

SWOWEA Section Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Plant Operations Committee and Executive
Committee Co-present

Manor House Banquet & Conference Center
7440 Mason-Montgomery Rd.
Mason, OH 45040

PLANT OPERATIONS NOVEMBER SEMINAR

Start Time	End Time	Presentation Title	Speaker	Company
8:00am	8:30am	Registration/Coffee/Breakfast		
8:30am	9:15am	Digital Tools: Operations and Maintenance Case Studies and Challenges Met	Kathryn Crestani	Jacobs
9:15am	10:00am	Sludge Pumping Overview and Comparison of Rotary and Reciprocating Pump Technologies	Preston Campbell	Penn Valley Pumps
10:00am	10:15am	Break – Exhibitor Area		
10:15am	11:00am	What should a VFD do for you? The Evolution of VFDs	Larry Stanley	ABB
11:00am	11:45am	On-Boarding New Operators	Isaac Carpenter	City of Sidney
11:45am	12:45pm	Lunch		
12:45pm	1:30pm	Increasing WRRF Resiliency with Auxiliary Enhanced High-Rate Treatment	Rob Smith	Black and Veatch
1:30pm	2:15pm	Basic Control Panel Troubleshooting	Dave Matthews	BL Anderson
2:15pm	2:45pm	Break – Exhibitor Area		
2:45pm	3:30pm	Modernizing Water and Wastewater Operations with Integrated Data Management and Mobile Workflows	Jordan Stuart	Aquatic Informatics
3:30pm	4:00pm	Ohio EPA Biosolids Program Rule Update - Fall 2025	Kristen Diesburg	OEPA

EXHIBITORS

The Seminar will include an Exhibitor area displaying various products, equipment and services related to plant operations and maintenance.

Pre-Register Online by 11/10/25 at www.ohiowea.org

Early Member Registration (by 11/10/25)- \$75.00

Early Nonmember Registration (by 11/10/25)- \$90.00

Late Registration (after 11/10/25) - \$90.00

Registrations accepted day of event on a “first come, first serve” basis, event size may be limited, pre-registration guarantees your seat. Pay online or at the door by cash or check; make checks payable to “SWOWEA”.

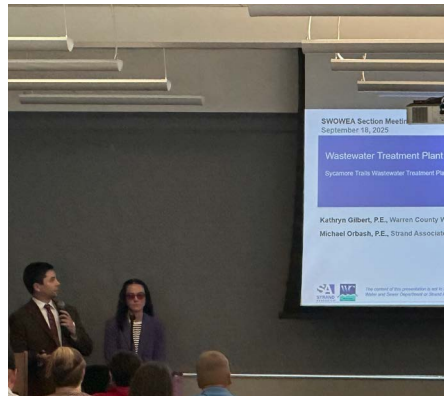
CONTACT HOURS

5.75 Contact Hours anticipated

Questions? Please contact Alyssa Mayer at amayer@hazenandsawyer.com or 513-469-5135

September 2025 SWOWEA Section Meeting

What a great weather day we had for our September 19th section meeting at Cincinnati MSD's Little Miami Treatment Plant! A big thank you to our SW Section President Chris Zdinak and his staff for allowing us to take a tour of the Little Miami facility. There was a great turnout with 79 attendees, 60 of whom also attended the morning's facility tour. After the tour, we had a great afternoon of speakers and food at the Cincinnati MSD administration building. Speakers included Nick Jones, MSDGC; Matt Kallevant, Black & Veatch; Kathryn Gilbert, Warren County Water & Sewer; Michael Orbash, Strand Associates, Inc.; Alyssa Mayer & Alexandra Salyers, Hazen and Sawyer. Each presentation gave us a great insight of their projects. Thank you to our sponsors and each attendee for making these events possible!



President's Corner

Greetings, Water Reclamation Professionals!

Pumpkin Spice and Oktoberfest season are upon us. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It was both the wettest and driest in recent memory. Southwest Ohio weather never disappoints. Good luck trying to put any clothes away. I want to thank all host municipalities, event organizers, media sponsors, committee chairs, the executive committee, and all the volunteers who help make SWOWEA events successful and foster a cooperative and inclusive community.

Past Quarter Events

In June, the Plant Operations committee held the Plant Operations June Seminar at YSI Inc. in Yellow Springs, OH. It was a unique experience as attendees got to walk through the YSI instrumentation testing and building area. Attendees learned about water reuse, pump maintenance, digital tools, PFAS in biosolids, and nutrient removal. It was a great event, and YSI was a hospitable host site. Congrats to the plant operations committee.

In July, the Young Professionals group organized a tour of Rumpke Landfill, located off Strouble Road. It was reportedly truckloads of information and mounds of fun.

In August, the Hamilton Groundwater Consortium, American Water Works Association, and Water for the People hosted the 15th anniversary Race for Global Water 5K run and walk in Fairfield, Ohio, a Water for the People benefit. In total, 225 runners and walkers crossed the finish line. The race has generated over 128K in donations over the years. Although this was a clean drinking water-related event, the clean water community has a significant overlap. I personally volunteered at the event. The current SWOWEA Vice President, Joseph Kamalesh, was the race co-chair. Additionally, many familiar faces from the Water Reclamation side volunteered and participated in the race. If you would like to be involved in 2026, you can reach out to Joseph Kamalesh or me.

In September, SWOWEA EC organized the Fall section meeting at the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. The section meeting included a morning tour of the Little Miami WRF, followed by an afternoon technical session at the administration building located on the Mill Creek WRF campus. We had 60 attendees at the plant tour and 80 attendees at the technical session. Following the section meeting, about 20 people attended the networking event at the Incline House. The weather was perfect, and the view was even better. Thanks to MSDGC for hosting the event and Black & Veatch for sponsoring coffee and donuts in the morning for the plant tour.

Upcoming Executive Committee

President:

Christopher Zdinak
MSD of Greater Cincinnati

Vice President:

Joseph Kamalesh
Stantec

Treasurer:

Adam Athmer
Strand

Secretary:

Lindsey Hassenauer
Hazen and Sawyer

3 Year Director:

Jeff Frechtling
Butler County Water & Sewer

2 Year Director:

Dinesh Palaniswamy
Warren County Water
& Sewer

1 Year Director:

Jim Boyd
Greene County Sanitary
Engineering Department

Past President:

Ed Smith
City of Mason

During the business meeting at the May Section Meeting, the new 3rd Year Director will be nominated.

The Wave

*Newsletter of the Southwest
Section of the Ohio Water
Environment Association*

Editor: Lindsey Hassenauer -
Hazen and Sawyer
Layout: Megan Bomar -
Hazen and Sawyer

President's Corner

Upcoming Events

In October, the Collections Systems committee will hold its Hands-on Seminar at Montgomery County Environmental Services, located on Spaulding Road, on Thursday, the 23rd. Topics will include screening alternatives for large diameter pipes, troubleshooting lift station pumps, solutions for problematic pump stations, optimizing pump station management, and an operations panel. Pre-registration ends October 20th. [Sign Up Here](#)

In November, the Plant Operations committee will organize its operations seminar and SWOWEA section meeting on Thursday, the 20th. See included flyer for details. [Register Here](#)

In November, the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Young Professionals organized the first-ever Ohio YP Summit. This event will be held on November 13–14, at the Delaware County Wolf Water Center, located just north of Columbus. This workshop will include networking opportunities, leadership development, and hands-on activities such as the Water Circuit Challenge, the YP Power Hour, and a panel discussing developing mentor relationships. All young professionals in the industry are encouraged to join, including operators, maintenance personnel, regulators, consultants, contractors, students, and others!

[OH YP Summit](#)

Also in November, the YP committee will be hosting a YP happy hour on Thursday, the 6th, at Mad Tree Brewing, starting at 4 pm. Black & Veatch sponsors the event.

[Ohio Water Environment Association](#)

A Call for Nominees!

Every year, OWEA awards people, organizations, and projects in several categories. Jim Boyd (First Year EC Director) is the chair of the awards committee. Please review the categories through the link below. If you would like to make a nomination, please reach out to Jim Boyd at james.boyd@greencountyohio.gov

[Review Categories](#)

Best regards,

Christopher Zdinak

SWOWEA President

Zdinakcm@protonmail.com

740 632 9932



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Christopher Zdinak
MSD of Greater Cincinnati

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Committee Reports

Industrial Waste Committee

SAVE THE DATE! January 22, 2026!

The Industrial Waste Seminar will be held on January 22, 2026 at the Manor House in Mason, OH. The Industrial Waste Committee is actively preparing for this event. The presentation agenda is almost complete; however, we are still accepting abstracts for consideration. We are close to identifying the Karl G. Voelkel Award winner after visiting several nominated industrial facilities. These facilities exemplify and embrace environmental awareness and have consistently met effluent discharge requirements. Also, the Committee is actively recruiting exhibitors and sponsors for the event.

If you would like to find out more about the Industrial Waste Committee, please check us out on the [Southwest OWEA website site](#).

If you would like additional information about the Industrial Waste Seminar, please contact Jeff Frechtling at jeff.frechtling@bcohio.gov or Barb Swafford at bswafford@zoomtown.com

Collection Systems Committee Update

The OWEA Collections System Committee hosted the annual statewide single day conference in Dublin, Ohio on May 15, 2025. Many collection system subjects were presented to over one hundred attendees from all across the state.

The State-wide Collection System Committee has set the agenda for this year's Collection System Hands-On Workshops. This year the Southwest event will be hosted by Montgomery County Environmental Services in Kettering on October 23rd. Attendance is limited to 60, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible for this event geared toward front line staff and collection system operators. You can find events details and registration information on the OWEA website.

As always, if you have any recommendations for presentation topics or suggestions for future workshop needs, feel free to reach out to me.

Remember...no pipes, no plants!

Steve Donovan (stevedonovan62@gmail.com)

Plant Operations Committee

The Plant Ops Committee is wrapping up planning for the November Seminar and Section Meeting which will be held at the Manor House on Thursday, November 20th. Registration is live now, so please sign up to join us! It is a full day of technical sessions along with an Exhibitor Area displaying various products, equipment and services related to plants operations and maintenance. Information regarding registration will be available on the OWEA website. If any questions please reach out to Alyssa Mayer (amayer@hazenandsawyer.com)

SWOWEA Young Professionals Committee

The SWOWEA Young Professionals Committee volunteered at the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River this September.



SWOWEA YPs toured the Mill Creek Barrier Dam on October 2nd! The dam was constructed following Cincinnati's 1937 flood when the Ohio River rose to 80 feet and now operates to protect the Mill Creek Valley. (insert YP Barrier Dam photos)

The YP group will also be hosting a Happy Hour Networking Event on November 6th, at Mad Tree Oakley. Please register to attend these events on the OWEA website. Reach out to Julia Beggs (julia.beggs@arcadis.com) or Maria Blanchard (blanchardm1@bv.com) for more information and to be added to the SWOWEA YP email list to be informed of future events. Hope to see you there!



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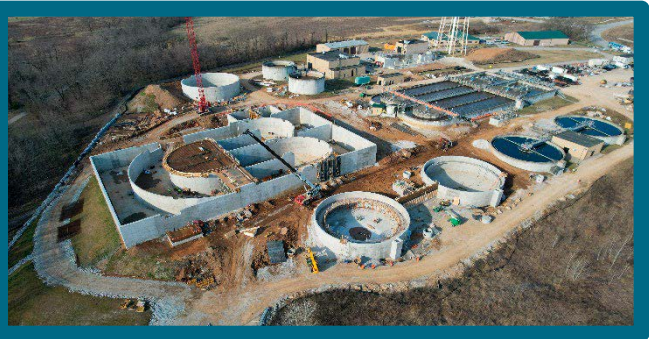
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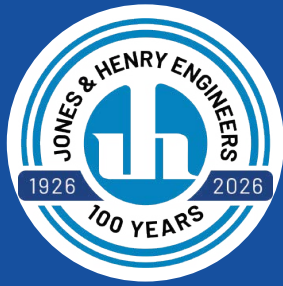
Dayton WRF Digester and Odor Control Improvements

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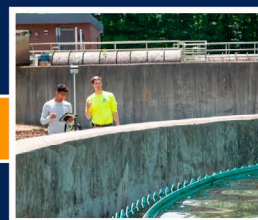


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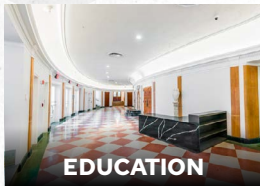
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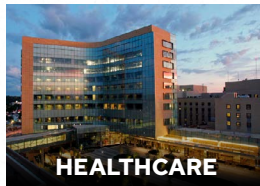
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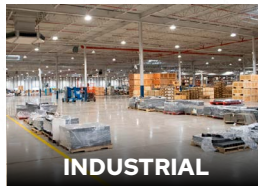
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