

APRIL 2026

# NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN CHAPTER APWA



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chapter President  
Rick Eilertson—AECOM  
Member since 2002

My presidency is now starting the final lap. The first three quarters have been a blurry blast, and this final quarter is anticipated to be a great finale. I'm super stoked about the Spring Conference coming up in Brookfield from April 22-24. It's shaping up to be an incredible event.

### New "News" Features

You'll notice that this newsletter has a couple new features. Shelly Billingsley (our wonderful newsletter editor) has asked committee chairs to write articles to feature in each of our upcoming newsletters. This article has some great new content from Kristy Treichel (Water Resources Chair), Robbie Malzahn (Engineering & Technology Chair), and Abby Hanson (Membership Chair).

### 2026 Spring Conference

The Conference Planning Committee, led by Aaron Jahncke and Eric Dundee, has a great Spring Conference planned out for us. Co-hosts include the City of Brookfield, City of Wauwatosa, and Waukesha County. All 10 outdoor exhibit spaces and all 62 indoor booths were booked before the end of March, a full month before the conference. If you're planning to go, I'd recommend booking your hotel room soon. The Whoova app showed over 360 attendees with a month to

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Continued from Page 1)

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go. Remember that the early bird registration discount deadline is Wed., April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Conference Program, led by Kamron Nash, is also now fully set up in Whova. Kamron has a great summary of the program on Page 11.

### Thank you 2025-26 APWA WI Chapter and Conference Sponsors

We couldn't put together such strong conferences with such low prices lately without the strong financial support of our Chapter and Conference Sponsors. Please visit Page 14 to view our current 2025-26 sponsors and make sure to thank them when you see them. For those interested in becoming a new sponsor or renewing for the 2026-27 fiscal year, please visit: [Sponsors – APWA Wisconsin Chapter](#).

### Strategic Planning

In my first President's Corner article, I asked readers to review the Chapter's 2023-26 Strategic Plan (included on pages 26 and 27 of the [Summer 2025 Newsletter](#)) and begin thinking about updates we can make as we start discussions for the creating the Chapter's next 4-year Strategic Plan.

This past March 17<sup>th</sup>, Chapter members were invited to join APWA's Town Hall to review the [Draft 2026–2029 APWA Strategic Plan](#) with APWA President Vic Bienes and CEO Scott Grayson, and provide feedback. This plan lays out the three pillars of *People*, *Purpose*, and *Presence* and includes three separate strategic goals for each. I feel this will be a very useful tool as the Chapter continues its update of our next Strategic Plan.

### Community Engagement

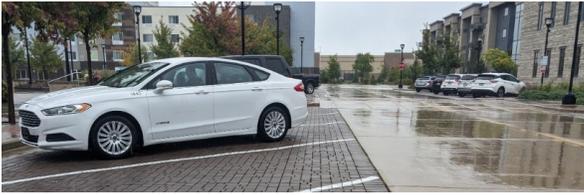
Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that we're interested in sharing ways that you and/or your employer are engaging with your local community. Please send any updates and photos you have to [newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto:newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org) so that we can include these in future newsletters. I've included a couple highlights of community engagement I've had recently below as teasers.

Sincerely,



Rick Eilertson, PE, ENV-SP  
608-402-5862  
[rick.eilertson@aecom.com](mailto:rick.eilertson@aecom.com)





## Connecting Locally

### How Peer Networks Strengthen Green Infrastructure in Public Works



**Kristy Treichel**

#### Water Resources Chair

When asked, “How are other stormwater managers in your network using green infrastructure?” as part of a recent study of Wisconsin public works professionals, six out of the fourteen interviewees said they didn’t know. The remaining eight had limited knowledge or offered general impressions.

Although many assume to know what neighboring communities are doing, in practice, awareness around green infrastructure (GI) is surprisingly limited. Staffing constraints and day-to-day demands mean most stormwater managers are focused on putting out today’s fires—not asking a colleague from two counties over how their bioswale is performing in year five. As one public works director

admitted, “I don’t have a very good professional network...it just hasn’t come up as a priority.”

#### The Peer Payoff

Despite these hurdles, making time for peer-to-peer exchange often acts as a form of high-level risk management. Several interviewees described examples of how reaching out to neighboring public works has proven valuable in practice:

- **Peer checking.** This is particularly effective when vetting contractors or testing new methods. One manager described calling a colleague to ask, “This contractor seems to be causing issues—what’s your experience been?” Consultants can also serve as a bridge by introducing peer-tested ideas that managers can then verify through direct follow-up. This type of exchange often leads to better technical outcomes. For instance, one environmental engineer emphasized the importance of hiring specialty restoration contractors for native plantings and bioretention, rather than bundling GI into general low-bid construction packages.
- **Straight talk on performance.** Visiting a nearby project provides an honest assessment you won't find in a brochure. Peer networks allow for frank conversations about which products hold up to snowplows and freeze-thaw cycles—and which do not. These exchanges can reveal maintenance realities—such as vacuum sweeping schedules that look great on paper but prove difficult to execute in the field.
- **Real-world results with native vegetation.** Managers shared how replacing turf or rock fill with prairie plants offers a high-performance alternative in medians and around ponds. One manager noted that during heavy rain, “you hardly see any water coming out of the pipe” because it infiltrates through deep native roots. Though the plants take time to fully “take off,” the long-term result is a self-sustaining, aesthetically pleasing meadow that eliminates weekly mowing and treats stormwater at the source.
- **Design and inspection lessons.** As several managers emphasized, “You have to build it right” from the start. Sometimes design components need to be customized. For example, detention pond planting mixes may grow too tall and create visibility issues in terrace or median infiltration areas. Peer discussions also help identify common construction pitfalls, such as avoiding soil compaction and clarifying planting layouts with contractors. Conversations underscored how consistent field oversight—often a learned the hard way—is essential to prevent construction errors from undermining long-term performance.

Perhaps most importantly, peer exchanges provide something less tangible but equally valuable: a safe space. Municipal engineers described the benefit of being with others who “speak the same language,” understand permit pressures, and can candidly discuss lessons learned. These relationships do more than build a professional network; they improve project outcomes. Moving from guessing what neighboring communities are doing to talking about it makes implementation more cost-efficient and improves long-term performance.

Organizations like the American Public Works Association provide critical learning and networking opportunities. In 2024, APWA WI led a technical bicycle tour through Madison focusing on various GI practices and bike facilities. Events like this go a long way to provide a forum for knowledge sharing and discussion. However, not everyone can attend regularly, and statewide events are not the same as sustained local exchange among neighboring communities facing similar soils, contractors, development patterns, and water quality requirements.

Continued on page 7

## Regional Leaders Convene in Montreal to Share Ideas and Strengthen APWA



### Bob Givens—House of Delegates (Primary)

Public works professionals from **Regions I–II–V** attended by Robert Givens, Delegate, Scott Brandmeier, Alternate Delegate and Ela Lodzinski, YP Committee Chair, gathered on March 5 in Montreal. The full-day meeting focused on collaboration, leadership development, and strategies to strengthen local chapters and the public works profession. The meeting also provided an opportunity to connect with our Canadian colleagues, reinforcing that a national border does little to change the challenges and responsibilities we share in the public works profession.

### Building Connections Across Chapters

The meeting began with introductions and informal networking among attendees. Participants shared their chapter affiliation, professional roles, and highlights from their organizations. This opening discussion also encouraged us to identify and share successes, challenges, and areas where we need national support. These conversations set the tone for the day by emphasizing the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing among chapters throughout the regions.

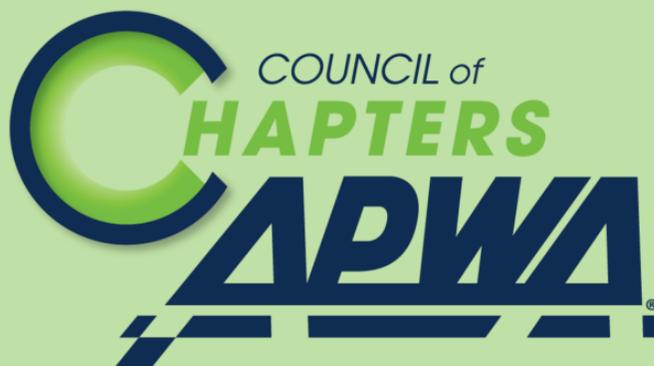
### Leadership Perspective from APWA

One of the early presentations featured incoming APWA President-Elect Robert Garland, who discussed how chapter services is using feedback from the previous council meeting to guide the organization. Garland, a former Region IV Director from Florida, spoke about the importance of the Council of Chapters and the key role delegates play in directing and implementing the national mission.

Attendees also received an update on the Certified Public Works Professional (CPWP) program, reinforcing the importance of APWA continuing education and professional certifications. APWA will transition parts of the various certifications moving forward into micro-certifications. This will allow participants to either just get the specific skills they need or obtain recognition for achievement along the path to a complete certification.

### Strengthening Chapters Through Resources

Jill Wilbeck, APWA Chapter Services, and David Pinsonneault, Technical Director, Fleet and Facilities Management, led sessions focused on connecting chapters with available resources to help them succeed. Presenters discussed how committees and technical experts can support local programs in areas such as fleet management, facilities, and professional development.



## Government Affairs and National Advocacy

The meeting also included a briefing from the association's Washington, D.C. office on government affairs via Andrea Eales the Director of Government and Public Affairs. Attendees learned how national advocacy efforts help represent the interests of public works professionals and influence policies affecting infrastructure, funding, and municipal operations.

This discussion emphasized how local chapters can stay informed and contribute to broader advocacy efforts. Although they are not set up to address state or local issues, they can provide guidance on how to deal with occasional issues that arise.

## Planning for the Future

The meeting concluded with an open forum and closing remarks, allowing participants to reflect on the day's discussions and share ideas for the future. Topics included establishing Public Works Awareness Committees, recognizing fallen public works professionals, and finding new ways to engage operations and maintenance staff in chapter activities. After the meeting, we continued building connections by braving the cold for a walk to a local restaurant, along the way observing Montreal's winter weather operations—an experience that deserves a closer look in a future article. Overall, the Region I-II-V Winter Meeting strengthened connections among public works leaders and generated ideas to support the continued growth of APWA and its chapters.



Chapter Delegates from APWA Regions I, II and V

## Practical AI Applications for Public Works

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**Robbie Malzahn**

**Engineering and Technology Chair**



Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a future concept reserved for research labs or large private firms. Across Wisconsin and all over the world, AI tools are already being applied in practical, incremental ways that help public works agencies work more efficiently, manage risk, and make better use of limited resources.

For public works directors and engineers, today's AI applications are best understood not as replacements for professional judgment, but as decision-support tools that enhance day-to-day operations and long-term planning.

### **From Buzzword to Practical Tool**

In engineering and construction, AI adoption has accelerated in recent years, particularly in tools that support estimating, document management, and data analysis. Public works agencies that have seen the most success tend to focus on narrow, well-defined problems—areas where large amounts of data already exist but are difficult to analyze quickly or consistently.

Starting small allows agencies to test value, build staff confidence, and avoid unnecessary complexity.

### **Asset Management and Predictive Maintenance**

One of the most practical applications of AI in public works agencies is asset management. Many municipalities maintain extensive inventories of pavements, pipes, structures, and equipment, yet struggle to prioritize maintenance and replacement.

AI supported asset management platforms can analyze historical inspection data, work orders, and condition ratings to identify patterns of deterioration and flag assets at higher risk of failure. For aging infrastructure, much of it exceeding 50 years of service life, this supports more defensible capital improvement planning and helps target limited funding where it can have the greatest impact. Importantly, AI does not decide what gets fixed. It provides clearer insight into risk and timing so professional judgment remains central.

### **Inspection and Field Data Collection**

AI is increasingly paired with drones and imaging technologies to support inspections of bridges, pavements, stormwater facilities, and other hard to access assets. Field images can be processed using machine learning models that assist in identifying cracking, spalling, vegetation encroachment, or erosion.

While human review remains essential, these tools reduce time spent reviewing imagery and improve consistency across inspections, allowing agencies to cover more assets with the same staff. This is particularly valuable as many public works departments face ongoing workforce challenges.

### **Smarter Estimating and Project Delivery**

Estimating and cost control are another area where AI tools are showing immediate value. AI supported estimating and project management software can analyze historical bid data, quantities, and unit prices to support more reliable early stage cost estimates.

For public works departments, improved estimating reduces the risk of major budget gaps later in design and supports better scope decisions before projects advance too far.

### **Traffic Operations and Safety**

Transportation agencies in Wisconsin are also exploring AI-supported data analysis to improve safety and operations. Anonymized vehicle data, such as speed changes and braking patterns, can provide additional insight into traffic conditions, incident response needs, and high-risk corridors.

At the local level, similar approaches can support signal timing reviews, work zone planning, and safety evaluations when combined with traditional crash data and traffic counts.

### **Fleet Management and Equipment Operations**

Fleet management is another area where AI-supported tools are delivering practical value for public works agencies. Many departments already collect large volumes of fleet data through maintenance records, fuel logs, and increasingly, vehicle telematics. AI-enabled fleet platforms can analyze this data to identify maintenance trends, underutilized assets, and emerging reliability issues before they result in downtime.

For directors responsible for service levels and budgets, these insights support more informed decisions about equipment replacement timing, preventive maintenance strategies, and fleet sizing. Rather than relying solely on age or mileage thresholds, agencies can better align capital decisions with actual usage patterns and operating conditions.

AI-supported fleet analysis does not replace the experience of fleet managers and operators. Instead, it provides an additional layer of visibility that helps departments manage risk, extend equipment life, and improve accountability across increasingly complex fleets.

### **Winter Operations and Snow and Ice Management**

Winter operations remain one of the most resource intensive and high-risk responsibilities for public works agencies. AI-supported analytics are beginning to play a role in helping agencies better understand and manage snow and ice operations by combining weather data, route performance, material usage, and vehicle activity.

When applied thoughtfully, these tools can assist with post-storm analysis, helping agencies evaluate route completion times, application rates, and equipment utilization. Over time, this supports more consistent operations, improved documentation, and defensible decision making when responding to public inquiries or claims.

Some agencies are also exploring how AI-supported analysis of historical storm data can inform staffing plans, material inventories, and equipment readiness ahead of major events. While professional judgment remains essential, particularly when conditions change rapidly, these tools offer another way to improve situational awareness and operational consistency during winter maintenance.

### **Document Management and Knowledge Retention**

Public works agencies generate enormous volumes of documents, including plans, specifications, permits, and correspondence. AI-enabled document management tools can assist by automatically tagging files, extracting key information, and improving searchability.

These capabilities are particularly valuable for long-term infrastructure records, where staff turnover can make it difficult to locate historical decisions or as-built information. AI tools help preserve institutional knowledge and make it more accessible to current and future staff.



## A Practical Path Forward

Experience from early adopters shows that AI works best when it is purpose driven and carefully scoped. Successful agencies start with existing data, pilot tools on limited use cases, and involve engineering, operations, and IT staff early in the process.

AI is not a single solution to the complex challenges facing public works. However, when applied thoughtfully, it can enhance asset management, improve inspections, support better estimates, effectively manage traffic and winter storm events better, and strengthen decision-making. For public works professionals, the real opportunity lies in using AI as a practical extension of expertise in service of safe, reliable, and cost-effective infrastructure.

Resources:

[American Public Works Association \(APWA\)](#)

[Associated General Contractors of America \(AGC\)](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Transportation \(WisDOT\)](#)

## Connecting Locally (Continued from Page 3)

### Moving from Assumptions to Relationships

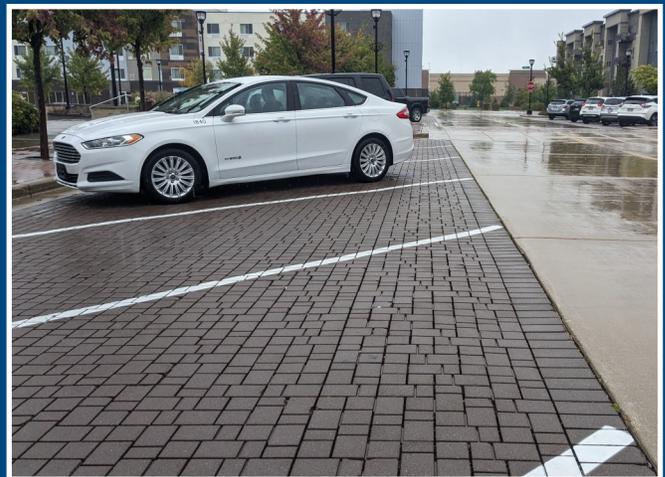
If most of us have only a partial picture of what our peers are doing, that's also an opportunity. Creating more mechanisms for peer-to-peer information sharing can normalize innovation, reduce risk, and accelerate learning--helping city managers streamline GI implementation and avoid redoing work later on. Three practical recommendations:

1. **Host a project site visit.** Invite neighboring municipalities to tour a local project—successes and challenges included. Engineers presenting to engineers can be more informative than consultant-led case studies.
2. **Establish a quarterly lunch & learn.** Even an informal webinar can open doors for contractor vetting, maintenance tips, and performance discussions. Offering continuing education units (CEUs) can be a nice incentive to encourage attendees.
3. **Leverage watershed coalitions.** If you are part of a regional group, ask if they can facilitate a peer-to-peer exchange or a community of practice focused specifically on GI.

Asked what advice they would give less experienced stormwater managers, interviewees were remarkably consistent: “Just try it.” Peer networks make that leap easier. It is one thing to read about a successful installation in a case study; it is another to call a neighboring engineer and hear, “Here’s what worked. Here’s what we’d do differently next time.”



Large Bioretention in Village of DeForest  
(Wisconsin Sea Grant)



Permeable Pavement parking spaces in City of Oak Creek  
(Wisconsin Sea Grant)

## Maintaining Your APWA Membership When Changing Employers



### Abby Hanson—Chair Membership Committee

Changing jobs is exciting, but it can also create some uncertainty around your professional memberships. The good news: your APWA membership can move with you when you change employers. Your years of service and full membership history remain intact, no matter where your career takes you.

#### Do You Need to Notify Anyone?

In most cases—yes. A quick update is usually all it takes.

If your employer paid for your membership or if your work email is tied to your account, APWA may not automatically know you've moved to a new organization. To keep your membership record accurate, be sure to do one of the following:

- Update your contact information in your APWA account,
- Email APWA Membership Services at [memberservices@apwa.org](mailto:memberservices@apwa.org), or

Contact the APWA Wisconsin Membership Services Committee at [ahanson@ruekert-mielke.com](mailto:ahanson@ruekert-mielke.com).

#### We Can Help You With:

- Updating employer or contact information
- Preserving your accumulated years of service

Answering any membership questions during your transition

#### What If Your Membership Was Part of a Group Membership?

If your previous employer included you in a company group membership, you may be able to join your new employer's group membership or switch to an individual membership. Contact any of the resources above, and we'll walk you through the best next steps.

#### Pro Tip

Set a personal email address as your preferred email. This ensures you can always access your APWA account—even if you lose access to your work email during a job transition.

#### Need Support?

If you're unsure whether your membership was employer-paid, needs to be transferred, or requires updates, we're here to help. You can reach out directly to me or contact APWA National, and we'll make sure your membership stays active, accurate, and connected to you.

#### Explore Our Updated Website

Don't forget to check out the updated APWA Wisconsin Membership Services Committee website, which now includes improved resources, committee information, and membership support tools. You can find helpful guidance and connect with the Membership Services Committee here:

<https://wisconsin.apwa.org/about/committees/membership-services-committee/>

Your commitment to the profession matters—and APWA is committed to supporting you every step of the way, no matter where your career takes you.



# 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



2026 Hosts: City of Brookfield, City of Wauwatosa and Waukesha County

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 TO  
FRIDAY, APRIL 24

BROOKFIELD  
CONFERENCE CENTER

#### Hotel Rooms

Hotel rooms at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#) Brookfield have been reserved for attendees. The Wisconsin Chapter goes great lengths to ensure our conferences are of high quality and affordable. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

////// [REGISTER NOW](#) //

## Don't Miss the 2026 Spring Conference & Exhibit Show

### Kamron Nash—2026 Spring Conference Program Chair

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter will hold the Spring Conference in Brookfield this year on April 22-24. It will be held at the Brookfield Conference Center, in Brookfield. This conference will be a full conference program with educational sessions and indoor and outdoor vendor exhibits.

[Event Page Click Here](#)



### Frontline Worker Registration

The APWA WI Chapter is proud to support public works frontline workers. We are again offering free registration to frontline workers who would like to attend the Thursday Exhibitor Show and test their skills in the Equipment Roadeo. Registration is required!

### Exhibitor Show & Equipment Roadeo

The conference will feature two exhibitor spaces and vendor sessions. The spaces will be filled with 70+ public works equipment and support service providers. There will also be an Equipment Roadeo for attendees to compete for the top prize of competing in the APWA Equipment Roadeo competition in Houston, TX!

### Educational Program

The conference will offer Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunities from Wednesday through Friday. There will be a mix of tours, technical sessions, and vendor sessions to choose from. Check the Whova app in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) for more detailed information and to begin planning your conference itinerary!

### Conference Activities

#### *Technical Tour: 2025 Flood Assessment and Restoration – A Floodplain Mitigation Success Story*

In August 2025, portions of Wisconsin experienced a massive rain event that led to significant flooding. Wauwatosa's Engineering Team will describe how the August 2025 flood event affected Wauwatosa and how previous flood mitigation efforts reduced severity of flood damage across the City. You will learn about how the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Wauwatosa partnered to construct massive flood retention ponds and a flood levy system to protect

## Philanthropic Support for 2026 Spring Conference

[Revitalize Milwaukee](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening communities in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties by providing free, critical home repairs and safety upgrades to low-income seniors, veterans, and people living with disabilities. By addressing structural hazards, environmental health risks, and accessibility needs, the organization helps homeowners live safely and independently while stabilizing neighborhoods and preserving affordable housing. Through volunteer-driven initiatives and community partnerships, Revitalize Milwaukee has transformed thousands of homes and improved quality of life across the region.

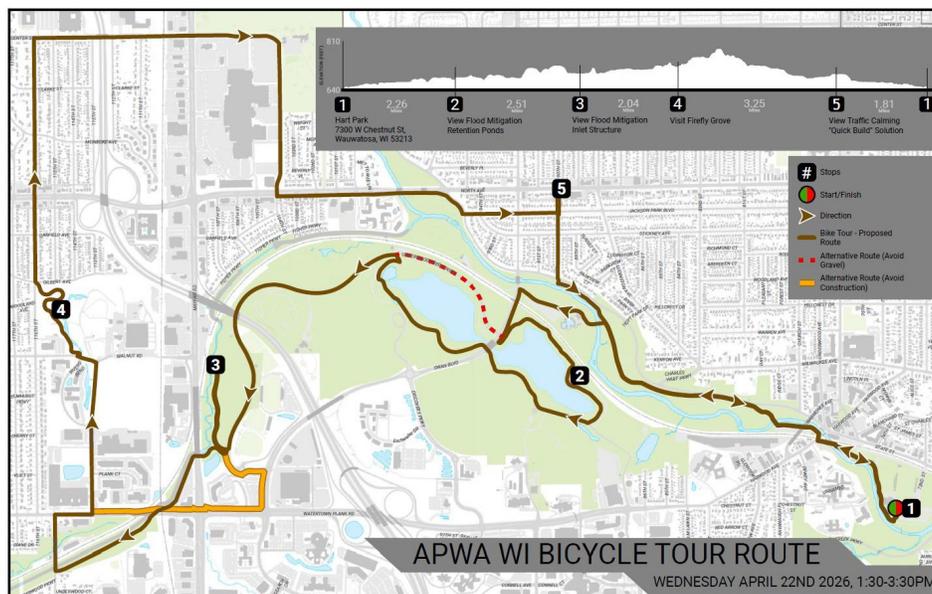


[DONATE HERE](#)

## Conference Activities (continued)

### Bike Tour

Join Wauwatosa's DPW Team on a 12-mile bike technical tour across Wauwatosa to view various capital improvements that have been implemented to improve the quality of life for those living in or visiting Wauwatosa. Participants will be able to view the City's off-road bike network, flood mitigation projects, traffic calming initiatives, and finally the City's newest park, Firefly Grove Park, which is home to the Wisconsin's only Thomas Dambo Troll, "Mama Rosa" along with many storm-water and sustainability features.



### Get Acquainted Party

Get ready for a hoot'n and holler'n good time on Wednesday night! This social event will be held on Wednesday night in the exhibit hall for attendees as a welcome to the conference. There will be games, a local trivia competition, and engagement opportunities with vendors. The 2025 Fall conference cornhole champions (Jake and Jason) will be ready to defend their title – you can sign up for the cornhole tournament at the event. Any exhibitors who would like to participate in special activities can reach out to the planning committee for more information.

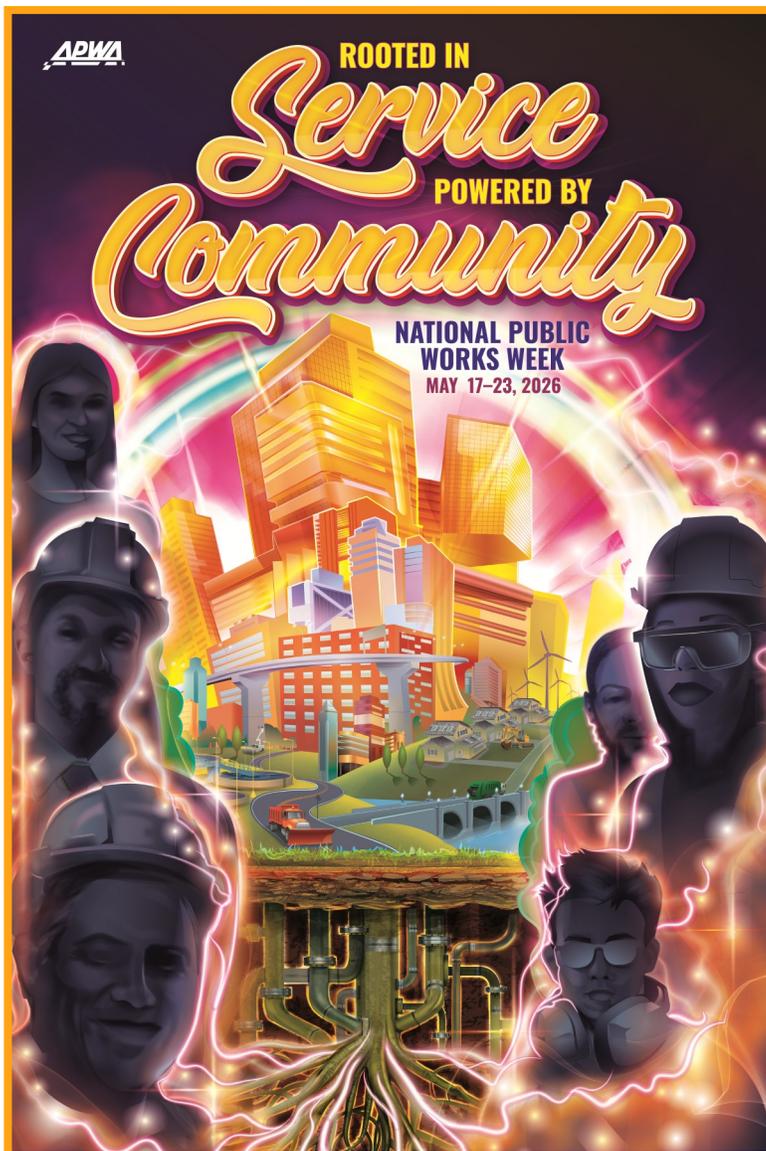
### Awards Banquet

Conference attendees can look forward to an inspiring and celebratory evening at the awards banquet, where the Chapter will honor outstanding individuals and projects representing the best in public works. The event will feature a warm welcome reception, a carefully curated dinner, and a series of award presentations that highlight excellence, innovation, and leadership. Along with memorable moments of recognition, guests can expect opportunities to connect and enjoy a festive atmosphere that brings everyone together.

### Young Professionals

Join the Young Professionals (YP) Committee for the most fun you can have moving 4 miles per hour! On Thursday evening, YPs and seasoned professionals alike are invited to [WhirlyBall](#) Brookfield (conveniently located right across from the Brookfield Convention Center), to socialize with fellow public work professionals and enjoy WhirlyBall, bowling, giant Jenga, ping pong and more.

## Celebrate National Public Works Week—May 17-23, 2026



Each year, communities across the country come together to recognize the dedicated professionals who plan, build, operate, and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our cities and counties running. National Public Works Week (NPWW), is our opportunity to showcase the essential services we provide and the pride we take in serving our communities.

From open houses and facility tours to employee appreciation lunches, equipment roadeos, school visits, and social media spotlights—NPWW is about celebrating *you* and the incredible impact of public works.

### We Want to See How You Celebrated!

Did your team:

- Host a Public Works Open House?
- Organize a Touch-A-Truck event?
- Recognize employees with awards or appreciation events?
- Engage local schools or community groups?
- Capture a great team photo in safety gear?
- Light up a landmark in blue and orange?

We invite all our members to submit photos highlighting how your organization celebrated National Public Works Week this year!

Whether your celebration was large or small, formal or fun—we want to share it and inspire others across

the Chapter and beyond.

### How to Submit

Please send:

- High-resolution photo.
- A brief description (who, what, where)
- Names of individuals or teams featured (if applicable)
- Your agency/organization name

Submissions may be featured in upcoming WI Chapter APWA newsletter and social media. If preferred, photos can be published without identifying individuals—just let us know! Submit to [newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto:newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org) by **June 4, 2026**.

National Public Works Week is more than a celebration—it's a reminder that the work we do matters every single day. By sharing your stories and photos, we amplify the value of public works and strengthen our professional community.

Let's showcase the pride, teamwork, and service that define public works professionals everywhere.

**Submit your photos today and help us celebrate the people who make our communities work!**



# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

## 2025-26 APWA WI CHAPTER AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting the Wisconsin Chapter !



## [CHECK IT OUT](#)

Public Works Radio features conversations with industry leaders, innovators, and frontline practitioners who are shaping the future of infrastructure and community service.

Episodes explore timely topics such as:

- Workforce recruitment and retention
- Leadership and succession planning
- Infrastructure funding and grants
- Storm response and emergency management
- Sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Technology integration and asset management

What makes Public Works Radio especially valuable is its practical, real-world perspective. These are not abstract discussions – they are stories, lessons learned, and strategies shared by peers who understand the challenges and opportunities within our profession.

New Episodes drop twice a month! Listen In!



**#PWR**



## Celebrations

# HAPPY EARTH DAY

Earth Day reflects the core of what we do every day: protecting natural resources, maintaining clean water systems, managing waste responsibly, and preserving safe, healthy spaces for our residents.

APRIL 22, 2026

From maintaining stormwater infrastructure and preventing flooding, to operating recycling programs and enhancing energy efficiency in public facilities, public works departments are on the front lines of environmental protection. Our teams work behind the scenes to ensure clean drinking water, properly managed road salt applications, sustainable fleet operations, and thoughtful land development planning.



Wishing everyone a joyful Earth Day filled with appreciation for the wonders of nature and a determination to preserve them.

Earth Day is also a great opportunity to:

- Highlight sustainability initiatives
- Recognize staff working in environmental and stormwater roles
- Share data on recycling, pollutant reduction, or conservation efforts
- Organize volunteer cleanups in parks, roadways, or waterways
- Educate the public about how infrastructure protects the environment

Public works is where infrastructure and environmental responsibility intersect — and Earth Day is a chance to tell that story.

## HAPPY ARBOR DAY

APRIL 24, 2026

Arbor Day celebrates one of our most valuable community assets: trees. For public works professionals, urban forestry and park management are critical components of maintaining safe, vibrant, and resilient communities.

Trees do far more than beautify our neighborhoods. They:

- Improve air quality
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Provide shade that lowers pavement and building temperatures
- Increase property values
- Enhance community health and well-being

Behind every thriving tree canopy is thoughtful planning, planting, pruning, and maintenance. Public works teams manage right-of-way trees, park plantings, tree rings, invasive species control, and long-term canopy planning. Arbor Day offers the perfect time to spotlight those efforts and recognize the crews who care for these living assets year-round.

You can celebrate Arbor Day by:

- Hosting tree-planting events
- Recognizing forestry staff
- Sharing tree maintenance tips
- Promoting proper mulching and planting standards
- Encouraging residents to plant and care for trees on their property



## A Season of Stewardship

Together, Earth Day and Arbor Day remind us that public works is about more than infrastructure — it's about legacy. The storm sewer installed today protects tomorrow's waterways. The tree planted this spring will provide shade for decades to come.

This spring, take a moment to recognize the essential work happening every day within our departments. Environmental stewardship is not just a program — it is a public works tradition.

Let's continue building infrastructure that serves our communities while protecting the resources that make them thrive.



# MEMORIAL DAY

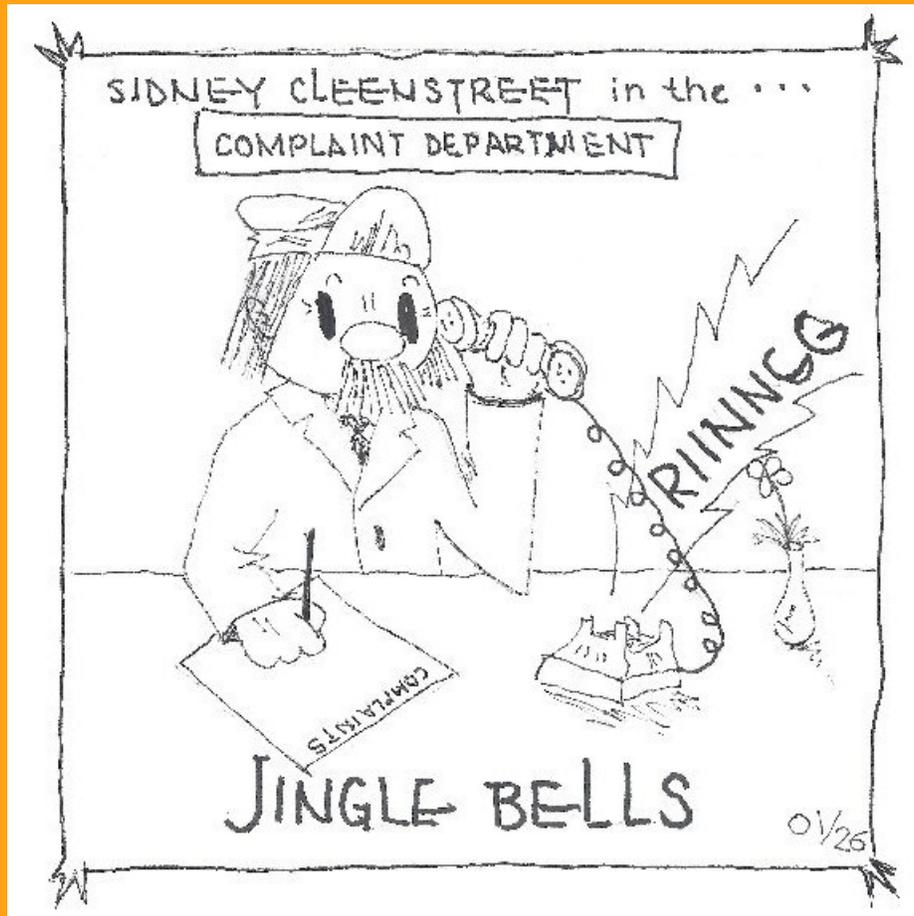
Monday, May 25, 2026

*Remember & Honor*



The APWA Executive Committee pays tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our nation.





## 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: **June 4, 2026**  
Submit to: [newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto: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 ...**

Check out our website  
[Wisconsin.apwa.org](http://Wisconsin.apwa.org)

Join the WI APWA's Social  
Media on LinkedIn



1919

This image captures a pivotal moment in South Australian history: Road construction near Gepps Cross, utilizing cutting-edge steam technology to tame the rugged landscape and pave the way for modern transport.

The steam engine was the workhorse of public works projects, capable of tasks previously reliant solely on manual labor and horsepower.



Image obtained from Pinterest

## HONORING OUR PAST...

### ON THE CALENDAR

|                  |  |                 |                                      |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 22         | Executive and Committee Chairs Meeting               | 3:30pm          | Brookfield                           |
| April 22-24      | 2026 Spring Conference                               |                 | Brookfield                           |
| April 26-29      | APWA North American Snow Conference 2026             |                 | Cleveland, OH                        |
| May 8            | Executive Committee                                  | 9:00am          | Virtual                              |
| May 17—23        | National Public Works Week                           |                 |                                      |
| May 25           | Memorial Day   |                 |                                      |
| June 12          | Executive and Committee Chairs Meeting               | 9:00am          | Stoney Creek,<br>Onalaska or virtual |
| July 22          | Summer Golf Outing / Paddling Scholarship Fundraiser | 9:00am          | Wash. Co. Golf Course                |
| August 30—Sept 2 | APWA PWX 2026  |                 | Houston, Texas                       |
| September 9      | Brewers / Cubs Game                                  | 3:40 Tailgating | American Family Field                |
| October 28—30    | 2026 Fall Conference                                 |                 | Onalaska                             |
| April 28—30      | 2027 Spring Conference                               |                 | Green Bay                            |



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

|  |   |
|--|---|
| President                                | <a href="#">Rick Eilertson</a> - AECOM                          |
| President Elect                          | <a href="#">Kamron Nash</a> - Village of Summit                 |
| Secretary                                | <a href="#">Cory Horton</a> - Ruckert Mielke                    |
| Vice President                           | <a href="#">Aaron Jahncke</a> - Village of Waunakee             |
| Treasurer                                | <a href="#">Lee Igl</a> - Village of McFarland                  |
| Director                                 | <a href="#">Caroline Burger</a> - Carollo                       |
| Director                                 | <a href="#">Genevieve Stollenwerk</a> - City of South Milwaukee |
| Past President                           | <a href="#">Shelly Billingsley</a> - Kenosha County             |
| Council of Chapters Delegate (Primary)   | <a href="#">Bob Givens</a> - Village of Little Chute            |
| Council of Chapters Delegate (Alternate) | <a href="#">Scott Brandmeier</a> - Village of Fox Point         |



|   |                                    |                       |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Awards                                    | <a href="#">Jennifer Barlas</a>    | Baxter Woodman        |
| Communications/Website                    | <a href="#">Jason Atchison</a>     | Baxter Woodman        |
| Community Engagement                      | <a href="#">Heidi Jeninga</a>      | Ruekert-Mielke        |
| Conference Education                      | <a href="#">Kamron Nash</a>        | Village of Summit     |
| Education & Scholarship                   | <a href="#">Tim Schleeper</a>      | Vierbicher            |
| Emergency Management                      | <a href="#">Chris Barnes</a>       | Town of Verona        |
| Engineering & Technology                  | <a href="#">Robbie Malzahn</a>     | SEH                   |
| Facilities & Grounds                      | <a href="#">Peter Nilles</a>       | Milwaukee County      |
| Fleet Services                            | <a href="#">Dylan Rollo</a>        | City of Oshkosh       |
| Historical & Archives                     | <a href="#">Shelly Billingsley</a> | Kenosha County        |
| Leadership & Management                   | <a href="#">Joseph Komorowski</a>  | Graef                 |
| Membership Services                       | <a href="#">Abby Hanson</a>        | Ruekert-Mielke        |
| Newsletter                                | <a href="#">Shelly Billingsley</a> | Kenosha County        |
| Past Presidents                           | <a href="#">John Edlebeck</a>      | The Sigma Group       |
| Public Relations                          | <a href="#">Chris Johnson</a>      | City of Stevens Point |
| Sustainability                            | <a href="#">Grant Helle</a>        | Milwaukee County      |
| Transportation, Utilities, & Right-of-Way | <a href="#">Pat Hawley</a>         | raSmith               |
| Vendor                                    | <a href="#">Andrew Lang</a>        | Utility SSI           |
| Water Resources                           | <a href="#">Kristy Treichel</a>    | KL Engineering        |
| Young Professionals                       | <a href="#">Ela Lodzinski</a>      | Baxter Woodman        |





WINTER RESPONSE TEAM!



PLOWING FORWARD—NO MATTER THE FORECAST!

[CONTACT ME](#)

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