

SUMMER 2025

NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN CHAPTER APWA



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chapter President
Rick Eilertson—AECOM
Member since 2002

¡Ayuda! Volunteer!

Anyone who knows me, understands that volunteering means everything to me. A former coworker piqued this interest in 1997 when he asked me to serve on a board for a Friends group to help revitalize the Baraboo Rapids corridor near my home. Since that first meeting, I've now served on eight different boards including one term as an alderperson for the Baraboo Common Council. Out of all the boards that I've served on, the one most closely related to my professional interests, is certainly the American Public Works Association. I'm thankful for the opportunity that I've had to provide service to this amazing organization and would like to encourage others to consider stepping up and chipping in also.

Look for the Helpers

Fred Rogers (aka "Mr. Rogers") often told this story about when he was a boy and would see scary things on the news: "My mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world." Since I became an APWA member over 20 years ago, I've seen numerous helpers within the APWA Wisconsin Chapter. My former public sector supervisors, Duane Gau and Paul Woodard

Continued on page 19



Spring 2025 APWA WI Conference (Stevens Point) Wraps Up

Rick Eilertson (Conference Education Program Chair) & Eric Dundee (Conference Planning Chair)

Another memorable APWA Wisconsin Chapter Conference is now officially in the books, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our numerous volunteers, as well as the enthusiastic participation of over 400 attendees who helped make the event a resounding success.

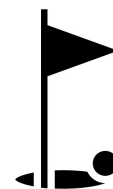
GOLF

Conference events kicked off with a great day of golf at Indianhead Golf Course in Mosinee, organized by Greg Schanen (City of Stevens Point) and Gary Blazek (Vierbicher). With sunny skies and a cheerful atmosphere, it was the perfect setting to launch the Spring Conference. The photo on the right captures a fun moment as Travis Peterson (City of Sheboygan) snaps an “ussie” with his foursome (clockwise from left: Kyle Neeve—AECOM, Karl Kemper—Becher Hoppe, Tim Moyer—City of Sheboygan and Travis Peterson—City of Sheboygan), all smiles before teeing off.



SETUP

While more than 70 golfers were out swinging, driving, and putting across the scenic course, a dedicated group of conference planning committee members was already hard at work behind the scenes. At SentryWorld, Jason Atchison, Eric Dundee, Jeff Mazanec, Jes Pacyna, and Nathan Wachtendonk were busy organizing materials, assembling registration packets, and stuffing name badges to ensure a smooth check-in process for arriving attendees. The photo on the left offers a glimpse of their efforts—proof that successful events begin well before the first session starts.



SPRING CONFERENCE (Continued from Page 2)



BIKE TOUR

At noon, Joel Lemke (City of Stevens Point) and Steve Menzel (a Green Circle Trail Board Member) kicked off an exciting afternoon by leading a group of bicyclists on a scenic and educational tour of the Green Circle Trail. The ride included several notable stops, offering participants the opportunity to explore some of Stevens Point's most cherished locations. Highlights along the trail included the serene Stevens Point Sculpture Park, the recreational beauty of Bukolt Park, a visit to the historic Stevens Point Brewery, and the natural wonder of Schmeekle Reserve. Riders enjoyed both the exercise and the chance to connect with the local culture and environment.



Midway through the tour, bicyclists took a well-earned break and joined over 25 additional participants for a unique walking tour of the Stevens Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. Adam Clark (City of Stevens Point) led this informative segment, offering an in-depth look at the complex processes that keep our water clean. Attendees learned about the plant's advanced filtration systems, chemical and biological treatment methods, and state-of-the-art ultraviolet disinfection technology. A also provided insight into the plant's sustainability efforts, including the use of anaerobic digestion, biosolids dewatering, and biosolids drying processes. These systems work together to convert methane into usable energy and significantly reduce disposal costs—showcasing how innovative engineering and environmental stewardship go hand in hand. The tour was both eye-opening and inspiring, reinforcing the critical role public works play in protecting public health and the environment.



SPRING CONFERENCE (Continued from Page 3)

WEDNESDAY GET ACQUAINTED PARTY

Wednesday night's Get Acquainted Party, themed "Fun in the Fieldhouse," lit up SentryWorld's Fieldhouse with high-energy games and nonstop laughs! Attendees unleashed their competitive spirit with rounds of Cornhole, Giant Jenga, and Connect4, while others rallied at the ping pong tables, battled it out in pickleball matches, or teed off in style at the state-of-the-art golf simulator. It was a night full of friendly competition, great conversation, and unforgettable fun!



CHAMPIONS REVEALED

CORNHOLE

- 1st Mike Lenarz / Matt Stec
- 2nd Jeff Shesler / Judd Blau
- 3rd Craig Schroeder / Jason Atchison

PING PONG

- 1st Jake Brunoehler
- 2nd Eric Dundee
- 3rd Cory Horton

PICKLE BALL

- 1st Cory Horton / Heidi Jeninga

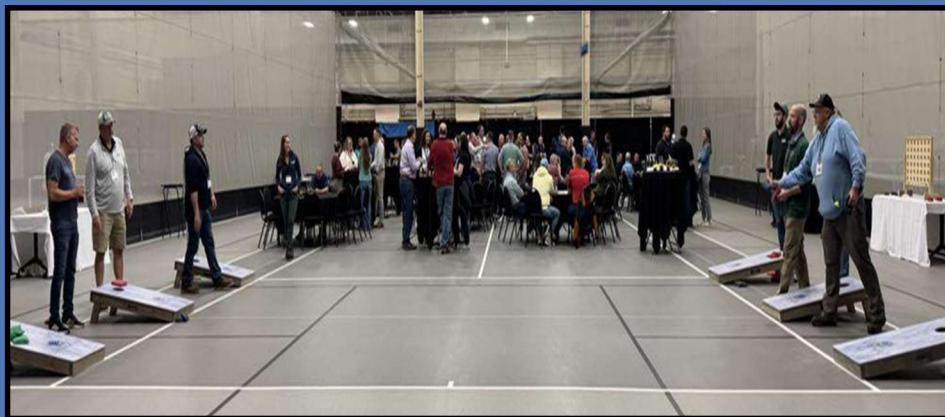
GOLF

- 1st Gary Blazek
- 2nd Jake Brunoehler
- 3rd Mike Wieser

Thank you to our prize sponsors:
HOBAS, Monroe Truck, RNOW, Carollo Engineers, and Corrective Asphalt Materials



CORN HOLE COMPETITION



SPRING CONFERENCE (Continued from Page 4)

CONFERENCE



At Thursday Morning's Conference Welcome, new member Carley Jones, sang the National Anthem as the Stevens Point Police Department Honor Guard presented and guarded the United States flag and Wisconsin state flag. Mayor Mike Wiza welcomed

attendees to the City of Stevens Point and APWA Wisconsin Chapter President Shelly Billingsley kicked off the conference with an overview of the conference program, indoor and outdoor exhibits, Equipment Rodeo, and afternoon Committee meetings. The social cause of supporting [APWA's Fallen Heroes](#) program was announced for attendees to send donations.



Following the Chapter Business Meeting, John Edlebeck (Chair of APWA WI Past President's Committee) swore in the new members of the 2025-2026 APWA WI Executive Committee whose terms begin July 1. The



new members (left to right) include: Rick Eilertson, President; Shelly Billingsley, Past President; Caroline Burger, Director; Kamron Nash, President Elect; Genevieve Stollenwerk, Director; Bob Givens, Council of Chapters Delegate; Lee Igl, Treasurer; Aaron Jancke, Vice President; Scott Brandmeier, Council of Chapters Alternate Delegate. Not pictured is Cory Horton, Secretary.

After the new Executive Committee was sworn in, APWA Technical Director Jeannine Clancy and APWA Region 5 Director Larry Hummel presented Shelly Billingsley with a Plaque and Certificate signed by APWA President Dominick Longobardi for appreciation of her dedicated and valuable service as President of the APWA Wisconsin Chapter.



SPRING CONFERENCE (Continued from Page 5)

EQUIPMENT ROADEO

Thursday's Equipment Roadeo at the vendor show was a little wet, but spirits were high and the competition was fierce! Special thanks to Chris Johnson, City of Stevens Point, and Nathan Watchendonk, City of Green Bay, for organizing the day's exciting events.

The Roadeo featured two engaging backhoe challenges that tested participants' precision, speed, and creativity.

The Backhoe Aquatic Challenge required operators to navigate a course and use the backhoe to collect floating alligator heads and rubber ducks from a designated water area. Accuracy and speed were key – the contestant who collected the most items in the fastest time was crowned the Roadeo Champion! This event showcased operator expertise in a fun and entertaining way.

Meanwhile, the Tractor Backhoe Mini Golf challenge brought a playful twist to the competition. Contestants used the backhoe end of the machine to "putt" a volleyball (in place of a golf ball) into a hole. Each participant had three minutes to make as many successful putts as possible from a distance of 20 feet. Due to wet conditions on the course caused by rain, the distance was shortened to 16 feet. The challenge blended precision control with lighthearted fun, making it a crowd favorite.

The winners of the Roadeo are as follows:

1st Place: Jeremy Buettner—City of Wausau

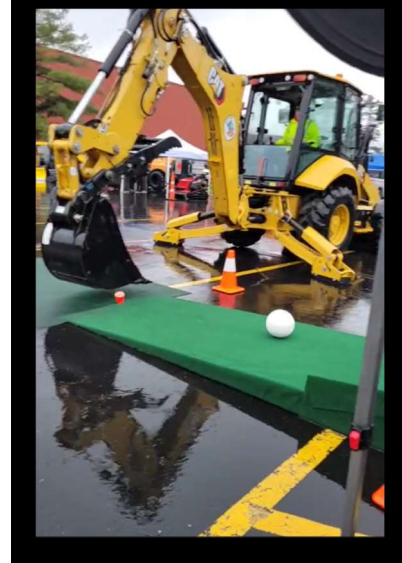
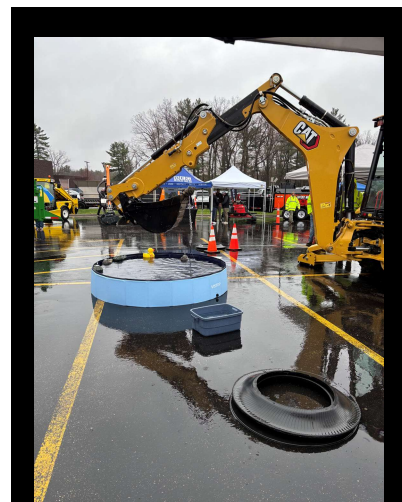
2nd Place: Garrett Yonke—City of Stevens Point

3rd Place: Chris Schultz—City of Wisconsin Rapids



EQUIPMENT ROADEO WINNERS

From Left to Right: Chris Johnson (Conference Host), 1st Place Jeremy Buettner (City of Wausau), 2nd Place Garrett Yonke (City of Stevens Point), 3rd Place Chris Schultz (City of Wisconsin Rapids) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County).



PROJECT OF THE YEAR TRANSPORTATION \$25M - \$75M



From left to Right: Troy Prochaska (Hoffman), Kyle Pedersen (Hoffman), Elisa Becker (Strand), Andy Zwieg (City of Madison) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County).

CITY OF MADISON / CITY OF MIDDLETON: PLEASANT VIEW ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

The project corridor is a key north-south commuter roadway on the west side of the City of Madison and the City of Middleton that serves both local and regional traffic and acts as an alternate route for USH 12/14 (Madison Beltline) during delays. The project included the reconstruction of 1.4 miles of the northern portion of Pleasant View Road between the existing four-lane section at Timber Wolf Trail and USH 14, including turn bay additions and expansions along USH 14.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
City of Madison and City of Middleton
- *Primary Contractor*
Hoffman Construction
- *Primary Consultant*
Strand

PROJECT OF THE YEAR TRANSPORTATION \$5M < \$25M



From left to Right: Steve Janke (Janke Construction), Aaron Passow (KL Engineering), Samantha Herheim (KL Engineering) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County).

DANE COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPT - PARKS DIVISION: LOWER YAHARA RIVER TRAIL PH. 2 & FISH CAMP COUNTY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The project expanded public access to nature-based recreation while preserving the area's ecological significance, enhancing connectivity, accessibility, and outdoor opportunities for the public. The project stands out for its technical achievements and commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and ecological mindfulness. The ADA-compliant trail, bridge, boardwalk, and amenities ensure that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy the area's natural beauty. Moreover, this project exemplifies how infrastructure can be developed in ecologically sensitive areas without compromising environmental integrity.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
Dane County Land & Water Resources
Department - Parks Division
- *Primary Contractor*
Janke General Contractors
- *Primary Consultant*
KL Engineering

PROJECT OF THE YEAR ENVIRONMENT >\$75M



From left to Right: Chris Stamborski (raSmith) , Kelly Zykstra (Waukesha Water Utility), and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County).

WAUKESHA WATER UTILITY: GREAT LAKES WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The Waukesha Water Utility (WWU) provides water treatment and distribution services within the service area established by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This area includes the City of Waukesha and portions of the City of Pewaukee, and the Towns of Waukesha, Delafield, and Genesee. WWU's primary water source, the St. Peter Sandstone aquifer, faced significant depletion in Southeast Wisconsin. In addition to a depleted water supply, restricted groundwater recharge of the aquifer contributed to increased concentrations of radium and other contaminants. To safeguard public health, Waukesha needed

an alternative and sustainable water supply solution.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
Waukesha Water Utility
- *Primary Contractor*
Super Excavators, Inc.
- *Primary Consultant*
raSmith

PROJECT OF THE YEAR STRUCTURES \$25M - \$75M



From left to Right: Wayne Tillmann (Graef), Matt Mortwedt (Village of Germantown), Mike Moore (Moore Construction), Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County) and Mike Paulos (Graef)

VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN: DPW FACILITY

The existing DPW facility was in a mediocre condition with many obvious shortcomings. To upgrade their DPW department, the Village sought designs for a new facility from firms with Design Build experience. Thanks to a focus on efficiency and collaboration, the project stayed within the \$40M budget while incorporating quality-of-life enhancements. The interior finishes and employee amenities not only improved staff morale but also support recruitment and retention in a competitive job market.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
Village of Germantown
- *Primary Contractor*
Moore Construction Services
- *Primary Consultant*
GRAEF

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION



From left to Right: Steve Janke (Janke Construction), Mike Jentsch (City of West Bend), Robbie Malzahn (SEH), Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)

CITY OF WEST BEND: DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK - WEST SECTION

The downtown Riverwalk was recently a blighted and unsafe public pathway along the Milwaukee River adjacent to historic commercial buildings. City leaders and community members recognized its potential to positively impact downtown. By offering a safe, accessible, and multipurpose outdoor space, connections were made between businesses, cultural organizations, public parks and trails, and residential neighborhoods. Instead of being unsightly and a deterrent to outside visitors, the Downtown Riverwalk now serves as an economic development catalyst.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
City of West Bend
- *Primary Contractor*
Janke General Contractors
- *Primary Consultant*
Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH)

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES

ENVIRONMENT



From left to Right: John Beckfield (CBS²), Tyler Hastings (CBS²), Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)

CITY OF BLOOMER: STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND LEAD REMOVAL

In 2020 lead was found in its drinking water, exceeding the safe levels established by federal and state guidelines. According to the US EPA, lead in water poses serious health risks such as damage to nervous systems, learning disabilities, hearing issues, and function of blood cells, particularly to children and pregnant women. This meant the city had to act quickly. The WDNR stepped in and gave Bloomer two options: implement chemical treatments to temporarily mitigate the issue or tackle the root cause by replacing the aging, lead-jointed water mains throughout the city.

Knowing the long-term risks and costs of relying on chemicals, the city made the bold decision to address the problem at its core

by removing the lead pipes completely.

This helped to sustain the quality of life that the residents of Bloomer were used to. This decision was the catalyst for an extensive, multi-phase infrastructure project.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
City of Bloomer
- *Primary Contractor*
CBS²
- *Primary Consultant*
A-1 Excavating

PROJECT OF THE YEAR SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES DISASTER OR EMER. CONSTRUCTION



From left to Right: Ryan Haubenschild (Globe Contractors), Maria Kurniati (wife of Brad Hucke), Leeann Butschlick (Village of Shorewood), Emily Rowntree (Strand), Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD: SOUTHEAST AREA COMBINED SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

The Village is served by both combined and separated sewer collection systems and is one of only three communities in Wisconsin with combined sewer. Much of the Village's infrastructure dates to the early 1900's and while the combined sewer system was designed for managing stormwater, the system is easily overwhelmed by the intense rainfalls seen with increasing frequency in recent years.

The resulting project was the installation of a 48-inch relief sewer that activates during wet-weather events utilizing weir gates in three diversion structures throughout the project limits. The final project cost for Phases 1 and 2 totaled \$14.3M. This project

was the Village's largest infrastructure endeavor to date and is a key piece to help mitigate basement backups and flooding.

- *Managing Agency/Consultant*
Village of Shorewood
- *Primary Contractor*
Advance Construction, Inc. and
Globe Contractors, Inc.
- *Primary Consultant*
Strand Associates

SNOW AND ICE AWARDS

The Wisconsin APWA Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award was established to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts.

TOWN OF LINN



From left to Right: Bill Hough (accepting for Matt Wittum - Town of Linn) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)

WISCONSIN RAPIDS



From left to Right: Cody Knutson (Wisconsin Rapids) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)

WALWORTH COUNTY



From left to Right: Bill Hough (Walworth County) and Shelly Billingsley (APWA WI Chapter President—Kenosha County)



TOWN OF LINN, WISCONSIN RAPIDS AND
WALWORTH COUNTY



OUTSTANDING NEW MEMBER

Recognized for her involvement with the Young Professionals Committee and the APWA National Emerging Leaders Academy, Ela has led networking events at each conference and the popular annual Brewers-Cubs Outing. She has also championed volunteer efforts and partnered with the Membership Committee to recruit new APWA members.

ELA LODZINSKI

Baxter & Woodman



JOHN W. CURTIS CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding individual achievement through Chapter activity and service while supporting APWA's strategic plan, goals, and objectives. Jeff served on the Fleet Committee and as a planning member for the Chapter Rodeo for 35 years.

JEFF TEWS
City of Milwaukee, Retired



WILLIAM J. RHEINFRANK PUBLIC WORKS IMPACT AWARD

This award recognizes a person who has provided a positive, wide-reaching impact on public works programs, services, or policies through distinguished public service and commitment to their community and the State of Wisconsin.

Brian has been a part of major public works projects since beginning his role in public service over 34 years ago. His long list of professional accomplishments includes overseeing a \$5.5 million dollar upgrade to the Village of Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plan Facility which enhanced treatment safety of the plan switching from chlorine to UV Light disinfection.

BRIAN KOBER

Director of Public Works
Village of Jackson

SAMUEL A GREELEY SERVICE AWARD

This award formally recognizes those who have continuously served a local public or private agency long-term (at least 30 years), and who have been APWA members for at least 15 years.



MIKE PAULOS

Graef 1993
APWA Member 2009



TIM BARBEAU

raSmith 1993
APWA Member 2010

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Continued from Page 1)

both encouraged me to get involved with APWA and I've now enjoyed over 2 decades of seeing wonderful examples of servant leadership throughout the organization. The fact that our Chapter Treasury has been so stable despite only \$15 of our annual APWA membership fees staying with the Chapter is a testament to how much work is done by volunteers.

Strategic Planning and Community Engagement

One of my first goals is to promote the Chapter's 2023-26 Strategic Plan and set the stage for reviewing and refreshing it to reflect APWA's current direction. I encourage everyone to look through the plan (see Pages 14 and 15) and let me and/or other Executive Committee members know of any suggested revisions you may have. As you review it, you'll notice there are a few key words that we may want to refresh to correlate with our proposed rebranding of the Diversity Committee to the Community Engagement Committee. Please see Heidi Jeninga's wonderful article in this newsletter (page 9) on the Community Engagement topic for background information. This transition has led the APWA organization, including our Chapter, through some very challenging discussions and nearly led to my departure from the organization. I'm thankful for the leadership displayed by Shelly Billingsley, Scott Brandmeier and especially Heidi Jeninga to set the stage for the next steps to be taken by the Community Engagement Committee and encourage all of our members to identify ways they can support and participate in this effort.

Communication

Communication is always a challenge in any organization. The fact that our members are spread across the entire state of Wisconsin doesn't help make this any easier. We do try to move our Spring and Fall conferences throughout various portions of the state to bring in-person communication to our members as much as we can; however, even that comes with limits. The quarterly APWA WI Chapter newsletter is another great communication tool; however, it's limited as just a one-way communication. Our [Chapter Website \(https://wisconsin.apwa.org/\)](https://wisconsin.apwa.org/) and Chapter E-Blasts are likely our best opportunities for providing nearly real time updates to members, but these are also just one-way communication channels. I encourage you to review our current communication strategies and let me and/or [Jason Atchison](#), our Communications/Website Administration Committee Chair know if you have suggestions for improvement.

Succession

Several of our Chapter's long-term helpers are now getting ready to retire and ride off into the sunset of Public Works. I'd like to find ways that our Chapter can honor the countless hours of service they've provided as well as encourage other members (both new and old) to raise their hands to fill the empty shoes. If you are interested in getting involved and helping with any aspect of the Chapter's services, I encourage you to contact me and/or any of the Executive Committee and Technical Committee Chairs listed at the end of this newsletter.

¡Gracias! Thank you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for making it to the end of my President's Corner message, and for being a valued APWA WI Chapter member. Thank you for your time, and for your service to the public works profession!

Sincerely,



Rick Eilertson, PE, ENV-SP





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Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting the Wisconsin Chapter and this great event!

From Diversity to Engagement:

A New Chapter for our Committee and Community

Heidi Jeninga—Community Engagement Chair

Change is in the air—and it's more than just Wisconsin's shifting seasons. Behind the scenes, we've been hard at work evolving one of our chapter's key groups to better reflect our goals and the needs of the public we serve. What was once known as the *Diversity Committee* is now proudly rebranding as the **Community Engagement Committee**.

This transformation is more than just a name change—it represents a renewed commitment to building meaningful, inclusive, and lasting connections with our communities. As we continue supporting the mission of the American Public Works Association (APWA) – Wisconsin Chapter, we're expanding the scope of our efforts to connect with the people we serve in ways that are visible, impactful, and energizing.

Why the Change?

While diversity remains a core value, our committee, guided by the national organization, is taking a more action-oriented approach—one rooted in outreach, education, and engagement. By broadening our focus, we're better positioned to make a tangible difference across Wisconsin communities and within the future of the public works profession.

Our **mission** now centers on fostering awareness and understanding of the public works field through:

- **Community connections**
- **Youth education**
- **Volunteer-driven outreach**

In alignment with the APWA – Wisconsin Chapter's strategic goals, we're creating opportunities to inspire the next generation, promote service through volunteering, and ensure our field reflects and supports the diverse communities we serve.



What We Do

The Community Engagement Committee's updated responsibilities include:

- **Promoting Youth Education & Career Awareness** We're building programs that introduce young people to public works through school partnerships and educational events.
- **Engaging the Public** Through events and outreach, we aim to elevate the visibility of public works and its everyday impact.
- **Supporting Volunteerism** We encourage APWA members to get involved in outreach efforts and help cultivate a strong, service-minded community.
- **Collaborating Across Committees** By partnering with other APWA committees, we're expanding our reach and aligning our goals for greater impact.

From Diversity to Engagement: (Continued page 7)

- **Collaborating Across Committees** By partnering with other APWA committees, we're expanding our reach and aligning our goals for greater impact.
- **Developing Educational Tools** We're creating accessible, engaging materials that inform the public about infrastructure, services, and careers in public works.
- **Strengthening Community Connections** We seek out partnerships with organizations and local allies who share our passion for education, service, and community betterment.
- **Fostering a Welcoming and Representative Profession** We're committed to outreach that reflects the people we serve—highlighting the wide variety of career paths in public works and the importance of inclusivity.

Upcoming Events: Touch a Truck at the Snowplow Roadeo and Truck or Treat at the Fall Conference!

We're working to add a kid-friendly aspect to our Snowplow Roadeo in August. Bring the kids out for a fun and educational time at our **Touch-a-Truck** event during the annual **Snowplow Roadeo**! Kids can explore real snowplows and meet the crews who operate them, and enjoy hands-on activities.

Don't miss our **Truck or Treat** event at this year's **Fall Conference**—a fun and family-friendly way to engage with the public while showcasing the equipment and services that keep our communities running. It's a great opportunity to connect with youth, build awareness, and spread some Halloween cheer!

Stay tuned for more opportunities to **get involved, volunteer**, and help us shape the future of public works in Wisconsin.

If you're passionate about outreach, education, or simply making a difference, we invite you to join us in this exciting new chapter. Let's engage, inspire, and grow—together.



NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK REPORT... Kenosha County

Celebrating Team Spirit and Community Service

Public Works departments across the nation came together from May 19 through May 23, 2025, to celebrate National Public Works Spirit Week with a vibrant blend of creativity, camaraderie, and community service. The themed dress-up days and charitable giving brought out the best in Kenosha County DPW staff, highlighting not only their dedication to essential services but also their strong team spirit and commitment to giving back. Each day of the week had its own unique theme that sparked plenty of smiles and photo-worthy moments:

Hawaiian Monday kicked things off with island vibes as team members donned tropical shirts and brought a splash of color to the workplace.

High-Vis Tuesday served as a vibrant reminder of the vital importance of safety in public works, with participants wearing neon and reflective gear.

"Whatcha Wearing" Wednesday encouraged employees to flaunt their favorite job attire — everything from waders to hard hats — in a celebration of the gear that keeps them safe and effective.

Throwback & Potluck Thursday added a nostalgic twist with retro work outfits representing different decades. The day was capped off with a potluck lunch, where employees shared dishes and enjoyed time together outside of their usual routines.

PJ Pant Friday wrapped up the week on a cozy note, as pajama pants brought a relaxed end to a high-energy week.

Participants were encouraged to capture and share photos of their Spirit Week outfits, with submissions going to Directors for inclusion in the department newsletter. These photos serve as a colorful record of a week filled with enthusiasm, team pride, and a shared mission.

National Public Works Week 2025 was more than a celebration — it was a reminder of the essential role Public Works professionals play in our communities every day. Thank you to all who participated in NPWW!





First Responders in Motion

Chris Barnes (Emergency Management Chair)

Public Works personnel and staff have been acknowledged as First Responders for emergency response and professional and timely procedures are critical for public safety and health. Fundamental to nearly any type of emergency response is the knowledge and ability to create safe and effective traffic control management systems.

Wisconsin is truly fortunate in having an active traffic incident management program providing training and education to a number of first responding personnel. Regardless if the emergency response is for a chemical spill, sewage back up, traffic crash or windstorm damage, effectively and safely controlling both motorized and nonmotorized traffic is a primary concern. Public Works personnel are uniquely equipped to perform the traffic management functions, and education and training in the most current standards and procedures is a public safety priority. Fortunately, Wisconsin has a very robust Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) program and statewide coalition.



The Wisconsin TIME Coalition is an organization which brings together a wide variety of Wisconsin first responder groups. The Wisconsin Chapter of APWA was a founding member of the coalition. Members of the coalition include: APWA, WISDOT, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Motor Carriers Assoc., Wisconsin State Firefighter Assoc., Wisconsin County Highway Assoc. to name a few. Wisconsin remains one of the top-rated states in Traffic incident management

and one reason is the active state-wide programs and training opportunities. Training, usually free, and other current events are listed in the quarterly "[Wisconsin Responder publication](#)"

It should come as no surprise that policies and procedures within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are in a fast-changing environment. The Wisconsin APWA Chapter Emergency Management Subcommittee is actively pursuing an educational program for the Fall 2025 conference to provide the most up to date information to members from the [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#) division of Military Affairs.

Any member interested in becoming involved in the Emergency Management Subcommittee can contact:



Chris Barnes
Emergency Management Chair



608-807-4471



CBarnes@town.verona.wi.us



Why NIMS Training

Matters for Public Works Professionals

Public Works professionals play a vital role in maintaining community safety, infrastructure, and essential services—especially during emergencies. To ensure a coordinated and effective response during disasters or large-scale incidents, it's essential that Public Works personnel are trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NIMS, developed by the Department of Homeland Security and released by FEMA in 2004, provides a standardized approach to incident management. NIMS enables government agencies at all levels, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together effectively to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents of any size or complexity. Whether it's clearing debris after a storm, restoring utilities, managing road closures, assessing damage to public infrastructure, or supporting emergency responders, Public Works is often on the front lines. NIMS training ensures that Public Works staff understand command structures, communication protocols, and how to integrate seamlessly with fire, law enforcement, EMS, and other emergency services.

Why should you get NIMS certified?

- Enhances interagency communication and coordination
- Prepares staff to respond effectively in emergency situations
- Meets federal requirements for disaster response funding eligibility
- Strengthens your department's overall preparedness and resilience

Common entry-level courses include ICS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and IS-700 (Introduction to NIMS). Additional management courses include ICS-200 (Basic Incident Command System) and IS-800: National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction. All are available for free through [FEMA's online](#) training portal, Emergency Management Institute.

Investing a few hours in NIMS training can make a lasting impact on your readiness and ability to serve your community during critical times. If you haven't already, talk to your supervisor, your Division of Emergency Management or safety coordinator about getting started today.



Strategic Plan 2023-2026

VISION STATEMENT:
Advancing quality of life for all

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) provides a forum for public works professionals to share their expertise and experiences for the continuing development of public works that add value throughout Wisconsin.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

VALUE:

Define the value of public works and enhance its visibility/awareness.

VOICE:

Be the voice of public works to government leaders, communities, and media.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALING:

Provide training and credentialing for all aspects of public works.

MEMBERSHIP:

Create a dynamic and diverse membership throughout the chapter.





VALUE:

Define the value of public works and enhance its visibility/awareness.

- Produce well run conferences
- Maintain financial viability
- Conduct more regional meetings
- Evaluate administrative support
- Improve web presence

VOICE:

Be the voice of public works to government leaders, communities and media.

- Strengthen government affairs efforts
- Enhance other association partnerships
- Stronger advocacy presence
- First responder promotion
- Expand individual and agency award opportunities
- Improve number and diversity of nominations for national and chapter awards.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALING:

Provide training and credentialing for all aspects of public works.

- Evaluate conference education offerings
- Consider committee realignment
- Review conference format
- Improve operational education offerings
- Maintain CEU options

MEMBERSHIP:

Create a dynamic and diverse membership throughout the chapter.

- Improve diversity, engagement and inclusion efforts
- Outreach to new members
- Attract operations staff
- Reach new members throughout Wisconsin
- Better engage small communities
- Continue to support YP efforts
- Consider networking benefits with all activities

2025 Water Week Fly-In: A Multi-Organization Advocacy Effort for Water and Wastewater in an Uncertain Federal Environment

Brandon Koltz, Chris Tippery and Lisa Twarog

Water Environment Federation, in conjunction with other professional water and wastewater associations, gather in Washington DC each spring. During this gathering attendees receive updates from the USEPA, other federal agencies and Congressional leaders and staff regarding upcoming agency changes and initiatives, as well as legislative actions and funding plans. This is also an opportunity to visit state congressional offices to advocate for continued federal funding and select legislative action. Member associations are encouraged to send delegations to visit Capitol Hill. This year Central States Wisconsin, joined by colleagues from AWWA and NACWA, provided a unified “One Water” message for our congressional meetings. The Fly-In was held April 7-9.



With the new administration, there is a significant change in agency direction and overall priorities. However, funding needs and regulatory clarity continue to be necessities for our local state member associations and the national membership. WEF assembled a summary of requests for Congress that included full funding for the Clean Water programs (SRF, CSO & Reuse, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, etc.), Stormwater Programs, and Water Research Programs. Policy requests were also made for PFAS (exemption for utilities as principal responsible parties under CERCLA), wipes legislation, Low Income Household Water Assistance programs, and Tax Free Municipal Bonds (deter proposals made to eliminate tax free status). A multi-organization request sheet was also assembled mirroring the WEF summary. A Wisconsin specific summary document endorsed by eight other Wisconsin organizations (summarized Wisconsin utilization of and continued need for federal SRF capitalization support, need for workforce development and public education, and specific criteria issues for Wisconsin. Copies of briefing documents can be found on pages 35 and 36.

Building Trust through Communication:

Public Relations Matters in Public Works Projects

Joe Terry (Public Relations Prior Chair)

Effective public relations are key to the success of municipal public works projects. Transparent and timely communication beginning at the capital planning process through design, construction, and project close-out builds public trust, reduces confusion, aligns expectations, and fosters community support. By sharing project goals, timelines, and potential impacts, municipalities can keep residents informed and engaged. Tools like public meetings, social media updates, and local news outreach ensure that community voices are heard and concerns addressed. Strong public relations not only smooths project implementation but also strengthens long-term relationships with the public. Please consider an intentional public relations component in your project component check-lists.



Water Week Policy Briefing

The Water Week Policy briefing was held April 9 with updates from USEPA, other Agency representatives and Congressional leaders.

USEPA Updates:

Andrew Sawyer (Director/Office of Wastewater Management) stated that USEPA is focused on **five major pillars**:

1. “Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American”
2. “Restore American Energy Dominance”
3. “Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership”
4. “Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World”
5. “Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs”



Further comments included:

- *EPA is responding to executive orders including a declaration of a national energy emergency.*
- *An effort is being made to increase affordability by using existing programs to reduce household costs – 12.5 million households currently have unaffordable costs (water bills greater than 4.5% of the household income).*
- *There are challenges facing overall SRF funding because congressionally directed funds reduce capitalization. It currently funds more than \$9 billion dollars in project costs annually. Additionally, as of April 2025, WIFIA has provided nearly \$50 billion in loans. The Office of Wastewater Management intends to continue technical assistance.*
- *The recent Supreme Court decision of San Francisco vs. USEPA determined that making a WPDES permittee responsible for the end result water quality in the body of water to which they discharge is an overstep of USEPA authority. His office is assessing the impacts of this ruling.*

Jennifer McClain (Director of Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water) also addressed the five pillars. Additionally, she noted:

- 50 years of progress toward safe drinking water since the Safe Drinking Water Act passed in 1974.
- There is a need for \$650 billion for drinking water infrastructure investment needed over the next 20 years. This will be accomplished through cooperative federalism.
- Sustainability and resilience are needed for threats. Smaller communities need resources for cybersecurity and drinking water systems need emergency response plans.
- PFAS mitigation must be considered in affordability analyses. Timelines for lead and copper rule should also address affordability.



- The EPA is available to provide technical assistance for water systems, specifically regarding lead, PFAS, and engineering support.

Tanya Hodge Mottley (Acting Deputy Director/Office of Science and Technology) also addressed the five pillars. Activities for this office include:

- Reconsideration of the 2024 Stream & Electric Rule
- Revise the rules for produced water for reuse (oil industry)
- The Water Reuse Program started 5 years ago and has been pursuing opportunities for water reuse including in the chip manufacturing and data center cooling industries.
- The draft biosolids PFOA/PFAS risk assessment has been pulled back and will include assessment of biosolids risk with respect to food crops and risk associated with incineration.
- Draft effluent guidance for pesticides that are also subject to FIFRA regulations
- Two additional PFAS compounds will have criteria, now 40 total
- Examination of bioavailability for copper, lead, zinc and cobalt.
- Working with eight (8) metal groups (CRADA) to update aquatic life criteria for copper, lead, nickel, and zinc.
- Development of a 5-year water reuse plan.
- Office of Science and Technology is looking for innovations for permitting and overall solutions
- ***NOTE: Subsequent to the Fly-in meeting, Administrator Zeldin announced a 55% cut in EPA's budget and elimination of the Office of Science and Technology and the Office of Research and Development. It is unclear how EPA will manage these functions. Congress must address these cuts and reorganization in the next budget or with separate legislation.***

Brian Frazer (Director Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds) provided an update, also referring to the 5 Pillars:

- His office has responsibilities for ecosystem protection and requirements and statutory activities conducted under 312, 319, 320 and 404.
- Coastal Zone, nonpoint programs, the Gulf Hypoxia programs, require coordination among states and tribes as well as EPA.
- The definition of wetlands is unclear as it relates to Waters of the United States (WOTUS). They are managing 8 ocean sites, a toxic/hypoxic condition in the State of Washington. They are working on distributing previously appropriated funds.

Jessica Knowles (USEPA Senior Advisor to the Assistant Administrator Office of Water) is from Central Wisconsin. She provided broad comments regarding the Office of Water.

- The goal is clean water for all. The Office of Water will strive to meet these goals with flexibility, cut red tape, expertise of existing staff, and streamline funding for SRF & WIFIA. Compliance should be the focus of funding.
- **They would like to hear from us – where do we need help? Technical Assistance programs?**
- A course for compliance should be developed for PFAS and MCLs with the resources to do so. Water Reuse will be an area of emphasis. WOTUS will be redefined consistent with the Sockett decision,

- they would like to put an end to the swings in definition.
- There are scheduled listening sessions to clarify the WOTUS redefinition. The final listening session of the initial phase occurred on May 19, 2025. There is a Second Listening Session for the Public TBA.

Noller Herbert (United States Department of Agriculture/ Science & Technology Natural Resource Conservation Service) spoke about the agency's programming for water. Source water protection is a priority as is seeking innovation with fairness for farmers and ranchers. He stressed working with County NRCS agents as partners. NRCS can assist in water quality trading programs with conservation planning, leading to informed decision-making. He discussed conservation innovation grants.

Senator Mark Kelly (Arizona) stressed that water is a bipartisan issue. No matter where you live, you deserve clean water. He noted the progress made with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and stated that Congress would be working on the next Infrastructure Bill after the current authorizations run out in 2026. A long term funding bill is needed and he noted there are challenges with the current permitting system. He suggested that Congress should re-examine the current laws to bring efficiency to project delivery. The next area for innovation is Water Reuse. He is concerned that small communities need better access and should not be left behind. He is concerned about the reductions in agency resources at the federal level.



Drew Griffin (Invariant Corporation) discussed the current situation. He noted projects are stalled when there is a lack of appropriations. Our water sector needs to be strong advocates for the next infrastructure bill, and it needs to be bipartisan. He also noted that there are opportunities despite the current uncertainties. He suggested that it might be time for consideration of a risk sharing agenda.

Jared Huffman (Representative from the 2nd District in California) also noted that water, unlike other issues, is a bipartisan issue. He spoke about Tribal priorities (\$2.5 billion in tribal claims), the need for the Corps of Engineers to prioritize water supply and resilience (\$4 billion for drought resilience). We need to hang on to good politicians, and we need to complete investments.

Stormwater Policy Meeting.

Urban Stormwater Management has been historically underfunded. Yet urban stormwater has been shown to be a significant pollutant source. And flood events, exacerbated by occurrence of extreme events cause increasing damage. WEF and the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) host a stormwater policy meeting during Water Week. A separate informational document regarding stormwater issues and needs was updated for congressional visits and is available to our membership.

The Keynote Speaker, Joseph Kane from the Brookings Institute noted the need for increased investment in stormwater infrastructure: 256% increase in flood losses compared to 20 years ago, a decline in federal funding, and a funding gap increase. Stormwater management is complicated in that it doesn't respect state or municipal boundaries, rather it must be considered on a watershed basis. He said there is a need for workforce development specific to stormwater management and maintenance.

A Congressional Update was provided by Tim Petty/staff member for the House Transportation and Infra-

A Congressional Update was provided by Tim Petty (staff member for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee). He noted that they are supportive of the Stormwater Centers of Excellence, renewal of the Water Resources Development Act (Corps of Engineers funding and some stormwater management is included in WRDA), and PFAS issues are a priority. Stormwater agencies need to work with the states to see that stormwater projects are ranked on the SRF priority list. It was noted that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorization expires in 2026; bipartisan support is needed to renew this funding. He urged contacting congressmen to support reauthorization and to bring other issues to their attention.



A legal panel (Fred Andes (Barnes & Thornburg), Amanda Aspatore (General Counsel NACWA), Becky Hammer (Senior Attorney NRDC), Sean Roland (Deputy Director Association of Clean Water Administrators)) discussed recent issues. Discussion included:

- Chevron Doctrine reversal with the Looper decision. Deference is not given to agency analysis; factual information should still predominate decision-making; previous regulations would need to go through the regulatory process to be modified

- Stormwater permits with Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) requirements are fuzzy and compliance is not well defined.

- The impact of CSOs after Long Term Control Plan implementation is not well understood and further requirements are ill defined

- Residual Designation Authority (RDA) for specific pollutants in stormwater permits often results in permits being immediately out of compliance for constituents not controllable by the permittee. Permittees should be aware of these risks. RDAs make permittees vulnerable to 3rd part lawsuits.

- A legislative CERCLA exemption for MS4 permittees for PFAS is needed

The Federal and State Update was provided by Chris Kloss (USEPA Director of Permits Office of Water), Michael Dean (Clean Water Revolving Fund USEPA) and Zach Shafer (Assistant Secretary of Policy/Maryland Department of the Environment).

Chris Kloss noted that 2 grants were out and three in progress for the Stormwater Centers of Excellence. Chris noted wastewater needs total \$630 billion and stormwater needs are \$115 billion. He advocated Integrated Planning to incorporate stormwater into overall priorities. He noted the need to identify sources of PFAS when found in stormwater. Market-based approaches (trading, etc.) may be used in permitting approaches and green infrastructure. Electronic reporting should make permitting and compliance more efficient. Recent stormwater permitting has required more strategically located sampling to better define the permit requirements.

Michael Dean discussed earmarks versus undesignated SRF funding, noting that some earmarks are essentially flood control projects. Earmarks have reduced the undesignated SRF appropriation. SRF funding is needed to make projects affordable; stormwater utilities also need a dependable fee structure. Public education is needed with respect to the stormwater management needs and the related financial requirements.

2025 Water Week Fly-In: (Continued from Page 20)

Zach Shafer stated Maryland is a “water state”; Chesapeake Bay is essential to the economy and to most of the population. Green infrastructure is being implemented to protect the Bay. A large challenge is that much of the watershed lies outside the state and TMDLs require pollutant reductions outside Maryland. Market-based solutions on a watershed basis are being pursued across state lines. Water quality is related to water quantity; pollutant transport during high flow events is a challenge – especially for nutrients and debris.

Wisconsin Congressional Meetings

The Wisconsin coalition of Curt Czarnecki (General Manager of the Kenosha Water Utility), Andrea Hey (Communications Director for the Green Bay Water Utility), Brandon Koltz (Brandon Koltz Water and Environmental Consulting LLC), Lisa Twarog (Town & Country Engineering, Inc.) and Chris Tippery (CDM Smith) met with the offices of our Senators, Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, along with House Representatives from the following Districts: Bryan Steil from District 1, Mark Pocan from District 2 and Tony Wied from District 8. We also met with staffers from the offices of Gwen Moore from District 4 and Scott Fitzgerald from District 5. We presented a unified, One Water, message focusing on pertinent issues to Wisconsin of continued funding and non-degradation of the State Revolving Funds by Congressionally Directed Spending (Earmarks), workforce development, PFOA / PFAS removal from drinking water and contained within biosolids, other emerging contaminants and cyber security. We appreciated the Representative’s and their staffer’s time and attention to our concerns.

An item that was addressed during the National Government Affairs WEF meeting was potentially redrafting the Clean Water Act, from 1972. This Law hasn’t had significant changes since its original version and we discussed the consideration of “One Wa-



ter” legislation that addresses drinking water, stormwater, groundwater and wastewater or even “One Environment” legislation to also include air, vegetation and wildlife. It is potentially time to holistically address these environmental concerns.

With a new federal administration and Congress, it is pertinent that we continue to advocate for our Water and Wastewater industry. For far too long, we’ve allowed ourselves to be viewed as a commodity and failed to get our message out to the general public about the unique and talented people who work in water and wastewater.

One significant impact from our 2025 Congressional visits was Representative Tony Wied (Wisconsin 8th District) co-sponsoring the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act. The bill would exempt public water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, municipalities, state political subdivisions, and their contractors from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) for PFAS releases, provided they handle these substances in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Specifically, the exemption covers activities such as water treatment, biosolids management, effluent discharge, and water storage, as long as these actions are conducted according to existing federal and state water management guidelines. This legislation aims to provide clarity and protection for water system operators dealing with these potentially harmful chemicals while maintaining accountability for egregious mishandling, which was recommended by our Wisconsin coalition.

If there are pending and pertinent issues to your community, please let Brandon, Chris, Lisa or the Wisconsin Section Government Affairs Committee know so that we can address those concerns with our elected representatives in 2026.

Continuing Advocacy – Let your voice be heard

We have seen that communication with our legislative leaders regarding the regulatory and financial challenges and needs for the water and wastewater industry has been effective. But once a year visits must be supplemented by additional advocacy. Advocacy is simply educating our legislative representatives of the effects of different actions at the federal level. With the change of federal administration and changes to the Office of EPA, your voice is critical. WEF routinely prepares example letters on topics of concern through the Water Advocacy program that can be sent to our representatives. The letters can be edited to make it specific to a particular District. And experience has shown that these communications are most effective when from constituents of that district. This year it will be more important than ever to keep our legislative representatives informed.

Photo to Right

From Left to Right: Chris Tippery (CDM Smith), Andrea Hey (Green Bay Water Utility), Bryan Steil (Wisconsin 1st Congressional District), and Curt Czarnecki (Kenosha Water



Photo to Left

From Left to Right: Chris Tippery (CDM Smith), Lisa Twarog (Town & Country), Tony Weid (Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District), Andrea Hey (Green Bay Water Utility), Curt Czarnecki (Kenosha Water Utility), and Brandon Koltz (Brandon Koltz Water & Environmental Consulting)



Photo to Right

From Left to Right: Mark Pocan (Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District), Andrea Hey (Green Bay Water Utility), Brandon Koltz (Brandon Koltz Water & Environmental Consulting), Curt Czarnecki (Kenosha Water Utility), Lisa Twarog (Town & Country), and Chris Tippery (CDM Smith),



Ensuring the Future of Our Nation's Water Infrastructure:

A Call to Action for the 119th Congress



The 119th Congress can address these issues by enacting policies, providing tools and resources that empower local water utilities to fulfill their mission of protecting public health and the environment while supporting economic growth.

Strengthen Funding for Aging Water Infrastructure

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) made an historic investment in water infrastructure, helping local utilities make capital investments in water supplies, treatment, and conveyance while keeping costs more affordable for ratepayers. While customer rates cover the majority of the costs of providing water services in the U.S., federal funding and financing plays a critical role in helping utilities advance infrastructure projects. However, future funding levels are uncertain and many key program authorizations will expire after Fiscal Year 2026.

- The 119th Congress must reauthorize the State Revolving Funds, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), the Title XVI-WIIN Water Reuse Grants Program, and a suite of expiring IIJA water infrastructure funding programs.
- We urge leadership and appropriators to prioritize robust annual appropriations for these programs to advance investment in water across the country and ensure rural and urban communities alike have access to clean, safe water.

The nation's drinking water, wastewater, water reuse, and stormwater sectors commend past efforts by Congress and the Administration to improve our nation's water infrastructure. However, significant challenges remain. To ensure all communities—urban and rural—can affordably maintain and upgrade their critical water infrastructure, we call on the 119th Congress to commit to heightened and sustained federal support.

A bipartisan commitment is vital to support communities addressing pressing water challenges, including:

- **Providing affordable water services** in the face of aging infrastructure, rising operational costs, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages;
- **Navigating a rapidly evolving regulatory environment** on issues ranging from emerging contaminants like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to nutrient management;
- **Ensuring resilience** to threats such as drought, flooding, and cyber attacks; and
- **Advancing water research** to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to meet critical water challenges.

Address PFAS Responsibly

The water sector faces significant challenges in managing PFAS contamination, which is both technically complex and financially burdensome. The looming costs under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act are enormous and will significantly impact ratepayers. Drinking water utilities face annual costs of as much as \$7.5 billion to comply with EPA's new drinking water standards for PFAS. Clean water utilities are also facing significant operational cost increases.

- Congress must prioritize source control measures that will help reduce the amount of PFAS entering water systems and the environment.
- Federal PFAS policies must be grounded in accurate cost estimates and informed by water sector expertise to ensure effective, implementable solutions.
- Regulations must hold polluters—not local water utilities—financially responsible for cleanup costs. In particular, without explicit protection under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), water utilities and their ratepayers will unfairly bear the costs of cleaning up environmental PFAS pollution. Congress must enact liability protections for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater utilities, and technology providers while holding polluters accountable.



WATER WEEK 2025

Ensure Affordable Water Services for All

Water and wastewater costs in many communities outpace inflation and income growth, putting disproportionate pressure on low-income households.

- The 119th Congress should establish a permanent low-income water assistance program to help utilities modernize aging infrastructure while keeping rates affordable for vulnerable families.
- Congress must also provide oversight of EPA actions to ensure they address affordability concerns and do not impose unsustainable financial burdens on utilities.

Advance Regulatory Flexibility and Reform

Communities across the country face rising regulatory compliance costs while grappling with increasingly complex water quality challenges. A transparent, science-based regulatory framework which considers costs and benefits is essential to enable water utilities to meet their obligations effectively while ensuring affordability for ratepayers.

Invest in Water Research for Innovative Solutions

Federal investment in water research is critical to addressing new threats to water quality, scarcity, and affordability. Water research offers a proactive approach to tackling future challenges, fostering long-term sustainability, and promoting the competitiveness of U.S. water systems on a global scale.

- Congress should maintain robust funding for water research programs to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions that enhance public health, safety, and water system resilience.
- Investing in water research will create new jobs and ensure equitable access to modern water systems nationwide.

Protect Sewer Systems from Improper Wipes Disposal

The mismanagement of disposable wipes, including falsely labeled “flushable” products, imposes significant burdens on wastewater systems. Improperly flushed wipes cause clogs, damage expensive equipment, and create health and safety hazards for water utility workers. This issue costs utilities millions of dollars annually in repairs and operational disruptions.

- Congress should require clear, standardized “Do Not Flush” labeling on all non-flushable wipes to reduce consumer confusion and improper disposal.
- Federal agencies must be empowered to establish and enforce rigorous, science-based flushability standards for products marketed as “flushable”.

Support Tax Incentives to Ensure Long-Term Water Supplies and Economic Development

Industrial and agricultural operations account for most water consumption in the United States, yet few incentives exist to encourage sustainable water use in the private sector.

- Congress should establish tax credits to support water recycling, reuse technologies, and conservation practices in industry and agriculture, ensuring long-term, reliable water supplies while supporting economic growth.
- Congress should eliminate tax burdens on water conservation rebates offered by local utilities, thereby incentivizing more consumers to preserve critical water resources.
- Congress must preserve the tax exemption for municipal bonds, which are a critical tool for financing municipal water infrastructure.

2025 Water Week Partners



The Time for Action is Now

The 119th Congress has an opportunity to build on bipartisan achievements, secure our water infrastructure, and protect public health. By addressing the issues outlined here, Congress can ensure that our nation's water systems remain resilient, affordable, and effective for generations to come.

: : : : : APWA WI STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP : : : : :

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter is accepting Scholarship Program applications now through August 15, 2025. This scholarship is available to students enrolled full time in accredited associate or bachelor's degree programs related to public works. These scholarships are awarded in-person at the Chapter Fall Conference. In the past three years the Chapter has awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships.

To be eligible for consideration the applicant must:

- Be a full-time undergraduate student who at the time of application has attained a Junior or Senior status in an accredited program and is seeking a degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering, Public Administration, Public Works Management or a related field.
- Be a full-time student attending an accredited college or university in the State of Wisconsin.
- Have a college cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.0 on a 4.0 basis.
- Be sponsored by a current member of the Wisconsin Chapter of APWA.

Second-year associate degree students can receive up to \$1,000 and bachelor's degree junior/senior students up to \$2,000. Help spread the word and encourage your promising interns and co-op students to **apply by August 15, 2025.**

Awardees, their immediate families, and their APWA sponsors are encouraged to attend the Fall Banquet (October 30, 2025, in Platteville) to receive this award. Candidates selected for the award will be notified by September 19, 2025.

**APPLY NOW**

<https://wisconsin.apwa.org/education/wi-chapter-scholarship-program>

👤 **Tim Schleeper**
Education & Scholarship
Chair

☎ 608-821-3959

✉ tsh@vierbicher.com

DON'T MISS THE

2025 FALL CONFERENCE OCT 29 - OCT 31



CONNECTING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC WORKS



The 2025 American Public Works Association Wisconsin Chapter Fall Conference is set for October 29-31 at UW-Platteville campus in Platteville, hosted by the City of Platteville and UWP Civil & Environmental Engineering department.

The conference will connect the Wisconsin Chapter with students and faculty to share education and networking opportunities. Be ready to meet some future APWA members!



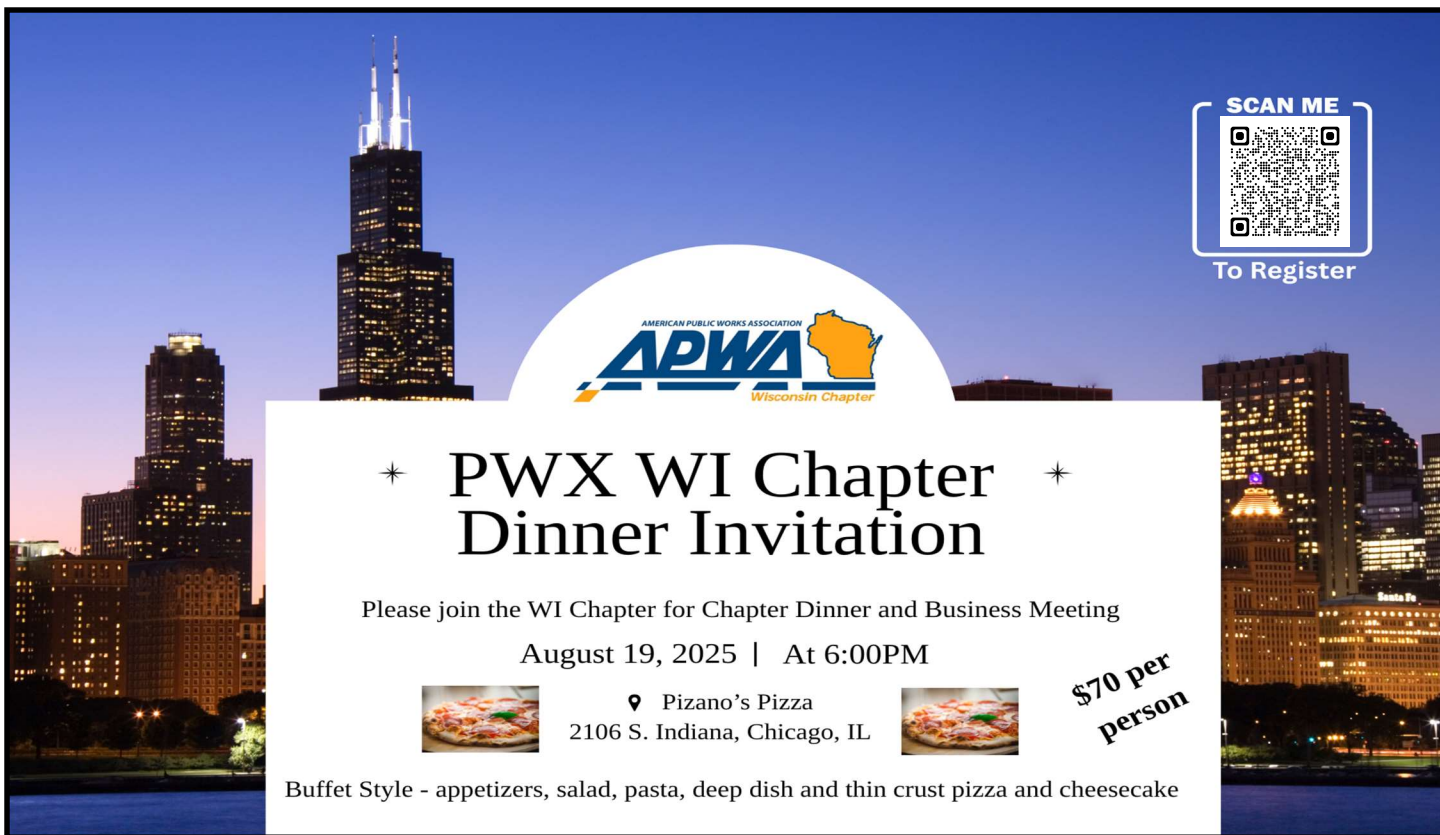
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Oct. 29, Wednesday:** There are many opportunities to kick-off your conference. There will be a golf outing at the Platteville Golf & Country Club (Weather Permitting), a Touch a Truck / Truck or Treat event with the City and area schools, and a technical tour. The day will culminate with a "Get Acquainted" party at the Platteville Broske Center so you can feast on a BBQ menu and conversation (everyone's favorite treat)!
- Oct. 30, Thursday:** The day's agenda includes a mix of general and technical breakout sessions, committee meetings and finally topped off by our annual Scholarship Awards Banquet.
- Oct. 31, Friday:** Additional conference sessions, concluding with the Chapter membership/business meeting, lunch, and door prizes.


As always, you'll be able to select from a variety of sessions featuring different topics to grow your public works knowledge. Make sure to update your WHOVA app so you don't miss out!

Registration opening soon: <https://wisconsin.apwa.org>

OCT 29 - OCT 31



SCAN ME




To Register

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION
APWA
Wisconsin Chapter

* PWX WI Chapter Dinner Invitation *


Please join the WI Chapter for Chapter Dinner and Business Meeting

August 19, 2025 | At 6:00PM



📍 Pizano's Pizza

2106 S. Indiana, Chicago, IL



\$70 per person

Buffet Style - appetizers, salad, pasta, deep dish and thin crust pizza and cheesecake



SCAN ME



TO REGISTER

PWX BUS SERVICE

The 2025 APWA National Public Works Expo (PWX) is in Chicago. The chapter is offering one-day bus service for anyone interested in experiencing the conference on **Monday, August 18th**. Bus service will begin from 4 locations (Green Bay, Stevens Point, Madison, and Milwaukee). Buses are planned to stop once in locations to pick up additional riders; tentative locations being Appleton, Janesville, and Kenosha. Bus service includes water, soda, donuts in the morning and water, soda, and sandwiches on the way home.

Tickets for the buses can be purchased on the chapter website: [Click Here](#)

All PWX tickets (Expo passes or one-day full passes) are not included in the Bus ticket and can be purchased on the APWA PWX site: [Click Here](#)



Brewers vs. Cubs Game & Tailgate

Join the Young Professionals of the Wisconsin & Chicago Metro Chapters for our 6th Annual Brewers vs. Cubs Game & Tailgate!

The cost to participate is \$30/person (this includes pregame festivities and your ticket to the game). This is a family-friendly event - all are welcome to join!

Sign Up



VS



WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH, 2025

PREGAME FESTIVITIES BEGIN @ 10:15 AM

FIRST PITCH @ 1:10 PM

AMERICAN FAMILY FIELD

1 BREWERS WAY, MILWAUKEE, WI 53214

**CONTACT ELA LODZINSKI WITH
ANY QUESTIONS AT**

elodzinski@baxterwoodman.com



15th Annual Wisconsin Chapter

SUMMER GOLF OUTING

AUGUST 12, 2025 || WASHINGTON COUNTY GOLF COURSE
1365 Clover Rd. Hartford, WI 53027

SCAN ME



TO REGISTER

Registration is \$100 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, giveaways and inclusion in the prize drawings.





PADDLING EVENT

AUGUST 12, 2025 | TBD

SCAN ME



Registration is \$25 for the event going directly to the fundraiser. Participants are encouraged to provide their own boats and gear.

Contact Rick Eilertson at rick.eilertson@aecom.com if you are willing to coordinate this paddling event.

Support the Scholarship Fund—Even if You Can't Attend

If you're unable to join us for the golf outing or paddling event, you can still support a great cause! During registration, there is an option to donate directly to the Wisconsin Chapter Scholarship Fund. Donations are set up in \$5 increments—simply adjust the quantity to reflect the total amount you'd like to give (e.g., a quantity of 5 equals a \$25 donation).

As a fundraiser, 100% of the proceeds from registration, sponsorships, and donations go directly to the scholarship fund. The event committee extends its sincere thanks to our generous sponsors (listed on the event webpage) and welcomes any additional supporters who would like to contribute to this year's outing.

If you have any questions about the registration or sponsorships, please contact Aaron Jahncke at ajahncke@waunakee.com.





35th Annual Snowplow “Rodeo” and Equipment Show

New this year, all new redesigned driving course and the addition of a backhoe competition!!!!

August 13-14, 2025

Fox Valley Technical College - Appleton, Wisconsin

Wednesday, August 13th

Equipment Show Set Up – 8:00 am to 3:00 pm @ Fox Valley TC Lot 13
Equipment Booth's assigned through registration.

Winter Road Maintenance Operator Training – 7:30am to 11:30am @ Fox Valley Tech

Equipment Show Social Hour - 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm @ Appleton Axe

Special shoutout for this year's main sponsor, Truck Country of Wisconsin— many thanks to Jay Szymanski and his staff for supporting this great event!

Come and enjoy the social hour featuring State of the Art equipment and products geared towards Public Works. After equipment viewing, we will be gathering at the Appleton Axe for a variety of games including axe throwing! We will have food and refreshments served as part of the vendor social.

Appleton Axe address: 1400 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54914

Thursday, August 14th

Snowplow Rodeo Drivers - 7:00 am to 2:00 pm @ Fox Valley TC Lot 13

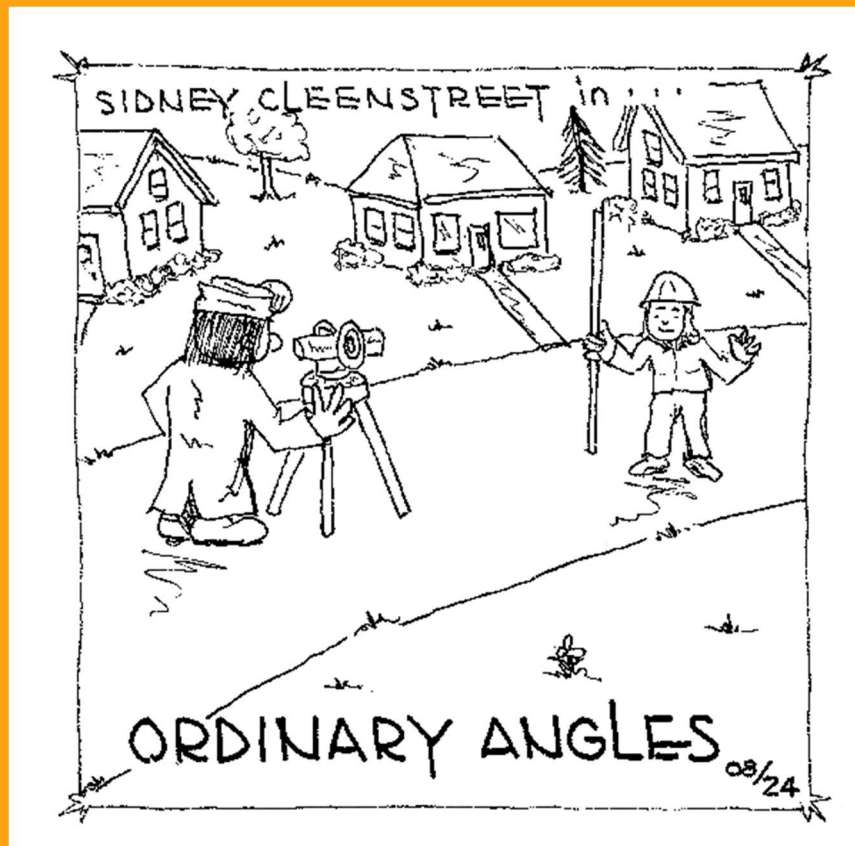
Individuals will be tested on their knowledge of vehicle safety and operations, mechanical knowledge of snowplow equipment, and their driving ability, while navigating through an obstacle course. The TOP TWO drivers will claim the prestige of knowing they are the top dogs of snowplowing in Wisconsin and will go on to compete in the National Snowplow Rodeo in Loveland, Colorado September 24-26, 2025. \$1,500 stipend towards travel paid for by the Wisconsin Chapter APWA.

Equipment Show - 7:30 am to 2:00 pm @ Fox Valley TC Lot 13

Come and enjoy the equipment show featuring State of the Art equipment and products geared towards Public Works.

Tailgate Lunch – 12:00 pm

If you don't want to drive...opportunities to participate include set up/take down and event judging...**so get involved!** Event details can be found on-line at: www.wisconsin-apwa.org or contact Nathan Wachtendonk @920-492-3751 or nathan.wachtendonk@greenbaywi.gov



Call For Submissions

Share Your Story in Our Quarterly Publication



We're now accepting article submissions for the upcoming edition of our quarterly professional publication! This is your chance to showcase projects, share insights, highlight team achievements, or offer helpful tips and lessons learned in your area of expertise.

Whether you've recently completed a major project, launched a new initiative, or have a perspective that others in our field could benefit from—we want to hear from you. Articles can be brief or in-depth, and photos are always welcome.

Deadline for submission for next Newsletter: **September 3, 2025**
Submit to: newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org

Help us continue to highlight the great work being done across our organization and profession. Your story could inspire and inform others—submit today!

FROM OUR DESK TO YOURS
NEWS THAT MATTERS ...

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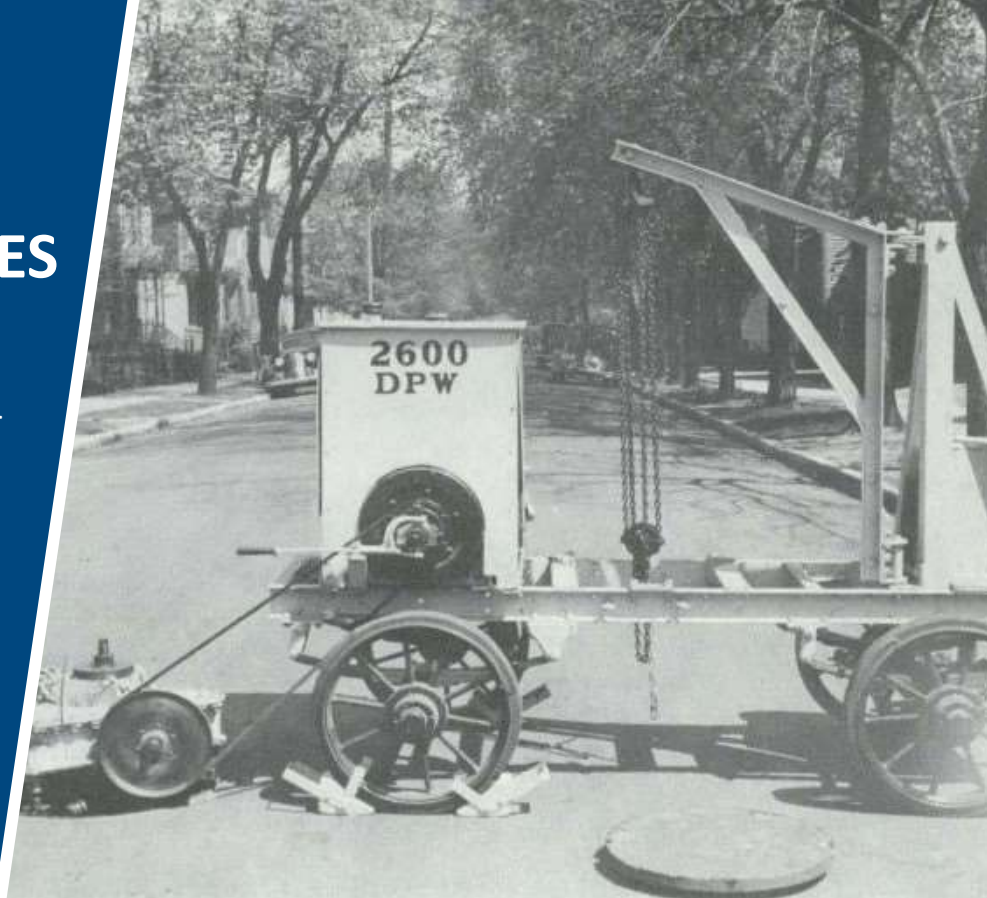


FROM THE ARCHIVES

“In the early 30’s this equipment was the most recent development in a “Manhole Frame Surfacing Machine” supposed to eliminate the rattle in your lid!

The City of Milwaukee purchased the equipment to deal with citizen complaints and minimize the flipping of the lids off of the frame.”

-APWA News June, 1980



NAME THIS EQUIPMENT...

ON THE CALENDAR

July 11	Executive Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual
July 25	Brewer/Cubs Game Ticket Purchase Deadline	
July 30	6th Annual Brewers/Cubs Game (Tailgate 10:10am / Game 1:10pm)	AmFam Field
August 7	Allison Transmission Class (8:00am—4:00pm)	Butler Training Center
August 12	Golf Outing	Washington County
August 12	Executive and Technical Committee Meeting (9:00am)	TBD and Virtual
August 13-14	35th Annual Snowplow Rodeo	Fox Valley Tech. College
August 19	PWX Wisconsin Chapter Dinner—Chicago, IL.	Pizano’s Pizza
September 12	Executive Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual
October 29	Executive and Technical Committee Meeting (3:30pm)	UW-Platteville and Virtual
October 29—31	Fall Conference	UW-Platteville
November 14	Executive Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual
December 12	Executive and Technical Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual

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