon Systems 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Tom Birkeland
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM** **Lunch**
Location: Gallatin
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM** **Opening Session part one 0.150 Dual CECs**
Location: Boulder; Stillwater; Bighorn; Yellowstone; Gardiner
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Opening Session part two 0.200 Dual CECs**
Location: Boulder; Stillwater; Bighorn; Yellowstone; Gardiner
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Infrastructure Problems - Funding Solutions**
Location: Parlor rooms 1, 2, 3
- 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM** **Social Hour and Live Music**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

- 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **Registration Opens**

- 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM** **Small Water Systems – Part 1 pumps (1 hr), Part 2 pressure tanks (1 hr) 0.200 DW**
Location: Bighorn
Speaker: Mark Peterson
- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM** **EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Roger Skogen
- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM** **Operations and Maintenance for Wastewater Lagoons 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Pete Boettcher
- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM** **Recent Changes in Diving Industry Practices 0.100 DW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Troy Gessner
- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM** **Lead & Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), Consumer notices, and Technical Assistance. 0.100 DW**
Location: Boulder; Stillwater
Speaker: Matt Schmidt Greg Montgomery
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM** **Buck the Traditional and Jump into the Cloud Modern Monitoring Solutions like Cloud-based SCADA are the Future 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Kevin Stock
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM** **Philipsburg Wastewater Treatment Facility: A Case Study in Project Funding and Sustainable Design 0.200 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speakers: Maureen Connor, Austin Egan, Joel Rice
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM** **Montana PFAS – The Time Is Now 0.100 W 0.100 WW**
Location: Boulder; Stillwater
Speaker: Neal Murray
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM** **Top 10 Ways to Save on SCADA and Control System Projects 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speakers: Jonathan Frank, Nathan Landreth
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **Willett Pump Station – Practical Lessons for Testing, Startup, and O&M Success 0.100 DW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: David Carlson
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **Elevated Nitrate Levels in Yellowstone County 0.100 DW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Katya Koepsel
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **Water Meters Can't Find Water Main Line Leaks, Can They, You Bet They Can! 0.100 DW**
Location: Bighorn
Speaker: Jacob Waidmann
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **Cybersecurity for Rural Water Systems: Real Threats, Real Consequences, Practical Fixes 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Chris Sellers
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **Profoundly Progressing Polson – Maximizing the On-Call Contract Model 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speakers: Zachary Maassen, Ashley Walker
- 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM** **Lunch**
Location: Gallatin
- 1:15 PM - 3:45 PM** **Delegate Assembly Meeting-All Members Welcome to Attend**
Location: Bighorn

- 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM** **Replacement of Lead Service Lines in Havre Montana 0.100 DW**
Location: Boulder
Speakers: Amy Deitchler, Trevor Mork
- 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM** **Using Pressure Data to determine Event Localization 0.100 DW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Dylan Boyle
- 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM** **A Big Deal for a Small Town - Chinook Wastewater Improvements Project 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Susan Fenhaus
- 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM** **Optimizing Water Reuse with Pre-Engineered Membrane Bioreactors: Strategies for Performance & Efficiency 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Jake Lincoln
- 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM** **Water Audits Simplified – Where is your water going? 0.100 DW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Steve Carter
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **Practical Groundwater Hydrogeology for Operators 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: Lisa M Boettcher
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **Info360: Digitizing Rural Networks 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Mike Uthe
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **The Lift Station Revival: Transforming Aging Assets Without Breaking Ground 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Kaysha Young
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **CCR REPORTING – HOW TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR CCR 0.100 DW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speakers: Roger Skogen, Robin Franzen
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **WaterISAC: Cyber Resilience for Rural Water and Wastewater Systems ...not as scary or expensive as it seems 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Jennifer Lyn Walker
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM** **Avoiding the Top Public Communication Mistakes as Inventories Turn Into Replacement Programs under the LCRI 0.100 DW**
Location: Bighorn
Speaker: Mike McGill
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Lewistown Water System Disinfection Upgrades 0.100 DW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Jeremy Perlinski PE
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **On Site Generation – Safe Disinfection for Drinking and Wastewater 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: Bryce O'Neill
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Acoustic Inspection for Montana Rural Water 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Sam Taaffe
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Chemical Feed Systems 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Bighorn
Speakers: Sean Moriarty, Robert Frazier
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Unlocking the Power of TOC Optimization 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: John Schwartz

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM **Optimize WWTP Mixing for Efficiency & Process Resiliency 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Alden Meade

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM **Dinner Not Provided**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Evolution and impact of water meter technology from mechanical to smart water meters 0.100 DW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: Miquelle Bernard

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Telemetry Systems - Vendor Packaged Systems vs Custom Design/Bid/Build - Pros and Cons 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Jordan Creveling

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Nitro-Brew in Your Lagoons: How Bugs Beat Ammonia 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Jordan Wanlass

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Pump Stations- New or Improved 0.100 DW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Eric Blanksma

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Utilizing Rural Development Funding For Rural Communities with a Low Median Household Income 0.100 Dw 0.100 WW**
Location: Bighorn
Speakers: LaNette Diaz, John Bach

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **From Screening to Grit: Headworks Improvements for Troy and Lewistown WWTPs 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speakers: Colin Sassano, Paul Herbst

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **Operators' Field Math 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: John Schwartz

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **A Recipe for Great Cake 0.100 WW**
Location: Bighorn
Speakers: Kevin Christofanelli, Cora Revis

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **Latest in Xylem Waste Water pump control and Cloud connectivity 0.100 WW**
Location: Gardiner
Speaker: Ben Cook

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **Safety Requirement Updates-Lagoon and Lone Worker Safety 0.100 WW**
Location: Yellowstone
Speaker: Jim Brandley

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **Dealing with Disinformation: Top Communications Strategies for PFAS Treatment Decisions 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
Location: Stillwater
Speaker: Mike McGill

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM **Now you see it, now you don't: installation & startup of a below-grade containerized MBR 0.100 WW**
Location: Breakout 1010
Speaker: Joe Severin

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM **Pressure Monitoring & Management through Hydrant Technology 0.100 DW**
Location: Boulder
Speaker: Sebastian Nichols

- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **AUTOMATIC CONTROL VALVES 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Bighorn
 Speaker: Marty Walker
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Building the Team- Securing the Funding- Completing the Project 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Yellowstone
 Speakers: Craig Erickson, Kristina Gillespie-Jaques
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Leaving the Lagoon: Understanding Secondary Treatment and the Shift to Activated Sludge 0.100 WW**
 Location: Gardiner
 Speaker: Josh French
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Using FEMA's Emergency Management System to Communicate During Water Crises 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Stillwater
 Speaker: Mike McGill
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Benefits of Tank Mixing & Active Air Ventilation Inside Water Storage Tanks 0.100 DW**
 Location: Breakout 1010
 Speaker: Kevin Chapa
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM** **Lunch**
 Location: Gallatin
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **How to use DWES for a water emergency? 0.100 DW**
 Location: Boulder
 Speakers: Kim Newman, Jill Cohenour, Jim Keenan
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **Saving Money Using Line Stops, Hot Taps, Valve Insertions, and Pipe Freezing 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Stillwater
 Speaker: Duane McClanahan
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **Reading Between the Lines: Demystifying Project Manuals for Rural Water Projects 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Yellowstone
 Speaker: Chance Maes
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **What Does the New Narrative Nutrient Regulation Mean for Smaller Systems? 0.100 WW**
 Location: Gardiner
 Speaker: Scott Buecker
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **Corrosion Prevention for Ductile Iron Pipelines & DI Pipe, PCCP, HDPE, PVC, and FRP — A Comparative Narrative 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Bighorn
 Speaker: Jacob Lovin
- 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM** **Communicating through Today's Toughest Challenges: PFAS, Lead, and Fluoride 0.100 DW**
 Location: Breakout 1010
 Speaker: Mike McGill
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM** **Worden-Ballantine Water System Improvements 0.100 DW**
 Location: Stillwater
 Speakers: Tyler Burns, Crystal Eldridge, Sandy Kust
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM** **Operation, Applications, Troubleshooting and Maintenance of Automatic Control Valves 0.100 DW 0.100 WW**
 Location: Boulder
 Speaker: Jim Lugo
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM** **Evaluating Cloth Media Filtration for Achieving Ultra-Low Phosphorus Limits Case Studies and Insights 0.100 WW**
 Location: Gardiner
 Speaker: Josh Gable

