10.29.26 Draft Fall Conference, Laboratory Symposium & Expo

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Jekyll Island November 17-18, 2026

Flowing Forward — A Legacy That Lasts

Tuesday, November 17 *(6 Recertification Points Available)*					
6:30	Sunrise Beach Walk - Meeting Point: Gazebo Outside the Convention Center *Join us for a casual sunrise beach walk before the conference!*				
8:00 – 9:00	**Registration & Exhibit Hall Opens with Hot Breakfast Items**				
	Session 1 ***Room # 3*** **Distribution Systems** Moderator: Chris Clark	**Session 2** ***Room #5*** **Laboratory I** Moderator: Michael Arnette	**Session 3** ***Room #7*** **Biosolids & Residuals** Moderator: Esmeralda Bonilla	**Session 4** ***Room #8*** **Collection Systems I** Moderator: Josh Evans	**Session 5** ***Room #9*** **Customer Service & Public Education** Moderator: Sally-Anne Short
9:00 – 9:30	Pressure Pipe Materials 101: A Guide to DIP, FRP, HDPE, and PVC **Caitlyn Balakrishna** Freese and Nichols	Taste and Odor **Deirdre Hubbard** Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority	GEFA - Statewide Biosolids Study **Nichelle McCalla** GEFA **Lynn Moss** Black and Veatch	Understanding the Life Cycle of Utility Projects: A Modeler's Perspective **Kiara Macdonald** Barge Design Solutions	Effective Communication for Rate Changes **Justin Burns & Meleshia Boone** Clayton County Water Authority
9:30 – 10:00	Identifying Bacteria in a Drinking Water Reservoir **Kimberly Beeson & Kristin Cash** City of Savannah	Saltwater Intrusion in the Brunswick Area and Significance of the Floridan Aquifer System in Coastal Georgia **Gregory Cherry** USGS South Atlantic WaterScience Center	Driving Resource Recovery: Global Case Studies on Integration of THP for Biosolids Management **Manuel (Manny) Moncholi** Stantec	Build It Once: GIS Collection System Inventory Designed for Hydraulic Modeling **Tyler Henderson** R2T	Helping Non-Traditional Communicators Within Water Utilities Share Information with the Public **Nichole Varnell** Bartow County Water Department
10:00 – 10:30	Leak Out Below **Don Connor** Clayton County Water Authority	Boil Water Advisory **Jenna Cook** Georgia EPD **Tabitha Lee** Henry County Water Authority **Melissa Hammond** Clayton County Water Authority	The Economics of Drying Biosolids **Tid Griffin** Griffin Residuals, LLC	Sewer Capacity Assessment Without a Model **Timothy Montgomery** Garver	Cost of Service to Data Centers **Tony Carnell** Henry County Water Authority
10:30 – 11:30	**Product Review and Break in Exhibit Hall**				
11:30 – 12:45	**Awards Luncheon: Featuring the Fall Award Winners and Keynote Speaker Rena Ann Peck of Georgia Rivers, highlighting the designation of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge as a UNESCO World Heritage Site**				

	Session 6 *Room # 3* **Model Water Tower/ AWWA** Moderator: O'Cion Rankin	Session 7 *Room #5* **Laboratory II** Moderator: Melissa Hammond	Session 8 *Room #7* **Pretreatment** Moderator: Himanshu Prashant Sail	Session 9 *Room #8* **Collection Systems II** Moderator: Cornell Sims	Session 10 *Room #9* **Water Treatment** Moderator: Lew Puckett
1:00 – 1:30	Small Tower, Big Ideas: Introducing Students to the World of Water **Allison Reynolds** McKim & Creed	W/WW Licensing Board Updates **Kenny Green** Water/Wastewater Licensing Board	Chasing Selenium: A Story of False Positives and 12 Labs **Sharon Just** Georgia Institute of Technology	Introduction to Trenchless Pipe Repair **John Scoville** Infrastructure Repair Systems	From 2 MGD to 12 MGD Using MF Membrane Filtration **Randal Haney** Walker County WSA **Al Pierce** CTI Engineers, Inc.
1:30 – 2:00	AWWA Member Benefits Panel **Mike Melton**, Facilitator Eco-Tech **Tony Carnell** Henry County Water Authority **Roger Greer** Newton County Water Resources **Jeremy Brown** Kamstrup Water **Brian Skeens** GAWP	Your Data is Only as Good as Your Calibration and Maintenance Program **Shannon Pratt** LabtronX	Clearing the FOG: A Primer on Effective FOG Management **Joshua Wood** Clayton County Water Authority	Making Good Practices Flow: Updating the Collection System BMP **Melissa Surber** Barge Design Solution **Tim Montgomery** Garver	Reading the Signs: Lessons and Observations Connecting Water Quality and Process Performance in a Year-Long Advanced Treatment Pilot Study **Elliot Reid & Ella Terrell** HDR
2:00 – 2:30	Particle Counters in Water Treatment: Working Group Findings on Standards, Regulations, and Operational Considerations **Roger Greer** Newton County Water Resources	Performance of a Scaled-Up LEEFT-Cu Reactor for Continuous-Flow Water Disinfection **Abigna Pallikarana** Georgia Institute of Technology	One Site, Many Partners: A Unique Wastewater Partnership at HMGMA **Jordan Blazer** Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America **Chris Stovall** Thomas & Hutton		Bringing a 1940's Era WTP into the Twenty-First Century **Terry Pike** City of LaGrange **David Bishop** Barge Design Solutions
2:30 – 3:30	**Product Review and Break in Exhibit Hall**				

	Session 11 *Room # 3* **Water Loss** Moderator: Christian McGarrigle	Session 12 *Room #5* **Laboratory III** Moderator: Matt Wingate	Session 13 *Room #7* **Young Professionals** Moderator: Chelsey Parker	Session 14 *Room #8* **Utility Finance & Asset Management** Moderator: Chez Shaw	Session 15 *Room #9* **Integrated Master Planning** Moderator: Casey Staller
3:30 – 4:00	Practical AI for Water Utilities **Ken Hayes** Core & Main	When Might a Routine Sterility Failure Warrant a Root Cause Investigation? **MareyLeigh Campbell** Fulton County	Commissioning and Optimizing Automated Chemical Feed Systems for Accurate Chemical Delivery **Temidayo Sangoyomi** Gresham Smith	Beyond IIJA: What's Next For Federal Water Infrastructure Funding? **Wayne Hoffman** Wade Trim	Finding Synergy in Real-Time Master Planning for Small Communities **Kevin Roe** Tetra Tech
4:00 – 4:30	Understanding Acoustic Leak Detection **Eric Galosi** EJ Prescott	Hyphenated Techniques in Ion Chromatography and Titration Automation **Robert White & Matt Pant** Metrohm USA	Managing the Build without Designing **Kandice Matthews** R2T	GEFA Funding Updates **Brian Woodham** GEFA	Turning Aging Systems and the Funding Gap into a Strategic Action Plan **Mandi Cody** Momentum Results **Marty Boyd** Carter & Sloope Consulting Engineers
4:30 – 5:00	Every Gallon Counts: Reducing Non-Revenue Water Through Better Measurement **Jeremy Brown** Kamstrup	Water Under the Bridge: A History of PFAS **Brett Whaley** City of LaGrange	From Chatbots to Agents: Demystifying AI for Water and AEC Professionals **Himanshu Sail** Gresham Smith	Buy In! Ensuring Embankment Dam Safety: Inspection Protocols, Maintenance Strategies, and Emergency Action Planning **John Patterson** DeKalb County DWM **Brian Ruggs** Arcadis	2026 Master Planning Spotlight - Bartow County Water Master Plan **Nicole Wein** Brown and Caldwell
5:00 - 6:00	***Meet & Greet Reception in Exhibit Hall (open to all attendees & exhibitors)***				

Wednesday, November 18 *(Morning sessions - 4 Recertification Points Available)*

6:30	Sunrise Beach Walk - Meeting Point: Gazebo Outside the Convention Center *Join us for a casual sunrise beach walk before the conference!*
8:00 – 8:30	**Registration and Exhibit Hall Opens with Hot & Cold Breakfast Items**

	Session 16 *Room # 3* **GA EPD** Moderator: Beth Stevenson	Session 17 *Room #5* **Laboratory IV** Moderator: Cynthia Hodges	Session 18 *Room #7* **Diversity / H2Opportunity** Moderator: Melven Williams	Session 19 *Room #8* **Safety** Moderator: Cornell Sims	Session 20 *Room #9* **Pump & Pump Systems** Moderator: Chloe Jennerman
8:30 – 9:00	What to Expect: Planning for Inspections by EPD for Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities **Emily Cooper** Georgia EPD	Total Organic Carbon Compliance: Sliced Your Way **Michael Arnette** Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority	Psychological Safety at 3 AM: Building Teams That Speak Up When It Matters Most **Angela Walker** City of Kingsland	Drive Safe, Work Smart: Utility Vehicle Maintenance and Safety **Belinda Folkes** City of Gainesville	Chattahoochee HSPS: Revitalizing a 65-MGD Pump Station **Lew Puckett** City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management **Glenn House** Carter VerPlanck/DXP Water
9:00 – 9:30	PFAS Sampling Techniques **Reid Jackson** Georgia EPD	BOD-CBOD: Hydrogen Peroxide Removal **Kenneth Mendenhall** Columbus Water Works	Diversify Your Recruiting with the Career Expo **Jackie Sherry** Athens-Clarke County	THOR - Traffic Hazard and Operations Response Vehicle **Todd Brackin** Henry County Water Authority	Troubleshooting VFDs: How to Keep Your Drives Happy **Matt Wytanis** Engineered Systems Group
9:30 – 10:30	**Product Review & Break in Exhibit Hall (Exhibit Hall Closes)**				

	Session 21 *Room # 3* **Collaborative Project Delivery** Moderator: Season Comstock	Session 22 *Room #5* **Laboratory V** Moderator: Tabitha Lee	Session 23 *Room #7* **Wastewater Treatment** Moderator: Keith Higgs	Session 24 *Room #8* **Stormwater** Moderator: Lucy Bricker	Session 25 *Room #9* **Leadership** Moderator: Lori Cirami
10:30 – 11:00	Sugar Creek Basin Outfall & Trunk Sewer Replacement **Andy Cook & Adam Scoggins** Ruby Collins **Taylor Thomas** Benchmark Management	Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) Updates **Griffin Hughes** Georgia EPD	Odor Dispersion Modeling During Wastewater Design **Maggie Nelson** Hazen and Sawyer	Nutrient Management of Poultry Litter Through Better Application Using Precision Agriculture **Omowunmi Okunoye** University of Georgia	Leadership Storytelling: Great Leaders Inspiring Through Stories **Sam Woodie** Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
11:00 – 11:30	CMAR Project Delivery Selected to Build Greenfield WWTPs **Brad Brown** Haskell **Mike Hoisington** Haskell	Chasing Ghosts: Finding Hidden PFAS with Confidence **Kellie Ballew** Shaw Industries	The Pathway to Cost-Effective Nitrogen Removal in Georgia **Adella Allen** Garver	Historical Storm Reconstructions and Site-Specific Representative Storm Events **Siavash Hoomehr** STV, Inc.	**Panel Discussion:** Flow Forward - Creating a Blueprint. Connecting the Dots. Leading with Agility. Moderated by: **Darlissha Tillman-Sadler** Rockdale County Water Resources **Eunice Estremera** Clayton County Water Authority **Gil Shearouse** Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority **Melven Williams** Clayton County Water Authority **Esmeralda Bonilla** Stantec
11:30 – 12:00	A Taste of Success: Cornish Creek WTP Expansion **Roger Greer** Newton County Water Resources **Greg VandenHeuvel** Reeves Young	How Management Can Better Support the Lab **Morgan Towns** Inframark/Azuria	Fundamentals of Automated Valves **Martin Gustafson** Val-Matic Valve & Mfg. Corp.	Integrating Water Quality into Large-Scale HSPF Watershed Models for the St. Johns River **Megan Johnston & Pradeep Nagarajan** GHD	
12:00 – 1:00	**Lunch on Your Own**				
Wednesday, November 18 *(Afternoon Sessions - 2 Recertification Points Available)*					
1:00 - 3:00	**Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise:** This engaging exercise will be hosted by representatives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA)				
1:00 - 3:00	**Hyundai Plant Tour (Limited to 20 people)**				