



SWOWEA Section Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

City of Middletown, Ohio

City of Middletown WWTP

300 Oxford State Rd, Middletown, OH 45044

Time	Presentation Title
8:00am–11:30am	<p>City of Middletown WWTP Tour: OWEA-SXXXX-OM 1.0 hrs Meet in the front of the WWTP Administration Building between 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Parking is available onsite. Various tour groups will be organized and staggered each 30 minutes.</p> <p><i>Wear proper footwear for a walking tours. No hardhats or safety vests required.</i></p>
Registration 11:30am–12:00pm	<p>The Windamere Event Venue 2 South Main Street, Middletown, Ohio 45044 Hammann’s Catering:</p>
Lunch: 12:00pm	<p>Hammann’s Catering: Texas Style BBQ (Smoked Beef Brisket, Pork Butt, and Chicken Quarters).</p>
Business Meeting: 12:30pm	<p>Welcome & Business Meeting Chris Zdinak, SWOWEA President</p>
Technical Sessions: 12:45pm – 1:30 pm	<p>Middletown Collection System Update and Long-Term Control Plan City of Middletown, Donovan Utility Consulting Services, and Stantec OWEA-XXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs</p>
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	<p>Main Street Equalization Basin - Planning and Design Gresham Smith OWEA-XXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs</p>
2:15 pm –2:30 pm	<p>Break & Door Prizes</p>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Main Street Equalization Basin - Construction and Virtual Tour Shook OWEA-XXXXX-OM 1.00 hrs</p>
3:30 pm	<p>Closing Statement</p>

Directions

Pre-register by March 15, 2025, www.ohiowea.org.
 Pre-registration fees are \$45 members, \$55 non-members, \$5 students (w/ID). Walk-ins -\$50 members, \$60 non-members.

Contact: Adam Athmer, SWOWEA Treasurer at adam.athmer@strand.com or (513) 861-5600.

Credit card payment is available through www.ohiowea.org only. Meeting is free for new members with paid membership application. Please honor your reservation with payment if unable to attend.

Directions to Middletown WWTP From I-75

Take Exit 29 onto OH 63 W;
 Travel ~4.6-miles and turn right onto OH-4 N;
 Travel ~1.8-miles and turn left onto S. Main St;
 Travel~0.7-miles and turn left onto OH-73 W/Oxford State Rd;
 Travel ~0.4-miles and the WWTP entrance is on the left.
 Parking on site as designated

Directions to Windamere Event Center from Middletown WWTP

Turn right onto OH-73 E/Oxford State Rd;
 Travel ~0.4-miles and turn left onto S. Main St. ;
 Travel ~2.7-miles to the intersection of S. Main St. and Central Ave. Parking at the Windamere Event Center parking is located on site.

HAPPY HOUR FROM 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM at The Swire Inn located at 64 S. Main Street, Middletown, Ohio immediately following the completion of the event. The venue is located ~350-feet south of the Windamere Event Venue. Come socialize with other SWOWEA members and enjoy the first round of the NCAA College Basketball Tournament!

President's Corner

Hello from the Southwest Section!

Salutations! I hope everyone survived the snow-pocalypse and has dug themselves out sufficiently enough to leave their homes. Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities are open to the elements exposed to the weather. Having sustained frigid temperatures causes known but also unforeseen complications to facility equipment and hazards to staff. This week we had a sludge loading tree at the Polk Run WRRF freeze which stopped us from hauling sludge. Our maintenance crew worked through the cold to get the equipment up and running. I would like to recognize and thank all the civil servants and private sector employees whose jobs must be done regardless of the weather conditions. You are seen and appreciated.

I also want to thank all the SWOWEA event and networking sponsors, host cities, Executive Committee, committee chairs and volunteers. All these events are made possible because of your support.

So far in 2026 we have had the Industrial Waste Seminar at the Manor House in Mason. The attendance was one of the highest we have since in recent memory. I got a lot of positive feed about the presentations. On March 19th we will have the Collection System focused section meeting and plant tour. The plant tour will be at the City Middletown WWTP, then the afternoon technical sessions will be at The Windamere Event Venue. Lunch will be a Texas style BBQ provided by Hammann's Catering. There will also be a YP event in March with details TBA.

One Water! One Water is joint conference between wastewater and water professionals. This year it is being held at the newly renovated Duke Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH August 17th through 20th. The One Water Government Affairs and Regulatory workshop will be on March 3rd in Dublin, OH. You can keep track of One Water registration and event dates at <https://onewaterohio.org/>

I wish everyone a safe and healthy winter. I look forward to seeing everyone in March.

Best regards,

Christopher M. Zdinak

SWOWEA President 2025 - 2026

Upcoming Executive Committee

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Chris Zdinak
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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

Committee Reports

Industrial Waste Committee

The 36th Industrial Waste Seminar was held on January 22, 2026, at the Manor House in Mason, Ohio. Thanks to all who made the Seminar a success! Over 145 people attended the seminar, representing industry, utilities, manufacturer's representatives, and consultants. Twenty exhibitors provided opportunities to discuss products and services relevant to the wastewater industry. The seminar was also supported by three sponsors. And, as usual, the food was good and plentiful.

The Karl G. Voelkel award was presented to SugarCreek Thunderbird facility located in Butler County, Ohio. SugarCreek installed a new pretreatment facility in anticipation of increased production at their plant. Since installation, SugarCreek continues to fine-tune the process as part of their ongoing effort to improve discharge quality and stay ahead of permit requirements. They are very cooperative in dealing with the County's pretreatment requirements and have consistently met discharge limits. In addition, they have implemented several programs aimed at reducing their impact on the environment.



Pictured above: George Jones, Jamie Mallow, Lorie Brengelman, and Alyissa Miller accepting the Karl G. Voelkel award.

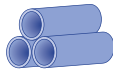
Seven presentations provided a total of 5.25 contact hours and offered information on a variety of subjects. The presentations are as follows:

- "Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water Updates for 2026" by Tom Lipp and Rob Zimmer, Ohio EPA.
- "Synthica Energy – Organic Waste to Renewable Natural Gas" by Rob Birkenhauer and Shane Paxton, BCI.
- "How to Respond to the Unexpected: Industrial Slug Loading" by Sandy Bernard, Lochmueller Group.
- "Data Center Considerations for Municipal Providers" by Tim Harrison and Paul Krehbiel, Hazen.
- "What a GEM – SugarCreek Thunderbird Facility" by George Jones, SugarCreek.
- "Ohio AFFF Takeback Program and Destruction of AFFF using SCWO" by Joe Tarsavage, Battelle.
- "Environmental Criminal Enforcement" by Chris Wilson, U.S. EPA and Jenny Comisford, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

The success of the Industrial Waste Seminar can be attributed to many individuals, including the Industrial Waste Committee members, SWOWEA Executive Committee members, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors. Thank you all!

The IWC is beginning the process of planning next year's Industrial Waste Seminar to be held on January 28, 2027. We are looking for presenters, exhibitors, and a Karl G. Voelkel Industry Award winner. So, if you are interested in presenting or exhibiting, or know an industry that exemplifies and embraces environmental awareness, please contact Jeff Frechtling at jeff.frechtling@bcOhio.gov, Barb Swafford at bswafford@zoomtown.com, or Paul Krehbiel at pkrehbiel@hazenandsawyer.com.

Collections System Committee



The March SWOWEA section meeting to be held on March 19 is taking shape and will be focused on collection system issues, with emphasis on the recently constructed CSO Equalization (EQ) Basin in Middletown. The day will begin with a tour of the City of Middletown's WWTP. The afternoon will include three technical presentations held at the Windamere Event Venue in downtown Middletown. We hope to have a "virtual tour" of the EQ Basin. Keep an eye out for the event flyer in your email. We hope to see you there.

The OWEA Collections System Committee is working to develop the program for the annual statewide single day conference in Dublin, Ohio to be held in mid-May. Many subjects pertaining to collection systems will be presented by subject matter experts from around the state. Go to the OWEA website for more information and details on registration.

This past October, more than 30 attendees enjoyed this year's Collection System Hands-On Workshop which was held at the Montgomery County Environmental Services facility. There were four presentations detailing specific items of interest related to collection systems. This year we featured a, first ever, panel discussion with MSD Greater Cincinnati and Greene County representatives, who shared highlights and issues collection system agencies are facing these days. We hope to continue to include panel discussions in future workshops. A great big thanks to all at MCES for hosting the event. Keep an eye out for announcements of the 2026 Hands-On event to be held later this year.

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)

Young Professionals Committee

The SWOWEA Young Professionals Committee hosted a Happy Hour last November at MadTree Oakley. The next YP event will be a tour of the Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Facility, held on Thursday, March 19th, at 2:00 PM. Please register to attend this event on the OWEA website. Reach out to Julia Beggs (JBeggs@hazenandsawyer.com) or Maria Blanchard (blanchardmpl1@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!

Plant Operations Committee

Thanks to everyone who attended the Plant Ops Seminar in November. We had a great turnout and big thanks to all our presenters and for the committee members who organized! The Plant Operations Committee is now kicking off another year and has begun planning events to bring low-cost contact hours to operators. Keep an eye out for an announcement for the Class IV Preparation Course coming this spring. This will be a round-table type course for operators who are pursuing their Class IV license. Discussion will be led by experienced operators who have recently completed their Class IV. In addition, we are working to plan our June Seminar and details will be coming soon on that. Watch for updates on the SWOWEA web page, as well as your email if you are interested in attending any of these events. If you are interested in participating in the Plant Operations Committee, please reach out to Alyssa Mayer (amayer@hazenandsawyer.com).



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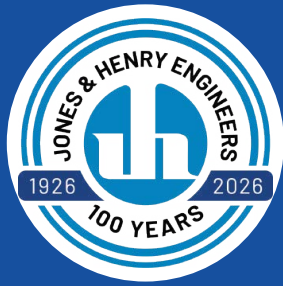
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