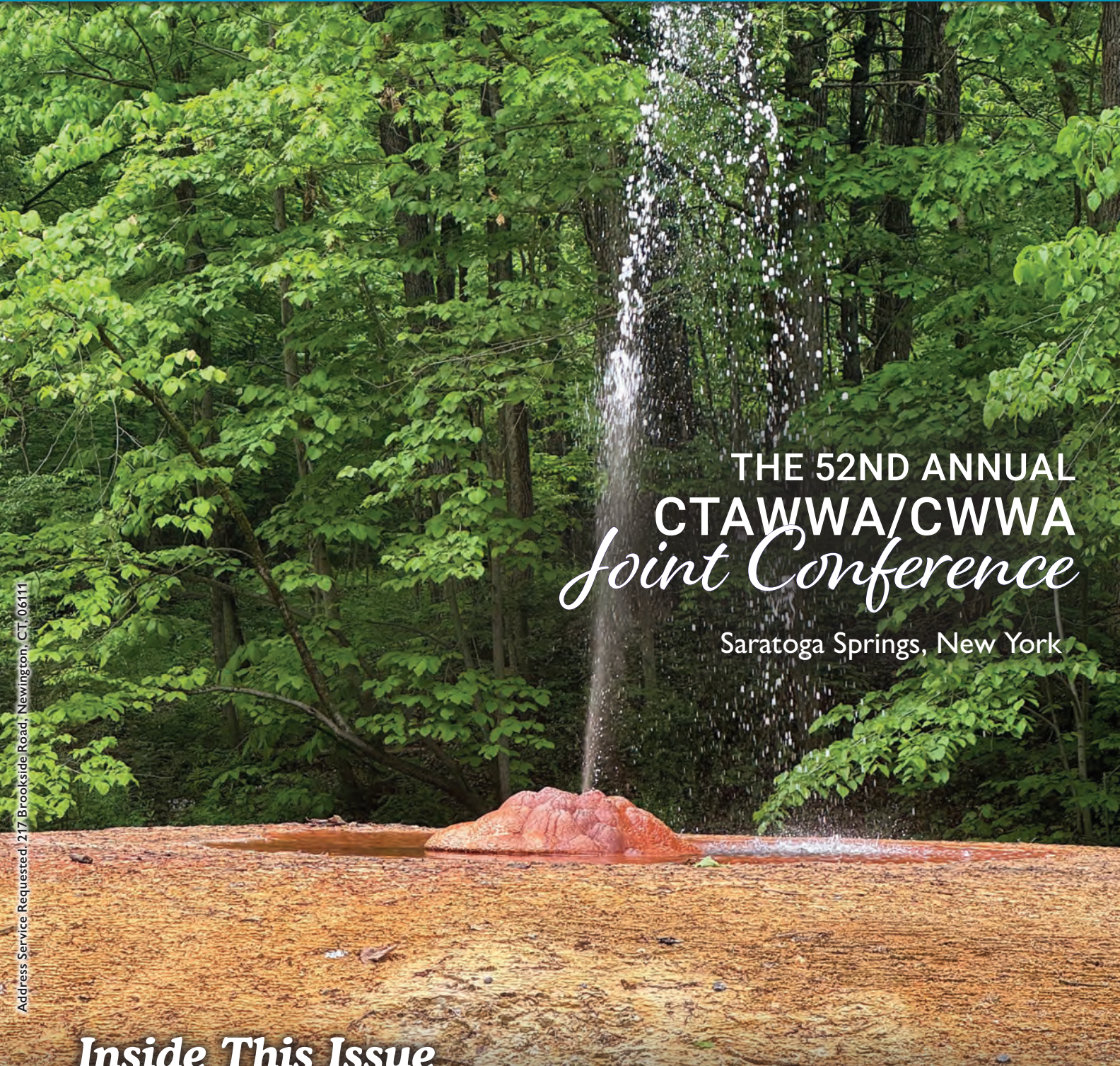


InFlow-Line

The Magazine of the CT Section American Water Works and the Connecticut Water Works Associations

Summer 2025



THE 52ND ANNUAL
CTAWWA/CWWA
Joint Conference

Saratoga Springs, New York

Inside This Issue

ACE25 Highlights | Waterbury's Path Towards Sludge Residual Reduction | Scholarship Winners



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Volume 20 – Number 2

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Cover: Natural Spring Formation at Saratoga Spa State Park.
Photo by Kathy Fortin



Photo by Kathy Fortin

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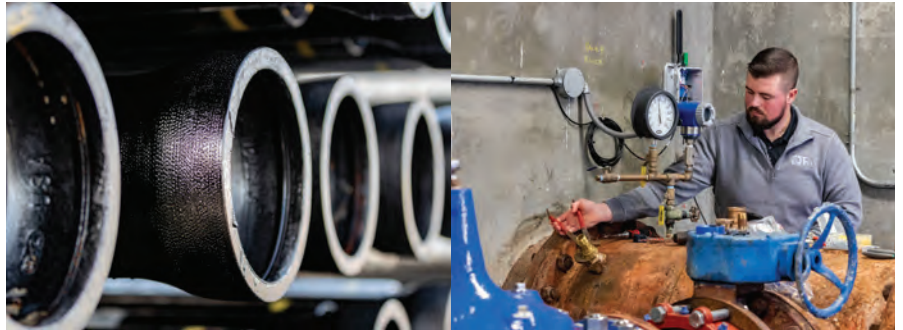
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Throughout the year, we each carry out our daily responsibilities in the water industry with dedication and purpose. For some, that means working directly with customers – helping them resolve issues or navigate financial challenges. For others, it involves ensuring that treatment plants are operating efficiently and safely. Still others are out in the field, conducting leak detection surveys to minimize water loss and protect system infrastructure.

We do all of this because we care about the communities we serve and live in. We believe that everyone deserves access to high-quality, affordable water. And we know how much effort goes into treating and delivering that water – so it’s only natural that we take pride in preventing water waste and ensuring every drop counts. For us, this is just another day on the job.

But it’s important to remember that this level of commitment and passion isn’t universal across all industries. That’s why events like the Annual Joint Conference of CTAWWA and CWWA in

Saratoga Springs are so meaningful. They remind us that we’re part of something bigger – a community of water professionals who share our values and our drive to make a difference.

This year’s conference was a powerful celebration of that shared passion. From insightful presentations to the recognition of outstanding individuals, the event showcased the very best of our Connecticut water industry. We were inspired by the announcement of the 2025 CTAWWA award winners, including honors for Diversity & Inclusion, the Rising Star Young Professional, and the John Lechner Award for Excellence. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the prestigious George Warren Fuller Award to Tom Barger of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, recognizing his distinguished service and lasting contributions to the water supply field.

These moments remind us why we do what we do – and why it truly matters. They reaffirm our commitment to excellence and inspire us to continue working together to meet the challenges that lie ahead. 💧



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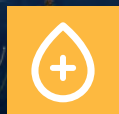
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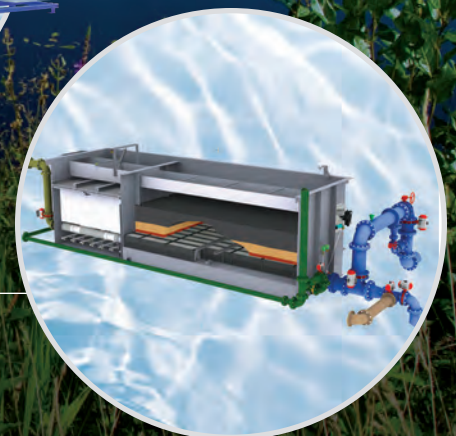
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What Is the ROI for Conference Attendance?

What Is the ROI for Conference Attendance?

After attending the 52nd Annual Joint Conference in Saratoga Springs in May 2025, I continue to be impressed by the various presented topics – youth engagement in the water industry, climate change impacts on source water, water system interconnections, residuals management, etc. Often, when leaders within a utility, organization, or firm are considering approving requests for technical conferences, supervisors focus on overhead impacts due to conference fees, system coverage, and lost productivity. However, the return on investment (ROI) for attending conferences is invaluable. Think of all the positives from attending conferences:

- **Professional Development** – Attending conferences enables attendees to continue their professional development journey. Professional development includes learning activities that improve skill sets, knowledge, and technical expertise in the water industry. While 70% of learning takes place on the job, 10% of learning occurs through education, which includes reading, studying, researching, and attending structured leaning modules. 20% of learning occurs through exposure and learning with others. Technical conferences check the education and exposure boxes.
- **Technical Knowledge Transfer and Exposure to Current Water Industry Topics** – The attendees continue to learn from other presenters and the content of the presentations. Topics such as emerging contaminants, advanced treatment processes, smart technologies, digital water management, digital twins, etc., educate attendees so that efficiencies can be achieved at their respective facilities.
- **Training Contact Hours and Continuing Education Credits for Licensure Renewals** – The Department of Public Health approves water treatment and distribution contact hours for the technical trainings. Licensed operators as well as professional engineers need training contact hours for license renewals, and technical conferences provide the perfect opportunity to obtain these hours.

- **Network Building** – Attendees continue to develop their technical and social skills and strengthen their networks outside of their respective organizations and utilities. Deep professional networks allow for collaboration with resolving issues or problems. As attendees at conferences continue to grow their networks, a professional maturation process also occurs.
- **Employee Engagement** – Employees that continue to grow professionally and continue to learn tend to be more engaged with the organization or utility that supports them. When a workforce is highly engaged, they are more productive, more motivated, and less likely to seek other opportunities. Engagement within organizations and utilities reduces the turnover rate, which in turn results in less hiring and training of new staff.
- **Regulator Exposure** – Regulators from various agencies (e.g., the Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) are often presenters or attendees at technical conferences. This attendance presents opportunities to gain valuable insights into current regulations, funding sources, and enforcement actions. A comprehensive understanding of the regulatory environment is extremely valuable for those that operate water systems.
- **Career Advancement** – Employees have an ardent desire for their employer to support their career advancement, and attendance at technical conferences is a critical component. When employers invest in an employee, a sense of loyalty develops between the employee and employer. That loyalty to the organization or utility establishes a core group of employees that are knowledgeable and committed to their job responsibilities. Further, learning from conferences aids in developing skill sets, which helps an employee advance within an organization or utility. Without a doubt, conference attendance is a must for operators and professionals in the water industry! Although the ROI is difficult to quantify, the development of our next generation of water leaders is critical for the successful operation of any organization or water system, which is priceless. 💧

“While 70% of learning takes place on the job, 10% of learning occurs through education, which includes reading, studying, researching, and attending structured leaning modules. 20% of learning occurs through exposure and learning with others. Technical conferences check the education and exposure boxes.”

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Managing Change in the Water Industry

“As your new CTAWWA National Director, part of my role will be to connect you to the latest national trends and activity by AWWA.”

In June at ACE, I began serving as the CT Section AWWA’s National Director, as one of 43 section representatives on the AWWA Board of Directors. I wish to thank Tom Barger, our outgoing National Director, for his service during a particularly challenging three-year term. During Tom’s term, AWWA faced several challenges including response to new or modified regulations, along with the continued challenge of infrastructure renewal, all while progressing to “normal” following the recent pandemic. We should all thank Tom for his service during this unusually active period.


Tom’s experience made me reflect on the amount of change the industry has seen over the past several years. I started my path with CTAWWA as a board member in 2010, and departed in 2019 after serving as Chair. Since 2019, we have seen a lot of changes in CT! Here are a few of the things that were barely registering on the radar when I last served on the CTAWWA board:

- *PFAS*: EPA had just announced a five-part action plan in February 2019; no national maximum contaminant level regulation existed.
- *Lead and Copper Rule*: Proposed changes to the rule were issued by EPA in November 2019 for public comment; most utilities had not yet started their service line inventory process.
- *Consolidation*: According to the DPH, in 2019 there were 508 community water systems, dropping in 2024 to 488. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority listed 8 Class A Water Utilities; today we have four.

- *Workforce*: The DPH noted in their 2019 Capacity Development report that their list of certified operators exceeded 2,000. Today, the total number of certified distribution and treatment operators in Connecticut is less than 1,000.

In only six years, many of the above issues have gone from barely registering to becoming the center of our focus as water professionals. Which made me realize – although we think of the water industry as generally conservative, we are in fact always evolving.

What can we do to manage in a rapidly changing environment? One key is to get involved in CTAWWA! By joining our many active committees, participating in events, and attending or even speaking at our excellent conferences, you can connect with hundreds of other professionals working on the same challenges. Publishing a written article on a topic of interest, such as a case study on a recent project, or a new standard operating procedure that your company has implemented, can solicit input from your peers, further developing ideas, strengthening and encouraging innovation. With our shrinking workforce, increasing collaboration will be critical to helping solve the ever more complex challenges facing our industry together.

As your new CTAWWA National Director, part of my role will be to connect you to the latest national trends and activity by AWWA. I am honored to continue my journey with CTAWWA. I look forward to again serving the CT water community, and I encourage you all to reach out to me if you have any questions about the work of AWWA, national opportunities and events, or ways that we can work together. 



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It's a Wrap! Connecticut General Assembly Adjourns

The Connecticut General Assembly adjourned at midnight on June 4 after a flurry of activity on dozens of bills, including bills of interest to water companies:

Water Quality & Treatment Surcharge

The Senate gave final approval to House Bill (HB)-6777 which allows private water companies to impose a water quality and treatment surcharge to cover capital costs associated with compliance with state and federal requirements, including treatment for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contaminants, and lead service line replacement projects. Under the bill, private water companies may request that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approve such expenses incurred between rate cases. If approved, the water company may recover the expenses through a surcharge as a separate line item on customer bills. The bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Water Supply Regulations

Senate Bill (SB)-9, an omnibus climate resiliency bill, includes provisions requiring the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), PURA, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to update water supply regulations to reflect climate impacts, such as increased precipitation, extreme heat, and flooding and requires the Water Planning Council when it updates the State Water Plan to include recommendations for addressing climate change. The Governor signed the bill.

To address concerns with how these provisions may impact stream flow regulations and other water supply regulations, legislative intent was placed on the record regarding the need for a collaborative process to update any water supply regulations.

Foreclosure of Sewer Liens

To address concerns that some Water Pollution Control Authorities (WPCAs) aggressively foreclose on homes for

unpaid sewer bills, the state legislature approved SB-1187 which prohibits the foreclosure or assignment of a lien unless the delinquent amount exceeds \$3,000 or three years have passed since the lien was filed and it remains unpaid. The bill's restrictions do not apply to sewer lien (1) foreclosures if they are foreclosed in an action involving tax or other municipal liens, and (2) assignments if tax or other municipal liens on the property are currently assigned or are being assigned at the same time. The bill was signed into law by Governor Lamont and is effective October 1, 2025.

PFAS Testing & Treatment

CWWA was successful in defeating SB-1494 which would have required water utilities to conduct monthly testing to determine whether the level of PFAS in the water supply exceeds 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Although environmental organizations raised concerns that the federal government may roll back certain environmental regulations, including PFAS standards, the Environment Committee gutted the bill and, instead, directed the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force to identify sources of funding for the remediation of municipally owned wells that exceed drinking water standards for PFAS, as established by the U.S. EPA and (2) accelerate the phased approach for the testing of public drinking water supplies, as described in such task force's PFAS Action Plan. An amendment on the bill would have stripped the language regarding accelerating the testing of public water supplies, but the bill died in the Senate.

Cross Connections

Unfortunately, HB-7248 (which included language authorizing the state DPH to adopt policies and procedures to update cross connection regulations) died in the Senate after winning passage in the House. Although CWWA pushed for adoption of the bill prior to adjournment, given opposition by Republicans to another section of the bill, the clock ran out and the bill died.

“Under the bill, private water companies may request that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority approve such expenses incurred between rate cases. If approved, the water company may recover the expenses through a surcharge as a separate line item on customer bills.”

In addition, the legislature approved the following bills:

- **Fluoride in Water Supplies** – SB-7 includes provisions requiring water companies that serve 20,000 or more persons to add fluoride to the water supply so as to maintain an average monthly fluoride content of 0.7 of a milligram per liter, provided said average monthly fluoride content shall not deviate greater or less than 0.15 of a milligram per liter.
- **Riparian Buffer Working Group** – HB-7174 creates a working group to develop recommendations regarding the establishment of riparian buffers. A representative of a water utility will be included in the working group.

- **DPH Revisions Bill** – HB-6978 includes provisions implementing DPH's recommendations, including (1) providing for biennial license renewal for bulk water haulers, (2) allowing the department to adopt policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations concerning subsurface sewage disposal systems with a 10,000 gallon capacity, and (3) revising certain application requirements relating to the construction, expansion, or utilization of new water supply sources to reflect existing practices. 💧



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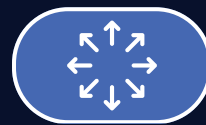
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Al Wells

Day Job

I am a Senior Project Manager, Team Leader, and Senior Associate at Tighe & Bond, joining the firm in 2018. I have 35 years of experience in water infrastructure planning, engineering, and construction.

Degree/Certifications/Licenses

I have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and master's degree in environmental engineering from Northeastern University. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York.

CTAWWA Volunteer Activities

I have served on the CTAWWA Associates Committee for several years and have been our Chair for the 2024 and 2025 sessions. We have a great group of volunteers on the Associates Committee representing our manufacturer, supplier, consultant, and contractor members of the CTAWWA Section. I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment of this group and our efforts towards enhancing the CTAWWA Section. I enjoy attending and participating at all our Section events, and I feel fortunate to be a part of CTAWWA and the opportunity to meet and work with so many of our dedicated members.

What was your first job in the water industry?

My first "water" job was actually a college internship for a military defense contractor designing a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) that I was told could be deployed to rescue distressed submarines.

I spent my internship drafting individual parts for this DSRV project. For security reasons, I was provided only with the information necessary to draft and detail the parts and nothing more. I was not allowed to speak or meet directly with the senior engineers; in truth it was not very satisfying work. Ironically, it was the boredom and isolation of this job, and with counsel from my college advisor, which led me to my first "drinking water" job designing public water systems. I obviously found the drinking water profession more fulfilling and I continue to enjoy the collaborative and important work we do in this industry. Fun fact: many years later I heard that the DSRV project I was working on was never actually intended to rescue distressed submarines but rather for secretly cutting undersea Russian communication cables? So perhaps in the boredom of that first job I played a small part in ending the Cold War!

Personal Stats

I am blessed to be married for 32 years to my wife Kate and we have two wonderful adult sons; one is a high school history teacher and football coach, the other is a merchant mariner. Kate and I live in New London with our golden retriever Hudson. Kate and I spent many busy years raising our sons and enjoying all their various sporting activities from grade school through college. We now find ourselves with some new time for travelling and hanging out with Hudson. However, my wife is not so subtly wishing for daughters-in-law and grandchildren!



What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I have always enjoyed and appreciated the people and the relationships we make in this industry. I believe this industry attracts people who genuinely enjoy helping other people; my career has certainly benefitted from the generous guidance and knowledge I have received through these relationships. It is these relationships, the help received and the help given I am most proud of.

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Of course I do like bragging anytime we go to a restaurant about how good the tap water is, if serviced by a water system I worked on!

What do you value most about CTAWWA/CWWA membership?

A few years ago, after attending a CTAWWA/CWWA annual conference with a close friend of mine, he told me how much he appreciated going and how fortunate I was to work in this industry. He enjoyed how friendly everyone was to him as a guest and continued to explain, based on his career in finance, that our industry was so much different and better. He could not believe how we got together and happily shared our collective knowledge, even amongst competitors, so that we could all do a better job providing drinking water. With that observation, he perfectly summed up why I volunteer and what I value most about CTAWWA/CWWA.

Favorite water memory

I have been fortunate to spend a lot of time recreating on the water. I was a member of both my high school and college rowing teams. Our training "grounds" were the Hudson River in Hyde Park, NY during high school and the Charles River in Boston during college. I enjoyed rowing for many reasons, not the least being that you train and compete on the water. When rowing, there is a necessary connection between the rowers and the water. Every water body has characteristics, some fixed and some variable that change with the current, tide and wind; all which rowers must be attuned and adapt to. The Hudson River was an especially difficult water body to row on, given its size and strength. Swamping and capsizing a rowing shell was not an uncommon event, but when the Hudson permitted and you got the rowing right, it felt like your boat could harness all that energy and fly across the water! Our coach claimed the Hudson River had a mermaid and she would only reveal herself for such occasions as perfect rowing. I will not confirm or deny that claim, but certainly those moments of perfect rowing on the Hudson are some of my favorite water memories, and I am sure they helped form my appreciation and love of water. 💧



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CELEBRATING COLLABORATION AND EXCELLENCE: A LOOK BACK AT THE 52ND ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE OF CTAWWA & CWWA

TOUR & POUR BRINGS TOGETHER NATURE, HISTORY, AND NETWORKING IN SARATOGA SPRINGS

Our **Tour & Pour** event in Saratoga Springs was a perfect afternoon of discovery and connection.

The day began with a private tour of the springs at **Saratoga Spa State Park**, where attendees explored the natural beauty and rich history of the area. Guided by park expert, the group learned about the geology behind the park's iconic mineral springs and had the opportunity to sample the famous waters that once drew visitors from around the world for their believed healing properties.

Following the tour, the group gathered at **Bailey's Saratoga** for a lively networking event. With a welcoming atmosphere, great refreshments, and engaging conversation, Bailey's provided the ideal backdrop for reconnecting with colleagues and making new professional contacts.

Thank you to everyone who joined us – we look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Saratoga Springs, NY – The 52nd Annual Joint Conference of the Connecticut Section American Water Works Association (CTAWWA) and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) recently wrapped up at the Saratoga Hilton, marking another successful year of collaboration, learning, and recognition within the water industry.

CTAWWA Chair Nick Rossi expressed his sincere gratitude to all members for their unwavering commitment and collective efforts. He highlighted the invaluable opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and shared learning throughout the past year, attributing the success to the dedication of the membership and the exceptional leadership of both organizations' Board Members. Special thanks were also extended to CTAWWA Executive Director Romana Longo and CWWA Executive Director Betsy Gara for their instrumental roles in bringing the conference to fruition.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The conference agenda was packed with diverse opportunities for the approximately 115 attendees. Wednesday kicked off with a luncheon sponsored by the Associates Committee and a presentation by Charles Kuenzel from the Saratoga Springs History Museum exploring the rich history of Saratoga Springs. This was followed by engaging afternoon presentations which included Cheryl Porter, AWWA

President and visiting officer, and a lively welcome dinner reception and Section Awards ceremony at the 408 Event & Occasion Club.

Thursday's schedule included breakfast and morning technical sessions, offering in-depth insights into current industry topics and new technologies. For pre-registered attendees, an afternoon tour of Saratoga Spa State Park provided a unique experience, followed by a networking event at Bailey's Saratoga. The day culminated in the highly anticipated Awards Banquet in the Saratoga Ballroom, honoring outstanding contributions to the water sector.

The conference concluded on Friday with a Connecticut Water Industry Town Hall, fostering open dialogue and discussion. This was followed by the always-anticipated SMARTS Game, a tradition of spirited and friendly competition that left participants energized. This year, CWWA once again emerged victorious, earning the coveted trophy and the accompanying bragging rights and a donation to Water For People on behalf of the winners.

A new addition to this year's conference was the first-ever CTAWWA/CWWA joint 5K Fun Run and Walk. Despite the rainy weather, 15 enthusiastic runners and walkers participated, making the event a resounding success. The philanthropic committee raised over \$500, which will be donated to Water Equation, supporting vital water initiatives.

HONORING INDUSTRY LEADERS: *2025 Award Recipients*

The conference proudly recognized individuals and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and made significant contributions to the water industry.

GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD: THOMAS BARGER

Thomas Barger was honored with the prestigious George Warren Fuller Award, recognizing over four decades of steadfast championship for water utilities. His influence has resonated from local and statewide levels to national advocacy, including multiple Water Matters Fly-ins and leadership roles within the Connecticut Section of AWWA. Barger's impact extends to critical regulatory and research efforts, community advisories, and contributions to various water management committees. His dedication has inspired countless others and will leave a lasting legacy. Please see the separate article on page 25 in this issue regarding this prestigious honor.

JOHN LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: KRIS BATES

Kris Bates of Ferguson Waterworks received the John Lechner Award of Excellence. This award celebrates Section Service Provider Members who demonstrate outstanding dedication to the drinking water community and the mission of CTAWWA and AWWA. Bates was recognized for his pivotal role on the CTAWWA Associates Committee and the Section Board, consistently contributing meaningful insights and fostering strong connections between vendor and utility partners. His commitment to growth and championing young professionals truly sets him apart.

KENNETH J. MILLER FOUNDERS AWARD: LINDSAY STROLE

The Kenneth J. Miller Founders Award was presented to **Lindsay Strole** of MDC for her extraordinary service and philanthropy within the water industry, particularly her unwavering support for Water For People's mission. Since joining the CTAWWA Philanthropic Committee in 2020, Strole's magnetic personality and passion have generated significant sponsor and donor support, playing a key role in advancing global access to clean water. Her dedication in planning events and inspiring new donors exemplifies the spirit of this award.

OPERATOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD: DAN BOLDUC

Dan Bolduc of Bristol Water Department was recognized with the Operator's Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding dedication, skill, and integrity. Known for his reliability, professionalism, and deep operational knowledge, Bolduc is the go-to person in challenging situations. He consistently goes above and beyond, whether navigating emergencies, optimizing system performance, or training new staff, embodying the highest standards of commitment and excellence in public service.

ORGANIZATION DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD: REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

The **Regional Water Authority** received the Organization Diversity & Inclusion Award for their exemplary commitment to embedding diversity and inclusion into their culture. Starting with comprehensive employee listening, they developed a clear DE&I roadmap focused on trust, respect, and fairness. Their dynamic TIDE (Tapping Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity) Council has driven open conversations, leadership training, community outreach, and equitable workplace policies, making a tangible difference for employees and the broader community.

RISING STAR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD: STEVEN IGNATOWICH

Steven Ignatowich of Apex Companies was honored with the Rising Star Young Professionals Award for his significant impact on the CTAWWA section and the water industry. An active member for seven years, including four as Chair of the Young Professionals Committee, Ignatowich has tirelessly driven engagement with students and emerging professionals. His efforts in organizing and attending over 20 events, from plant tours to networking nights, consistently foster connections and build the future of the industry.



Award winner photos by Romana Longo.

John Lechner Award of Excellence – Kris Bates



J. Miller Founders Award – Lindsay Strole



CTAWWA Outstanding Young Professional Award – Steven Ignatowich



CTAWWA Operators Meritorious Service Award – Dan Bolduc



CTAWWA Diversity & Inclusion Award – RWA

2024 TENURE Awards

The conference also celebrated long-standing members with the 2024 Tenure Awards:

AWWA LIFE MEMBER AWARD

This award recognizes members with 30 years of cumulative membership and who have reached the age of 65. Congratulations to **James Ericson, Kathy Fortin, Peter Galant, Michael Hage, and Mario Ricozzi.**

AWWA SILVER WATER DROP AWARD

The Silver Water Drop Award acknowledges members with 25 years of cumulative membership. Congratulations to **William Andres, Timothy Dupuis, Joseph Lanzafame, Michael Liberante, Don Morrissey, Peter Passeck, David Peeling, Brian Robillard, Joseph Roccaro, and Gary Simard.**

The success of the 52nd Annual Joint Conference was a testament to the collective efforts of many. Special thanks are extended to Romana Longo, CTAWWA's Executive Director, for her tireless coordination of all event aspects; Judy Soda, Secretary, for her work on the 5K fun run and walk, program, awards, and speeches; and the program committee for curating a conference that highlighted current industry topics (Steve Rugar, Scott Bonett, Jennifer Reynolds, and Nick Rossi), and our sponsors **Snyder Civil, Harper Haines, Kleinfelder, Hazen & Sawyer, Ti-Sales, and Tighe & Bond.**

The CTAWWA and CWWA look forward to continuing their work in driving the water industry forward and fostering a vibrant community of dedicated professionals. 💧



General conference photos by Kathy Fortin.



5K Fun Run & Walk. Photo by Judy Soda.



Photo by Kathy Fortin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



All photos on page 22 by Kathy Fortin unless otherwise noted.



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RWA'S WATER QUALITY Manager Awarded Prestigious Fuller Award by AWWA

The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the water industry.

By Kevin Watsey, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is proud to announce that Water Quality Manager **Tom Barger** received the prestigious George Warren Fuller Award on May 22 at the Annual Conference of the Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association (CTAWWA).

In conferring the award, CTAWWA recognized Barger's outstanding contributions to the water industry and his unwavering commitment to public health and water quality for customers of the RWA and other water utilities.

With a career spanning more than 40 years, Barger has been a transformative leader in Connecticut's water community and a tireless advocate for safe, sustainable water systems. His leadership within the CTAWWA – including roles as Chair, National Director and Water Utility Council Chair – has helped shape water policy and regulation across the state.

"This award is a testament to Tom's unwavering commitment to excellence in the water industry as a guardian of water quality," said **Sunny Lakshminarayanan**, the RWA's Interim Chief Executive Officer. "His leadership has strengthened our water systems, improved public health protections, and inspired a generation of water professionals. Tom's colleagues at the RWA are pleased to join industry leaders in congratulating him on his achievements and for being honored with the George Warren Fuller Award."

Barger's influence extends nationally through his service on the AWWA Board of Directors and his involvement in the Water2050 workgroup, where he is helping to chart a sustainable future for water management in the United States.

In Connecticut, Barger has led critical emergency preparedness efforts as Chair of the Connecticut Water/Alert Response Network for 12 years. He also contributes to the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Legionella workgroup and serves on the Yale New Haven Health Water Management Committee, where his expertise supports the development of policies that protect patient health.

In the community, Barger has worked closely with the City of New Haven through the Environmental Council, Health Department, Board of Education and Lead Task Force, helping to address local water challenges and promote stronger environmental health standards.

The George Warren Fuller Award, established in 1937, is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated distinguished service to the water supply field. Barger joins a distinguished group of professionals whose work has advanced the science and practice of water management.

For more information about the George Warren Fuller Award, visit www.awwa.org/award/george-warren-fuller-award.



RWA Water Quality Manager Tom Barger receives Fuller Award lapel pin from AWWA President Cheryl Porter at the American Water Works Association Connecticut Section's annual conference on May 22. Photo provided by RWA.

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ACE25: A CELEBRATION OF INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND PROGRESS IN DENVER

All photos on pages 26 and 27 by Judy Soda.



CTAWWA Supporting Hydrant Hysteria Team



Bristol Water's Hydrant Hysteria Team – Placed 4th Nationally

“CTAWWA was proud to participate in this dynamic gathering, with strong representation and exciting accomplishments throughout the week.”

The American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE25), held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, brought together thousands of water professionals from across the country – and the globe – for a week of knowledge-sharing, networking, and **Elevating** the essential work of our industry.

CTAWWA was proud to participate in this dynamic gathering, with strong representation and exciting accomplishments throughout the week.

Opening General Session: Elevating the Future of Water

CTAWWA members gathered for the Opening General Session of AWWA's Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) – the essential gathering for the global water community. The energy in the room was unmistakable, as attendees were called to join a

shared journey toward heightened awareness, elevated standards, and innovative solutions that ensure safe and clean water for all.

Sitting together as a section, CTAWWA members demonstrated unity and purpose as the conference officially got underway. With a focus on collaboration, cutting-edge technologies, and bold ideas, the message was clear: together, we will **innovate and elevate** the future of water.

Joint Section Luncheon at Earl's Kitchen

A highlight of the week was the CTAWWA & New England AWWA Joint Luncheon at Earl's Kitchen on Glenarm Place. This special event provided a valuable opportunity for Section members to connect with colleagues and share regional updates in a relaxed setting. We extend our sincere thanks to **H2M, WSP, and Woodcock & Associates** for generously sponsoring the luncheon and supporting the continued success of our Section.



Fuller Awardees Tom Barger (2025) and Ray Baral (2022)



Joint Luncheon with NE AWWA



Judy Soda and Romana Longo at Opening Session



Tom Barger accepting Fuller Award



Tom Barger holding CT Section sign at Opening Session

Fresh Ideas Poster Competition

On the innovation front, **Max Grabinski of H2M** represented the CTAWWA Section in the **Fresh Ideas Poster Competition**, showcasing creative thinking and practical solutions from rising professionals in the water field. Max's participation underscored the Section's ongoing commitment to nurturing new talent and supporting future leaders.

Industry Luncheon Spotlight

Acclaimed presenter Ben Nemtin, New York Times bestselling author of *What Do You Want to Do Before You Die?* and star of MTV's *The Buried Life*, was the keynote speaker at this year's Water Industry Luncheon at ACE25. Known for his empowering and motivating messages, Ben inspired attendees to live courageously and make a meaningful difference.

Hydrant Hysteria: A Historic Finish

The excitement continued with the **Hydrant Hysteria Competition**, where our very own **Bristol Water & Sewer Department** team advanced all the way to the semi-finals – a first for the CTAWWA Section! This milestone is especially noteworthy as CTAWWA has only participated in the competition for four years. The team went on to finish an impressive fourth place overall, showcasing the skill, dedication, and spirit of our members. We were proud to cheer them on through both the semi-final and final rounds.

Fuller Award Recognition

Another highlight of ACE25 was seeing **Tom Barger** receive his **George Warren Fuller Award** during the Fuller Award Breakfast. Tom was joined by **Ray Baral**, our 2022 Fuller Award recipient, who had been unable to attend ACE22 when he

received the honor. It was a special moment to capture a photo of both Tom and Ray with their awards – celebrating their outstanding contributions to the water industry together.

Looking Ahead

ACE25 reaffirmed the value of coming together as a community to tackle shared challenges, exchange ideas, and celebrate the achievements of our peers. From technical sessions to competitions, luncheons to poster presentations, the energy and collaboration on display in Denver reminded us why we do what we do.

To all who joined us at ACE this year – thank you. Your involvement helped make this event a resounding success.

Don't forget – AWWA membership offers many year-round benefits, including exclusive publications, policy updates, discounted training, and networking opportunities with local Sections. Stay engaged and stay inspired. 💧

All photos on page 28 by Romana Longo.



Bristol Water Hydrant Hysteria Team



CTAWWA Members Opening Session



Romana Longo, AWWA President Heather Collins, and Judy Soda



Max Grabinski, CTAWWA Young Profession Poster Winner



Opening Session

SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON, DC AT ACE26!

CWWA and CTAWWA Fall Conference 2025

October 24, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT

Don't miss the CWWA/CTAWWA Fall Conference on Friday, October 24, 2025, at the elegant Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT. We expect record attendance this year as we gather to hear from state regulators, lawmakers, and our colleagues in the water industry about challenges facing water utilities. Last year, more than 200 water industry professionals attended the event! Training Credit Hours will be available.

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RMSO NORTH 2025: Collaboration, Community, and a Cruise on the Detroit River



Photos provided by Judy Soda

Judy Soda and Romana Longo at RMSO North



Photos provided by Judy Soda

Romana Longo, Nancy Sullivan (AWWA), and Judy Soda at Detroit Riverwalk

More than 50 Section leaders from across AWWA Regions I and III gathered in Detroit, MI for this year's **RMSO North**, hosted at the historic Siren Hotel. Held May 2–3, the event was packed with collaborative sessions, program showcases, valuable updates from AWWA, and plenty of opportunities to connect with peers.

CTAWWA was proudly represented by Romana Longo and Judy Soda, who joined colleagues from around the country to share insights, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections across Sections.

Thursday Evening: Meet ‘n Greet at the Candy Bar

The event kicked off informally on Thursday evening with a relaxed **Meet ‘n Greet** at the Siren Hotel’s Candy Bar. Light snacks and a hosted first round of drinks set the tone for a weekend full of connection, sharing, and engagement.

Friday Highlights: Setting the Stage and Exploring the Future

Friday began with a warm welcome and a **community-building exercise** to set the stage for a day of collaborative learning. Attendees received a **State of AWWA update** and a closer look at what’s ahead for the rest of 2025.

A key focus of the day was AWWA’s **Water 2050 initiative**, which continues to guide the future of water through strategic foresight. Attendees explored the **Water 2050 Exercise Toolkit** and discussed how their Sections might host similar sessions locally.

A recurring favorite – the **Section Program Showcase** – offered valuable insight into successful programs and emerging challenges from peer Sections, while **Section Sharing** provided space for small group discussion and collective takeaways. The day concluded with a thoughtful session envisioning **the future of AWWA Sections** over the next 25 years.

Water Equation and the Future of Fundraising

A highlight of Friday’s program was the introduction of **Margo Hatton**, AWWA’s new Senior Manager of Development & Donor Relations. Margo shared her vision for the **Water Equation program** and discussed priorities for supporting workforce development and expanding philanthropic engagement across the Association.

Detroit River Cruise: A Night to Remember

Friday evening brought a change of scenery – and a welcome breeze – as attendees boarded the Diamond Belle for a scenic two-hour cruise of the Detroit River, hosted by Diamond Jack’s River Tours. With drinks, dinner, and sweeping views, the evening was a memorable way to unwind and connect with fellow Section leaders.

Saturday: Advocacy and Action

Saturday morning began with breakfast and a legislative update from **Nate Norris**, AWWA Director of Legislative Affairs, who shared the latest developments from Washington, D.C., and what they mean for AWWA and the broader water sector.

The day continued with additional **Section Program Showcases** and more **Section Sharing**, culminating in a **key takeaways session** where participants reflected on lessons learned and strategies to bring back to their own Sections.

Thank You

Special thanks to **AWWA Vice President Christine Spitzley** and **AWWA President Cheryl Porter** for their warm welcome and leadership throughout the event.

Thank you to all who attended RMSO North 2025 – including Romana Longo and Judy Soda from CTAWWA – and helped make it a success. Your energy, insights, and commitment to the water community continue to move us all forward. 💧

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- cross connection
- well cleaning & maintenance



Waterbury's Path Towards Coagulant Switch and Sludge Residual Reduction

Veronica Llana PhD, PE, Senior Water Technologist, Jacobs
Steve Giordano, Project Manager – Operations Management and Facilities Services, Jacobs

Purpose and Background

The Waterbury Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and other utilities across Connecticut encounter challenges in managing and disposing large volumes of sludge production. Conventional WTPs traditionally consume large quantities of coagulant and produce even greater volumes of sludge residuals. Jacobs Operations Management and Facility Services (OMFs) was engaged to improve process operations relating to water quality parameters, residual reduction, chemical dosing, as well as treatment cost savings. This article focuses on the ongoing methods used to achieve sludge residual reduction.

The Waterbury WTP, located in Thomaston, CT, serves more than 125,000 residents in three different communities. The conventional plant was constructed in 1987 with a design capacity of 38 million gallons per day (mgd), with a current average daily demand of approximately 15 mgd and a max flow rate of 20 mgd.

Raw water is pumped from three different reservoirs surrounding the facility: Pitch, Morris and Wigwam Reservoir. The treatment process involves coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. The primary coagulant aluminum sulfate (Alum) is added in the rapid mixing chamber to enhance settling and total organic carbon (TOC) removal. Figure 1 depicts the rapid mix and flocculation basins. After flocculation, the

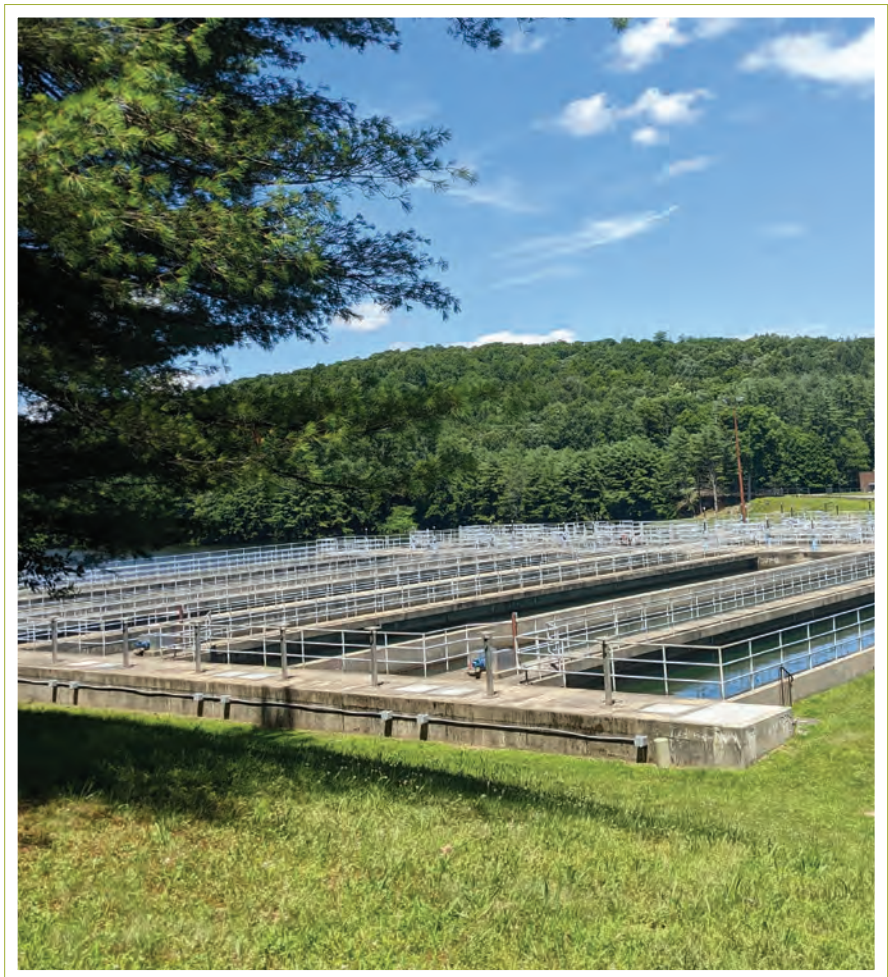


Figure 1: Waterbury WTP rapid mix and sedimentation basins

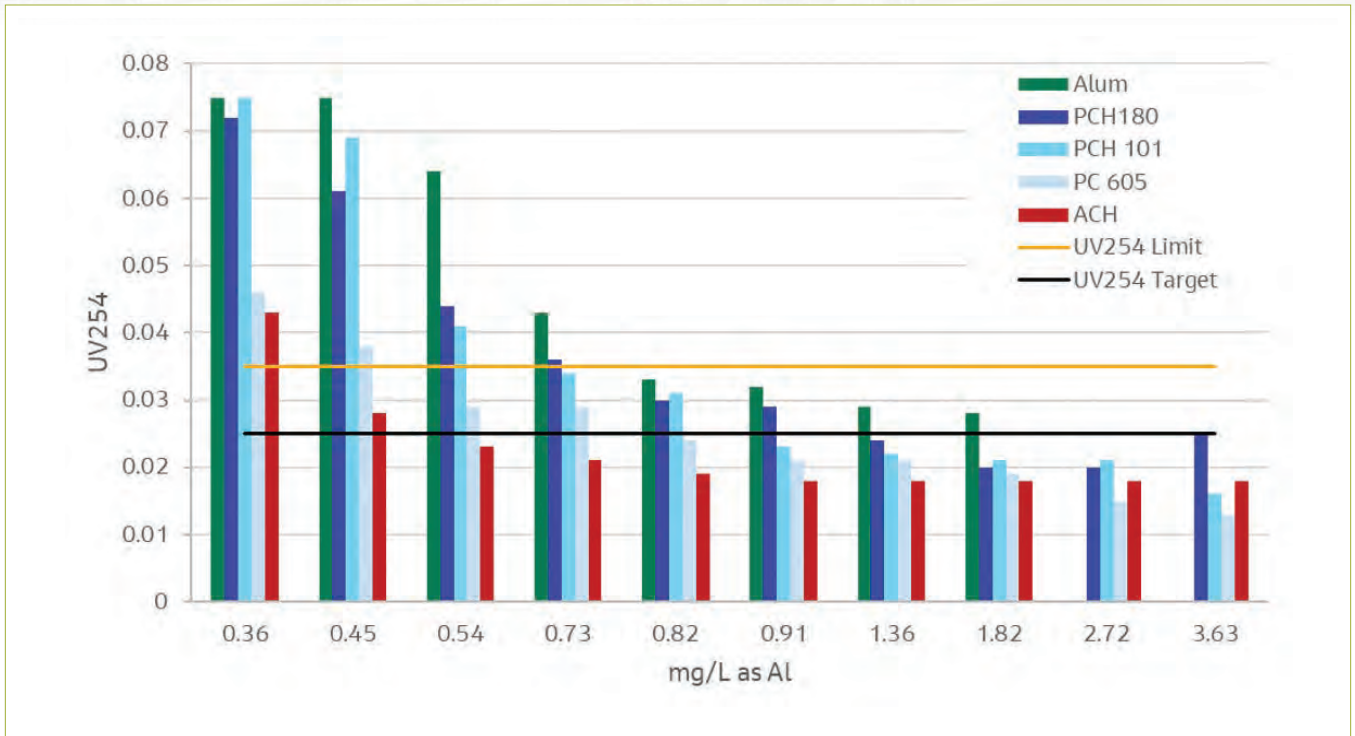


Figure 2: Coagulant UVA₂₅₄ adsorption results

water enters the eight-flocculation settling basin equipped with two-level basins for enhanced settling rates and settled water flows into the gravity filters, where it's dosed with sodium hypochlorite. The six filters are four dual-media filters (layer of gravel, sand, and anthracite) with an average run time of 72 hours prior to the required backwashing. The filtered water is dosed again with sodium hypochlorite prior to entering the clearwells. As the water enters the clearwell, lime and phosphate are added for corrosion control in the distribution system and fluoride prior to being pumped to distribution.

Some key treated water quality parameters and targets include:

- Treated water pH = 7.0 to 8
- Treated water free chlorine residual range = 1.3 to 1.8 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

- Treated water TOC <1.5 mg/L (35% TOC removal requirement)
- Treated water iron and manganese <0.02 mg/L
- Filter effluent turbidity < 0.2

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs) Sludge produced in the eight sedimentation basins is collected by sludge collectors and raked into hoppers at the end of each basin then pumped into two decanting residual basins. The facility contains two lagoons in rotation with recent upgrades to the residual hanging area.

To improve sludge management and address limited space in the residual lagoons, an innovative method for solids drying and storage was provided. Crews cleared a three-acre plot of land within the facility site and constructed drying beds

with geotubes to contain additional solids. Three 200-foot geotubes were installed to enable solids dewatering and management for long-term beneficial reuse. This upgrade provides additional solids-handling and drying capacity to support up to five more years of solids backlog.

Coagulant Feasibility Evaluation Approach and Results

In addition to increasing the residual holding capacity area to reduce sludge production within the treatment process, bench and full-scale feasibility studies were conducted to evaluate the performance of various coagulants; three polyaluminum chloride (PACl) products with varying basicity and an aluminum chlorohydrate (ACH) product compared to the current coagulant used, alum. The data was used to determine the effectiveness of each coagulant and develop recommendations for future enhancements at the WTP.

Water quality characterization on each reservoir was conducted to provide a baseline and control sample. During bench testing, clarified water from each trial was analyzed for turbidity, pH, temperature, Ultraviolet Light Absorbance at 254 nanometers (UVA₂₅₄) total alkalinity and hardness. UVA₂₅₄ absorbance is a useful method to indicate the general character of dissolved organic matter in a water sample and evaluate the disinfectant byproducts (DBP) formation potential. A correlation



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Table 1: Alum & ACH Water Quality Results Summary

Coagulant	% Al ₂ O ₃	Milligrams per liter (mg/L) as Al	Coagulant Volume microliter (ul)	UVA ₂₅₄	pH	Alkalinity	Hardness
Alum	8.3%	1.36	47	0.025	6.62	9.5	28
ACH	24%		16	0.021	7.08	17.3	29

between UVA₂₅₄ absorbance and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) levels at a variety of times throughout the year and from the different raw water sources was established. Turbidity was also recorded during the trial; however, results were not indicative of full-scale plant performance due to hydraulic limitations in bench scale testing. Coagulant addition can also have an impact on pH and alkalinity, so both parameters were closely measured throughout the evaluation along with hardness.

The bench-scale test objective was to determine coagulant alternatives to improve existing treatment operations. When comparing all coagulants tested in equivalent dose basis, the ACH outperformed all PAC and Alum in UV₂₅₄ removal. Figure 2 illustrates the results for coagulants dose and UVA₂₅₄ levels. The UVA₂₅₄ per centimeter (cm⁻¹) target level is 0.025 cm⁻¹ while the limit is 0.035 cm⁻¹; this relates to TOC-acceptable levels in an overall correlation graph. The ACH is below the UVA₂₅₄ limit at a dose of 0.45 mg/L as aluminum (Al) and below the target UVA₂₅₄ at 0.54 mg/L as Al. Optimal dosing for other coagulants was higher compared to ACH.

As previously mentioned, UVA₂₅₄ is a good surrogate for organic carbon in source/drinking water. Another objective was to improve TOC removal responsible for DBP formation in the distribution system during chlorination.

While turbidity is an important parameter in terms of filter performance, results in these bench scale tests may not mimic full scale conditions due to hydraulic variances; however, it can indicate potential trends with turbidity removal. Results showed a PAC (PCH180) having the lowest overall turbidity of 1.28 NTUs, followed by ACH with a turbidity level of 1.56 NTUs and with Alum having the highest overall average turbidity of 1.97 NTUs.

Waterbury's overall raw water total alkalinity is relatively low: approximately 13-16 mg/L as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). Therefore, with low buffering capacity, aluminum sulfate (zero basicity) and low

basicity coagulants can significantly depress the pH and reduce alkalinity, compared to high basicity coagulants like ACH and a high basicity PAC (PCH 180). Results demonstrated that excess dosing reduces the pH and would require post-treatment lime dosing for subsequent final pH correction.

pH is important in coagulation, not only in the removal of organics, color and turbidity, but also to maintain satisfactory minimum levels of dissolved residual aluminum in the clarified water. The optimum pH for coagulation of surface waters is usually in the range of 6.5–7.2, since the aluminum hydroxide floc solubility varies with the source of the raw water.

Overall, ACH works well over a higher pH range, anywhere from 6.5 to 7.5, while

Alum's operating dosed water pH is around 5.8 to 6.5 and the average raw water has a pH of 7.2. In some cases, this means coagulation can be achieved at a pH that avoids the need for post-treatment alkali dosing. The treated water pH also gets a slight increase from sodium hypochlorite addition for disinfection. ACH has minimal impact on the pH of treated water because its less acidic than other coagulants. ACH has a high degree of neutralization of HCl (high basicity) and Alum has no basicity, thus significantly affecting pH.

Discussion Summary

ACH was the coagulant of choice to meet all water quality and sludge production objectives compared to other coagulants evaluated as it has the highest reagent

“Therefore, with low buffering capacity, aluminum sulfate (zero basicity) and low basicity coagulants can significantly depress the pH and reduce alkalinity, compared to high basicity coagulants like ACH and a high basicity PAC (PCH 180).”

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concentration percentage: 24% Al_2O_3 . Having a higher active reagent also corresponds to dosing less, which leads to lower sludge production rates that meet or exceed removal targets.

Table 1 summarizes results for Alum and ACH. The optimal coagulant dose for ACH is approximately a third of that required when using Alum, thus producing less sludge as well and having no significant effect on the pH while achieving comparable organic carbon removal from the water based on the UV_{254} measurement results. Since ACH has a higher positive charge, it's more efficient in coagulating negatively charged contaminants, such as organic matters.

Results indicated that ACH offered an effective approach to coagulation, resulting in cost and operational efficiencies, high-quality water and reduced sludge production. It was concluded that switching to ACH could potentially yield many benefits compared to other metal-based coagulants, such as:

- Lower coagulant dosage requirement
- Less pH reduction and alkali usage
- Improved total organic carbon removal
- Decreased sludge generation

Preliminary Full-Scale Results

Preliminary full-scale result trends along with several references demonstrate that the use of ACH will produce less sludge. An approximate sludge production comparison between Alum and ACH at equivalent dosing was conducted. Calculated sludge production was derived using a conservative scenario of 20% total solids and an average flow rate of 15.8 mgd.

- Alum coagulant sludge production: 221 Dry tons/year and 1,105 Wet tons/year
 - ACH coagulant sludge production: 107 Dry tons/year and 534 Wet tons/year
- Coagulant-produced sludge is composed of metal hydroxide together with colloidal matter removed from raw water. The less coagulant used, the less coagulant-based sludge is produced. Since suspended solids and turbidity are relatively low in all Waterbury reservoirs, most of the sludge produced is generated from the coagulant dosing. The resulting aluminum hydroxide species, or coagulant sludge, is such that 1 mg/L of Alum will produce 0.26 mg/L of sludge and consume 0.5 mg/L of alkalinity as CaCO_3 .¹

ACH contains more reactive aluminum and produces more sludge than Alum pound for pound; 1 mg/L ACH to produce 0.35 mg/L of sludge, according to literature. However, since a lower dosage/feed rate

“The conventional plant was constructed in 1987 with a design capacity of 38 million gallons per day (mgd), with a current average daily demand of approximately 15 mgd and a max flow rate of 20 mgd.”

is required, less sludge is produced.¹ ACH contains more reagent concentration (24% as Al_2O_3) – with a dosage of about one-third that for liquid Alum (8% as Al_2O_3) – and produces less sludge at equivalent doses.

Sludge reduction is trending in the full-scale demonstration testing when ACH is used as the coagulant. In addition, research states that the solids generated by using ACH dewater more efficiently, further decreasing handling and disposal costs.³ Long-term field sludge handling will confirm dewatering efficiency. Furthermore, ACH is not affected by temperature fluctuations since it forms a stronger, compacted, denser floc that settles faster more readily than the fluffier, jellylike flocs of traditional, inorganic coagulants such as Alum. This is important in winter when water is colder and more viscous as hydrolysis reactions slow and less dense floc carries over to the filters.

ACH has the least effect on raw water alkalinity levels of any inorganic coagulant, so it decreases or eliminates pH depression and the corresponding need for alkali dosing. Both bench and full-scale results confirm that the amount of lime addition needed to reach finished water parameter targets related to corrosion control are reduced when switching from Alum to ACH. Since ACH raises pH slightly, it only takes approximately one-third the amount of lime added to reach the finished water targets.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The assessment was conducted to improve the treatment process of the flocculation/ sedimentation units by evaluating various coagulants. Overall, bench scale trials established the performance and optimal dosing for Alum, ACH, and different PAC products for UVA_{254} removal, turbidity reduction, pH suppression and alkalinity/ hardness impact, while the preliminary full scale demonstration results suggest that the


change from Alum to ACH for coagulant type would yield a smaller dosing volume, resulting in lower to no lime addition, a reduction in sludge production, and still be able to meet and/or improve water quality parameter requirements.

Based on these results, it was concluded that ACH surpassed all other coagulants when treating various reservoir source water along with seasonal changes; where temperatures fluctuate, turbidity and nature of DOC levels tend to be higher in the summertime.

- ACH advantages as a coagulant include:
- Reduces the required coagulant dosage to meet optimal DOC removal
 - Produces less sludge and greatly reduce the generation of scheduled waste
 - Produces clean water with undetectable residue aluminum
 - Reduces or eliminates lime addition for corrosion control

In addition, when applying a holistic cost benefit analysis, monetary benefits are also anticipated even though ACH is generally more costly per unit weight than Alum.

Works Cited

1. Coagulation/Flocculation Workshop Course #307. (2022). *Fleming Training Center, Department of Environment & Conservation*, 1-148.
2. E.I., D. Y. (2011). *A COMPARISON OF ALUMINUM AND IRON-BASED COAGULANTS FOR TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER IN SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA*. Orlando Florida: Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering UCF.
3. Freese, P. L. (2009). *A SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE CHEMISTRY, SELECTION AND USE OF CHEMICALS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT*. Gezina: Water Science.
4. S.Q, O. I. (2021). Optimization of ACH coagulant, settling time and powdered activated carbon as coagulant aid with economic analysis. *Global Nest*, 1-11. 



CWWA AND CTAWWA Award Scholarships

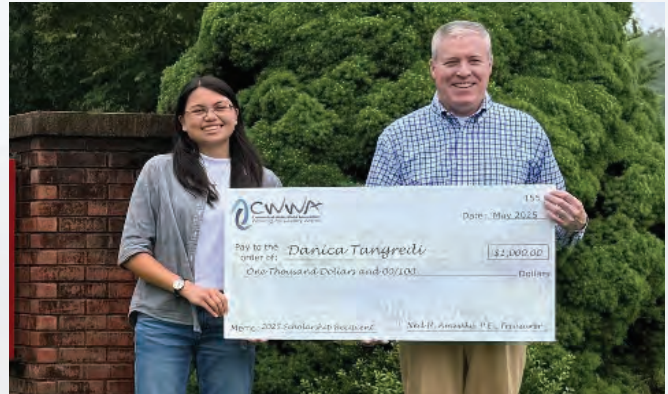
The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) and the CT Section of the American Water Works Association (CTAWWA) recently awarded scholarships to three graduating high school seniors.

“We are honored to present scholarships to three outstanding students who plan on pursuing careers in the environmental sciences,” said CWWA President Peter Fazekas, Director – Corporate Communications, Aquarion Water Company.

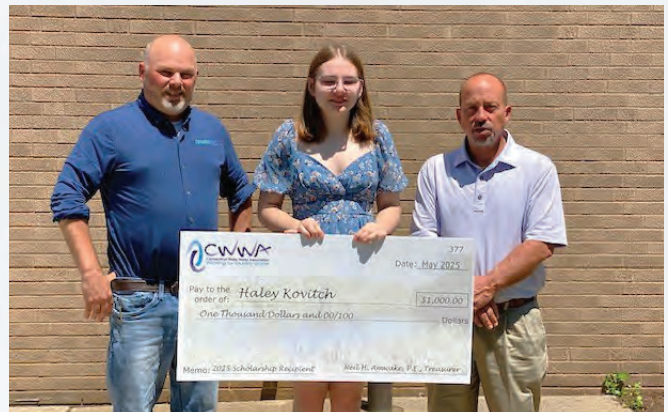
“There are many rewarding careers in the water industry that involve protecting and managing water resources, ensuring water quality, and addressing environmental challenges. These scholarships will help encourage and support students in pursuing careers in these fields,” added Fazekas.

“There is considerable demand for employees in the water industry, which offers a diverse range of career paths. The scholarships help highlight career opportunities in the water industry where individuals can have a meaningful impact on public health and the environment,” said CTAWWA Chair Peter Grabowski, PE, Tighe & Bond. This year, scholarships were awarded to:

- Haley Kovich, a 2025 graduate of Bristol Central High School in Bristol, CT, who plans on pursuing a degree in Environmental Science. An excellent all around student, Kovich was also a top math student, serving on the Bristol Central Math Team for four years.
- Danica Tangredi, a 2025 graduate of Sheehan High School in Wallingford, CT, who plans on pursuing a degree in Environmental Chemistry. Tangredi was a top performer in both Honors and AP Chemistry and received the Science Department Award in Chemistry.
- Nathaniel Goldschmidt, a 2025 graduate of William H. Hall High School in West Hartford, CT, who plans on pursuing a degree in Environmental Science. In addition to an outstanding academic record, Goldschmidt served as President of the Environmental Club and as a student representative for the Sustainable West Hartford Commission. 💧



Left to right: Danica Tangredi and Neil Amwake, Wallingford Public Utilities.



Left to right: Kevin Schwabe, Connecticut Water Company, Haley Kovich, and Rob Longo, Bristol Water & Sewer.



Left to right: Nick Salemi, MDC; Nathaniel Goldschmidt, Hall High School, West Hartford; Alex Cosentino, MDC, and Kevin Schwabe, Connecticut Water Company.

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Upcoming Water Utility Compliance Workshop

CWWA is hosting a workshop on September 5, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the MDC Training Center, 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.

Four Training Credit Hours will be available, pending approval by the State Department of Public Health!

This workshop is designed to assist water utilities in complying with various state and federal laws and regulations, including:

- **PFAS Removal – Designing, Permitting and Operating Effective Treatment** – *Joseph Roccaro, Weston & Sampson*

- **Leading People and Managing Assets for a Sustainable Future** – *Jim Courchaine, Hazen and Sawyer*

- **Watershed Inspections** – *Eric McPhee, Dept. of Public Health*

- **Sanitary Surveys** – *Vicky Carrier, Dept. of Public Health*

- **Tank Inspections** – *Alex Tabatabai, Dept. of Public Health*

- **New Laws affecting Water Utilities** – *Betsy Gara, CWWA*

- **What’s Happening on the Federal Level and How Will it Impact Water Utilities**

In addition to information on compliance assistance, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss issues with their colleagues and enjoy an informal networking lunch.

Registration: cwwa.org/meetinginfo.php
\$75 (members); \$100 (non-members)

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Veteran Water Expert and Podcaster Publishes New Book

David Kuzminski, a passionate advocate for drinking water with over 50 years in the water sector, is on a mission to change how the world sees the water industry. From humble beginnings as an equipment operator to becoming a leader and educator, Kuzminski has seen it all – and he’s using his experience to raise awareness about the often-overlooked water industry.

Through his pioneering work with education programs, his podcast (in which many CWWA and CTAWWA members have participated), and his new book *Careers You Didn’t Know About: The Future of the Water and Wastewater Industry*, Kuzminski is shedding light on the exciting, rewarding careers within the field – including many jobs that don’t require a traditional college degree but offer excellent pay, stability, and purpose.

The water industry is facing a crisis. With a retiring workforce and few replacements in sight, the industry urgently needs a new generation to step up. In this book, Dave Kuzminski and Tom Morico not only explore the hidden world of



water but also challenge the assumption that water will always flow effortlessly. They make the case for the countless, often life-changing careers waiting to be discovered.

If you’re looking for a meaningful, fulfilling career that makes a real difference, it’s time to explore the world beneath the surface. The future of water depends on you. 💧




The book is self-published and available on Amazon. Scan the QR code to the left to learn more!

CT Department of Public Health Water System Operator Certification Courses, Public Utility Management A.S. Degree, and Certificate Courses Fall 2025

Course	Name	Location	Day	Time	Cr
BMGT 2421	Customer Relations	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video)	W	5:30–8:00 pm	3
BUSN 2195	Business Co-Op Internship	OnlineAsynchronous	N/A	N/A	3
ENV 1120	Environmental and Energy Law & Regulations – HYBRID	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video)	M	5:30–6:45 pm	3
WMTR 1001	Water Treatment & Distribution	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video)	T, Th	5:30–8:10 pm	6

The Fall 2025 Semester starts on August 27, 2025, and ends on December 15, 2025. All courses can also be used to meet CT DPH Continuing Education CEU requirements for already licensed water treatment and distribution system operators.

New students may apply online for admission at www.ctstate.edu/apply. Continuing students can register online at www.ctstate.edu. Please contact Professor Wesley L. Winterbottom, P.E., at

wesley.winterbottom@ctstate.edu with questions about these courses or the Water Management Certificate Program and the Public Utility Management A.S. Degree and Certificate Programs. 

Welcome New Members

Laura Bengsten, BioSafe Systems
Ryan Bower, Verico Technology
Michael DeNichilo, Kimley-Horn

Christopher DeSchamp, HomeServe USA
Brian Pahl, Verico Technology

Nicholas Pepper, Everett J Prescott
Justin Santillan, Aquarion Water Company 

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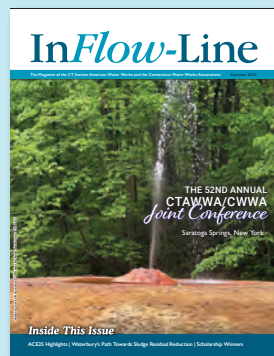
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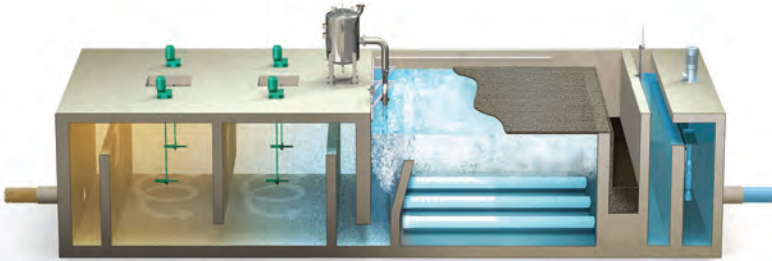
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