



# The Wave

Spring 2026

## SWOWEA Section Meeting *City of Urbana* Thursday, May 21, 2026 *City of Urbana Water Reclamation Facility* 1263 Muzzy Road, Urbana, OH 43078

We invite you to join us for a tour of Urbana’s Water Reclamation Facility! The afternoon technical sessions will be held at the Champaign County Fairgrounds.

### Evening Social Event: Happy Hour at Urbana Brewing Company

After a full day of touring the Water Reclamation Facility and participating in technical sessions, attendees are invited to unwind and socialize at a Happy Hour hosted by the Urbana Brewing Company. Located just about one mile from the Champaign County Fairgrounds.

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.

**Pre-register by May 15, 2026** at [www.ohiowea.org](http://www.ohiowea.org).

- \$0 Speakers
- \$5 Students w/ valid ID
- \$35 early registration member
- \$45 early registration non-member
- \$40 late registration member
- \$50 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:**  
 Adam Athmer SWOWEA  
 Treasurer  
[adam.athmer@strand.com](mailto:adam.athmer@strand.com)  
 (513) 861 5600

**Event Contact:**  
 Joseph Kamalesh  
 SWOWEA VP  
[joseph.kamalesh@stantec.com](mailto:joseph.kamalesh@stantec.com)  
 (513) 842 8219.

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
 Adam Athmer SWOWEA Treasurer  
 615 Elsinore Place, Suite 320  
 Cincinnati, OH 45202

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.

Time	Presentation Title
<b>8:00 am–11:30 am</b> <i>Last tour leaves at 10 am</i>	City of Urbana Water Reclamation Facility: <b>OWEA-SXXXXX-OM 1.0 hrs</b> 1263 Muzzy Road, Urbana, OH 43078
<b>Registration 11:30 am–12:00 pm</b>	Champaign County Fairgrounds 384 Park Ave, Urbana, OH 43078 Farmers & Merchants Activities Building
<b>Lunch: 12:00 pm</b>	Catered by Farmer’s Daughter
<b>Business Meeting: 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Welcome and Updates</b> Chris Zdinak, SWOWEA President
<b>Technical Sessions: 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm</b>	<b>Accepting Septage at a WRF</b> Zac Herrmann, Urbanana WRF Plant Superintendent <b>OWEA-XXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs</b>
<b>1:45 pm – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>City of Urbana - Performance Overview of Sludge Dewatering Using Screw Press Technology</b> Justin Mason, P.E., Environmental Engineering Service Zac Herrmann, Urbana WRF Plant Superintendent <b>OWEA-XXXXX-OM 0.75 hrs</b>
<b>2:30 pm –2:45 pm</b>	<b>Break &amp; Door Prizes</b>
<b>2:45 pm – 3:45 pm</b>	<b>Basic Control Panel Troubleshooting</b> Dave Mathews, BL Anderson <b>OWEA-XXXXX-OM 1.00 hrs</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

# Directions

## Directions to Facility Tour

The facility is located in a rural-industrial area west of the city center, south of the Mad River

### Directions from US-68

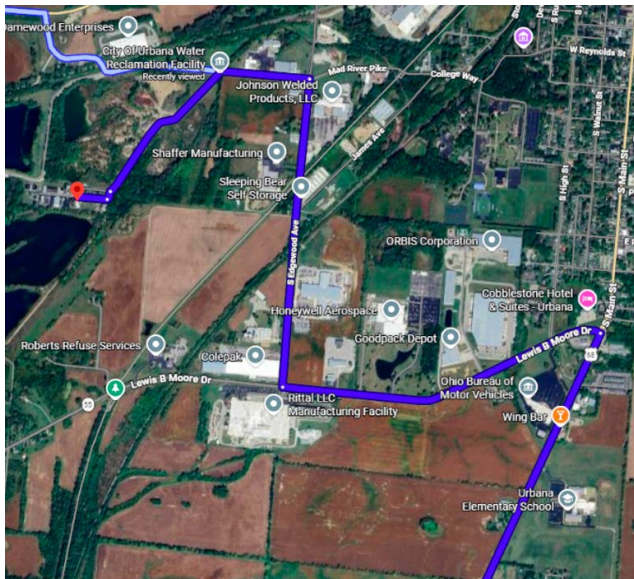
1. **Exit US-68:** If traveling on US-68 (Main Street), head toward the south side of Urbana.
2. **Turn onto SR-55:** Turn West onto **Lewis B. Moore Drive** (State Route 55).
3. **Turn onto S. Edgewood Ave:** Continue west for about 1.5 miles, then turn **South (Left)** onto **S. Edgewood Avenue**
4. **Final Turn:** Turn **West (Right)** onto **Muzzy Road**

### Driving Directions from I-70

The facility is approximately **15 miles north** of the I-70 and US-68 interchange.

1. **Exit I-70:** Take **Exit 52B** to merge onto **US-68 N** toward Urbana
2. **Travel North on US-68:** Continue north for approximately 13 miles into the City of Urbana
3. **Turn West (Left) on SR-55:** Turn **Left** onto **Lewis B. Moore Drive** (State Route 55).
4. **Turn South (Left) on S. Edgewood Ave:** After about 1.5 miles, turn **Left** onto S. Edgewood Avenue
5. **Turn West (Right) on Muzzy Road:** Take the first **Right** onto **Muzzy Road**

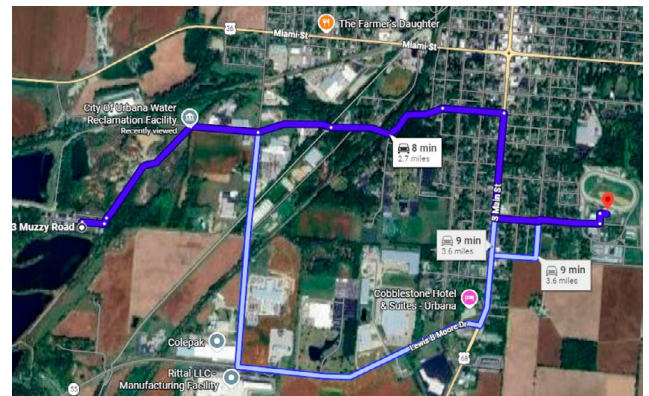
**The Water Reclamation Facility will be on your left, just past the City of Urbana Compost Facility**



**Directions to Champaign County Fairgrounds:** The fairgrounds are located on the north side of Urbana, approximately 15 miles north of the I-70/US-68 interchange.

1. **Exit I-70:** Take Exit 52B to merge onto US-68 N toward Urbana.
2. **Travel North on US-68:** Continue north for about 14 miles. This will take you directly into downtown Urbana (Monument Square).
3. **Navigate Monument Square:** Enter the roundabout and take the second exit to stay on US-68 N (N. Main Street).
4. **Turn West (Left) on Park Ave:** Turn **Left** onto Park Avenue.
5. **Arrive at Fairgrounds:** The Champaign County Fairgrounds will be on your right.

**The meeting will be held at the Farmers & Merchants Activities Building**



# President's Corner

## Greetings, Water Reclamation Professionals!

This is my last President's Corner so let's Spring into it. First, I would like to thank all the members of the executive committee, committee chairs and volunteers you all have made my year as president an enjoyable experience. We had a productive year doing boring, but necessary, administrative tasks like updating the EC duties, creating coherent sponsorship categories, developing a more accessible SharePoint for storing documents and promoting the OWEA awards.

We started off the year scrambling to get the Fall section meeting a location. We ended up having it at MSDGC touring the Little Miami WRRF which will be nice because the plant has several years of CIP's so the changes will be notable in the future. No one was hit by a car crossing the street from the parking lot which was a personal relief as president and a supervisor at Little Miami.

We had record attendance for several events this year. In November the Plant Operations Seminar and Section meeting had over 100 attendees, which is the most since COVID and to my memory. In January the Industrial Waste Seminar and Section meeting had record attendance of over 150 attendees and the March collections systems themed section meeting had almost 120 attendees.

The Young Professionals committee had a productive year. They put on a networking event at Madtree brewing, toured the Barrier Dam in Cincinnati, participated in the Great Miami River Clean Sweep, toured Rumpke landfill and did a joint event with OAWWA TP's touring Greater Cincinnati Water Works historic pump station. We also sponsored YP chair Maria Blanchard to attend the YP summit in Charlotte, NC. Future events are tour of Mill Creek WRRF MSDGC and a lunch and learn with Hayward Flow Control.

I want to thank all host municipalities, event organizers, sponsors, committee chairs, the executive committee, and all the volunteers who help make SWOWEA events successful and foster a cooperative and inclusive community.

Flushingly,  
Christopher M. Zdinak

## Executive Committee

President:

Chris Zdinak  
MSD of Greater Cincinnati

Vice President:

Joseph Kamalesh  
Stantec

Treasurer:

Adam Athmer  
Strand Associates

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Hazen and Sawyer

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Jeff Frechtling  
Butler County Water  
and Sewer

2nd Year Director:

Dinesh Palaniswamy  
Jones and Henry Engineers

1st 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 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

# Committee Reports

## March 2026 Section Meeting Summary

We had a great turnout for our March 19th section meeting in Middletown, Ohio. A big thank you to Gerry Burris and his staff for allowing us to take a tour of the Middletown wastewater treatment plant. There was another great turnout with 111 attendees of 120 registered, most of whom also attended the morning's facility tour. After the tour, we had a great afternoon of speakers and food at The Windamere Event Venue. Presenters included Steve Donovan with Donovan Utility Consulting Services, Joseph Kamalesh, P.E. with Stantec, Saa Shemsu, EI, Assoc. DBIA and Katie Nolan, P.E with Gresham Smith, and Josh Murry and Eric Rees with Shook. Each presentation gave us a great insight into their projects. Thank you to our sponsors and each attendee for making these events possible!



## Industrial Waste Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 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:

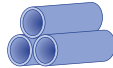


- Soliciting nominations for next year's Karl G. Voelkel (KGV) Industry Award. This industry should exemplify and embrace environmental awareness and have consistently met effluent discharge requirements.
- Identifying presenters, sponsors, and exhibitors to participate in the 2026 IWS.
- Recruiting new members to be on the SWOWEA Industrial Waste 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-cmte>.

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

## Collections System Committee



We would like to thank all the attendees and presenters at the March 19th Collection System focused Section meeting in Middletown.

A special thank you to the City of Middletown staff who assisted with the morning tour of WWTP. We had a full house for the afternoon presentations that came in around 120.

The State Collections System Committee has finalized the review of the abstracts and has set the program for the upcoming annual statewide single day conference in Dublin, Ohio on May 28, 2026. There are a variety of collection systems topics to fill the day for attendees from around the State. See the OWEA website for more information on this event.

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](mailto:stevedonovan62@gmail.com) 614-309-0251).

Remember...no pipes, no plants!

Steve Donovan

## Plant Operations Committee

The SWOWEA June Seminar is back at the recently renovated Greene County Media Center for a special **Plant Ops Reunion!** Presentations will focus on lessons learned from seasoned plant operators. Topics will include a variety of presentations including a panel of past Plant Ops Committee Members. Pre-Register Online by 5/27/26 at [www.ohiowea.org](http://www.ohiowea.org) Hope to see you there!

## Young Professionals Committee

The SWOWEA Young Professionals Committee is looking forward to an active 2026! To kick off the new year, the YP Committee toured the Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Facility in March and had 21 attendees. Thanks to all the plant staff for the hospitality!



The next YP event will be a Lunch & Learn discussing the importance of strainers and filtration with Hayward Flow Control, presented by one of our own young professionals! This will be held on May 6th at 12:00 PM at the Cincinnati Black & Veatch office. Please register to attend this event on the OWEA website. Later in the summer, we will have a joint event with OAWWA at Rhinegeist Brewery. Save the date - June 18th!

Reach out to Julia Beggs ([jbeggs@hazenandsawyer.com](mailto:jbeggs@hazenandsawyer.com)) or Maria Blanchard ([blanchardmpl@bv.com](mailto:blanchardmpl@bv.com)) for more information and be added to the SWOWEA YP email list to stay in the loop of future events.



**Plant Operations Committee Presents  
PLANT OPERATIONS REUNION SEMINAR**

**Thursday, June 4, 2026**

Greene County Media Center  
541 Ledbetter Road  
Xenia, OH 45385

**PRESENTATIONS**

The SWOWEA June Seminar is back at the recently renovated Greene County Media Center for a special **Plant Ops Reunion!** Presentations will focus on lessons learned from seasoned plant operators. Topics will include a variety of presentations including a panel of past Plant Ops Committee Members.

**CONTACT HOURS**

Between 5-6 Contact Hours Available.

**LUNCH**

Donuts, Coffee and Lunch will be provided

**REGISTRATION**

**Pre-Register Online by 5/27/26 at [www.ohiowea.org](http://www.ohiowea.org)**

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”.

**\$20 members pre-registered (before 5/27/26)**

**\$30 non-members / walk ins (after 5/27/26)**

**Questions?** Please contact Alyssa Mayer at  
[amayer@hazenandsawyer.com](mailto:amayer@hazenandsawyer.com) or 513-469-5135

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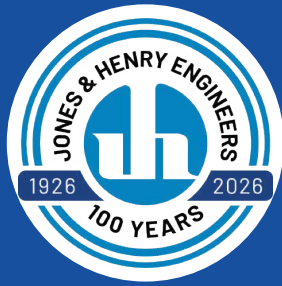
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