

This year's conferences will include a day of workshops, a full-day of technical presentations, and exhibitors showcasing the latest laboratory equipment and instrumentation. An exhibitors' networking reception will take place on Monday evening. Attendance is recommended for any environmental professional involved in the analysis of water or wastewater, especially laboratory analysts, laboratory managers, instrumentation and equipment manufacturers, plant operators, environmental engineers and environmental compliance managers.

Monday— August 10th, 2026

Time Slot	Workshops
8:45 – 11:45	Morning Workshop #1: Mastering Lab pH and Chlorine Measurement & Data Management– <i>Jim Burke (Hach), Taylor Dennis (Aquatic Informatics)</i>. 💧 🧪 This session reviews theory of pH and Chlorine analysis, common measurement challenges, and lesser-known aspects of pH electrode and Chlorine analysis. Attendees will also learn about data management and how it can help achieve higher data integrity, defensibility, compliance, timeliness, and reporting Morning Workshop #2: Advanced Instrumentation Workshop: Sample Preparation and Analysis for ICP-OES, ICP-MS – <i>Miranda Davis, Teledyne and Anthony Vitali, Agilent</i>. This workshop covers ICP-OES and ICP-MS fundamentals, including wavelength selection, interference mitigation, internal standards, and troubleshooting. It also highlights automated sample preparation using SimPrep+, demonstrating how automation improves dilution accuracy, reproducibility, laboratory efficiency, and overall analytical throughput. Morning Workshop #3: Defensible Data Starts in the Field & QA/QC Panel Discussion – <i>Kali Cassara and Bruce Weckworth (HRSD), Jennifer Lee (Henrico), Ian Sammler (Hopewell), Jacquelyn Austin (Lynchburg), Lauren Howe (Chesterfield)</i>. 💧 🧪 This workshop will focus on the critical role field activities play in overall data quality. Topics will include representative sampling techniques, QA/QC procedures, common field activities, and the practice challenges associated with environmental sampling. The presentation will be followed by an expert panel discussing practical QA/QC challenges in environmental laboratories and treatment facilities, including compliance, troubleshooting, and data quality.
11:45 - 1:30	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
1:30 – 4:30	Afternoon Workshop #1: Microbiology — <i>Shawn Dubois, IDEXX</i>. 💧 🧪 This workshop introduces fundamental principles of water microbiology, including bacterial testing methods such as enterococci, heterotrophic plate count, and <i>Legionella</i>. Attendees will also learn key laboratory techniques, result interpretation, and quality control practices for reliable microbiological analysis. Afternoon Workshop #2: Troubleshooting Analytical Errors & Panel Discussion — <i>Miguel Rivera and Flora Duvall (Prince William Water), Hira Shabbir (Henrico), Michelle Harrell (Newport News)</i>. 💧 This session explores real-world laboratory troubleshooting experiences and practical problem-solving strategies. Speakers will share lessons learned from operational challenges, followed by a panel discussion where audience participation is encouraged to share insights, discuss pain points, and identify collaborative solutions. Afternoon Workshop #3: Advanced Instrumentation Workshop: Sample Preparation and Analysis for GC/GC-MS– <i>Erinn Oneill, Agilent</i>. This introductory workshop covers GC and GC/MS fundamentals, including key theory, best laboratory practices, and essential troubleshooting and maintenance. Attendees will also gain practical insight into sample preparation techniques to support reliable analysis and consistent instrument performance.
4:30 – 6:00	NETWORKING RECEPTION WITH HORS D'OEUVRES & DRINKS EXHIBITOR'S HALL

Tuesday— August 11th, 2026

Time Slot	Morning General Session		
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome		Ryan Hendrix, VWEA, Chris Carey, VA AWWA Felicia Bracey, City of Richmond
8:45 – 9:30	Method Update Rule (MUR) Updates		William Lipps, Shimadzu
9:30 – 10:00	NETWORKING BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS EXHIBITOR’S HALL		
10:00 – 10:45	Proficiency Testing: A Survival Guide 🧪		Frederick Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions
10:45 – 11:30	Regulatory and Analytical Updates for Emerging Contaminants 💧		Bailey Davis, VDH
11:30 – 1:00	LUNCH AND NETWORKING		
Time Slot	Wastewater Sessions	Drinking Water Sessions	Management Sessions
1:00 - 1:30	Improving Reproducibility and Efficiency in BOD Analysis Through Automation 🧪 Joey Redovich, SEAL Analytical	LCCR/LCRI Compliance 💧 Bailey Davis, VDH	From the Lab to Legislation: How Water Professionals Influence Policy 🧪 Elizabeth Barbour, Fairfax County
1:30 – 2:00	Optimizing ICP-MS Analysis: Enhancing Helium Collision and Reaction Cell Modes Abe Gutierrez, Agilent	Rapid GC/MS/MS Determination of PFCAs and Integration with the TOP Assay for PFAS Precursor Assessment Abriel Armour, HRSD	Lessons Learned from the Implementation of New Instrumentation Zach Dahlgren and Miguel Rivera, Prince William Water
2:00 - 2:30	NETWORKING BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS EXHIBITOR’S HALL		
2:30 - 3:00	Critical Performance Drivers for High-Sensitivity PFAS Analysis in Landfill Leachate Tiffany Liden, Shimadzu	Perchlorate determination: Easy EPA method implementation to meet newly proposed MCLGs Allayva Stier, Thermo Fisher	Switching from COD/BOD ₅ to TOC: An Environmental and Laboratory Use Case Jada-Star Mains, Analytik Jena
3:00 – 3:30	Measurement Uncertainty of PFAS and Coexistence ions Dongmei Alvi, Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory	Robust Single-System LC-MS/MS Analysis of PFAS and Cyanotoxins: Method Performance and Influence of Mobile Phase Additives Kate Xia, Shimadzu	How to decrease Methylene Chloride use by using GC-MS/MS and small volume extraction for EPA Method 625.1 William Lipps, Shimadzu

