

2024 Tribal Utility Summit
Bar Harbor, Maine
June 24 - 28, 2024

Day 1: Monday, June 24, 2024

4:00pm	Hotel Check-In
4:00pm-8:00pm	Registration (Elevator Lobby)

Day 2: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

7:00am-8:00am	Registration (Elevator Lobby) BREAKFAST (Stone House)
8:00am-9:00am	Opening Ceremonies and Welcome by Wabanaki Leaders. (Stone House)
9:00am-10:00am	Keynote Address, Jerry Pardia, Director, Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM), USET. (Stone House)
10:00am-10:30am	Agenda Review, TUS App, Announcements. (Stone House)
10:30am-11:00am	NETWORKING BREAK (Stone House)
11:00am-12:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: PFAS Rules Update. The World of PFAS. Page Hingst, Tribal Response Program Manager. Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska. Learn about the evolution and chemical make-up of PFAS, EPA's Action to address PFAS, and PFAS as an injustice to Tribal Nations.</p> <p>F: Funding to Mitigate Disasters with "Fed Funds." Eleanor Ruggiero, EPA Water Infrastructure & Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD), Oakland Institute for Science & Education (ORISE) Fellow. In our session, participants will learn about funding to mitigate disasters with "Fed FUNDS." Fed FUNDS is a free online tool that provides tailored information to water and wastewater utilities about applicable federal disaster funding programs from FEMA, USDA, EPA, HUD, SBA, and USBR. The Fed FUNDS webpages include new features including Search for the Right Funding, Successful Funding Examples across the nation, funding for tribes, and ways to combine funding from different federal agencies. A demonstration will be conducted on how to use Fed FUNDS and provide an overview of the available funding resources, including information on tribal grants and loans within existing federal programs.</p>
12:00pm-1:00pm	LUNCH (Stone House)
1:00pm-2:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Lead Service Line Inventory. Kathy Hicks, The Water Office.</p> <p>F: Asset Management/Climate Adaptation Plans; Who Needs Them & Why? Mandy J. Holway, PE, Vice President. Olver Associates, Inc.</p>

T (Technical Track): Stone House

F (Financial Track): Ballroom

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	<p>Does your facility have a current Asset Management Plan for present and future capital projects? Is your facility subject to flooding, storm, surge, or other changing climate impacts that should be evaluated in a Climate Adaptation Plan? These types of studies identify issues, outline recommendations for future system upgrades, and support funding requests. This session will provide an overview of each type of study report and reasons to complete one or both.</p>
2:00pm-3:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: MBR Systems. Kevin Crane, Regional Manager. Damone Supica, P.E. Regional Manager. Kubota Membrane USA Corporation. This presentation will be a general overview of Membrane Bio Reactor Technology (MBR) for wastewater treatment. Items covered will include what is an MBR and what membranes do. How is it similar and different from SBR and Conventional Treatment? Accomplishing Nitrogen, Phosphorus, BOD, and TSS removal. Membranes for Turbidity, Fecal, and Virus Removal. How to convert an SBR into MBR. Package-Plug and Play MBR systems.</p> <p>F: Water Sector Cybersecurity Regulatory & Resource Update. Andrew Ohrt, Project Director. West Yost Associates. Cybersecurity is a growing concern for water and wastewater utilities across the country. In April 2024, it was reported in Wired and CNN that several water utilities in the U.S. and Europe were hacked, and their physical infrastructure was manipulated. In response to these and prior incidents, the U.S. Government and the American Water Works Association are developing resources and regulations that will directly apply to water and wastewater utilities. Attendees will hear the latest on incidents, forthcoming regulations, new resources, and strategies to maintain cyber-resilience.</p>
3:00pm-3:30pm	NETWORKING BREAK (Stone House)
3:30pm-5:00pm	<p>Combined session.</p> <p>T/F: Wastewater I & I. Joe Nepas, Regional Manager. Innovation & Solutions. M.E. Simpson Co. Inc. Special Services & Technologies for Wastewater Infrastructure Management. Utilities continue to struggle with maintaining their vital infrastructure. This is often due to rising costs, more stringent regulations, or personnel issues. For years we have focused on replacing or repairing infrastructure based solely on age. In some cases, this does not solve your issues. With new technologies entering our industry almost daily, we will cover some of the long-term industry standards as well as new technologies that can help you with I&I issues and overall condition assessment. We will discuss how you can target specific areas in your system for capital improvements that will provide the most benefit for your allocated funding.</p>
5:00pm	Adjourn
5:00pm-7:00pm	Caterpillar Simulator for Heavy Equipment Training (Ballroom)

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Day 3: Wednesday, June 26, 2024

7:00am-8:00am	BREAKFAST (Stone House)
8:00am-9:00am	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Activated Sludge 101 Workshop (Part 1). William M. Olver, P.E., President and Senior Managing Partner. Olver Associates, Inc. Environmental Engineers, Winterport, Maine. The activated sludge process is one of the most commonly used mechanical secondary wastewater treatment technologies that converts raw sewage into clean effluent that complies with EPA water quality standards. Its success relies on the ability of microbes to successfully treat the wastewater. When all goes well, the process works great. When operational, environmental, and loading issues result in uncooperative microbes, the process can be challenging. This course will review the basics of the activated sludge process, what must happen to keep the process operating smoothly, and will consider some of the pitfalls of the process when things do not go right and corrective actions to bring the process back around. The course will be geared toward both beginning and experienced operators.</p> <p>F: Water Loss. Randy Lusk, Vice-President. Innovation & Solutions. M.E. Simpson Co. Inc. We hear the terms Water Loss Control & Non-Revenue Water used almost daily, but do we know what those terms mean? Once you know their meanings, do you know how to approach the issues to gain results? As new technologies enter our industry almost daily, do you know what methodologies are out there that are geared toward Water Loss Control? I will help you understand the terminology used within water loss control programs, where to begin the journey of recovering non-revenue water, and catch you up on some of the new technology in the industry that can help you along this process.</p>
9:00am-10:00am	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Activated Sludge Workshop (Part 2). William M. Olver P.E., President and Senior Managing Partner. Olver Associates Inc. Environmental Engineering, Winterport, Maine.</p> <p>F: Workforce Development. Cindy Goodburn Consulting. The foundation of any effective organization is its people! No matter how sophisticated any water or wastewater utility is with its operations, the workforce is the key to success! Yet, one of the biggest challenges we face is finding and keeping the right people, with the right skills, and getting them in the right place to get the job done. This session will explore best practices for building strong utilities by creating work environments where people want to go to work, want to stick around long-term, and want to cultivate the next generation in the “pipeline” of a stable utility workforce. We will discuss the four pillars of a sustainable workplace, retention, competency, and partnerships, some lessons learned from fellow water colleagues, and insights gained from a national level of convenings of workforce issues and solutions. Workforce challenges from a Tribal utility perspective will be discussed along with some successful recruitment and retention programs that are</p>

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	<p>proving to be successful in overcoming the workforce challenges. Come join Cindy in this interactive training seminar recommended for everyone in a utility organization, especially Supervisors and managers.</p>
10:00am-10:30am	<p>NETWORKING BREAK (Stone House)</p>
10:30am-12:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Canine Water Leak Detection. Carrie Kessler, Elisa Jones. Daniel Levey and Steve Porter.</p> <p>Canine leak detection is where specially trained dogs are used to sniff out treated water leaks coming from a utilities' distribution system faster than any human crews that use pressure or sound. The canine handler team working closely with the water utility, or the homeowner is changing the way water leaks are identified. These teams are reducing the time and cost involved in investigating, pinpointing, and repairing water leaks. Dogs can be trained to detect water leaks 4-6 feet underground and in several types of pipes. Dogs can tell us with a 97% accuracy rate whether the leak is water from the treatment plant or just groundwater. Water leak detection dogs are a holistic approach to reducing non-revenue water loss and protecting this precious resource.</p> <p>F: Managing Your Utility System into the Future. Hope Thomson, Project Director. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Environmental Finance Center.</p> <p>This is designed for small water or wastewater systems, especially utilities that may be facing financial challenges or are seeking to increase the financial capacity of their utility. This workshop will cover skills and information to help manage your water system successfully now and into the future. This workshop will focus on financial planning and assessment and rate-setting strategies, as well as how both financial practices impact long-term system planning for your workforce and physical assets. Learning objectives: Self-assess utility financial performance over time to inform budgetary cycles. Identify rate-setting objectives and strategies to raise required revenue. Align financial planning with workforce and capital improvement plans. Communicate these plans and financial needs to decision-makers and the public. We will begin with Introductions and Key Financial Indicators.</p>
12:00pm-1:00pm	<p>LUNCH (Stone House)</p> <p>Drinking Water Contest</p>
1:00pm-3:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Backflow/Cross Connection/Hazard Mitigation Workshop. Kathy Riley, Backflow Compliance Specialist. Charlotte Water. Mitch LeBas, President. Backflow Prevention Services, LLC.</p> <p>In-House Production Online Backflow Portal. Illustration Backflow Device Preventer and Maintenance.</p> <p>F: Managing Your Utility System into the Future (cont'd). Hope Thomson, Project Director. UNC-EFC.</p> <p>Self-assessing financial performance.</p>

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3:00pm-3:30pm	NETWORKING BREAK (Stone House)
3:30pm-5:00pm	<p>Concurrent sessions.</p> <p>T: Backflow/Cross Connection/Hazard Mitigation Workshop. Loss of Water associated with inspection and testing of Fire Sprinkler System. Stephen Bitely, Regional Vice President of Inspections. VSC Fire and Security.</p> <p>Items covered today are types of fire sprinkler systems, items associated with fire sprinkler systems that cause unaccountable loss of water. Main drain test. Inspectors test connections. Trip testing for dry or deluge systems. Backflow prevention assembly repair and test. Flushing of fire hydrants. Testing of fire pumps. Underground leaks. Five-year standpipe inspections and testing. Five-year inspections.</p> <p>F: Managing Your Utility System into the Future (cont'd). Hope Thomson, Project Director. UNC-EFC.</p> <p>Revenue and Rate Setting. Long-term System Planning-Workforce & Physical Infrastructure.</p>
5:00pm	Adjourn
5:00pm-6:00pm	Caterpillar Simulator for Heavy Equipment Training (Ballroom)
6:00pm-8:00pm	<p>BANQUET (Stone House)</p> <p>Announce Drinking Water Contest Winners</p>

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Day 4: Thursday, June 27, 2024 (1/2 day)

7:00am-8:00am	BREAKFAST (BALLROOM)
8:00am-12:00pm	Combined and concurrent sessions. T/F: Canine Water Leak Detection Demonstration. Carrie Kessler, Elisa Jones, Daniel Levey and Steve Porter. T: Caterpillar Simulator for Heavy Equipment Training (Stone House)
10:00am-5:00pm	We encourage attendees to visit The Abbe Museum located in Downtown Bar Harbor at 26 Mt Desert Street. Hours: Monday – Friday 10am-5pm. www.abbemuseum.org
12:00am-1:00pm	LUNCH (BALLROOM)
1:00pm	Closing Notes and Participant Survey Adjourn

Day 5: Friday, June 28, 2024

11:00am	Hotel Check-Out
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F (Financial Track): Ballroom
T/F (Combined Track) Day 2: Stone House
T/F (Combined Track) Day 4: On-site