Workshops

MONDAY — TUESDAY

Public Communications: Effective Strategies and Lessons Learned from/during Emergency Situations

Coordinator: Shea Dunifon, Pinellas County Utilities

One of the greatest challenges of the water/wastewater industry is public perception. As an industry, we must be able to communicate effectively with the public, especially when emergencies arise, or else risk losing public support. This 3.5 hour workshop presented by the FWEA Public Communications and Outreach Committee (PCOC) will present strategies and lessons learned from emergency situations such a main break and hurricane response. Tips for effectively communicating with the media will also be presented with a roundtable discussion to follow.

Exploring the Smart Utility: Basics, Approaches, and Use Cases

Coordinator: John Abrera,P.E., Brown and Caldwell

This workshop is intended to educate utility professionals on the topic of Smart Utilities, covering the basic elements of a Smart Utility approach to technology, and explaining Intelligent water systems (including smart sensors, Internet-of-Things (IOT), data Communications, cloud computing, data platforms and data analytics). Approaches and Methods for a utility to apply new technology will be discussed, along with benefits resulting from implementation. Multiple real-world examples will be presented showing how utilities approach the application of Smart Utility technology to solve specific problems.

Public Education and Outreach: Resources and Case Studies to Inspire Our Future

Coordinator: Shea Dunifon, Pinellas County Utilities

Public education is key to positively influencing the public's perception of the water/wastewater industry. To meet the needs of an industry facing a shortage of job recruits as well as a demand for a more skilled and diverse workforce, our industry must engage our communities by educating our youth (grades K-12). This workshop will present case studies from those actively involved in public education and outreach. Topics will include community partnerships, planning outreach events, recruiting high school students as Operators, and how using STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programming can attract students to the industry. This workshop is intended for anyone interested and/or participating in public education. A resource forum permitting process and alternate funding mechanisms. Presenters include speakers from WMDs and FDEP.

Security in the Age of Cyber

Coordinator: William Edgar, CEU Plan Inc.

In this fast-paced workshop, we will review the fundamental threats to cyber-security from a security perspective. The basic fundamentals include dealing with internal threats, externals threats, and information security. This workshop will be focused on actual physical security techniques utilized by law enforcement from Homeland Security to the CIA. Experience in prevention and defensive security measures, to provide techniques and suggestions to utilize in your treatment plant and systems. A panel discussion at the conclusion will summarize suggestions for data protection, security and surveying the "Holes -in-the –System," to provide some suggestions to utilize in your treatment plant and distribution/collection centers. The panel will include: retired Homeland Security personnel, a US Marshall, CIA affiliates, along with legal counsel within the Florida system.

Overcoming Challenges in the Water Industry through Research

Coordinator: Amit Pramanik, Ph.D., Water Research Foundation

Water utilities are facing increasing water supply and water quality challenges that require them to utilize new sources of water, often of impaired or challenging water quality. The Water Research Foundation (WRF) has funded research on emerging water quality challenges, innovative treatment alternatives for challenging water supplies, and the unintended consequences of such treatment and how to mitigate them. This workshop will present the latest information from WRF on constituents of emerging concern, using biofiltration treatment processes and how to monitor them, utilization of reclaimed water in the power sector, and how to blend desalinated water with other water types.

Techniques to Reduce Inflow and Infiltration of Collection Systems with O&M Tidbits

Coordinator: James Tondreault, P.E. and Nick Wager, Manatee County

A workshop prepared by FWEA's Collection Systems Committee to discuss inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues that collection systems typically experience along with Operation and Maintenance (O&M) tidbits to either reduce or identify I&I. The workshop will include presentations and a roundtable discussion on the following topics: • I&I-Detection approaches, methods and tools; • I&I-Quantification approach; and • Best O&M techniques.

Legislative and Regulatory Update

Coordinator: Paul Steinbrecher, P.E., JEA, FWEA U.C. Chair and Lisa Wilson-Davis, P.E., City of Boca Raton, FSAWWA U.C. Chair

Attend this engaging session where our organization members will discuss hot topics at the Florida legislature and regulatory agencies affecting the domestic wastewater / public water supply community. This is a busy year in this arena, and some of the topics that will be discussed will include: Summary of current; Emerging regulations on biosolids applications; the Governor's environmental agenda; Resiliency/Sustainability; and a "How to" session on tracking legislation on House and Senate websites.

Utility Innovation - Building a Digital Foundation with BIM

Coordinator: Ifetayo Venner, P.E., ARCADIS

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is a trendy topic, and rightly so. It is a newer approach for the use of data and information in the infrastructure industry which is beginning to have a huge impact, affecting not only how built assets are designed and constructed, but how they are operated and maintained as well. A first encounter with BIM may be with a 3D model, however BIM is much more than that. BIM is increasingly about teams working intelligently with a shared knowledge resource for information about an asset that will form a reliable foundation for decisions throughout its life cycle. For projects delivered using BIM, a set of databases are created and enriched at each stage of the asset life cycle. These databases can be shared between all actors (owners, consultants, contractors, and operators). The potential benefits are multiple and include: broader stakeholder engagement, increased efficiency, better quality, reduced risk, reduced transaction costs in exchanging information with contractors and creating O&M documents, knowledge management and training.