



2025 USET Tribal Utility Summit
Hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Wind Creek Casino and Hotel Atmore
303 Poarch Road
Atmore, Alabama 36502
March 31 - April 2, 2025

Sunday, March 30, 2025

4:00 pm	Hotel Check-In Registration Desk
4:00 pm-8:00 pm	Registration Prefunction

Monday, March 31, 2025

7:00 am-8:30 am 7:00 am-12:00 pm	Breakfast: Buffet Prefunction & Coosawada Registration Prefunction
8:30 am-9:30 am	Opening Ceremonies and Welcome Keynote Speaker: Charlotte Meckel, Tribal Council Secretary, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
9:30 am-10:00 am	Agenda Review, TUS App, Announcements
10:00 am-10:30 am	Networking Prefunction
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Best Practices for Water Analysis Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach <i>Facilitator: Michael Purvis</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This 90-minute training seminar focuses on optimal methodologies for water analysis. Participants will gain knowledge on sample collection techniques, preservation methods, measurement procedures, application of standards for quality assurance, and result interpretation. Instruction will be delivered through presentations, demonstrations, and practical, hands-on activities.
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Preliminary Treatment for Water and Wastewater David Kinnear, Ph.D., P.E., Kinnear Process Solutions LLC Steve Macomber, P.E., Duperon

10:30 am-11:30 am	<p><i>Facilitator: Jason Sockbeson</i></p> <p>Wastewater Taskigi</p> <p>Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening • Grit Removal • Influent Pumping and Hydraulic Profile
11:30 am-12:00 pm	<p>Tribal GIS</p> <p>Garet Couch, GISP and President, National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i></p> <p>Managerial Coosawada</p> <p>Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS and data collection <p>SARA Title III Programs</p> <p>RubyDawn Manning, National Assn of SARA Title III Program Officials</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i></p> <p>Managerial Coosawada</p> <p>Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Emergency Response Compacts (TERCs) for Tribal Utilities • Local Emergency Planning and Preparedness (LERCs)
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	LUNCH: Buffet Prefunction & Coosawada
1:00 pm-2:30 pm	<p>Turbidity with EPA Method 180.1</p> <p>Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i></p> <p>Water Tawassa A</p> <p>Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This 90-minute training seminar addresses portable turbidity analysis with EPA Method 180.1. Students learn about the theory of nephelometry, sampling techniques, analysis techniques, and how to operate a portable turbidimeter (Hach 2100Q). Students learn via presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences.
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<p>Water and Wastewater Suspensions</p> <p>David Kinnear Ph.D., P.E., Process Engineer, WEF</p> <p>Anna Mehrotra Ph.D., WEF</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i></p> <p>Wastewater Taskigi</p> <p>Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grit is different. Primary, MLSS, and Ferric Hydroxide particles behave in a similar manner • Particles and suspension properties

1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interparticle distance • Biological suspensions vs. inorganic multivalent cation hydroxide suspensions <p>Certification Exam Prep / Math Tutoring / Exam Proctor Jason Sockbeson, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Michael Purvis, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p>
2:30 pm-4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in a career in water or wastewater? Ready to test at a higher level? Review classes will be held at the end of each day depending on interest. Sign-up sheets are available onsite. <p>Turbidity with EPA-Approved Hach Method 10258 Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description.</p>
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This 90-minute training seminar focuses on laboratory turbidity analysis using the EPA-approved Hach Method 10258. Participants will gain knowledge of the principles of nephelometry and acquire skills in the operation, calibration, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the Hach TU5200 online turbidimeter through presentations, demonstrations, and practical hands-on activities. <p>Current Status and Future Prospects for Wastewater-Based Surveillance Anna Mehrotra Ph.D., WEF <i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i> Wastewater Taskigi Session Description.</p>
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While wastewater-based surveillance (WBS), also known as wastewater public health monitoring, has been used for decades to track poliovirus globally, it has only recently been applied to SARS-CoV-2, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, mpox, and other pathogens. WBS is a relatively low-cost method for capturing unbiased, community-level data on public health. It holds tremendous potential to help communities monitor both endemic and emerging infectious disease threats. In this session, attendees will learn about the current applications and the future of WBS and will leave knowing how to describe how WBS data can be used for specific pathogens and gain an understanding of considerations relevant to tribal involvement in WBS programs. <p>Certification Exam Prep / Math Tutoring / Exam Proctor Jason Sockbeson, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Michael Purvis, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in a career in water or wastewater? Ready to test at a higher level? Review classes will be held at the end of each day depending on interest. Sign-up sheets are available onsite.
4:00 pm	Adjourn

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

7:00 am-8:00 am	BREAKFAST: Buffet Prefunction & Coosawada
8:00 am-10:00 am	<p>Chlorine Analysis Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach <i>Facilitator: Michael Purvis</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This two-hour training seminar focuses on portable chlorine analysis methodologies. Participants will gain knowledge of the principles of photometry, various sampling techniques, analytical methodologies, and quality control procedures involving standard solutions. Additionally, instruction will cover the operation of a portable colorimeter, specifically the Hach DR300 model. Learning modalities will include presentations, demonstrations, and practical hands-on exercises.
8:00 am-10:00 am	<p>Part I: Separating Suspensions in Water and Wastewater Treatment (featuring Wet Demonstration: Suspensions Separation Utilizing a Hydrogravitational Trap) David Kinnear Ph.D., P.E., Process Engineer, WEF <i>Facilitator: Jason Sockbeson</i> Wastewater Taskigi Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing gravimetric systems (sedimentation in water/clarifiers in wastewater) have significant design problems dating all the way back to inception. Importance of separation in water and wastewater treatment systems Separation techniques: screening/clarification/filtration/membrane Demonstration of separation with ferric hydroxide in a hydrogravitational trap. A panel will discuss process control troubleshooting questions and scenarios.
8:00 am-9:00 am	<p>Geographic Information System (GIS) Debra Kirk, Bureau of Indian Affairs <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS and data collection
9:00 am-10:00 am	

	<p>EPA Updates Alenda Johnson, Tribal DI and SDWIS Fed Coordinator, EPA Region 4 <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Changes • EPA Athens PFAS Sampling • Lead and Copper Rule Program Changes • Upcoming Sanitary Surveys
10:00 am-10:30 am	<p>Networking Break Prefunction Drinking Water Contest Coosawada</p>
10:30 am-12:00 pm	<p>Chloramination Analysis Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach <i>Facilitator: Michael Purvis</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This two-hour training seminar focuses on the analysis of chloramination using photometric methods. Participants will acquire knowledge regarding the biochemical processes involved in chloramination disinfection and will be trained to operate, calibrate, maintain, and troubleshoot the Hach SL1000 portable analyzer for the measurement of total chlorine, free chlorine, monochloramine, free ammonia, and total ammonia. Instruction will be delivered through presentations, demonstrations, and practical hands-on experiences.
10:30 am-12:00 pm	<p>Part II: Separating Suspensions in Water and Wastewater Treatment (featuring Wet Demonstration: Suspensions Separation Utilizing a Hydrogravitational Trap) David Kinnear Ph.D., P.E., Process Engineer, WEF <i>Facilitator: Jason Sockbeson</i> Wastewater Taskigi Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established gravimetric systems, including sedimentation in aqueous environments and clarifiers in wastewater management, exhibit substantial design deficiencies that trace back to their initial development. • The significance of separation processes in water and wastewater treatment systems is paramount. • Separation methodologies include screening, clarification, filtration, and membrane technologies. • A demonstration will be conducted to illustrate the separation efficacy of ferric hydroxide within a hydrogravitational trap. • Additionally, a panel discussion will be held to address troubleshooting inquiries and scenarios related to process control.
10:30 am-12:00 pm	

	<p>Chlorine Safety and Operation Andy McKeown, Equipment Group Business Manager, Hawkins, Inc. <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Handling and Replacement of Cylinders • Calculation of Feed Rates • Management of Ejectors • Operation of Vacuum Regulators • Functionality of Inlet Valves • Meter Panel Operations • Switchover Procedures • Troubleshooting
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	<p>LUNCH: Buffet Prefunction & Coosawada <i>Drinking Water Contest Winners Announced</i></p>
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<p>Electrochemistry: pH, ORP & Conductivity Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach. <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This 90-minute training seminar focuses on the analysis of pH, ORP, and conductivity. Participants will gain an understanding of the theoretical principles underlying each measurement technique, as well as practical skills in the operation, calibration, maintenance, and troubleshooting of Hach HQD meters in conjunction with IntelliCal sensors. Instruction will be delivered through a combination of presentations, demonstrations, and practical hands-on exercises.
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<p>A Review of Operators' Pathogen Exposure Risks Anna Mehrotra Ph.D., WEF <i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i> Wastewater Taskigi Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathogens present a significant workplace exposure risk for operators and others working with wastewater, though they are just one of many potential hazards. In this interactive session, attendees will compare pathogen risks to other workplace hazards, such as physical, chemical, safety, and ergonomic risks, and review the available evidence on pathogen exposure in wastewater environments. The session will explore modes of transmission and routes of exposure, followed by practical strategies for minimizing infection risk. Attendees will leave with actionable knowledge on safeguarding against pathogen exposure in wastewater-related occupations.

1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<p>Certification Exam Prep / Math Tutoring / Exam Proctor Jason Sockbeson, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Michael Purvis, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in a career in water or wastewater? Ready to test at a higher level? Review classes will be held at the end of each day depending on interest. Sign-up sheets will be available onsite.
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<p>Water Resilience/RRAs and ERPs for CWS Parker Allen Jeffery Fencil Water Infrastructure and Cyber–Resilience Division, EPA. <i>Facilitator: Veronica Menta</i> Water Tawassa A Session Description. (virtual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session will focus on Emergency Response Planning (ERP) for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities, emphasizing the significance of ERP, compliance with requirements outlined in the America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2013 and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1433, the methodology for developing an ERP, and supplementary tools and resources available to enhance emergency response capabilities.
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<p>Nutrient Analysis Jon Thomas, Senior Learning Facilitator, Hach. <i>Facilitator: Jane Wilson</i> Wastewater Taskigi Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This 90-minute training seminar focuses on nutrient analysis in wastewater treatment. Participants will acquire knowledge on the mechanisms of nitrogen and phosphorus removal from wastewater. Practical analyses of nitrate and phosphate concentrations will be conducted using a Hach DR3900 spectrophotometer. Instruction will be delivered through presentations, demonstrations, and practical hands-on experiences.
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	<p>Certification Exam Prep / Math Tutoring / Exam Proctor Jason Sockbeson, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Michael Purvis, Sr. Technical Assistance Specialist, USET Managerial Coosawada Session Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in a career in water or wastewater? Ready to test at a higher level? Review classes will be held at the end of each day depending on interest. Sign-up sheets will be available onsite.

4:00 pm	Adjourn
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Wednesday, April 2, 2025

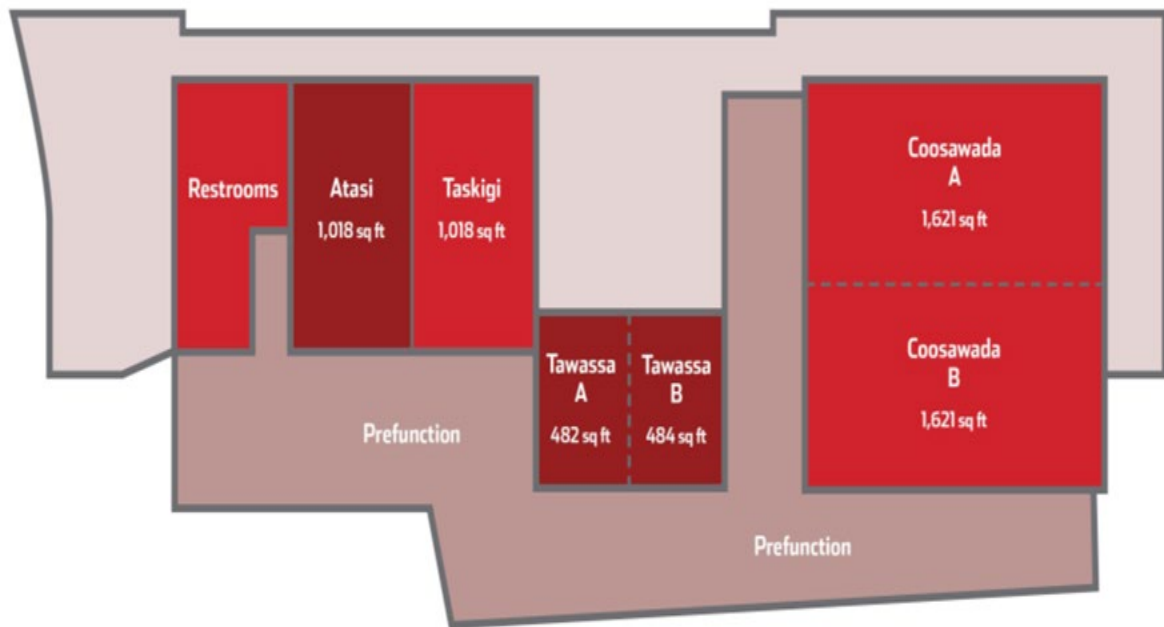
7:00 am-9:00 am	BREAKFAST: Buffet Prefunction & Coosawada
9:00 am-10:00 am	Closing Notes and Participant Survey Coosawada Meet to Leave for the Tour Valet Pickup
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Treatment Plant (Infrastructure Grant) • Dissolved Air Floatation (Meat Processing Facility)
12:00 pm	LUNCH: BOXED TO GO FOR TRAVELERS: Pick Up Coosawada FOOD TRUCK FOR TOUR GROUP: Pow Wow Grounds/Festival
12:00 pm-2:00 pm	12 th Annual Southeastern Indian Festival Southeastern Indian Festival - Poarch Creek Indians

Thursday, April 3, 2025

11:00 am	Hotel Check-Out Registration Desk
9:00 am-2:00 pm	12 th Annual Southeastern Indian Festival Southeastern Indian Festival - Poarch Creek Indians

Friday, April 4, 2025

11:00 am	Hotel Check-Out Registration Desk
9:00 am-2:00 pm 4:00 pm-7:00 pm	12 th Annual Southeastern Indian Festival Southeastern Indian Festival - Poarch Creek Indians





WIND CREEK CASINO & HOTEL ATMORE



MAP KEY

- 1 Hotel Check-In
- 2 The W Store
- 3 Promotions
- 4 Center Bar
- 5 MARKET Food Hall
- 6 PLAYER SERVICES
- 7 Yo • Joe
- 8 Arcade
- 9 Cinema
- 10 Strikes Bowling
- 11 Starbucks
- 12 Gaming Floor

- 13 High Limits
- 14 FIRE
- 15 Gaming Floor
- 16 Atasi Meeting Room
- 17 Taskigi Meeting Room
- 18 Tawassa Meeting Room
- 19 Coosawada Ballroom
- 20 Fitness Studio
- 21 KITCHEN
- 22 Spa Retail
- 23 Spa
- 24 Pool Vending

- 25 Pool
- 26 Amphitheater
- 27 Landau
- 28 RV Park
- 29 Meditation Garden

- Cash Center
ATM & Redemption
- Elevators
- Restrooms