



The EffluentLine

Volume 55 | Number 3

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Photos from the 2024 NWEA golf outing and stream cleanup.

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

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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	
Joint Fall Conference	November 6-8, 2024
Snowball Conference	January 22-23, 2025
Great Plains Conference	April 16-17, 2025
Heartland Conference	July 17-18, 2025
Joint Fall Conference	November 5-7, 2025

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

<https://nebwea.org/training>

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	(402) 607-9470
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
George Hunt	(402) 554-4842
Jim Mahony	(515) 306-6000
Roger Protzman	(402) 844-3897
Jake Rink	(402) 951-2040
Leah Boudreau	(402) 742-7214
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

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer months. It has been a busy and productive quarter for the Nebraska Water Environment Association, and I am pleased to share some key updates and highlights with you.



Heartland Operators Conference Recap

The Heartland Conference, held on July 18-19 in Kearney, NE, was a tremendous success. We were thrilled to have 115 registrants and 36 vendors exhibiting at the event. The conference offered valuable insights and networking opportunities for all attendees. The social event on the evening of July 17 was a wonderful start, allowing participants to connect in a relaxed setting before diving into the conference sessions. A big thank you to the NWOC committee for planning and organizing the conference!

Upcoming Operator Training Opportunities

We are committed to providing ongoing education and training for our members. Please keep an eye on our website for information on upcoming operator training opportunities and registration. These sessions are designed to enhance your skills and keep you updated on the latest industry developments.

Constitution and Bylaws Update

On July 24th, ballots for updates to our constitution and bylaws were mailed to all NWEA members. Your participation in this process is crucial, and we encourage you to return your ballots by the deadline of August 23rd. These updates are vital to ensuring our organization remains effective and responsive to the needs of our members.

Code of Conduct Update

In alignment with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), NWEA has updated its code of conduct. The updated code is now posted on our website for your review. We believe these changes will help us maintain a professional and respectful environment for all members and participants in our events and activities.

Workforce Development Outreach

We are excited to share the success of the recent workforce development outreach event for high school teachers, hosted and organized by the University of Nebraska on July 29-30 in Lincoln. Twenty teachers attended the two-day event, which included a tour of the Olsson office and a dinner on the 29th. NWEA proudly supported this initiative and presented a check at the dinner to help fund the event. Additionally, we created a one-page NWEA information sheet that was distributed to the teachers, providing them with valuable resources and information about our organization.

We are also pleased to announce that we have submitted a grant application to WEF to further support this initiative and have received word that we have been awarded a \$6,000 grant. This funding will enable us to continue our efforts in workforce development and outreach, helping to build a stronger future for the water environment profession.

As we move forward, I encourage all members to stay engaged and involved with NWEA. Your participation and support are essential to our success.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to NWEA.

Sincerely,

BRITTANY TRAVERS

NWEA President

Effluent Line Transformation in 2025

To members and supporters of NWEA

The **Nebraska Water Environment Association** is pleased to announce a significant and exciting evolution in our industry-wide communication efforts.

Beginning with the first issue of 2025, we have made the decision to have Craig Kelman & Associates provide their professional publishing services to produce a significantly enhanced version of our important and valuable publication – *The Effluent Line*. In addition to transforming the printed edition, *The Effluent Line* will now have an exciting new eMagazine version as well. The online editions will feature advanced reader options, social media sharing, dedicated Apps for iPad, iPhone, Android, and much more.



Like NWEA, Kelman places a great deal of importance and pride in using environmentally conscious practices and materials, which was an important part of our decision making process.

We know that transitions can have their own sets of challenges, but we believe Kelman will significantly improve our publication through their years of experience in producing high-quality industry magazines for professional associations in a wide variety of industries, including our own.

From an industry knowledge perspective, Kelman is the proud publishing partner of more than 40 water industry organizations throughout North America.

For more information on our new publisher, please check out their video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpVPWWN4ENU>

We look forward to using our newly upgraded flagship publication to enhance the way we communicate, educate and inform, and hope our members see the value in using its pages to share their knowledge and experience by submitting valuable content through news and feature articles on timely topics. Our industry will be better for it.

For those of you wanting to use *The Effluent Line* to promote your products and services to our membership and beyond, you can connect with our *Effluent Line* marketing manager:

Jeff Kutny – jeff@kelman.ca - 866-985-9789

From the NWEA board and leadership, we hope that you take advantage of our enhanced magazine and use its pages to reach our members.

Constitution and Bylaws 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 were 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 were necessary to accomplish these goals. The following summarizes contents of the 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 attorney recommendations.

Feedback on the above changes was solicited from members and incorporated into the amendments. Ballots were mailed to the membership to vote on the acceptance of the updated Constitution and Bylaws.

The votes were received and counted. The results are as follows:

Constitution		Bylaws	
For:	105	For:	104
Against:	4	Against:	3

The following ballots were not counted:

- One without a signature
- 7 received after the due date

The new bylaws went in effect August 23, 2024.

Sincerely,

JEREMY WALKER
NWEA Secretary

NWEA Delegate Report

Beginning at WEFTEC 2024 in New Orleans, Lucas Billesbach will begin his 3-year term as Federation Delegate for NWEA. Our Federation Delegate is our direct link to WEF from our local member association. As Federation Delegate, Lucas will be a member of WEF's House of Delegates (HOD) and responsible for attending in person meetings annually at WEFTEC as well as one of the WEFMAX meetings. Lucas will also be participating in one or more of the HOD workgroups or committees that serve to further the initiatives of WEF. Acting as our liaison to the Federation, Lucas is your local contact to help represent our local issues on a national level and to report back to our member association of the activities occurring within WEF and other associations. To learn more about the HOD and Federation Delegate position, please visit www.wef.org/about/Governance/HOD/.



Lucas has been a member of NWEA since 2008. He has served as chair of the Great Plains committee, a member of the Scholarship committee and Program committee, a founding member of the Finance committee, and served the board positions completing his presidency in 2021.

In his day-to-day activities, Lucas has been a licensed professional engineer working in private consulting for over 19 years. He is a co-founder of Embris Group where he is currently working as one of its principals. Lucas is married to his wife Sarah and has three children, Quentin, Lucille, and Evita. Between coaching and watching youth sports, he enjoys golf, wake surfing, and time at the lake.

He has invited any member to contact him at lucasbillesbach@embrigroup.com or by phone at 402.319.5951.



WEF House of Delegates Announcement

Scott Aurit was nominated and approved by the WEF House of Delegates (HOD) to serve as the incoming speaker-elect starting at WEFTEC 2024 and will be the Speaker of the House starting at WEFTEC in 2025.

The HOD is the deliberative and representational body of WEF. It advises the WEF Board of Trustees on matters of strategic direction and public-policy development and has the authority to elect and remove Trustees as provided in the WEF Constitution and Bylaws. The HOD is composed of delegate representation from 75 member associations in the United States and other countries and includes over 120 members (member associates with greater than 500 members may have more than one delegate).

The speaker of the house is responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the HOD. The duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the House includes, serving as a member of the HOD Steering and WEFMAX Committees, organizing HOD standing committees (Nominating, Steering, WEFMAX, Communications, Advisory, and Budget), establishing work groups, creating agenda for all HOD meetings, serving as liaison to the Board of



Trustees, attending the WEF Mid-Year Meeting, attending Board of Trustees meetings, and attending at least two WEFMAX meetings. The speaker also works directly with the WEF Community Leadership Council (CLC) to maximize the interactions between the CLC and Member Associations.

Scott has been a member of NWEA since 2006 and has served as chair of the Great Plains Committee, Program Committee, and Collection Systems Committee. He helped found the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, and has participated in several other committees over the past 18 years, including the NWEA board serving as President in 2016. Scott serviced as a WEF Delegate at Large from 2017-2020 and then as NWEA's delegate from 2021-2024.

Scott is a licensed professional engineer with HDR in Omaha. He has four kids (JP, Rayne, Lizzie, and Andrew). The older three are in college (or will soon be) so he spends most of his time enjoying activities with Andrew including baseball, golf, basketball, tennis, swimming, and very competitive games of UNO during dinner.

If you would like to know more about opportunities to serve as a WEF Delegate at Large, participate in the CLC, or to know the strategic activities occurring within WEF, please reach out to me at scott.aurit@hdrinc.com.

SCOTT AURIT
Federation Delegate

WEF Nominating Committee Report - 2024

Nominating Committee Members:

- Ifetayo Venner, Immediate Past President, Chair
- Aimee Killeen, President
- Kalpna Solanki, Board of Trustees
- Mark Poling, House of Delegates (2nd year)
- Scott Aurit, House of Delegates (1st year)

The 2024 WEF Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following slate of candidates for review and confirmation by the House of Delegates at WEFTEC.

Recommended Slate of Candidates

Vice President, Paul Schuler (Oregon): With over thirty years of leadership in drinking water, wastewater, water reuse, and industrial water, Paul is a champion of the One Water concept and the shift to a circular water economy. As a senior vice president and strategic advisor at Carollo Engineers, Paul leverages his extensive experience from executive roles at leading water solutions providers to drive innovation, enhance client service, and boost company growth. A former Trustee of the Water Environment Federation and Past President of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association, he also serves as an elected board member of the West Slope Water District in his hometown of Portland.

Trustee, Walid Khoury (3-year term) (Dubai, UAE): Walid has 22 years of commercial and leadership experience in the Middle East and Africa, leading water divisions of Fortune 500 companies, primarily at General Electric and Danaher. Currently, he is the CEO and Founder of Desalytics, which provides water testing and treatment solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout his career, Walid has been a champion of diversity, with a focus on women in the water industry, promoting gender parity within his teams and beyond. A recognized speaker, thought leader, and content generator with a strong online presence and global network, Walid is invited to speak and moderate sessions across continents for the water industry. He is a co-founding member of the Water Positive Think Tank and serves on the Board's WEFTEC Advisory Committee.

Trustee, Brian Persing (3-year term) (Maryland): Brian is a licensed wastewater 5A operator and Plant Superintendent/ Division Manager at WSSC Water in Maryland, managing all aspects of a 30 MGD Water Resource Recovery Facility. He started out his career as a chemist in the manufacturing

and pharmaceutical industries before transitioning into a career in the water sector. Over the past 22 years he has worked in many aspects of the industry. His expertise spans NELAC-certified environmental laboratories to the operational management of water, wastewater, industrial water, and biosolids facilities, encompassing both contract operations and direct municipal employment. Brian is an active contributor to the field, currently holding the position of Second Vice Chair on the Water Environment Federation's Utility Management Community and as a member of the Water Leadership Institute Steering Committee.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE 2024 WEF
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

27th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 | IRON HORSE GOLF COURSE

The golf outing was a success again with 31 teams (tied 2023 for record participation), although 35 degrees cooler this year. It is great to see friends from Nebraska, Iowa, and the Kansas City area all joining together to support the scholarship fund. We witnessed Oscar Gomez just miss aing the 9th hole by a couple of feet. The rest of us “played it safe” throughout the round as not to lose too many golf balls. Thank you to Jamie Bausback for doing all the coordination on the brochure, registrations, contracting, and helping get the raffle prizes arranged over the past few months.

Several others helped execute the event including Emily Nguyen & Lee Dun (10th Hold Dice Game), Edie Spencer (Putting Green Game), and Heather Bernady. Aida Rashidi (UNL PHD Student) and Mahyar Mahdavi (UNL PHD Student) managed the “split the pot” hole. Aiden Trumble and Daryl Kottwitz managed the “double your money” hole. Daryl is also the official photographer of NWEA for the golf outing and conferences. A big thank you for all your help!!!

The split the pot (hole #5) raised \$525, which was divided between Dave Beyersdorf and the scholarship fund. The double your money (hole #15) raised \$335, and the putting

green challenge raised \$80 which was divided between John Smith and the scholarship fund. Finally, the new addition of “roll the dice” on the 10th hole raised \$625.

Thank you to the “Big Hitters” that contributed this year:

- Benesch
- Embris Group
- Electric Pump
- Engineered Equipment Solutions
- HDR
- Lamp Rynearson
- McCarthy
- Olsson
- SAK Construction
- Vessco, Inc.
- Wade Trim

Also thank you to those of you that donated prizes for the raffles! After all expenses were paid, a total of approximately \$4,300 was donated to the NWEA Scholarship fund.



27th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (Cont.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 | IRON HORSE GOLF COURSE

Congratulations to all the flag prize winners and the teams that won in each flight.

First Flight

- 1st place team (-18): Tyler Harm, Alex Carritt, Zach Lane, and Russel Westergaard
- 2nd place team (-16): Marcus Gilmore, Kerry Klausner, Keegan Bell, Jake Hansen

Second Flight

- 1st place team (-12): Ron Sova, Glenn Dostal, Brian Bakke, and Tony Bilek (won in a scorecard playoff)
- 2nd place team (-12): Trevor Houser, Ken Kempf, Sara Kempf, Tryan Kempf

Third Flight

- 1st place team (-8): Josh Dodson, Doug Whitfield, Ann Williams, Scott Aurit
- 2nd place team (-7): Randy Shotkoski, Jake McFarland, and Jake Stacey

Flag Prize Winners

1. Longest putt made from on the green - Nick Adams
2. Closest to the pin with 1st shot – Adam Wilmes
3. Closest to the pin with 2nd shot – Marcus Gilmore
4. Closest to the pin with 2nd shot – Jason Wesely
5. Dave Beyersdorf (Closest to the Pin)
6. Longest drive in the fairway (women) – Tessa Yackley
7. Longest putt made from on the green – Steve Helson
8. Closest to the pin with 3rd shot – Monty Habrock
9. Closest to the pin with 2nd shot – Brannon Borchers
10. Closest to the pin with 3rd shot – Trevor Houser
11. Closest to the pin with 1st shot – Blake Birkel
12. Longest drive in the fairway (men) – Josh Wilson
13. Longest putt made from on the green – Doug Whitfield

14. Closest to the pin with 2nd shot – Tom Sherman
15. Double Your Money Hole
16. Closest to the pin with 2nd shot - Caleb Williams (Caleb won this flag prize in 2023 as well)
17. Closest to the aiming pole with 1st shot – Sara Kempf
18. Longest drive in the fairway – Brent Adams

More Annual Scholarship Golf Outing photos can be found here: [NWEA Scholarship Golf Outing 2024 - Daryl Kottwitz Photography \(smugmug.com\)](https://www.nwea.org/Scholarship-Golf-Outing-2024-Daryl-Kottwitz-Photography-smugmug.com)

Student Volunteers

Aiden Trumble – Pursuing a BS degree in Environmental Engineering (with an emphasis on water/wastewater) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is planning to graduate in May 2025 and then pursue his master's degree full-time with the university or working for a consultant.

Aida Rashidi – Pursuing a PHD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with an expected graduation in 2028. Her research aims to enhance the predictability of industrial air emissions. Upon graduation, Aida wants to continue her work in industry, by developing innovative solutions that bridge the gap between environmental sustainability and industrial efficiency.

Mahyar Mahdavi – Pursuing a PHD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is currently performing research on air emissions on various projects in western Nebraska. Mahyar expects to graduate in August 2027 and then pursue a career in the industry as a sustainability consultant.

SCOTT AURIT and ANGIE ULLMAN



27th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (Cont.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 | IRON HORSE GOLF COURSE



2024 Heartland Operators Conference Recap

JULY 18-19, 2024 | KEARNEY, NE

The 2024 Heartland Operators Conference was held in Kearney, NE on Thursday, July 18th and Friday, July 19th. Our 38th annual conference was a great success thanks to the speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and especially the organizing team from the Nebraska Wastewater Operators Committee. A special thanks to Lauren Balleweg and Jamie Bausback for helping with registration!

The conference off on the right foot with an “ice-breaker” event on Wednesday evening, which provided food, drinks, and a great networking opportunity for those in attendance. Thank you to all the vendors who helped sponsor the event again. It’s becoming a great tradition, and we hope more conference attendees can make it next year.

On Thursday and Friday, a variety of subjects relevant to the operation and maintenance of water resource recovery facilities were presented to approximately 115 conference attendees. I would like to thank all the speakers who took their time to provide a presentation and helped make this conference a success. Feedback during the conference left no doubt that the speakers and topics were beneficial to all that attended.

This year, 21 different vendors set up shop in the expo hall, making themselves available to conference attendees to discuss projects, ideas, and solutions to issues occurring at our state’s WRRFs. I saw a lot of great interaction between exhibitors and conference attendees, so thank you to all our vendors!

Once again, NWEA provided a certification training and an exam at the conference, but with a little twist this year. Instead of the typical one-day refresher course on Thursday, Ryan Hurst and Mike McBride offered a full 3-day training class beginning on Tuesday, followed by the NDEE-proctored certification exam on Friday.

I look forward to the continued success of the Heartland Conference. It is made possible by all those who provide support, planning and their dedication to making this conference the best it can be, and I want to give a big thanks to them. If anyone is interested in wanting to get involved and help make a difference, please reach out! And if you have any ideas for future presentations, we would love to hear your ideas! The goal of the Heartland Conference is to

support Nebraska’s wastewater operators, so we want to provide content that is interesting and relevant to you.

For any additional information about the Heartland Conference or NWOC, feel free to contact me.

JOEL JIRAK

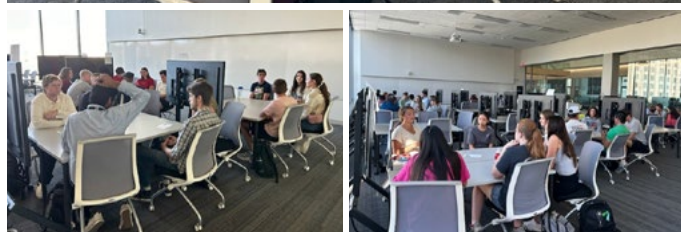
NWOC Committee Vice-Chair

Young Professionals Committee Activities

UNL Speed Networking

Approximately 48 UNL students participated in the UNL NWEA/AWWA Speed Networking event. This event is an engaging platform designed to bridge the gap between students and industry professionals, alumni, and potential employers. During the event, students engaged in a series of brief, timed conversations lasting 5 to 10 minutes each. These interactions provided valuable opportunities to discuss career aspirations, explore various industries, and gain insights into job opportunities.

The event was structured to maximize networking potential: students were divided into groups of five, while professionals rotated between groups. Each professional offered a concise overview of their company, their role, and their daily responsibilities. Organizations represented included HDR, Olsson, JEO, and the State of Nebraska. This format not only allowed students to build a network of meaningful contacts but also offered practical advice on career development and hands-on networking practice in a supportive setting.



World O! Water Omaha

NWEA members volunteered for Omaha's World O! Water event which promotes the important role of water in our lives to students and families. The NWEA Public Education committee and NWEA/NSAWWA Young Professionals committee hosted a Wastewater Jeopardy event in which attendees competed to answer trivia questions about wastewater and water sources. The YP committee also hosted a booth with an exhibition model to demonstrate patterns of flow and contaminants flow through groundwater.



Young Professionals Committee Activities (Cont.)

Keep Omaha Beautiful Stream Cleanup

The NWEA/NSAWWA hosted a volunteer-networking event for students and young professionals in the water industry. The group picked up 4 trash bags full of garbage surrounding the Elmwood Creek and was partnered with Keep Omaha Beautiful. A happy hour for networking followed the stream cleanup to celebrate the hard work.

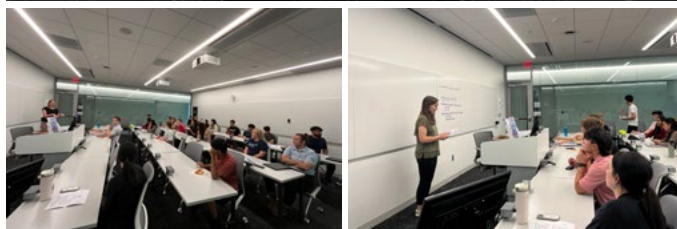
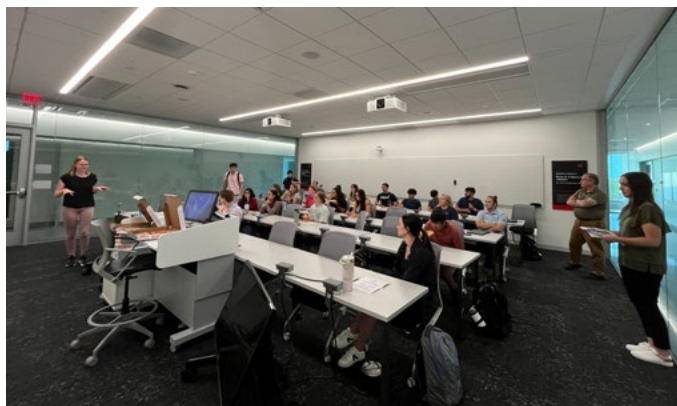


Q3 Professional Development Webinar

The NSAWWA/NWEA YP Committee hosted its 3rd quarterly webinar on September 4th with Dr. June Leng presenting on an introduction to disinfection systems. A group of 20 enthusiastic learners joined in for a lively and engaging discussion. Webinar participants explored the fundamentals of how disinfection works in both water and wastewater treatment systems. The team discussed the different technologies utilized in practice from both a design and operational perspective. The session concluded with some insights into the future trends that the field of disinfection is headed towards.

Career Fair Prep Night

In preparation for the upcoming career fair, the UNL NWEA/AWWA student chapter hosted a career fair prep event. Approximately 30 students attended, along with 5 NWEA/AWWA YPs from various organizations. The event began with a short presentation on general career fair expectations, how to talk to recruiters, and the application process for internships/full time jobs. Then, students broke into small groups with the YPs for further discussion. Students were able to ask questions and gain insights from the YPs' experiences. The event was designed to connect students with YPs who have recently navigated the career fair/job search process, and to increase the students' preparation and confidence level as they begin the process themselves.



Student Spotlight - Jacob Zambreno

Jacob Zambreno is a current junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. Jacob's passion for water resources and water quality trace back to his childhood, where he spent much of his free time camping and enjoying the outdoors. This upbringing sparked his interest in environmental engineering and ultimately led him to seek a degree in the field. His passion for water resources has guided his academic journey, shaping his classwork, involvement, and future career goals.



Throughout his time at UNL, Jacob has taken numerous classes to deepen his understanding of water resources. One of his favorite classes, Principles of Environmental Engineering, explored wastewater treatment, drinking water treatment, and other water resources related concepts. During this class, Jacob had the opportunity to design a theoretical wastewater treatment plant with a small group of other students for a town in Nebraska. This project served as a valuable experience for him to explore design principles and other important concepts of wastewater treatment. Other courses like Environmental Microbiology, Organic Chemistry, and Fluid Mechanics have further developed his knowledge and passion for water resources.

In his freshman year, Jacob's curiosity about future careers in the water resources industry led him to attend networking events, career development events, and panel discussions. These opportunities featured professionals from many different fields that shared valuable experiences and insight into the professional industry. Today, Jacob serves as the Vice President of the Nebraska Environmental Engineers- the student organization which plans and puts on these career development events. Nebraska Environmental Engineers serves as the student chapter of the NWEA and AWWA. This student organization coordinates with faculty, industry professionals, and students to organize and advertise

events which promote professional development. This year so far, the group has hosted networking events, a career fair preparation night, and student study sessions. Jacob's involvement in this organization has been instrumental in growing his professional development and career outlook.

Beyond his academic and professional involvement, Jacob serves as the Director of Academics for his fraternity. Through this role, he develops, implements, and enforces academic policies for the one-hundred-and-twenty-member organization. Jacob also collaborates with the rest of the executive team to coordinate volunteer and philanthropy events for the Lincoln Veterans Affairs Clinic and JDRF, a nonprofit diabetes research organization.

While Jacob pursues on with his educational journey, he continues to explore professional opportunities and his career goals. After graduation, he aims to make meaningful impacts in the water resources field through engineering consulting or working in the public sector. In the meantime, he hopes to apply engineering concepts and gain practical experience through an internship or other professional opportunity this coming summer. He looks forward to career opportunities in the water resources field and pursuing his passion in environmental engineering.

Omaha Combined Sewer Overflow Program

Tom Heinemann, Program Manager, Jacobs Engineering & Jim Theiler, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Omaha

The City of Omaha Public Works Department owns and operates a regional wastewater collection and treatment system that serves the City of Omaha (City) and a number of surrounding communities in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Omaha is one of over 800 communities across the nation with a permit to operate a combined sewer system, where the storm and sanitary flows are combined in the same pipe. This area generally lies to the east of 72nd Street and includes the portions of the City that existed before the 1950s, when separate sanitary sewers began to be constructed.

Beginning in the 1980s, Omaha's work on the combined system focused primarily on capital projects geared toward reducing basement backups and street flooding in the area served by the combined sewer system. Those projects went a long way in helping to reduce the potential for human exposure to combined sewage. However, this early work did not substantially reduce the amount of sewage that enters the receiving streams during wet weather events. The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy of the Clean Water Act, codified into law in the early 2000s, defined the requirements that communities would need to meet to continue to operate a permitted combined sewer system. The policy set forth rules that required permitted systems to significantly reduce the frequency, magnitude, and duration of combined sewer overflows to the receiving streams. **Knowing that meeting this requirement was going to be the largest and mostly costly program the Public Works Department had ever undertaken, a decision was made to use the knowledge, expertise, and committed staffing of an outside consultant team to help the City meet this challenge.**

The Omaha CSO Program began in 2006 when the Program Management Team (PMT) was hired by the City to create a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) for reducing the impact of CSOs on the Missouri River and Papillion Creek tributaries. The City, PMT, and several "basin consultant" firms completed the LTCP in 2009, and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), formerly known as the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, approved it in early 2010. The LTCP outlined 92 projects that would achieve a stringent level of control of no more than four CSOs in the representative year of precipitation. The



Aerial view of wetland and wet detention basin in Adams Park for separated stormwater.

estimated cost was \$1.662 billion in 2009 dollars. The last planned control in the LTCP was a deep tunnel system that would be constructed along the Missouri River for 5.6 miles at a depth of approximately 170 feet, conveying wet weather flows to a high-rate treatment facility to be constructed at the Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility.

In 2007, the City entered into an Administrative Consent Order with NDEE that required implementation of all of the LTCP controls by October 2024. An Administrative Order offered the City more flexibility than a federal Consent Decree, which many other CSO communities were required to comply with.

The 2009 LTCP was updated by the City and PMT in 2014 and again in 2021. The 2021 LTCP Update reflected the results of a 2-year optimization effort, resulting in significant changes to the planned LTCP projects. The deep tunnel system was replaced with a 185-million-gallons-per-day (mgd) high-rate treatment basin (HRTB) located north of downtown and a 5.5-million-gallon storage tank located south of downtown. **These changes reduced the total escalated estimated cost of the CSO Program from \$2.4 billion to \$2.0 billion.** The optimization effort reflected an evolution in the planned level of compliance from more conservative (fewer than 4 CSOs per year) to less conservative (85% volume capture), made possible by experience on the Program, a more detailed collection system model, and the development of a detailed water quality model of the Missouri River.

Omaha Combined Sewer Overflow Program (Cont.)

Since implementation of LTCP projects began in 2009, significant progress has been made. Key accomplishments, in addition to the optimization effort and LTCP updates, include the following:

- **Adaptive Management:** The original 92 LTCP projects have been either combined, pooled, eliminated, or optimized to 55 LTCP projects, implemented through 80 individual construction contracts.
- **Project Status:** Of the 55 LTCP projects, 34 have been completed, 14 are in active design or construction, and 7 have not yet started (with 2 active control projects starting soon).
- **Cost Reduction:** The current total estimated cost of the CSO Program is more than 15% lower than the original estimate.
- **Amended Consent Order:** The Consent Order, originally negotiated in 2007, has been amended multiple times. The first amendment changed the completion year from 2024 to 2027 because of the impacts of the 2011 Missouri River flood on the progress of several projects. A later amendment changed the completion year from 2027 to 2037 in consideration of other infrastructure needs of the City and to allow a more sequential approach to be followed for remaining CSO projects.
- **Positive Relationships:** The City and PMT have maintained a positive, constructive relationship with NDEE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Financial Investment:** Over \$1 billion has been spent or encumbered by the City for the CSO Program.
- **Support for Small Businesses:** Significant contracts have been awarded to small and emerging small businesses (SEBs). For example, from 2018 through 2022 alone, \$8 million in contracts were awarded to SEBs.
- **Public Perception:** The CSO Program has been conducted under three mayors and has maintained an overall positive perception with the general public and other stakeholders.
- **Volume Capture:** The volume capture has increased to approximately 70% in the Missouri River watershed, and over 85% in the Papillion Creek watershed. When the CSO Program is completed, the Program's water quality model indicates that the Missouri River will comply with water quality standards for bacteria downstream from Omaha.

Since the beginning of the CSO Program, the City had envisioned a transition from consultant management to City management. In 2021, the City initiated this transition. Over a 2-year period, the PMT gradually reduced its involvement until October 2023, when City staff successfully assumed full management. **The City now has until 2037 to complete the CSO Program, while also executing other significant improvements to the treatment and collection system.** Many procedures and protocols developed during the CSO Program have been adopted across the Public Works Department.

Currently, the design and construction of remaining CSO projects continue, such as construction of the Forest Lawn Creek Inflow Removal and Outfall Storm Sewer Project and design of the South Barrel Conversion and Sewer Separation Project. Notably, work has recently begun on one of the major remaining controls, the Northeast Omaha High-Rate Treatment Basin and associated projects. The HRTB is envisioned to treat up to 185 mgd of wet weather flow, received from the northern part of the combined sewer system that the Omaha community refers to as the Minne Lusa and Burt IZard Basins. Under a separate design contract, a real-time controls decision support system (RTC DSS) will be developed to maximize wet weather flows to the HRTB and enhance the City's operation of the collection system using sensors, visualization, and collection system controls, starting with the Minne Lusa Basin. The RTC DSS project includes the design of two LTCP projects. The final remaining CSO control project, the Leavenworth Storage Basin, is planned to begin design in 2027.

The City, with the help of the PMT and numerous design consultants and contractors, has thus far met the challenges set by NDEE in 2005 to develop an implementable schedule for controlling CSOs. It is expected that the City will continue to meet those challenges as it moves toward completion in 2037.

The authors find their work on the CSO Program to be extremely rewarding and have made the following comments:

- **Tom Heinemann:** "Definitely the highlight of my career. I, along with several others on the PMT who have worked on the Program, view the work as more than just a job. We are personally committed to it. I am very proud of what has been accomplished for the citizens of Omaha and the environment, and I am grateful for the

Omaha Combined Sewer Overflow Program (Cont.)

opportunity to work for the dedicated members of City staff, such as Jim Theiler. The consistency in leadership by Jim, Public Works Director Bob Stubbe, and others has been essential to the success of the CSO Program.”

- **Jim Theiler:** “Working on the CSO Program has been extremely challenging, with many difficult situations managed along the way. None of this could have been accomplished without a team of dedicated staff from the City and our consultants. The level of dedication and commitment throughout, in particular by the core team that included Tom, Pat Nelson, Perrin Niemann, Scott Aurit, and Roger Coffey, helped to ensure the successful planning and implementation of the largest public works program ever undertaken by the City.”



Aerial view of wet weather chlorine contact basin under construction at the MRWRRF, CSO 102.



On June 14, 2018 the EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, visited Omaha with the stated purpose of celebrating what had been accomplished on the CSO Program. This photo was taken at the MRWRRF with the new wet weather chlorine contact basin under construction and the Missouri River in the background. From left to right are Jim Theiler, Adam Wilmes, Kent Bienlien, Scott Pruitt, Mike Arends, Tom Heinemann, Scott Aurit, Jim Macy (NDEE Director) and Pat Nelson.

What Is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are integral to the mission of WEF. We believe that creating an inclusive and equitable organization is vital to ensuring that the diverse perspectives of our members are valued, respected, and considered. WEF believes that enhancing diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ability status, accent, socioeconomic status, cultural heritage and religion, parental status, marital status, personality type, political perspective, job classification, and all other characteristics of diversity allow us to better serve our members and the diverse water workforce.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not mutually exclusive and the success of one is dependent on the other two. For instance, diversity without inclusion can result in tokenism and inclusion cannot truly exist without diversity because those who are not present cannot be included. At the same time, equity is necessary to ensure the best outcomes from diversity and inclusion efforts. Therefore, these three definitions are intentionally connected.



The 15 dynamic water professionals serving on the subcommittee represent the diverse perspectives and experiences that we hope to see more of within WEF and the water sector as a whole.

DIVERSITY

Diversity encompasses the varying experiences, strengths, skills, perspectives, personal characteristics, cultures, and backgrounds represented by and within the WEF community.

EQUITY

A commitment to equity means an environment where everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential, and no-one is disadvantaged because of their group identity or other socially determined circumstance.

INCLUSION

The act of inclusion embraces and celebrates the perspectives, voices, values, and needs of each individual to generate a culture where all feel heard, respected, valued, and included in the broader WEF purpose.

[Click to View WEF's Commitment to DE&I](#)

WEF's Board of Trustees has established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to provide guidance on our programs, communications, and membership. In 2020, WEF hired The Silverene Group to work with the subcommittee to develop a strategic plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Link: <https://www.wef.org/dei>

The Benefits Of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion In Workforce Development

Against the backdrop of the WEF's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organization, our industry is facing a number of significant challenges in workforce development.

1. Aging Workforce

A phenomenon known as the "silver tide" of retirements is reducing the number of employees and the size of the pool from which to hire replacements. Even more compelling, workers in this sector tend to be older with a median age of 42.8 years as compared to the national median of 42.2 years.

2. A Lack Of Diversity

In 2016, 85 percent of the workers were male and two thirds were white. This combined with rigidity in prevailing hiring procedures, and lack of training programs leads to difficulties in reaching out to different types of workers.

What Is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion? (Cont.)

3. Challenge of Retention

Workers tend to migrate to areas of the country with a lower cost of living.

These are clear indications of the need for a new talent pipeline, one that values the diverse perspectives of our work force and is representative of the communities that we serve.

The Water Industry Has Opportunities

The water work force includes nearly 1.7 million people involved in designing, constructing, operating, and governing the US water infrastructure. While operators, electricians, and plumbers rank the largest occupations overall. There are also workers involved in administration, finance, and management. Utilization of the diversity, equity and inclusion toolkit components will expand the pool of available resources and promote job satisfaction. Make no

mistake, consideration of a career in water requires outreach, recruitment, hiring and training efforts but we have significant benefits on the offer:

- 53% of water workers have a high school diploma or less.
- Many water occupations require extensive on-the-job training and familiarity with a variety of tools and technologies.
- Water occupations tend to pay more on average.
- Water occupations also pay up to 50 percent more to workers at lower ends of the income scale.
- The water industry is community based—we can't outsource the work... and can't import the workforce. Given this community connection, water utilities should be representative of the community in their workforce.



Learn more about career opportunities at Work for Water

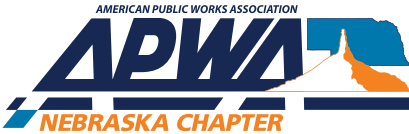
[Click to Learn More](#)

Link: <https://www.workforwater.org/>

2024

2024 Fall Conference

November 6-8, 2024



Nebraska
Water
Environment
Association



Younes

CONFERENCE CENTER

Kearney, Nebraska

13th ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT



Presented by:
NSAWWA/NWEA Young Professionals Committee

To Benefit:



water for people

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Location: Younes Conference Center (*Diamond 2 & 3*)
(Following the Banquet, 8:30 pm to Midnight)

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$150

3rd Place: \$100

4th Place: \$50

5th Place: \$25

Plus Consolation Prizes!

3 Raffle prizes will be awarded during the tournament!

Suggested Tournament Donation: \$20

Make checks payable to NWEA

Walk in night of the event to play!

To Sign-Up to Volunteer as a Dealer Please Contact:

Kaden Ellis

Email: Kaden.Ellis@otcindustrial.com

Phone: 816.525.3320



2024 Joint Fall Conference

On behalf of American Public Works Association (APWA), Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (NSAWWA), Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA), and Nebraska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NE SWANA), welcome to Kearney and the 2024 Joint Fall Conference! Because of the efforts of individuals in these organizations over the past year we have a full program of activities and presentations for you.

Once again this year, the Joint Fall Conference program is available in a Conference App, accessible through the QR Code and link on the following page. Of course, you can always plan your conference with this year's Conference Brochure. From the various breakfast activities to the conference presentations, luncheon talks, NSAWWA Water Tasting Contest and Top Ops Competition, banquets and social hours, we hope you find many great opportunities to meet with fellow professionals and learn from the many presentations. In addition to the daytime programs and activities, you are invited to participate in the 13th Annual Texas Hold'em Poker tournament on Wednesday night after the evening banquets. The tournament will begin at approximately 8:30 pm in the Younes Conference Center and this year benefits the Water for People non-profit organization.

Please stop by the exhibit hall and meet the many vendors who help make this conference possible. The vendors will be available all day to meet each of you and discuss the many ways they can help you in your everyday work activities.

If you would like more information on how to get involved in any of the organizations, please talk to the organizations officers or committee members. Their information is included in this brochure.

The Joint Fall Conference Planning Committee hopes that you enjoy this year's conference, travel safely home and have a Great Holiday Season.

NWEA – Conference Lead

Blake Birkel

APWA

Clayton Engelman and Mitch Dohrt

NSAWWA

Ryan Hurst

NE SWANA

Morgan Sykes and Michael Miller





Calendar of Conference Activities



Tuesday, November 5 - PM

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1:00 - 4:00 | APWA Pre-Conference: Inclusive Workplace Strategies for Diverse Teams and Ethics 101 Workshop
(Diamond 6) |
| 3:00 - 5:00 | NWEA Board Meeting
(Ruby 7) |
| 6:30 PM | NSAWWA Board Dignitary Dinner |

Wednesday, November 6 - AM *(7:30 Registration)*

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7:00 - 8:00 | APWA Past Presidents Breakfast |
| 11:30 - 5:15 | NE SWANA Tours and Lunch |

Wednesday, November 6 - PM

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 12:00 - 1:30 | Joint APWA/NWEA Luncheon
(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10) |
| 1:00 - 2:30 | NSAWWA NeWARN Meeting
(Ruby 7) |
| 1:30 - 3:30 | NWEA Annual Business Meeting
(Diamond 8) |
| 1:30 - 4:00 | Vendor Extravaganza
(Crystal Ballroom) |
| 3:30 - 4:30 | NWEA Committee Chair Workshop
(Diamond 8) |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | APWA Chapter Business Meeting
(Diamond 1) |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Pre-Treatment/Industrial Committee Meeting
(Ruby 7) |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | APWA Banquet
(Diamond 10) |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | NWEA Banquet
(Diamond 4 & 5) |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | NE SWANA Banquet
(Diamond 9) |
| 8:30 PM to Midnight | 13th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament
(Diamond 2 & 3) |



Calendar of Conference Activities

Thursday, November 7 - AM (7:30 Registration)

7:00 - 8:00	Women in Water Breakfast (Diamond 9)
7:00 - 8:00	NWEA 5S Breakfast (Ruby 7)
7:30 - 8:30	NSAWWA Past Presidents Breakfast (Ruby 6)
8:30 - 9:15	NE SWANA Cornhusker Chapter Business Meeting (Diamond 6)
10:00 - 12:00	NWEA Executive Board Meeting (Ruby 7)

Thursday, November 7 - PM

12:00 - 1:30	Joint NSAWWA, NWEA, NE SWANA Luncheon (Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)
1:30 - 4:00	NSAWWA Annual Business and Board Meeting (Ruby 6)
4:00 - 4:30	Drinking Water Tasting Contest (Crystal Ballroom)
4:30 - 6:00	Top Ops Competition (Crystal Ballroom)
6:00 - 8:00	NSAWWA Banquet (Diamond 7, 8, & 9)

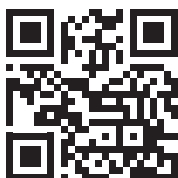
Continuing Education Hours

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 **expo** **PASS**

Scan the QR codes to download our Conference App.



<http://expopass.io/android>



GET IT ON
Google Play



<http://expopass.io/ios>



Download on the
App Store

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 (Pre-Conference)

Inclusive Workplace Strategies for Diverse Teams and Ethics 101 Workshop

Hosted by APWA (Diamond 6)

This workshop is provided by APWA in partnership with Romulo Vega and the Business Ethics Alliance.

- What makes a workplace truly feel inclusive? Join Romulo “RJ” Vega, from the City of Lincoln - Human Resources, for an interactive conversation where we explore different strategies and approaches to help cultivate a culture of inclusion and belonging for all team members. Be prepared to share some of your experiences and perspectives as we also learn about strategies that have been successful in different urban and rural communities across Nebraska.
- The mission of Business Ethics Alliance is to build leaders, strengthen organizations, and elevate work groups through positive, practical business ethics education. This interactive discussion will help YOU think about ways to make your organization and community a more ethical space to conduct business and will help you transform your business practices and working environments using sound business ethics principles.

When: Tuesday, November 5th, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Break at 2:30)

Limited to the First 60 Registrants

PDH/CEU Hours: 3.0

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

7:00 - 8:00	APWA Past Presidents Breakfast (<i>The Lodge Restaurant</i>)
7:30	Registration

All APWA Sessions are in Diamond 1*

**Unless Otherwise Noted*

8:00 - 8:40	Using Drones for Asset Management and Condition Assessments Bret Tremblay, Benesch
8:40 - 9:20	Culvert Rehabilitation Methods Lindy Rogers, Houston Engineering
9:20 - 10:00	EconH2O for Capital Improvement Plan Prioritization Austin Guimond, Derek Gardels, and Naisargi Dave, HDR

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 *(Continued)*

10:00 - 10:30 ***Break and Tour Exhibits*** *(Crystal Ballroom)*

10:30 - 11:15 **Standardizing Lincoln's Integrated E-Construction (SLIC)**
Marc Rosso, City of Lincoln
Lonnie Burklund, JEO

11:15 - 12:00 **How to Communicate with Boards and Councils**
Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol & Associates

12:00 - 1:30 ***Joint APWA/NWEA Luncheon*** *(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)*
Corey Williams, WEF Board of Trustees Member
Laura Kroeger, APWA Technical Director

1:30 - 2:30 **Pavement Condition Rating Programs – Panel Discussion**
Austin Rowser, Omaha (PASER)
Thomas Shafer, Lincoln (PCI)
Todd Pfitzer, Douglas County (PCI)
Walter Moy, NDOT (NSI)

2:30 - 3:00 ***Break and Tour Exhibits*** *(Crystal Ballroom)*

3:00 - 3:40 **NDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**
Kimberly Baker, NDOT

3:40 - 4:10 **Copper Creek Sewer Interceptor Relocation Project for City of Omaha**
Erica Mullen & Tyler Wynn, Benesch

4:10 - 4:30 **Omaha Streetcar Project Update**
Austin Rowser, City of Omaha

4:30 - 5:00 ***APWA Chapter Business Meeting*** *(Diamond 1)*

5:00 - 6:00 ***Social Hour and Tour Exhibits*** *(Crystal Ballroom)*

6:00 - 8:00 ***APWA Banquet*** *(Diamond 10)*

8:30 PM – Midnight ***13th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament***
(Younes Conference Center Diamond 2 & 3)



Nebraska Water Environment Association

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

3:00 - 5:00 | **NWEA Executive Board Meeting** (Ruby 7)

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

7:30 - 8:30 | **Registration**

Opening Session - Regulatory Updates and Digital Transformations (Diamond 6 & 7)

8:30 - 9:00 | **WEF Updates**
Corey Williams, WEF Board of Trustees Member

9:00 - 9:30 | **NDEE Updates**
Andrew Dunkley, NDEE

9:30 - 10:00 | **Digital Transformation - What is it and How Do I Begin?**
Shawn Dent, Carollo Engineers

10:00 - 10:30 | **Break and Tour Exhibits** (Crystal Ballroom)

A

Morning Session A
(Diamond 6 & 7)

10:30 - 11:00 | **Proposed Revisions to EPA Effluent limitation Guidelines for Meat and Poultry Processors**
Kim Dirks, Tyson Foods, Inc.

11:00 - 11:30 | **Field-Proven Industrial WW Technologies to Meet Stringent Effluent Nutrient Discharge and Reuse Standards**
Tony Freed, Ovivo Industrial Solutions

11:30 - 12:00 | **Creating a Municipal Fats, Oils & Grease Program**
Samuel Mcleod, BMP Compliance Group

B

Morning Session B
(Diamond 8)

10:30 - 11:00 | **Panel Discussion: Project Hydraulics - Going with the flow (and determining what that is...)**
Rick Bogus, City of Columbus
Darren Jack, HDR
Chris Koenig, HDR



Nebraska Water Environment Association

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 *(Continued)*

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 11:00 - 11:30 | CIPP Considerations from a Contractors Perspective
Eric Huss , Olsson |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | The Dodge Street Sewer Collapse: An Emergency Repair Story
Weston Engel , Carollo Engineers |

12:00 - 1:30	<i>Joint APWA/NWEA Luncheon</i> <i>(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)</i> Corey Williams , WEF Board of Trustees Member Laura Kroeger , APWA Technical Director
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A

Afternoon Session A

(Diamond 6 & 7)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1:30 - 2:00 | Fire Protection & Life Safety in Wastewater Treatment Facilities
Michael Shumpert , HDR |
| 2:00 - 2:30 | Root Cause Analysis for Asset Management
Jennifer Morales , City of Omaha |
| 2:30 - 3:00 | Bio Scrubber - Performance Optimization for Class A Volume Reduction and Pre-treatment for PFAS Destruction
Rick Treleven , BCR Environmental Inc. |

B

Afternoon Session B

(Diamond 8)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1:00 - 2:30 | NeWARN Meeting <i>(Ruby 7)</i> |
| 1:30 - 3:00 | NWEA Annual Business Meeting |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | Break and Tour Exhibits <i>(Crystal Ballroom)</i> |

A

Afternoon Session A

(Diamond 6 & 7)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3:30 - 4:00 | Backup Systems for Critical Pumping Application
Brian Gongol , DJ Gongol & Associates |
| 4:00 - 4:30 | The Nine Villains of Cybersecurity
Brian Gongol , DJ Gongol & Associates |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Leveraging Decision-Making Tools to Implement Dynamic Planning
Eric Harold , Carollo Engineers |



Nebraska Water Environment Association

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 *(Continued)*

B

Afternoon Session B

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3:30 - 4:30 | NWEA Committee Chair Workshop (Diamond 8) |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | NWEA Pretreatment/Industrial Waste Committee Meeting
(Ruby 7) |

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1:30 - 4:00 | Vendor Extravaganza Exhibit Hall Booths
<i>(Crystal Ballroom)</i> |
| 5:00 - 6:00 | Social Hour and Tour Exhibits <i>(Crystal Ballroom)</i> |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | NWEA Banquet <i>(Diamond 4 & 5)</i> |
| 8:30 PM -
Midnight | 13th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament
<i>(Younes Conference Center Diamond 2 & 3)</i> |

Thursday, November 7, 2024

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 7:00 - 8:00 | Women in Water Breakfast (Diamond 9) |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | NWEA 5S Breakfast (Ruby 7) |

A

Morning Session A

(Diamond 7)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Creative Hyperboloid Mixing and Aeration Design for Process Efficiency
<i>Jackie Lauer, INVENT Environmental Technologies</i> |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Dissolved Air Flotation: Design and Operations
<i>Alex Passini, AWC Water Solutions</i> |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | Adventures in WWTF Improvements for Fairbury, NE
<i>Craig Reinsch, Olsson</i> |

B

Morning Session B

(Diamond 8)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | The ABC's of MV VFD's
<i>Kevin Thernes, HDR</i> |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Selecting the Correct Blower for your WWT Application
<i>Charlie Frost, Atlas Corporation</i> |



Nebraska Water Environment Association

Thursday, November 7, 2024 *(Continued)*

B

Morning Session B *(Continued)*

(Diamond 8)

9:30 - 10:00 | **The Ultimate One Water Pollutants**
Patrick Young, HDR

10:00 - 10:30 | **Break and Tour Exhibits** *(Crystal Ballroom)*

10:00 - 12:00 | **NWEA Executive Board Meeting** *(Ruby 7)*

A

Morning Session A

(Diamond 7)

10:30 - 11:00 | **USEPA Updates**
Jeffery Robichaud, USEPA Region 7

11:00 - 11:30 | **From Design to Reality: Successful Start-up and Commissioning Strategies for WRRF's**
Zach Schulz & Trevor Breeling, JEO Consulting Group

11:30 - 12:00 | **Achieving Concrete Success in Pre-Construction and Construction for Treatment Facilities**
Zach Ciurczak & Steve Toney, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

B

Morning Session B

(Diamond 8)

10:30 - 11:00 | **Lessons Learned in Rate-Setting for Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency**
Mark Penny, Carollo Engineers

11:00 - 11:30 | **Rooted in Practice: Celebrating Existing DE&I Efforts**
Garrett Lane, City of Papillion

11:30 - 12:00 | **Panel Discussion: How DE&I is Impacting Workplace Policies**
Kylie Wilmes, Embris
Scott Aurit, HDR
Dane Simonsen, JEO Consulting Group

12:00 - 1:30 | **Joint NSAWWA/NWEA/NE SWANA Luncheon**
(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)
Topic: AWWA Delegate/SWANA Rep Messages
Ken Lykens, AWWA Chair, Water Utility Council
John Keith, NSAWWA Chair

1:30 | **Adjourn**



American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 (Pre-Conference)

1:00 - 2:30 | **NeWARN Meeting** (Ruby 7)

8:30 PM -
Midnight | **13th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament**
(Younes Conference Center Diamond 2 & 3)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

7:30 - 8:30 | **NSAWWA Past Presidents Breakfast**
(Ruby 6)

7:30 - 8:30 | **Registration**

8:30 - 8:40 | **Opening Remarks** (Diamond 2 & 3)
John Kieth, NSAWWA Chair

8:40 - 9:00 | **Keynote address**
(Diamond 2 & 3)
Ken Lykens, AWWA Chair, Water Utility Council

9:00 - 10:00 | **Drinking Water Updates**
(Diamond 2 & 3)
Laura Johnson, Drinking Water Division Administrator
NDEE

10:00 - 10:30 | **Break and Tour Exhibits** (Crystal Ballroom)

A

Morning Session A

(Diamond 1)

10:30 - 11:00 | **Making the Switch: Chloramine vs Free Chlorine Residuals**
Aaron Beaclair, JEO

11:00 - 11:30 | **Omana MUD Digital Twin Modeling**
Scott Humphrey, HDR

11:30 - 12:00 | **Pipeline Lifecycle Cost Analysis and the ENVISION
Rating System**
John Simpson, McWane Ductile



American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

Thursday, November 7, 2024 *(Continued)*

B

Morning Session B

(Diamond 2)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:30 - 11:15 | PFAS Treatment Design in a Challenging and Changing Regulatory Environment
<i>Angel Lowery, Olsson</i> |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | Benefits of Gravity Filtration
<i>Todd Etherington, AWC Water Solutions</i> |

C

Morning Session C

(Diamond 3)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:30 - 11:15 | Identifying Strategies for Increasing the Presence of Young Professionals in the Water Industry
<i>Nicole Martindale, HDR</i> |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | Doing More With Less: How Water Utilities Can Borrow Ideas from Great Companies
<i>Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol & Associates</i> |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 12:00 - 1:30 | <i>Joint NSAWWA/NWEA/NE SWANA Luncheon</i>
<i>(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)</i>
<i>Topic: AWWA Delegate/SWANA Rep Messages</i>
<i>Ken Lykens, AWWA Chair, Water Utility Council</i>
<i>John Keith, NSAWWA Chair</i> |
|--------------|---|

A

Afternoon Session A

(Ruby 6)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1:30 - 4:00 | <i>NSAWWA Annual Business and Board Meeting</i> |
|-------------|--|

B

Afternoon Session B - Backflow

(Diamond 2)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1:30 - 2:30 | Cross Connection Review
<i>Greg Brekel, NDEE</i> |
| 2:30 - 3:00 | <i>Break and Tour Exhibits (Crystal Ballroom)</i> |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | Effective Cross Connection Program
<i>James Bewley, MUD</i> |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | City of Norfolk Backflow Program
<i>Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk</i> |



American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

Thursday, November 7, 2024 *(Continued)*

C

Afternoon Session C

(Diamond 3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1:30 - 2:00 | Seward Water Tower
Brandon Koll, City of Seward |
| 2:00 - 2:30 | Managing Antennas with Water Towers
Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron Inc |
| 2:30 - 3:00 <i>Break and Tour Exhibits (Crystal Ballroom)</i> | |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | Lincoln Water 2.0 - Construction Manager at Risk Collector Wells
John Gilroy, Black & Veatch |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | Lincoln Water 2.0 - Ashland WTF Upgrades
Tim Malcolm, Black & Veatch |

Special Events

(Children's Poster Contest, Voting closes at 5:00 pm)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4:00 - 4:30 | Drinking Water Tasting Contest (Crystal Ballroom)
Mary Poe, NDEE |
| 4:30 - 6:00 | Top Ops Competition (Crystal Ballroom)
Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol & Associates, Inc. |
| 5:00 - 6:00 <i>Social Hour and Tour Exhibits (Crystal Ballroom)</i> | |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | NSAWWA Banquet (Diamond 7, 8, & 9)
Speaker: Ken Lykens , AWWA Chair, Water Utility Council
Presentation of Fuller Award |



American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

Friday, November 8, 2024

A

Morning Session A

(Diamond 1)

8:30 - 9:00

MUD Water Main Replacement Program

Evan Martin, MUD

9:00 - 10:00

Lead Service Line Replacement Plans and DWSRF Funding

Steve McNulty & Jennier Deroche, NDEE

Jamie Royer, City of Grand Island

Marty Strange & Branden Lubken, City of Hastings

Mike Kamler, City of Kearney

B

Morning Session B - Backflow

(Diamond 2)

8:30 - 9:00

ABPA Membership

James Bewley, MUD

9:00 - 9:30

Fire Protection/Ice Machines and Misc,

James Bewley, MUD

9:30 - 10:00

Licensing

Greg Berkel, NDEE

C

Morning Session C

(Diamond 3)

8:30 - 9:30

Pressure Filter Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Eric Lawrence, Vessco

9:30 - 10:00

Fire Hydrant and Gate Valve Preventative Maintenance

Michael Callahan, Mueller

10:00 - 10:30

Break and Tour Exhibits (Crystal Ballroom)



American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

Friday, November 8, 2024 *(Continued)*

D

Morning Session D

(Diamond 1)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Lower Utility Pumping Costs by Utilization of Proper Pipeline Materials
John Simpson, McWane Ductile |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | HDPE Water Modeling and Design
Emily Hovda Walton, MUD |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | Other Secret Service
Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol & Associates |

E

Morning Session E

(Diamond 2)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:30 - 11:00 | How to Deater Water Plant Sludge Using Dewatering Containers
Teresa Johnston, Park Process |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Pointe Vista (OK) WTP Pilot Approach and Results
Nolan Groff & Craig Reinsch, Olsson |

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

11:00 - 1:00 | **Registration**

11:30 - 5:15 | **Tours and Lunch**

5:00 - 6:00 | **Social Hour and Tour Exhibits** (Crystal Ballroom)

6:00 - 8:00 | **NE SWANA Banquet** (Diamond 9)

8:30 PM - Midnight | **12th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament**
(Younes Conference Center Diamond 2 & 3)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

(Note: All NE SWANA Sessions are in Diamond 6)

7:30 - 8:00 | **Registration**

8:00 - 8:30 | **Vendor Spotlight**

8:30 - 9:15 | **NE SWANA Cornhusker Chapter Business Meeting**
Speakers: NE SWANA Board

9:15 - 10:00 | **Lithium Ion and Other Batteries**
George Kerchner, Executive Director of the Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA)
Carin Stuart, Steward Relations Manager with Call2Recycle
Kirk Sander, Sr. VP, Chief Safety and Standards for the National Waste & Recycling Association

10:00 - 10:30 | **Break and Tour Exhibits** (Crystal Ballroom)

10:30 - 11:15 | **Did I Do That? Groundwater Compliance and Alternative Source Demonstrations**
Richard Wilson, HDR

11:15 - 12:00 | **Succession Planning Roadmap**
Garrett Williams, HDR

Thursday, November 7, 2024 (Continued)

(Note: All NE SWANA Sessions are in Diamond 6)

12:00 - 1:30

Joint NSAWWA/NWEA/NE SWANA Luncheon
(Diamond 4, 5, 9, & 10)

Topic: AWWA Delegate/SWANA Rep Messages

Ken Lykens, AWWA Chair, Water Utility Council

John Keith, NSAWWA Chair

Jeff Selden, NE SWANA Vice President

Lori Calub, NE SWANA Advisory Board Delegate

1:30 - 2:15

Solid Waste Management - Update on the LR163 Interim Study Report; Nebraska Recycling Council's Strategic Planning; and the Latest on Vape and E-Cig Handling and Disposal

Kent Holm, Douglas County

2:15 - 3:00

Alaska Leak Excavation and Repair

Zach Mahon, SCS Engineers

3:00 - 3:30

Break and Tour Exhibits (Crystal Ballroom)

3:30 - 4:00

Expanding Your Facility

Lori Calub, HDR

4:00 - 4:30

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Waste Reduction

Shay Flowerday, City of Lincoln

4:30 - 5:00

NDEE Update

Anni Poetzl & Jeff Edwards, NDEE

5:00

NE SWANA Cash Drawing and Conference Close

NWEA, APWA, NSAWWA, and NE SWANA 2024 Registration Information

Program	On-Site Registration
NWEA	\$155 ^A
APWA	\$155 ^B
NSAWWA	\$155 ^C
NE SWANA	\$155 ^D
NE SWANA Tour	\$105 ^D
Full Conference**	\$245 ^E
Additional Banquet Tickets	\$40
Additional Lunch Tickets	\$25

^A Includes Wednesday Lunch, Banquet and Thursday Lunch

^B Includes Wednesday Lunch and Banquet

^C Includes Thursday Lunch and Banquet

^D Includes Wednesday Banquet and Thursday Lunch

^E Includes all Lunches and all Banquets

** Full Conference does not include NE SWANA Wednesday Tour

Conference Hotel Information

Fairfield Inn - Reservations Number: (308) 236-4200

Per contract room rates are \$134.95
for one - four persons. Tax not included.

La Quinta Inn - Reservations Number: (308) 237-4400

Per contract room rates are \$124.95
for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Hampton Inn - Reservations Number: (308) 234-3400

Per contract room rates are \$134.95
for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Comfort Inn - Reservations Number: (308) 236-3400

Per contract room rates are \$124.95
for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Continuing Education Hours

NDEE Water Operator CEU Hours:

8.5 CEU hours for Grades I - IV

4.5 CEU hours for Grades VI

NDEE Wastewater Operator CEU Hours:

10.0 CEU Hours

NE SWANA CEU Hours:

4.0 CEU Hours for Tour

6.5 CEU Hours for Presentations

Women in Water Breakfast:

1.0 CEU Hours

Nebraska Water Environment Association Grant Application

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) is a non-profit organization made up of professionals and practitioners who work with Nebraska's water environment. We are the recognized authority and advocate for Nebraska's water resources. Our Mission is to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water.

We have established this grant application to further support our critical objectives by supporting our members who desire to implement strategies in support of our mission or leveraging other passionate individuals and organizations who are working in parallel to our mission.

Our critical objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Embrace Innovation in the Water Sector
- Enrich the Expertise of Nebraska Water Professionals
- Increase Awareness of the Value of Water
- Create a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Workforce within the Water Sector
- Sustain the Organization

Grant applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered on a revolving basis by our Executive Board at regular executive board meetings. After submittal, you may be asked for additional supporting information or asked to appear at a board meeting to provide further justification of your grant request. Our annual grant fund amount is based on the balance of our budget and is subject to change at any time. Grant awards will typically be in the range of \$500 - \$2,000, however if you have an opportunity that exceeds this amount and would greatly benefit one of the above objectives, you are encouraged to discuss this with a board member.

We have established a prioritization of how grant funds will be considered as follows:

1. Supporting our existing activities by our members by providing funding that would enhance or grow our outcomes.
2. Supporting a new initiative by our members that works to benefit one of the critical objectives stated above.
3. Supporting an initiative by an outside organization that benefits one of the critical objectives stated above.

Outside organizations receiving a grant award will be assigned a board member to coordinate with. NWEA asks that our organization be prominently advertised or discussed in whatever activity or initiative we are supporting. The assigned board member will assist with this effort. In addition, we will request a follow-up summary indicating how the funds were utilized.

Outside organizations must be a registered non-profit or school system within the State of Nebraska. Proof of this may be requested during the application process. Outside organizations are required to have an existing NWEA member sponsor their application. A listing of our board members is present on our website at www.nebwea.org. If you do not know of any NWEA members, you are encouraged to contact one of our members to discuss sponsorship.

NWEA Grant Application Form on the following page.

Organization Name of Applicant (if applicable): _____

Representative who will be responsible for the grant award:

Name: _____ Title or Position: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

NWEA Member Sponsor: _____

Grant Amount Requested: _____

Is this a one-time request or an ongoing activity: One-Time / Ongoing

Will Additional Funds be Necessary to Implement the Initiative: Y / N

If yes, please describe the source of those funds: _____

Please describe the initiative or activity you are requesting funding for (attach additional supporting sheets if necessary): _____

Please describe how this initiative or activity will support one or more of our critical objectives: _____

Please describe the audience of the initiative or activity and estimate the number of individuals that will be impacted: _____

Please provide a timeline for the implementation of the initiative or activity: _____

Please describe your implementation plan and any additional human capital that will be necessary for implementation: _____

Will additional NWEA members be needed to support your initiative or activity: Y / N

If yes, please describe the level of commitment you are requesting: _____

Please provide any additional supporting information you feel would be beneficial to your grant application: _____

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)

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Quote

"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one."

– Jacques Yves Cousteau



Adams Park - City of Omaha, CSO Program Project