



The Wave

Summer 2026

SWOWEA Section Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026



We invite you to join us for a tour of Troy's Wastewater Treatment Plant!
The afternoon technical sessions will be held at the WACO Airfield.

Evening Social Event: Happy Hour at 41 Grill & Draft House



After a full day of touring the WWTP and participating in technical sessions, attendees are invited to unwind and socialize at a Happy Hour hosted at 41 Grill & Draft House, located at the Square Downtown Troy. SWOWEA will provide two complimentary drinks and appetizers for each guest at the event. This evening gathering is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow professionals, share insights from the day, and catch up with peers in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

Time	Presentation Title
Facility Tour 9 - 11:30 a.m. <i>Last Tour leaves at 10 a.m.</i>	City of Troy Wastewater Treatment Plant OWEA-XXXXXX-OM 1.0 hrs 1400 Dye Mill Road, Troy, Ohio 45373
Registration 11:30am-12:00pm	WACO Air Museum & Aviation Learning Center 1865 S. County Road 25A, Troy, OH 45373
Lunch: 12:00pm	Lunch catered by Mrs. B'S Catering
Business Meeting: 12:30pm	Welcome and Updates Joseph Kamalesh, P.E., SWOWEA President
Technical Sessions: 1:00pm – 1:45 pm	Novel Aeration Control Delivers Energy Savings and Improved Nutrient Removal Mark Gehring, EnviroMix OWEA-XXXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Biological Nutrient Removal Technology Selection Tyler Wright, P.E. & Josie Rutherford, E.I., Strand Associates, Inc OWEA-XXXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs
2:30 pm – 2:45pm	Break & Door Prizes 0.75 hrs
2:45pm – 3:45 pm	City of Troy WWTP Improvements Alyssa Mayer, P.E., Hazen OWEA-XXXXXX-OM 1.00 hrs
3:45 pm	Closing Remarks
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Happy Hour 41 Grill and Draft House

Pre-register by Friday Sept. 11, 2026
at www.ohiowea.org.

\$0 Speakers
\$5 Students w/ valid ID
\$50 early registration member
\$55 early registration non-member
\$60 late registration member
\$65 late registration non-member

Registration is free with a paid OWEA/WEF new membership application.

Online registration is highly recommended.

Please honor your reservation with payment if unable to attend

Payment Contact:
Jeff Frechtling, P.E.
SWOWEA Treasurer
Jeff.Frechtling@bcOhio.gov
(513) 887-3220

Event Contact:
Adam Athmer, P.E., BCEE
SWOWEA VP
adam.athmer@strand.com
(513) 861-5600.

Make Checks Payable to:
Jeff Frechtling, SWOWEA Treasurer
130 High Street, Hamilton, OH, 45011

This program has been submitted for 3.5 contact hours for certified operators and professional engineers in Ohio. To receive credit, attendees must be present during the entire session and complete a contact hour form with Ohio EPA Core ID Number.

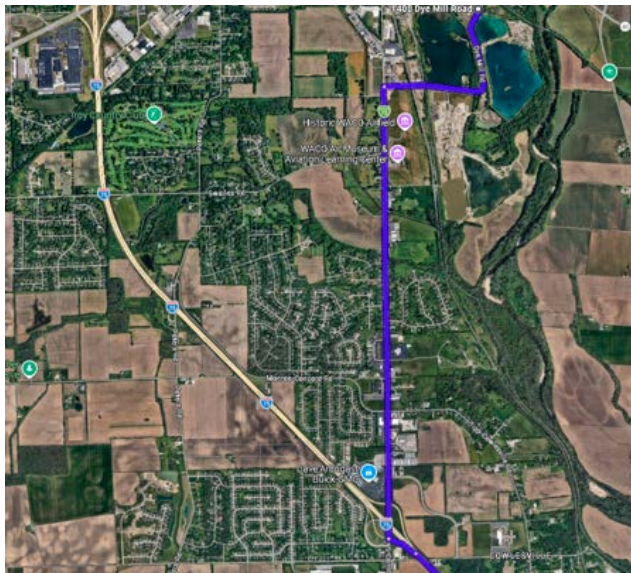
Directions

Directions to to Facility Tour

City of Troy, Wastewater Treatment Plant (1400 Dye Mill Road, Troy, Ohio 45373)

Directions from Interstate-75 (I-75):

1. Travel on I-75 (N/S) to exit 69 for Co Rd 35A toward Troy;
2. Travel on Co Rd. 25A for approximately 0.3 miles and continue onto I-75BUS/S;
3. Travel for approximately 2.3 miles and turn right onto Dye Mille Rd.
4. In approximately 1.0 miles, the destination will be on your left;
5. Parking is available on site.



Directions to WACO Airfield: The Airfield is located just south of the WWTP location; The fairgrounds are located on the south side of the square in Urbana.

1. Head South on Dye-Mill Road for approximately 1 mile;
2. Turn left onto I-75BUS;
3. Travel approximately 0.4 miles and the venue is located on your left;
4. Parking is available on-site.



President's Corner

As I start putting together my first letter as the SWOWEA Section President, I'm thinking a lot about why we all love this industry. We're definitely a unique group - we do the "dirty" work to keep the waters clean, and let's face it—our jobs aren't exactly glamorous. Most of the time, our hard work is completely invisible to the average person. It usually only gets noticed when something goes wrong, which seems to happen a lot more lately with unpredictable weather and fast-growing towns.

Because of that, I want to kick off my term by saying a huge thank you to everyone in this industry. Thank you for keeping us invisible, safe, and compliant day in and day out. After all, where else can you find a room full of people happily eating lunch while discussing sewer overflows and backups?

About me

Growing up and earning my undergrad degree in India, I moved to the U.S. in 2003 for graduate studies at West Virginia University. Though my background was in electronics and software, research on rural Appalachian septic systems sparked my passion for wastewater—a field built on practical impact and essential field work.

I relocated to Cincinnati in 2008 for my first job as a data analyst at Stantec where I continued working on wastewater projects more specifically on collections system, managing projects and teams across the US. After 17 years in engineering consulting, I recently took a new role as Director for the North American Market at Ayyeka, a remote monitoring solutions company. My SWOWEA journey began on the Young Professionals Committee.

On a personal note, my wife and I have been married for 16 years and share three children—our 13-year-old boy, our 10-year-old boy watching over us from heaven, and our 4-year-old girl. We remain deeply rooted in our local Cincinnati community and church.

SWOWEA this year

2026 is an exciting year to be part of SWOWEA, especially with the annual One Water Conference hosted right here in Cincinnati—you may even be reading this as the conference is in full swing! By all accounts, this year is shaping up to be another record-breaker, and the organizing committee has worked tirelessly to pull it together. After all it is the 100th anniversary of OWEA.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Chris Zdinak for his dedicated service as President this past year. Chris set a high bar, attending nearly every section event and leading our group with excellence. I am also deeply grateful to all our past Executive Committee members who remain involved and ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

Executive Committee

President:

Joseph Kamalesh
Ayyeka

Vice President:

Adam Athmer
Strand Associates

Treasurer:

Jeff Frechtling
Butler County Water
and Sewer

Secretary:

Lindsey Hassenauer
Hazen and Sawyer

3rd Year Director:

Dinesh Palaniswamy
Warren County Water &
Sewer

2nd Year Director:

Jim Boyd
Greene County Sanitary
Engineering Department

1st Year Director:

Julia Beggs
Hazen and Sawyer

Past President:

Chris Zdinak
MSD of Greater Cincinnati

OWEA Delegate:

Dave Reinker

During the business meeting at the May Section Meeting, the new 1st 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

Key goals for 2026-2027

As we look ahead, my focus as President is on strengthening our community, expanding our reach, and delivering even more value to our members. To guide us through this milestone year, we will focus on three primary goals:

- **Formalize Our Sponsorship Program:** We aim to build a structured, sustainable sponsorship framework. This will provide our industry partners with clear, impactful opportunities to support SWOWEA while helping us fund quality programming, student outreach, and professional development initiatives.
- **Introduce Family-Friendly Events:** Our members give so much to this industry, and we want to celebrate the families that support them. We plan to add family-centered social events to our calendar to build stronger personal connections across our section outside of standard technical sessions.
- **Modernize The Wave Newsletter:** We want to transform The Wave into a more engaging, reader-friendly, and visually attractive publication with more frequent updates and accessible content for our members.

Get Involved: A Call to Action

The strength of SWOWEA comes from our volunteers—and our **Young Professionals (YP) Committee** is looking for active members!

A big thank you to **Julia Beggs** and **Maria Blanchard** for revitalizing our YP events and expanding the program. With Julia transitioning to 1st Year Director on the Executive Committee, we are now seeking a **new YP Co-Chair** to step up alongside Maria, as well as new committee members. Whether you're early in your career or a seasoned professional looking to mentor, joining a committee is a great way to grow and give back. If you're interested in the Co-Chair role or getting involved, please reach contact jbeggs@hazenandsawyer.com or blanchardmpl@bv.com

2026-2027 Executive Committee

Please join me in welcoming Julia Beggs as the newest member of the EC as the First Year Director.

President - Joseph Kamalesh

Vice-President - Adam Athmer

Secretary - Lindsey Hassenauer

Treasurer - Jeff Frechtling

Third Year Director - Dinesh Palaniswamy

Second Year Director - Jim Boyd

First Year Director - Julia Beggs

Past President - Chris Zdinak

OWEA Delegate - Dave Reinker

We appreciate all our attendees, volunteers, and sponsors—we simply could not put on these events without you all. I truly believe we have the best section – SW is BEST! I have enjoyed every moment of my time with SWOWEA, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you all.

See you at one of our upcoming events:

- Sep 15 – YP Lunch and Learn at Hazen
- Sep 17 – September Section Meeting in Troy OH



Sincerely,
Joseph Kamalesh
SWOWEA President
Joseph.Kamalesh@Ayyeka.com

Committee Reports

March 2026 Section Meeting Summary

The May Section Meeting kicked off with a tour of the City of Urbana Water Reclamation Facility and then moved to the Champaign County Fairgrounds for lunch and technical sessions. A big thank you to Zac Herrmann and the WRF staff for allowing us to take a tour of the City of Urbana Water Reclamation Facility! We had 56 attendees at the events. Technical session presenters included Zac Herrmann, City of Urbana; Justin Mason, EES; and Dave Matthews, BL Anderson. Thank you to all presenters, our sponsors, and to each attendee for making these events possible!

The Membership also voted to add Julia Beggs of Hazen and Sawyer to the Executive Committee as the First Year Director starting in July. Christopher Zdinik will move to Past President and Joseph Kamalesh will move to President.



Industrial Waste Committee

The Industrial Waste Committee is actively preparing for the next Industrial Waste Seminar (IWS) to be held January 28, 2027 at the Manor House in Mason, Ohio. Activities include:

- Soliciting nominations for next year's Karl G. Voelkel (KGV) Industry Award. This industry should exemplify and embrace environmental awareness and have consistently met effluent discharge requirements.
- Identifying presenters, sponsors, and exhibitors to participate in the 2027 IWS.
- Recruiting new members to be on the SWOWEA Committee to assist with development of the IWS.

If you would like to find out more about the Industrial Waste Committee, please check us out on the Southwest OWEA website site at <https://southwestowea.org/industrial-waste-cmtc>.

Please contact Jeff Frechtling at jeff.frechtling@bcohio.gov or Paul Krehbiel at pkrehbiel@hazenandsawyer.com if you are interested in any of the above activities.

Collections System Committee

The State Collections System Committee held their annual statewide single day conference in Dublin, Ohio on May 28, 2026. In spite of an untimely power failure at the venue, a variety of collection systems topics, including several from the Southwest OWEA section, were presented to the attendees from around the State.

The Committee is currently working to set the agenda for the Hands-On workshops coming up later this year. The Southwest session will be hosted by MSD again this year at the West Galbraith Collection facility on October 15, 2026. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for advertisements closer to the date.

As always, if you have any recommendations for presentation topics or suggestions of future workshops needs, feel free to reach out to me (stevedonovan62@gmail.com 614-309-0251).

Remember...no pipes, no plants!

Steve Donovan

Young Professionals Committee

The SWOWEA Young Professionals Committee recently enjoyed a tour of the Rhinegeist Brewery facility as a joint event with OAWWA Young Professionals, as shown in the image below



In May, we had a Lunch & Learn focused on the importance of strainers and filtration with one of our own young professional members from Hawyard Flow Control. We will be doing another young professional-lead Lunch & Learn on September 15th on the topic of biogas.

For One Water attendees, we have organized a Young Professionals Gathering that will take place at 10:30 - 11:15 AM on Wednesday, August 19th at the Exhibit Hall's Connection Corner. We will be providing an iced coffee bar, lemonade bar, and light snacks. Stop by for some refreshments and networking with fellow young professionals if you'll be at the conference this year in Cincinnati!

Plant Operations Committee

In June, the Plant Ops Committee hosted the June Seminar at the Greene County Media Center. The event was a reunion of Plant Ops Committee Alumni as speakers and panel members. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our sponsors and speakers for helping us to create a successful event!

We are currently working on planning for the November Seminar and Section Meeting which will be held at the Manor House on Thursday, November 19th. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for information on event registration in the coming months.

If you have a topic that you would like to present or a topic you'd like to hear more about at these Plant Ops sponsored events, please reach out to Alyssa Mayer (amayer@hazenandsawyer.com) or Fran Sparer (frances.sparer@jacobs.com) with a short



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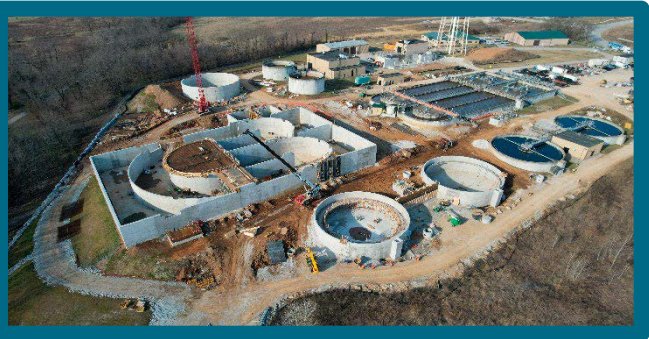
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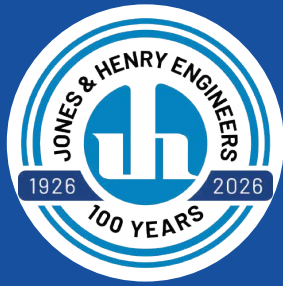
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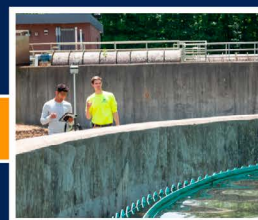


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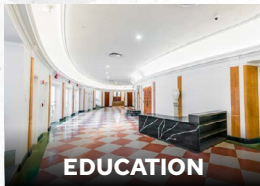
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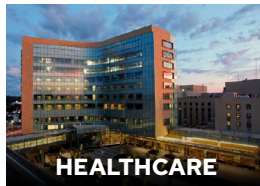
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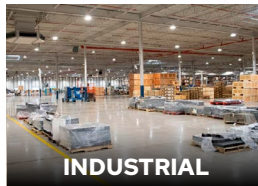
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