

InFlow-Line

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

Summer 2026

HIGHLIGHTS FROM **THE 53RD ANNUAL CTAWWA/CWWA JOINT CONFERENCE**



Inside This Issue

ACE26 Wrap-Up | Building Information Modeling | Scholarship Winners



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30 MGD UV Plant



ideas set in motion

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Marketing Manager: Dave Gill

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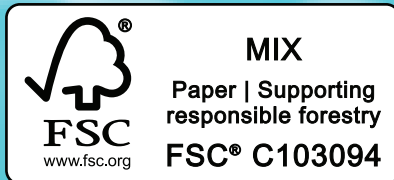
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Cover: Benson's Pond Cranberry Bog
Photo by Judy Soda.



Features

16 A Look Back at the 53rd Annual Joint Conference of CTAWWA & CWWA

21 CWWA and CTAWWA Award Scholarships

23 Save the Date! CWWA & CT Section AWWA Fall Conference 2026

24 ACE26 Celebrates Water Heroes in Washington, D.C.

28 Connecticut Water Co. Team Plants Trees in Killingworth to Protect Water Source

30 How BIM Strengthened the Expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant

32 Water Quality & Treatment Symposium Call for Abstracts

33 31st Annual Fall Golf Classic – September 15

34 In Memoriam: Howard Dunn

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Volume 21 – Number 2



CWWA

Betsy Gara, Executive Director
1245 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-841-7350
gara@gmlobbying.com
www.cwwa.org



CTAWWA

Romana Longo,
Executive Director
PO Box 330472
West Hartford, CT 06133
Cell: 860-604-8996
Fax: 860-953-3051
adminmanager@ctawwa.org
www.ctawwa.org



Table of Contents

Departments

8 Message from the CWWA President

10 Message from the CTAWWA Chair

12 Message from the AWWA National Director

14 Legislative Update

27 Regulatory Watch

34 News and Notes

38 Advertiser Product & Service Center

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Our Broad Portfolio of Work Matters

At my high school teens' sports events, people often ask me what I do. My answer depends on how much I feel like getting into it. The short version: I'm a civil engineer. The longer version is I manage a public drinking water system.

The latter answer usually invites follow-up. What does that entail? Well, more than most people expect. At South Norwalk Electric & Water, I'm the only engineer on staff. Drinking water work spans treatment and distribution operations, fleet management, HR, capital planning, finance, customer service, and construction oversight. On any given day I might be reviewing a piezometer report for our dams, negotiating a contractor change

"CWWA's job is to make sure that when rules and regulations get written that affect how we operate, the people writing them understand what we actually do and why."

order, or explaining a rate increase to a frustrated customer.

I suspect that description sounds familiar to most of you reading this.

That's precisely why CWWA matters. The professionals managing Connecticut's drinking water systems carry an unusually broad portfolio, and we do it largely

without the public's understanding of what our work involves. CWWA's job is to make sure that when rules and regulations get written that affect how we operate, the people writing them understand what we actually do and why.

The year's work is already underway. CWWA is currently an intervening party in DEEP's proposed Comprehensive General Permit adjudicatory proceeding, and what's at stake is consequential. The draft permit's proposed restrictions on hydrant flushing discharges in classified groundwater and surface water areas would effectively prohibit a substantial portion of Connecticut utilities from discharging drinking water from their own hydrants. The proposed regulatory changes are operationally impractical, financially burdensome, and in some cases create new compliance risks of their own. CWWA and CTAWWA are building the technical and evidentiary record to make sure DEEP modifies the General Permit in a manner which is logical and workable for all involved. This is what advocacy looks like in practice.

Our goals for this year follow from our initial focus. We will continue to strengthen our state-level voice on regulations that impact our systems, deepen our partnerships with CTAWWA, DPH and DEEP, and create more opportunities for membership collaboration where we can share our extensive expertise.

Water is foundational and complex. I'm honored to serve as your president, and I look forward to the year ahead. 

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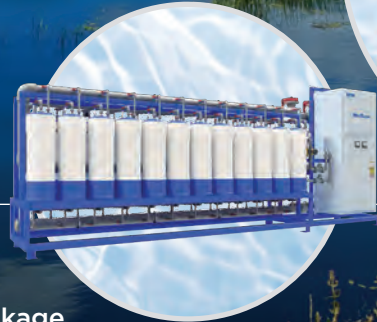
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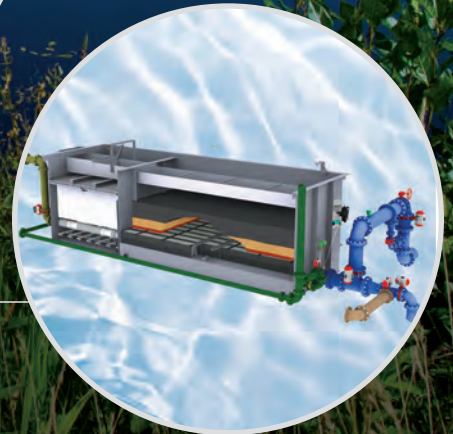
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The Benefits of Belonging: Getting the Most Out of Your Membership

If you are the rare person who thrives as a lone wolf, has all the answers, and can effect change by yourself, feel free to turn the page. For the rest of us, belonging to an established professional association like CTAWWA provides vital resources that shape our learning and career development. Where AWWA conducts research and publishes standards used across the nation, the CT Section AWWA ("the Section") promotes safe and sustainable water for Connecticut through our training, conferences, and the work being done in our committees. Together, these activities ensure CTAWWA and our members are trusted resources for our regulators, elected officials, and within the communities we serve.

For many members, benefits start with the many options to attend local, targeted **training** courses that provide the content and credit hours needed to maintain certifications and licenses. Whether the class is focused on equipment maintenance, introducing new technologies, or exam preparation, the Section is committed to delivering exceptional content as the backbone of how we serve our members.

Our **conferences** – and the joint conferences we offer in partnership with

CWWA – provide additional opportunities to stay current with broader industry trends; take a deep dive into specific issues, like PFAS; and provide the setting to network with industry peers. While you may think of networking in terms of career promotion, it can be much more. Networking with other Section members broadens our pool of mentors and collaborators when we share our problem *du jour* or a recent success story between sessions, at lunch or in the vendor exhibit space. I'm not sure if it's our size, or if there's something in the water... but our CT Section is somehow both welcoming and close-knit. Our shared goals and experiences give us an instant connection, instant community.

As valuable as training and conferences are, if this is where your participation in the Section ends, I suggest you're leaving a lot on the table.

The Section's **committees** offer members yet another avenue to learn from peers and develop as water professionals. Committee work provides leadership opportunities. For our more experienced professionals, committees provide a chance to mentor the next generation of water industry leaders. Committee participants gain a more comprehensive understanding of industry challenges and trends beyond

what they're exposed to in their day jobs. Moreover, our committees play a role in shaping the future of Connecticut's water industry by developing best practices, influencing policy, and working to provide solutions to sustainably manage water resources.

The Section has more than a dozen active committees where members can both contribute and learn. With a couple of exceptions where participation is limited to Board members (think Budget and Audit Committees) all members are welcome! Below are just three examples that show the breadth of the opportunities available, and how our committees contribute to the success of the Section.

Our **Young Professionals (YP) Committee** meets quarterly to organize opportunities for CT Section members aged 35 and under to network and learn. Past events have included tours of surface water treatment plants, vendor/manufacturer construction sites. This group also promotes water industry careers by scheduling members to appear at several university outreach events throughout the year. Lastly, the group organizes several social events as a means of fostering community among the YP members of the Section.

The **Water Resources Committee** brings together utility and consulting professionals to address water planning issues facing the industry. They have been working with the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop improved definitions of *available water* for use in determining margin-of-safety and adequacy of supply for Water Supply Plans. More recently they provided the water industry perspective to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as DEEP works on reissuance of its General Permits for Diversion of Water for Consumptive Use. The Committee also provides an opportunity for members to discuss common water resource topics such



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as drought planning and implementation of DEEP's Stream Flow Standards and Regulations.

Have opinions about ATCAVE or other Section training you've attended? The **Education and Program Committee** works to identify training needs and timely topics; find qualified trainers and speakers; solicit, review, and select abstracts; and obtain credit hour approval from the Department of Public Health to create

training and conference programs that meet the needs of our members. Committee members are usually session moderators, as well. They coordinate with speakers in advance; introduce them from the podium; and generally, keep the program on schedule.

With my apologies to the many great committees I didn't describe (but that you can find online at <https://ctawwa.org/committees>), I trust you can see that our committees are the engine that deliver the content,

expertise, and oversight to ensure our members receive value, and feel valued. Whether you're at the beginning of your career or a seasoned professional; work for a water utility or service provider; manage technical requirements or manage people, or even if you're retired, participating on a Section committee will unlock the true value of your membership and ensure CTAWWA remains a dynamic and trusted resource for the drinking water community. 💧

“Our CT Section is somehow both welcoming and close-knit. Our shared goals and experiences give us an instant connection, instant community.”



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Reflections from AWWA ACE and Board Meetings

I just returned from an exciting week in Washington, D.C., where I attended the AWWA Board of Directors meetings, followed by the whirlwind of activities at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) conference. The week left me feeling very confident about where our water industry is and how we are actively planning for the future.

One of the most encouraging developments shared during the AWWA Board meetings was that AWWA membership has risen above 50,000 for the first time in two years. This milestone was achieved through the re-commitment of AWWA staff to focus on value provided to membership, and through the hard work of Section staff and volunteers. In a time when workforce challenges and competing demands persist, this growth reflects a strong commitment to professional development and collective problem-solving.

The AWWA Board also devoted significant time discussing adoption of a proactive artificial intelligence (AI) strategy. Many people, including our legislators, regulators, and even industry professionals, are turning to AI for assistance with finding information regarding some of the many pressing issues that water suppliers are facing. AI may find this information from any number of sources, and as water professionals we would prefer AWWA to have a strong presence and to remain THE trusted source for water knowledge. A couple of issues that were intensely discussed at the meeting include what level and how to restrict access to documents and tools developed by AWWA to members, understanding that AI tools available to the public will find other sources that may not be as accurate – how does AWWA stay relevant? There was consensus among board members that AI tools should be developed to help AWWA members more efficiently and effectively access the vast amount of information available from

“The AWWA Board also devoted significant time discussing adoption of a proactive artificial intelligence (AI) strategy. Many people, including our legislators, regulators, and even industry professionals, are turning to AI for assistance with finding information regarding some of the many pressing issues that water suppliers are facing.”

AWWA, which can often be difficult to find with conventional search tools. AWWA has hired a technology consultant to begin the process of drafting a comprehensive strategy, and I will provide updates on progress in future columns.

The ACE conference once again underscored the strength and momentum of our industry. Attendance exceeded 11,000, and the exhibition featured 454 exhibitors. The technical program was very strong, and I attended sessions on PFAS (of course), asset management, water loss control, water main replacement prioritization, and data center rate and contracting suggestions.

One ACE highlight was the recognition of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority which received the 2026 AWWA Public Communications Achievement Award. This honor reflects RWA's leadership in effectively engaging customers and stakeholders, and it is a testament to the high caliber of work being done here in Connecticut. It was gratifying to see one of our own organizations recognized on a national stage, reinforcing the strength of our Section and its contributions to the broader water community.

On a lighter – and always enjoyable – note, I again had the privilege of serving

as a judge for the Best of the Best Tap Water Taste contest, one of ACE's most popular and spirited traditions. This year featured 31 entries from utilities across North America, each representing the pride and dedication of the operators and teams behind them. After a competitive evaluation, which required me to drink over 60 glasses (small samples, but probably totaling about two gallons!), the top honor was awarded to the City of Fredericton, New Brunswick, whose water stood out for its crisp, clean taste. I am always impressed by the number of utilities that were present to cheer on their water, demonstrating commitment and pride in their work and service to the community. Events like this remind us that beyond the technical complexity and regulatory frameworks, the ultimate goal remains simple: delivering safe, high-quality water to our communities.

For CTAWWA members, ACE26 reinforced both shared challenges and shared opportunities. The issues we face in Connecticut – aging infrastructure, regulatory complexity, workforce transitions – are consistent across the country. At the same time, the conference demonstrated that innovation is accelerating, collaboration is strong, and the collective expertise of our profession continues to grow. 💧

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CWWA Legislative Wrap-Up

The Connecticut General Assembly adjourned at midnight on May 6. The following bills of interest to water utilities were adopted:

Hydrant Flushing

CWWA was successful in securing passage of Public Act 26-124 to address concerns regarding the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)'s proposed hydrant flushing restrictions contained in the draft Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface and Ground Water. As proposed by DEEP, areas with water quality classifications of A, AA, GA, or GAA would not have been eligible for automatic authorization to conduct flushing under this permit.

According to a statement by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), "approximately 9,900 miles of public water system infrastructure and 38 large public water systems would be affected. Creating a permitting hardship of this scale could pose a public health concern and increase the risk of deferred maintenance."

Under the Public Health Code, water utilities are required to conduct regular flushing programs to protect water quality, system reliability, and adequate pressure and flow. Failure to flush hydrants and pipes can lead to water main breaks, reduced pressure and flow, and service disruptions.

Public Act 26-124 is intended to ensure that water utilities can conduct hydrant flushing in the same manner that they did under previous general permits. However, there are several other concerns with the proposed General Permit, including provisions requiring the installation of monitoring wells, excessive PFAS sampling, and minimum separating distances for many authorized discharges.

Recognizing the cost and operational burdens that the proposed General Permit would place on water utilities and their customers, CWWA retained the law firm of **Robinson + Cole** and successfully petitioned for intervenor status in the matter. We have been engaged in meetings and hearings throughout the summer to represent the interests of water utilities.

CTDOT Encroachment Permits

CWWA, working with other utilities, successfully defeated provisions in a bill proposed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to require utilities to obtain encroachment permits from CTDOT for any work performed in the State Right of Way (SROW) even if the utility is not the property owner and does not have any contractual relationship with the contractor or private property owner.

Because SROWs often extend several feet onto private property, many curb stops, laterals or service lines owned by the customer are located within the SROW. Despite this, HB-5464 would have required utilities to obtain and sign encroachment permits,

shifting responsibility – and liability – to utilities for repairing and inspecting privately owned infrastructure to determine whether installation, paving, backfill, etc., was done in compliance with CTDOT standards.

CWWA and several utility members testified in opposition to the bill, calling on lawmakers to delete the provisions. In addition, Eversource, United Illuminating, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, and the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce testified against the measure.

Unfortunately, CTDOT continues to press utilities to sign the encroachment permits. CWWA is in ongoing meetings with CTDOT and utility representatives to discuss concerns.

Civil Penalties

Public Act 26-68 includes provisions authorizing the DPH to impose up to \$25,000 per day in civil penalties on any person who provides professional services without the required DPH license or certificate. Certified water operators and subsurface sewage system installers/cleaners are considered professional services for purposes of the law. The Act also allows DPH, with respect to professions under its jurisdiction that have no board or commission, to issue a summary order to any person found to be violating an applicable statute or regulation, providing for the immediate discontinuance of a violation that poses an imminent risk to public health, safety or welfare, pending proceedings to determine whether to issue a cease-and-desist order.

Riparian Buffers

Public Act 26-61 requires DEEP to hire an employee to train inland wetland commissions regarding the importance of preserving riparian areas, the vegetated land near rivers and streams that helps reduce flooding, prevent erosion, protect drinking water, and filter toxins.

Invasive Species

Public Act 26-65 outlines rapid response actions and timeframes for eradicating, containing, or controlling hydrilla and other aquatic invasive plant species. It also requires the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species, in consultation with DEEP, to develop a state rapid response plan for hydrilla.

PFAS Action Levels for Water Bottlers

By law, water bottlers must annually collect water samples from each DPH-approved source and get them tested for PFAS and other unregulated contaminants by a certified environmental laboratory before any treatment. Public Act 26-142 specifically requires DPH to issue a schedule that lists PFAS and unregulated contaminants and the acceptable levels for each, consistent with levels specified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Water System Operators

Public Act 26-142 includes provisions allowing the DPH to certify apprentice operators for water treatment plants, water distribution systems, or small water systems. To qualify for certification under the Act, an applicant must (1) be a state Department of Labor (DOL)-registered apprentice who completed a DOL-approved

apprenticeship for the applicable system type, and (2) have passed a written exam (set in state regulations) after completing the apprenticeship.

Questions? Contact CWWA's Executive Director Betsy Gara at gara@gmlobbying.com. Download the Summary of New Laws at cwwa.org. 

“Public Act 26-142 specifically requires DPH to issue a schedule that lists PFAS and unregulated contaminants and the acceptable levels for each.”



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A LOOK BACK AT THE 53RD ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE OF CTAWWA & CWWA

Plymouth, MA – The 53rd Annual Joint Conference of the Connecticut Section American Water Works Association (CTAWWA) and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) recently wrapped up at Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor, marking another successful year of collaboration, learning, and recognition within the water industry.

Outgoing CTAWWA Chair Peter Grabowski 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 attendees. Wednesday kicked off with a luncheon sponsored by the Associates Committee and a presentation by Malissa Costa and Danielle Alonso from the Plimoth Pawtuxet Museum exploring the rich history of the area. This was followed by engaging afternoon presentations that included John Eisnor, AWWA Vice-President and visiting officer from Halifax Water, the presentation of CTAWWA

Section awards (as noted below), and a lively welcome dinner reception at Terrace Rooftop Dining where the rain fortuitously stayed to the south.

Thursday's schedule included breakfast and the second-ever CTAWWA/CWWA Fun Run/Walk in which many enthusiastic runners and walkers participated. These were followed by the morning technical sessions offering in-depth insights into current industry topics and new technologies. For pre-registered attendees, an afternoon tour of Benson's Pond Cranberry Bog provided a unique experience, followed by a networking event. The day culminated in the highly anticipated Awards Banquet in the Atlantic Ballroom, honoring outstanding contributions to the water sector.

The conference concluded on Friday with additional technical presentations and a panel discussion on using social media that fostered open dialogue and discussion. This was followed by the always-anticipated SMARTS Game, a tradition of spirited and friendly competition that left participants energized and resulted in a donation to Water For People on behalf of the winners.

HONORING INDUSTRY LEADERS: 2026 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: DANIEL LAWRENCE

Dan Lawrence was honored with the prestigious George Warren Fuller Award, recognizing over 30 years of strengthening water infrastructure, advancing engineering excellence, and supporting the long-term sustainability of public water systems. A former two-term president of CWWA, he led discussions on critical issues including PFAS, lead and copper regulations, and Legionella awareness. His leadership has been instrumental in statewide planning efforts, including serving as co-chair of the Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee since 2016 and later as co-chair of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group. Colleagues know him as a mentor, collaborator, and passionate supporter of the next generation of water professionals, and his willingness to share knowledge and invest in others reflects the spirit of this award.

JOHN LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: ALAN WELLS

Alan Wells of Tighe & Bond 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. In addition to his technical knowledge and industry expertise supporting safe and reliable drinking water throughout Connecticut, Wells was recognized for his 35 years of support including serving as Chair of the Associates Committee and as a member of the Scholarship Committee. He has been instrumental in securing Section Enhancers whose support help sustain scholarships, member programs, and Section activities.



John Eisnor and Dan Lawrence – photo by Romana Longo



Alan Wells and John Eisnor – photo by Romana Longo



Photos by Judy Soda

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CTAWWA OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD: KEVIN DESJARDINS

The Kenneth J. Miller Founders Award was presented to **Kevin Desjardins** of DN for his leadership, service, and commitment to advancing young professionals in the water industry both in Connecticut and throughout New England. Since joining CTAWWA in 2021, he has become an important contributor to the Associates Committee, recently stepping into the role of Vice Chair. He has helped lead several impactful initiatives, including outreach at the Annual Vendor Expo, development of the Section Enhancement Program, and scholarship efforts supporting future industry professionals all while continuing to provide technical expertise and support on critical infrastructure projects.

OPERATOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD: CARL SCEPANSKI

Carl Scepanski of Windham Water Works was recognized with the Operator's Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding technical excellence, commitment, professionalism, reliability, and outstanding public service. Known for always answering the call during storms, emergencies, and power outages, he is often the first to volunteer to stay late or work extended hours to ensure uninterrupted supply to customers. Scepanski is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of water operators to provide the highest quality drinking water possible.

2025 TENURE AWARDS

The conference also celebrated long-standing members with the 2025 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 Ricoszi**.

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 53rd 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 fantastic conference that highlighted current industry topics, and our sponsors Snyder Civil, Harper Haines, Clow Valve Co., DN, Ferguson Waterworks, Kleinfelder, Ti-Sales, and Tighe & Bond.

Through the raffle and events, the Philanthropic Committee raised money which will be donated to Water For People and Water Equation, supporting vital water initiatives.

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



Kevin Desjardins and John Eisnor – photo by Romana Longo



Carl Scepanski and John Eisnor – photo by Romana Longo



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CWWA and CTAWWA

Award Scholarships

Two graduating high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) and the CT Section of the American Water Works Association (CTAWWA).

"It is a pleasure to present scholarships to two outstanding students pursuing careers in environmental sciences and engineering," said CWWA President Lisa Burns, Director of Water Operations, South Norwalk Electric and Water.

"The water industry offers individuals a wide range of rewarding career paths many of which require expertise in science and engineering. Our employees play a vital role in providing customers with high-quality drinking water supplies to meet the public health and safety needs of our communities," Burns added.

"We are honored to provide scholarships to students pursuing careers in high-demand fields in the water sector. From protecting water resources and water quality to overseeing treatment and distribution processes, the water sector provides diverse career opportunities where individuals can have a meaningful impact on public health and the environment," said CTAWWA Chair Carolyn Giampe, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Management, Aquarion Water Company.

This year, scholarships were awarded to:

- *Ella Briggs*, a 2026 graduate of Middletown High School in Middletown, CT, who plans to pursue a degree in Environmental Policy and Pre-Law. During high school, Ella excelled in biology and other science and STEM subjects. As a member of Mystic Aquarium's Youth Conservation Corps, Ella demonstrated a commitment to research and environmental stewardship. Notably, Ella was elected Connecticut's Kid Governor in 2019, where she became the first openly LGBTQ+ student to serve in that role.
- *Anthony Boggio* of Plymouth, CT, a 2026 graduate of Lakeview High School in Litchfield, CT, who plans to pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering. Long active in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), Anthony is competing nationally on the Forestry Career Development Team, demonstrating forestry skills including tree identification and forest management. Anthony was a top academic performer in high school, excelling in a wide range of subjects. 💧



Left to right: Kevin Schwabe, Connecticut Water Company, Ella Briggs, and Seth Lentz, Middletown Water and Sewer Department.



Left to right: Kevin Schwabe, Connecticut Water Company, and Anthony Boggio




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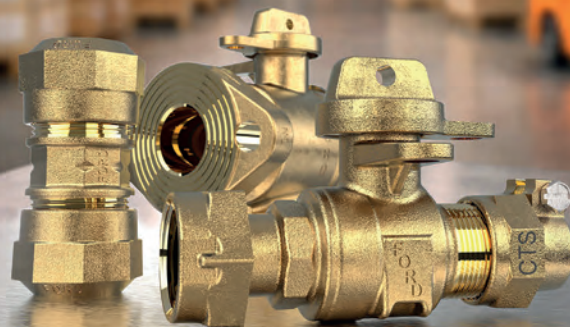
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- Discounted Exhibitor Booth (\$400).

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Non-Members: \$195 per person

Questions? Contact CWWA's Betsy Gara,
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ACE26 CELEBRATES WATER HEROES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

More than 80 Connecticut water professionals traveled to Washington, D.C., June 21–25 to attend the 2026 American Water Works Association Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE26). Held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, ACE26 brought together thousands of water professionals from around the world to celebrate this year's theme, Water Heroes – recognizing the dedicated people who work behind the scenes and underground every day to provide safe, reliable drinking water to their communities.

Set against the backdrop of America's 250th anniversary celebration in the nation's capital, the conference featured AWWA Board and committee meetings, technical sessions, an expansive exhibit hall, and countless opportunities to learn, network, and share innovative solutions. Connecticut members also enjoyed the 49th Annual CTAWWA/NE-AWWA Joint Luncheon at Clyde's of Gallery Place, where approximately 50 members from the two sections gathered to reconnect with colleagues. Another conference highlight was the Industry Luncheon featuring keynote speaker Molly Bloom.

The conference concluded with the traditional Gavel Passing Ceremony and

Wrap Party. During the ceremony, the AWWA gavel was officially passed from Heather Collins of the California-Nevada Section to Brent Tippey of the Kentucky/Tennessee Section, marking the transition of AWWA leadership for the coming year.

Connecticut's water heroes were well represented throughout the conference. Joseph LaRosa (CDM Smith) and Themba Chirambo (Aqurion Water Company) presented *Reimagining SCADA: Aqurion's Path to a Smarter, Scalable Future*. Ji Im and Al LeBlanc (CDM Smith) shared their work on a future-ready PFAS removal facility, while Michael Shortell (WSP) addressed the challenges of incorporating PFAS treatment into existing residential water systems. Jay Sheehan (Woodard & Curran) presented on strategies for addressing the industry's aging workforce. Representing the Regional Water Authority, Tom Barger participated in the panel discussion *Sustaining the Digital Age Through Shared Water Stewardship*, and Steve Vitko, co presented with John Clayton (Hazen & Sawyer) *Integrated Planning in a Changing World: Models and Tools to Evaluate Risk, Reliability and Water Supply Alternatives*.

Connecticut members also received national recognition. Daniel Lawrence (Aqurion Water Company) received Connecticut's George Warren Fuller Award

at the Fuller Breakfast. Megan Olson (Tighe & Bond) represented Connecticut in the Fresh Ideas Poster Contest, while Mike Turgeon and Carl Scepanski (Windham Water Works) competed in the "Best of the Best" Tap Water Taste Test. Mark Steeves (Regional Water Authority) once again served as Head Judge for the Pipe Tapping Competition, and Kevin Watsey accepted the 2026 Public Communications Achievement Award on behalf of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.

Connecticut was also represented in AWWA leadership, with Steve Rugar, Connecticut's Director, and Romana Longo, Executive Director, participating in AWWA Board and committee meetings throughout the conference. Judy Soda, CTAWWA Secretary, also volunteered behind the scenes, supporting conference operations throughout the week.

ACE26 was a fitting celebration of the water heroes who keep our communities healthy every day. Connecticut's members showcased the strength of our Section through technical excellence, leadership, volunteerism, and national recognition. Congratulations to everyone who represented CTAWWA so well in our nation's capital. 💧



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EPA Proposes 30 New Unregulated Contaminants for Monitoring

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new monitoring requirements for 30 unregulated contaminants in its Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6), including certain PFAS.

Under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, EPA is required to issue a list of unregulated contaminants every five years that public water systems must monitor to provide data regarding their occurrence, concentrations, and potential public health risks.

EPA is hosting two identical webinars on August 11 and 12 to discuss the proposed UCMR 6. The meeting scope will include the proposed monitoring requirements, contaminant selection and rationale, drinking water analytical methods, and the laboratory approval process. To register for the webinars, visit: www.epa.gov/dwucmr/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-meetings-and-materials.

To ensure adequate time for public statements, individuals or organizations interested in making a statement should identify their interest when they register. EPA asks that only one person present on behalf of a group or organization, and that the presentation be limited to ten minutes.

Once the Proposed Rule is published in the Federal Register, the public may comment online during the 60-day comment period: <https://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0469.

For more information about the UCMR, please visit EPA's UCMR website: www.epa.gov/dwucmr. 

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 **CONNECTICUT WATER CO. TEAM PLANTS**

More Than 400 Trees

in Killingworth to Protect Water Source

By Richard Rathsack, Connecticut Water Company

Connecticut Water employee volunteers, along with Connwood Foresters Inc., planted 400 white pine trees around the Killingworth Reservoir as part of a leaf screen project to protect the long-term quality of a critical water source.

Leaf screens involve a strategic planting of conifers along the shoreline of a water source to help block or catch deciduous leaves before they enter the water source. Decomposing leaves in the reservoir release nutrients and other organic material, which can reduce water quality, increase treatment needs, and also clog filters.

The evergreens will eventually provide a year-round buffer that filters leaves, stabilizes soil, and helps maintain the health of the water source. Forests act as natural water filters – capturing sediment, absorbing nutrients, and breaking down pollutants before they can reach a reservoir. Leaf litter and organic matter slow runoff and allow water to percolate through the soil, where it is naturally filtered and cooled.

Connecticut Water owns more than 6,500 acres of land in Connecticut which is maintained as dedicated open space to protect water sources. We invest in additional watershed acreage as it becomes available and beneficial to the protection of our water supply.

The Killingworth and Kelseytown reservoirs provide the source water to the William MacKenzie Drinking Water Treatment Facility, which serves more than 24,000 customers each day in Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook. 💧



“The evergreens will eventually provide a year-round buffer that filters leaves, stabilizes soil, and helps maintain the health of the water source.”



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How BIM Strengthened the Expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant

By Samruddhi Kulkarni, Tejjy, Inc.

Over the last decade, Houston has grown in ways one could see. New buildings and new neighborhoods are pushing the city line farther out year after year. But the growth that mattered showed up via the expansion of services that led to an increased daily strain on the utilities that kept the city running, especially water.

That rising demand for water converged with a second pressure: regulation. Mandates aimed at reducing subsidence pushed municipalities away from historic groundwater dependence and toward greater reliance on available surface water systems. Here, Houston's Northeast Water Purification Plant moved into sharper focus.

The plant's expansion was delivered as a design-build effort that added 320 million gallons per day to the existing facility, increasing the total treatment capacity to 400 MGD. The upgrade helped the city and regional water authorities meet forecasted demand while aligning with requirements set by the Harris-Galveston and Fort Bend Subsidence Districts.

But increasing capacity at that scale is not simply a matter of installing additional treatment units. Water purification plants are dense, highly coordinated environments. Mechanical piping networks intersect with structural framing and architectural constraints inside process zones where tolerances are tight.

"In a facility like this, there's no extra space to negotiate with," says Preetie Singh, CEO of Tejjy Inc. "Every pipe, every clearance has a defined role. When you're modeling inside an active process environment, precision is fundamental."

That reality shaped the digital strategy from the outset. Tejjy Inc. was engaged to deliver Building Information Modeling (BIM)

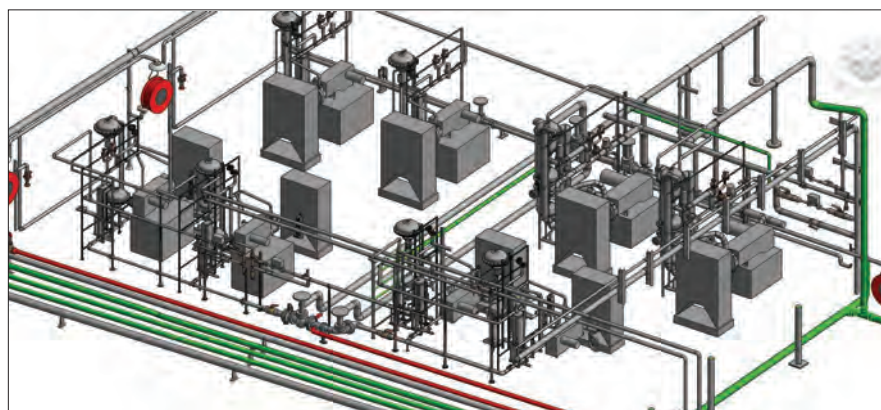
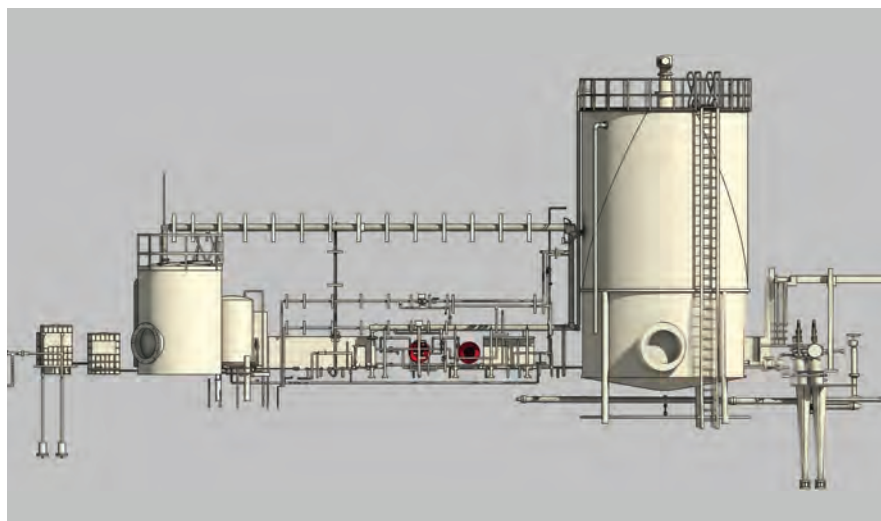


Figure 1. BIM Output Images from the Northeast Water Purification Plant Project.

coordination and detailed mechanical piping and infrastructure modeling prior to site coordination and construction. Instead of relying solely on layered 2D documentation, the team developed fabrication-level 3D models in Autodesk Revit to reflect real-world constructability.

"Two-dimensional drawings communicate intent," Singh points out, "but in high-density utility infrastructure, conflicts often don't become obvious until materials arrive on site. Modeling lets you see those interactions early and helps resolve them proactively."

Working at Level of Development (LOD) 450, the team defined mechanical piping systems with fabrication-ready precision. Pipe routing, slopes, fittings, supports, and system interfaces were modeled in detail so the digital output could directly support downstream coordination drawings and shop documentation.

"At LOD 450, you're modeling what the crews will physically install" Singh adds.

To bring discipline models into a single coordination space, the project team federated the datasets in Navisworks, an Autodesk platform used to run structured clash detection. That made it possible to evaluate architectural, structural, and MEP systems together to prevent physical siting conflicts. This was an essential step in designing pump galleries and treatment corridors where maintenance clearances and operational access must be protected. Through clash detection sessions, the team identified interferences between mechanical piping, structural components, and equipment access zones, addressing them digitally rather than during installation.

"One field adjustment affects all the trades. If a pipe shifts, it impacts support, access clearances, sequencing, everything, like a domino effect. That's why resolving those issues in the model is so important. We used the coordinated LOD 450 environment as the foundation for everything that followed. From that verified model, we generated coordination drawings and fabrication shop drawings aligned with the approved material submittals. Because those documents came directly from a validated 3D model, we maintained dimensional consistency across deliverables. It meant fewer surprises in fabrication and far greater confidence once installation began. Fabrication accuracy is where digital coordination becomes measurable, and you reduce downstream rework dramatically."

That same model-driven approach strengthened quantity extraction. Mechanical quantities were generated directly from the model based on approved submittals, supporting more reliable procurement planning. This led to reducing discrepancies between estimates and installed materials. In projects of this scale, quantity uncertainty can quickly compound into wasted time and cost.

Behind the scenes, family creation and parametric attribute development ensured that mechanical components carried both accurate geometry and structured data. As updates were made, changes propagated across drawings and schedules, keeping the model and documentation aligned.

"Infrastructure modeling needs predictability," Singh emphasizes. "When geometry and data behave consistently, coordination stays stable even as the project evolves."

The outcome was a detailed mechanical and infrastructure model developed before site activity intensified. This endured a measurable reduction of ambiguity, strengthening constructability across disciplines. In a project adding 320 MGD of capacity to a critical purification facility, that precision supported smoother integration within the broader expansion effort.

While the public will ultimately measure success in gallons per day and regulatory compliance, the achievement beneath the surface lies in coordination. Thousands of feet of piping and interconnected supports had to align within confined process zones without compromising access or installation feasibility.

"In public infrastructure, reliability doesn't start the day a facility goes live. It starts much earlier, with how clearly systems are coordinated, how thoroughly they're

documented, and how little is left to assumption. If you get that part right, everything that follows becomes more predictable." Singh says in conclusion.

Across the country, municipalities are rethinking how water infrastructure is delivered as environmental pressures and population growth converge. Projects are getting larger, systems more interconnected, and the margin for error is increasingly narrow. At the Northeast Water Purification Plant, modeling at LOD 450 created a level of clarity that was carried through three significant phases – coordination, fabrication, and installation. It allowed thousands of components to align in a space where precision was non-negotiable.

By the time the expanded plant moved closer to operation, much of the real work had already been done quietly, inside a coordinated digital environment. Because in mission-critical infrastructure, reliability is never an afterthought. It is designed, tested, and built long before the first gallon flows. 



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November 19, 2026 Norwich Inn & Spa

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Criteria for selection – Originality, Case Studies, Innovation, Significance of Work, Audience Range, Technical Content, Quality of Abstract, and Real-Life Relevance.

Suggested topics include – Climate change issues/impacts, source water protection/management; water quality sampling,

testing, and laboratory analysis; online water quality analyzers; drinking water contaminants (occurrence, management, treatment) – emerging, organic, inorganic, biological; treatment processes and techniques, UV, AOP, Ozone, DAF, membrane filtration, biological treatment; PFAS treatment – *operating* challenges, lessons learned; taste and odor issues; drinking water treatment residuals – operations, management, disposal; disinfection practices and disinfection by-product control; distribution system water quality and system issues (including legacy manganese); distribution system operations, storage, and management; corrosion control and the Lead and Copper Rule; regulatory issues & policy issues; cybersecurity; energy optimization and sustainability, etc.

What to submit: Please complete the information in our online form including presentation title, a short description of the presentation, and names of presenters. Our online form is located at:
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Questions – Please contact Steve Olson at H2Olson Engineering, Inc. at 508-375-7007 or sco@h2olsonengineering.com. 



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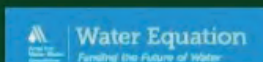
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All students can email the One Stop Enrollment Office for admissions or registration questions at gw-onestop@ct.edu.

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.

Course	Name	Location	Day	Time	CR
BMGT 2421 CRN 14029	Customer Relations	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video)	W	5:30–8:00 PM	3
ENV 1120 CRN 12994	Environmental and Energy Law and Regulations	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video) HYBRID	M	5:30–6:45 PM	3
ENV 1120 CRN 16688	Environmental and Energy Law and Regulations	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video) HYBRID	W	5:30–6:45 PM	3
WMTR 1001 CRN 10080	Water Treatment and Distribution	Online with WebEx (Live, Interactive Streaming Video)	T, Th	5:30–8:10 PM	6

In Memoriam: Howard Dunn

Howard Dunn, former Vice President of Supply Operations at Aquarion Water Company, passed away on May 4, 2026, at the age of 68. Howard earned degrees from Clarkson University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and dedicated more than three decades to the water industry. He began his career at Malcolm Pirnie before joining the Regional Water Authority and then Aquarion Water Company (at that time the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company) in 1995 as the Director of Supply Operations. He was promoted to Vice President of Supply Operations in 2001 and led the company's Supply and Utility Operations Departments until his retirement in 2013. Throughout his career, Howard also contributed to the water industry through service on the AWWA Coagulation & Filtration

Committee, including a term as Vice Chair, and as a five-time co-author in the *Journal AWWA*, receiving the Division Best Paper Award in 1986.

Howard earned the respect of colleagues across the industry for his exceptional technical knowledge coupled with hands-on experience and genuine humility. He was known for his down-to-earth personality and willingness to mentor others. Howard recognized the value of connecting applied academic research to real-world drinking water treatment practice and established and championed a decades-long partnership with the University of Massachusetts that continues today. This partnership created opportunities for faculty and graduate students to conduct applied research on drinking water treatment, while helping Aquarion solve complex treatment



challenges. Many operators, consultants, academics and executives credit Howard with shaping their careers through his willingness to share knowledge and the example he set with his dedication to the industry. Howard's legacy lives on in the people he mentored and the practices he helped establish. He will be greatly missed by colleagues, friends, and all who had the privilege of working with and knowing him.

DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes Stepping Down

Governor Ned Lamont recently announced that Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Katie Dykes is leaving her position in July after nearly 14 years of state service.

DEEP Deputy Commissioner Emma Cimino will serve as the agency's acting commissioner.

"The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's mission is more important than ever," Governor Lamont said. "For many years, Katie has been a trusted advisor and an innovative, effective leader for DEEP, working tirelessly to secure clean, affordable energy, tackle our toughest pollution challenges, modernize environmental regulation, and invest in our parks and natural resources, all while building a capable team that will carry the department's mission forward. Deputy Commissioner Cimino is a skilled, experienced leader who knows DEEP well, and I appreciate her willingness to serve in this leadership position."

Commissioner Dykes has led DEEP since January 2019, when she was nominated to the position by Governor Lamont at the start of his first term in office, and she was re-confirmed in 2023 at the start of Governor Lamont's second term. She previously served as chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority from 2016 to 2019, and as DEEP's deputy commissioner for energy from 2012 to 2016.

"It has been the honor of my professional life to serve the people of Connecticut for nearly 14 years, including more than seven years as DEEP commissioner," Commissioner Dykes said. "I am incredibly proud of DEEP's extraordinary staff and the many great things we have accomplished for the people and the environment of Connecticut. I feel confident that this is the right moment for a transition, both for DEEP and for me personally – an opportunity for new leadership to guide

the agency forward, and for me to explore new professional opportunities. I am so grateful to Governor Lamont for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve."

In her current position, Deputy Commissioner Cimino has been responsible for leading DEEP's Environmental Quality Branch – overseeing air management, water protection and land reuse, and materials management and compliance assurance – since 2023. Prior to joining DEEP, Deputy Commissioner Cimino worked in the office of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, where she led the senator's work on energy, environment, and infrastructure issues, including work on the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* and the *Inflation Reduction Act*. She has also served as a senior energy policy analyst for the National Governor's Association and served as director of government affairs and special advisor on energy policy to Governor Dannel P. Malloy. 💧

DEEP Nature-Based Initiative

Under Public Act 25-125, the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) must publish an evaluation of how to integrate and advance nature-based solutions (NBS) in state programs supporting (1) climate change mitigation and adaptation, (2) ecosystem resilience, and (3) biodiversity.

The Act also requires DEEP to consider the 10 best practices, including:

- Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest acreage (e.g., by reforestation)

- Controlling invasive species
- Restoring habitats to improve biodiversity
- Increasing community resilience by improving water quality and addressing flooding and drought through nature-based stormwater management
- Increasing community resilience by improving water quality and addressing flooding and drought through shoreline protection that uses nature-based approaches such as living shorelines

In May, DEEP held listening sessions on the "Draft NBS Initiative Program Evaluation" which can be found online at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/ersi/nbs-docs/draft-nature-based-solutions-initiative-program-evaluation-for-public-comment-526.pdf>.

More information about the initiative is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/public_notice_attachments/meetings_comments_requests/nbs/scoping-notice-nbs-public-listening-sessions-may-26-2026.pdf. 💧

Welcome New Members



Bridgett Diene, BioSafe Systems
Joseph Dillon, Nathan L.

Jacobson & Associates Inc.
Olivia Grattage, UCONN
Joseph Kulesza, CT Water Company
Christopher Newton,

Bristol Water & Sewer Department
Makenna Parkinson, Yale University



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Aquarion Water Authority Completes Ownership Transition, Ensuring Continued Reliable Service for CT Customers

Reprinted from aquarionwater.com

On June 30, 2026 the Aquarion Water Authority (AWA) announced the completion of its transition to local, not-for-profit ownership, establishing a new governance structure for the water system serving communities across Connecticut.

For customers, however, the most important thing to know is that little will change. Water service will continue uninterrupted. The same employees will continue operating and maintaining the system, responding to emergencies, and serving customers throughout the service area. Customers do not need to take any action due to the transition and will continue using the same customer service channels, payment methods, and account-management tools.



"Customers should continue to expect the same reliable service they receive today," said Lucy Teixeira, President of Aquarion Water Authority. "The people who operate this system every day remain focused on delivering safe, high-quality water, maintaining critical infrastructure, and providing responsive service to the communities we serve. Our commitment to customers remains unchanged."

The completion of the transaction marks the beginning of a new chapter for the organization. While day-to-day operations will remain focused on delivering reliable service, the new not-for-profit, public structure is designed to support local accountability, long-term stewardship, and continued investment in the water system.

Under the new governance structure, municipalities served by the system will be represented through a Representative Policy Board, providing communities with a direct voice in setting water rates and long-term planning. The model is designed to strengthen local accountability while preserving the operational expertise and continuity customers depend on every day.

"This milestone is ultimately about the future," Teixeira said. "Water infrastructure is one of the most important public assets any community relies on. The Authority structure is designed to support responsible stewardship of that infrastructure for generations to come while maintaining the high standards of service our customers expect and deserve."

Additional information regarding the transition and governance structure will be available through Aquarion's website and customer communications.

About Aquarion Water Authority

The Aquarion Water Authority (AWA) is a locally governed, not-for-profit water authority providing water service to more than 735,000 people in 60 municipalities across Connecticut. Based in Bridgeport, Connecticut, AWA is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and long-term stewardship of one of the state's largest water systems. Through local governance, operational expertise, and continued investment in critical infrastructure, AWA is committed to delivering safe, reliable water service to the communities it serves. 



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